



TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONAL OF TEXTILE CLOTHING, LEATHER AND FUR WORKERS
(TRADE DEPARTMENT OF THE W. F. T. U.)

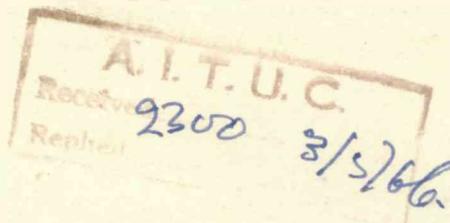
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES SYNDICATS DU TEXTILE, DE L'HABILEMENT ET DES CUIRS ET PEAUX
(DÉPARTEMENT PROFESSIONNEL DE LA F. S. M.)

UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL SINDICAL DE TRABAJADORES DEL TEXTIL, VESTIDO, CUERO Y PIELES
(DEPARTAMENTO PROFESIONAL DE LA F. S. M.)

МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЕ ПРОФСОЮЗОВ ТРУДЯЩИХСЯ
ТЕКСТИЛЬНОЙ, ШВЕЙНОЙ, КОЖЕВЕННОЙ И ОБУВНОЙ ПРОМЫШЛЕННОСТИ
(ПРОИЗВОДСТВЕННЫЙ ОТДЕЛ ВФП)

PRAGUE.....

Opletalova 57
Prague 1
Tel.: 22-17-29
22-28-82



re: Practical informations for the arrival and the participation
in the 3rd Internationale Conference of Textile, Clothing and
Leather Workers.

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Dear Friends and Brothers,

Preparations for the 3rd International Conference are going
on in a very satisfactory way. In mid-April about 40 countries from
all five parts of the world have agreed to participate in the 3rd
Conference. Apart from the delegates of the affiliated organisations
observers and guests from many European, Asian, Middle and Near East
African, Latin American countries and Oceania, as well as some
international and regional organisations will attend.

A preparatory Document for the Conference was sent out to all
affiliated organisations and guests.

In our Information Bulletin, which is now being distributed, the
following documents are published:

- a. Draft time-table of the Conference
- b. Information on the professional sections' meeting.

This letter is to inform you about some important details with
regard to travel arrangements and the reception of delegates and guests.

We wish to emphasise that all visas for the stay in Berlin, GDR
will be issued at the arrival on the airport in Schönefeld, at Friedrich-
strasse Railway Station or at the frontier posts for the participants
who come by car.

It is of greatest importance that all organisations inform us as soon as possible and the latest on May 8th on the names, date and place of birth and passport numbers of the delegates, guests and observers (including interpreters), who attend the Conference.

Will you also please let us know by which means of transport you intend to come to Berlin (plane, train or car), as well as the date and hour of arrival, in case you travel by car, the frontier post and the number of your car.

The participants who will arrive in West Berlin, on the Tegel airport, can take a S-Bahn train at the aerial of the airport and go by this train as far as Friedrichstrasse Station (the fare is 40 Pfennig)

Reception services will be at Friedrichstrasse Station, the main station and at Schönefeld Airport (BER).

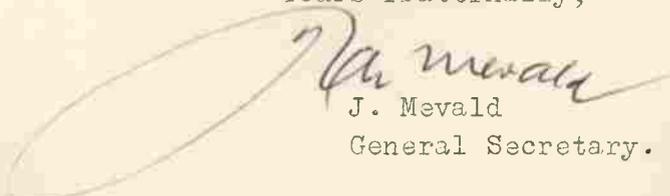
The participants will stay in three hotels where they will be catered by the Textile, Clothing and Leather Workers' Union of the GDR. An information service is set up in the hotel " Gästehaus der Gewerkschaften, Invalidenstrasse 120/121, Tel. 425631.

The official languages of the Conference will be: French, English, Russian, Spanish and German, the language of the host country, where the Conference takes place. Translation services are provided for other languages.

The draft-rules of the Conference which will be adopted by the Administrative Committee and the Conference stipulate: a time limit of 20 minutes for the discussion of every delegation.

Hoping that this information will be useful for you, we remain,

Yours fraternally,



J. Mevald

General Secretary.

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DRAFT DOCUMENT

in preparation for the 3rd International Conference of
Textile, Clothing and Leather Workers.

(Berlin, GDR, 19th -23rd May, 1966)

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INTERNATIONAL. SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

The struggle against war, for the maintenance and strengthening of peace which has always been the centre of attention for workers and trade unions, is at present considered to be the primary question facing the workers of our industrial branches, the entire international trade union movement and humanity.

This essential problem formed the centre of discussion at the recent VIth World Trade Union Congress in which delegates, observers and guests from 90 countries participated, representing more than 159 million organised trade unionists from all parts of the world, affiliated or non-affiliated to the WFTU, including many trade union officials and workers of the textile, clothing, leather and shoe industries. The resolutions adopted by these great international trade union meetings will certainly contribute in a decisive way to the strengthening of unity and solidarity in the international field, and give a final impulse to the struggle for peace, against the monopolies and imperialism.

The development of the international situation is characterised by the fact that the forces working for peace have grown in the world and won new successes. They are manifesting to be the largest forces, able to prevent a world war and to defeat the imperialist actions.

At the same time imperialism does not give up any of its aims to dominate the world.

The actions of the belligerent forces of the most reactionary circles of imperialism - especially the USA - are creating dangerous situations and keeping up serious war centres in various parts of the world.

The wild aggression let loose by American imperialism in South-Vietnam means a serious danger to the whole world.

Violating the Geneva Agreements of 1954 the armed forces of the USA have installed themselves in South-Vietnam. In the course of the cruel repressions taken against the whole Vietnamese people fighting for its freedom, independence and the unity of its country, the imperialist aggressors use napalm, toxic gases and materials, murderous bombardments while proclaiming and pretending to "want peace" and at the same time reinforcing the military war machine and extending the aggression even to the neighbouring countries^{of} Laos and Cambodia..

This war, the armed intervention in San-Domingo violating all international treaties and agreements, the blockade against Cuba, the role played in Latin America, the Congo and other countries in Africa and Asia show clearly that American imperialism, the mightiest and most aggressive one in the world, wants to keep its positions by force and wishes to play the role of an international policeman turned against the liberation movements and progressive forces.

In Europe the belligerent circles in the G.F.R. are keeping to their annexation policy towards the G.D.R. and exposing openly their territorial demands on the countries which have been victims of the Hitler aggression. In that country the restoration of a powerful armed force means a danger to the safety of the peoples and the plans to equip this army with atomic weapons either directly or by means of any sort of multilateral force, includes a serious danger to world peace. This effort of the military circles and West-German monopolies in the field of nuclear power corresponds to the policy of revenge and conquest expressed by them. Being supported openly by the U.S.A. Government it is all the more dangerous.

It is urgently necessary to recognise the existence of two German states 21 years after the end of the Second World War. Signing a ^{German} peace treaty with consideration to this state of affairs would contribute to assuring European safety and to clearing the political/Atmosphere in Europe and the world.

The energetic struggle against the aggressive plans of imperialism, for the establishment of peace and coexistence between states with different social orders, whether large or small, is important as a means to free the peoples of the nightmare of a war of extermination and the heavy burdens imposed on them by its preparations. The struggle for peaceful coexistence certainly does not mean renunciation to the class struggle or the struggle for national liberation; on the contrary, it creates better conditions for them.

The contradictions and difficulties on the way of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism are growing under the increasing pressure of the popular masses and the better efficiency of the actions of active solidarity with the peoples fighting against brutal operations and attacks. The U.S.A. are meeting ever greater difficulties:

- in VIETNAM thanks to the resistance of the entire Vietnamese people and the efficient assistance and active solidarity of the socialist countries / especially the Soviet Union/, the growing mobilisation of the workers and world public opinion and of important sectors of public opinion in the United States themselves :

- in SAN-DOMINGO the American aggression against this people has roused the indignation of large sections of world public opinion , especially in the Latin-American countries;

- in the countries oppressed by a colonial rule, by racism , the national liberation movement which is actively supported by the trade unions, has reached an important stage of growth.

- in the countries where neo-colonialism has more or less taken root the struggle against its consequences / industrial backwardness, rejection of essential reforms, unemployment, anti-democratic and anti-trade union repressions, etc./ tends to expand more and more including armed fights, if imperialism, monopolies and the internal reactionary forces make all other fighting forms impossible.

- The opposition to the reactionary regimes and fascist rules in Spain, Portugal and Greece is developing in a broader and more vigorous way.

The Three-continental Conference in Havana - with representatives of 82 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin-America participating in it - has reaffirmed the necessity of strengthening the unity and solidarity of the peoples of those three continents in their struggle against the monopolies, imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. The General Declaration says clearly : "The Conference proclaims the inalienable right of the peoples to complete political independence, to all necessary forms of struggle, including armed struggles, to win this right." The same Declaration affirms the demand for a tight coalition between the anti-imperialist forces - the national liberation movement, the socialist countries and the international labour movement - as a decisive condition for the victory over neo-colonialism and colonialism. The Conference underlines the great role played by the socialist countries and "greet ardently the working class and the progressive movements in Western Europe and the United States and appeals to them to tighten even more their fraternal bonds of solidarity with the peoples of the three continents in order to wage a common struggle against the imperialist monopolies as well as against the policy of aggression and intervention, as they themselves are also the victims of the system of oppression and exploitation".

The growing unity of the anti-imperialist forces of the world as well as the contradictions between the imperialist countries themselves created by their economic and political interests, contributes to the conditions becoming more favourable for action and success of the peace loving forces. It is, therefore, possible to achieve factual steps towards peace which naturally will be rejected by imperialism, and to go further on this way to reduce international tension, to limit the armaments race, to preserve peace in the whole world.

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FOR THE FREE DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTION AND WORLD TRADE

World production of textiles, clothing and leather goods is far from satisfying the needs - often even the most elementary needs - of the population of most countries of the world.

The rise in the production of natural raw materials / textile fibres, leather and hides/ and especially the rapid growth in the development of chemical fibres and use of synthetic leather create all the necessary conditions for a great final development of industrial production of all textile, clothing and leather goods.

In spite of the favourable conditions offered by the evolution of science and technology, however, the rise in production and in the average consumption level is progressing very slowly. At this pace it cannot offer any serious perspective of improvement in satisfying the growing needs of the working masses in the various parts of the world.

In the developed capitalist countries the situation in production has deteriorated considerably in nearly all our industrial branches. In Western Europe and Japan the last years were characterised by more or less expressive "crises" felt especially in the textile industry of certain countries. Apart from that the growing rates tend to diminish. The provisions made by employers' organisations for the years to come demonstrate that the textile market in Europe is not expected to increase its consumption of textile fibres by more than 3% till 1970 and in the following 5 years 2% only will be the maximum.

The world redistribution of industrial production of textile, clothing and leather goods went through certain changes during the last years, especially in respect to the textile industry. On the basis of the production of natural raw materials, this production has spread over a number of countries in Africa, Latin America, the Middle-East and South Europe. - In the capitalist part of the world

on the other hand production and trade of chemical fibres and leather is completely controlled by the large monopolies and trusts in North America, Europe and Japan.

The liberation struggle of the peoples against colonial domination and its consequences, against imperialism and for a real political, economic and social independence has opened the way towards the emancipation of the national economies and their development on the basis of the factual interest of the peoples.

However, the intensification of the monopolist exploitation of the raw material sources /: cotton, wool, other fibres, hides and leather, etc./ , the deterioration of the exchange terms, the changes in the raw materials, the control of the societies on international trade, have during the last years contributed to aggravate the economic unbalance and differences between the advanced capitalist regions and the under-developed countries.

Under these conditions the development of production in our industrial branches in the developing countries shows profoundly different aspects from country to country.

- In ASIA production has increased strongly during the last years / especially in India, Pakistan, the Hong-Kong territory, Taiwan, South Korea etc./ Exports of textile goods as well as clothing and shoes are growing. During the recent periods, however, strong crises and laying off of workers was reported especially from India.

In LATIN-AMERICA, within a framework of very differing situations, galloping inflation and rising prices have led to a new decrease in ^{the} internal consumption which had already been very low in many countries / which nevertheless are among the great world producers of textile raw materials, hides and leather/. The policy of submission practiced by certain governments in relation to foreign capital and the actions taken by international industrial and commercial trusts appear to be the essential factors for the crises in our industrial branches.

In AFRICA one of the consequences of several peoples gaining their independence which has to be underlined is the important development of the natural raw materials production as well as the foundation or strengthening of national industries in the textile, clothing and leather branches in nearly all African countries.

In all the developing countries the present period is characterised by a more accentuated direct or indirect penetration of monopolist capital and large groupings in our industrial branches / mainly: American, West-German, English, French, Japanese etc./ especially in the textile and leather industries.

Important changes have taken place in international trade. A certain number of developing countries, especially in Asia, appear on the world market with a considerably developed potential. The trend to use a larger amount of raw materials produced in many of the developing countries on the spot. is progressing in spite^{of} obstacles following from the consequences of former colonial reports, of the policy of imperialism and neo-colonialism and the serious limitation applied to the free development of international trade.

Consequently the production development in some of our branches of industry / especially textile and cotton/ has slowed down even in the developing countries. In the course of the last 10 years the pace of expansion here was weaker than in the total manufacturing sphere of those countries.

As a result the goods produced by our industrial branches during the last years have not participated in the global expansion of international exchange. Nevertheless a rise can be observed since the end of 1964, but as the employers' circles themselves admit "it is mostly the highly industrialised countries which seem to have had the benefit of this new start in exports".

The free development of international trade, the braking down of existing barriers and unequal relations are closely

connected to the anti-imperialist and anti-monopolist struggle.

The aim of supporting, among other things, the expansion of economic and social relations among all countries on the basis of mutual relations built up on equality and respect of national sovereignty, could form an important subject of research and approach for the trade unions - regardless of their international affiliation or non-affiliation - and could help the development of employment and the amelioration of the situation of the workers in our industrial branches.

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DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS IN PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY
AND TECHNIQUES

The development in techniques and means of production which lies at the basis of the deep changes in our industrial branches has gained in speed during recent years.

The use of chemical fibres is progressing extremely quickly. In 1965 world production has reached 2 million tons of synthetic fibres / as against 704 300 t in 1960/. Constantly progressing is also the use of plastic materials and artificial leather.

The production of "non-woven materials" based especially on recent discoveries of products possessing a number of characteristics of woven materials, is already gaining large markets.

In the textile industry the progress made with raw materials and machines means a considerable reduction in the number of operations and passages. Fully automatised cotton spinning mills are working especially in Japan, the U.S.A. and Great Britain. A pneumatic spinning machine without spindle was constructed in Czechoslovakia for the same production phase. In carding a system eliminating the tappet for beating up has been introduced. The feeding is direct for this type. The new spinning and yarning machines reach a speed of 20 000 rev./ min.

More and more automatic looms are being introduced.

The general trends of technical change tend towards automation of certain machines, the integration of certain transformation stages which so far had been separated, as well as towards an ever quicker rise in the production pace.

In some countries, especially European ones, knitted material is tending to replace woven one in the hosiery branch. Using more and more synthetic fibres and elastic yarns hosiery has a tendency of playing an increasingly important part in clothing. This fact is connected with the

changing fashion but to an even greater extent with the higher productivity of knitting machines compared to looms. Using the MALINO technology of the G .D.R. a single machine can produce as much as 20 automatic looms.

Plastic materials and artificial leather are sure to introduce large changes into the production of shoes and other industries using these raw materials. Synthetic leather has many of the characteristics of natural one; and apart from that a constant thickness and uniformity which can form the basis for the introduction of largely automatised production systems. The tanneries could be affected strongly as a result of such changes.

In the clothing branch we can observe an increase in the use of non-woven tissues / especially for linings/, of different types of knitted and elastic fabrics and other plastic materials and synthetic hides. The situation is similar for the use of multi-operation machines. In certain branches machines ^{were introduced} for entirely automatic production of certain goods or for certain phases of their manufacturing .

For the total of capitalist countries this accelerated but unequal development of technologies and means of production tends to increase the old contradictions and to create new ones. It also has the trend of sharpening competition on the world market of textile, clothing and leather goods.

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PRODUCTION AND CAPITAL CONCENTRATION; MONOPOLIST POLICY,
STRUCTURAL CHANGES

Since the Second World War the situation of our industrial branches was characterised by more and more outspoken structural changes. The concentration, centralisation and integration of production and capital is progressing rapidly on a national and international level. Among the factors which have mostly contributed to speed up these processes and the differentiation in their forms we would like to enumerate the following essential ones :

- the technical and scientific revolution which has also influenced the fundamental raw materials
- the policy of economic integration and the accentuation of competition on various levels
- the peoples' struggle for their liberation and the bankruptcy of the colonial system.

The changes in the raw materials, their wider use and the sharpening of competition on a world level made the monopolies in the chemical and petro-chemical industries look for permanent markets they could control and dominate by means of increasing penetration especially into the textile, clothing and hosiery industries which are the largest consumers of artificial and synthetic fibres and materials.

The main consequences could be felt in a maximum impuls in the direction of the enterprise concentration and production verticalisation : in important modifications in the existing structures and in the positions of financial power; in broad interpenetrations between the chemical monopolies , the trusts and cartells of our industrial branches, distribution and high finance at a national and international level. These phenomena naturally develop in different ways according to the country concerned.

On the other hand, the expansion of monopolies and trusts lead to the integration of capitalist markets and the integration of markets again exercised a powerful pressure on the expansion of production dimensions and the international capital concentration. - This new type of economic state intervention^{is} becoming massive and systematic, especially with public, semi-public and para-public production financing. Contemporary capitalism is tending to ~~adopt~~ ^{of} more and more the form state monopolist capital. On the whole these processes are far from reducing the contradictions of capitalism, on the contrary, they aggravate them and contribute as a matter ^{of} fact to the creation of new and wider possibilities to take united actions and wage trade union struggles.

The struggle between the most powerful monopolies and trusts for market domination and control is becoming sharper and sharper. Heading this struggle are the American monopolies which are the most powerful ones in the capitalist world and keep many little or medium developed countries in dependence, force the penetration of their capital and make efforts to widen their domination in all capitalist countries.

In the basic sector of new fibres the American monopolies control 25% of world production of chemical fibres in general and 31 % of synthetic fibre production.

International concentration deepens in the course of a merciless struggle pushing competition and antagonism among the imperialist powers to an ever sharper degree and underlining the lack of balance and the contradictions. These appear openly in the Common Market and in European-USA relations / failure of the "Kennedy Round"/. While a large part of the monopolist groups seems to look for a solution of this type of contradictions by accepting the hegemony of the U.S.A., important manifestations of resistance to this line can also be observed. We have, however, to remark, that the large monopolies try to overcome their difficulties mainly by passing them on to the shoulders of their workers.

Other contradictions arise within each country; they emphasise the social, territorial and economic inter-branch differences. The unequal development of the productive forces and productivity, the new growth of international competition, the acceleration of monopolist concentration processes evoke periodical "restructurations", the most marked result of which is the closing of small and medium enterprises, which in our professional branches exist in a large number. These ~~ofactors~~ force the workers to face dramatic problems, they may be condemned to unemployment, declassment, possibly even to change their living place or to emigration.

Within the overall framework of the policy of the monopolies and imperialist and neo-colonialist policy, the growing part played by the state in the capitalist system is reflected also in their policy adopted towards the developing countries; especially through a policy of so-called "assistance" representing one of the characteristics of neocolonialism and one of its main instruments for political and economic domination. - This policy is approaching bankruptcy more and more. - The amount of financial "assistance" has been diminishing during the last 5 years. Not a single formation process of new income has resulted from it for the developing countries.

Drawing the balance of the last ten years and comparing the losses resulting for the developing countries from the falling world market prices of certain basic products and the increasing bilateral "assistance" of the capitalist countries it becomes evident that the entire "assistance" / including loans/ does not even cover half of the losses in external income borne by the developing countries.

Another important aspect of the monopolist policy as well as the policy of imperialist and neo-colonial hegemony at world level is, apart from direct penetration of monopolies and monopolist capital; the tendency to set up or consolidate in the developing countries subordinated capitalist formations / often allied to feudal forces or the parasite bourgeoisie/ which are directly interested in such a subordination and submission and can constitute a bulwark

against the new trends and progress in the political, economic and social fields introduced by the masses of labour and the social strata which ^{are} no longer ready to live in resignation and misery.

Certain countries have taken measures to nationalise the property of foreign societies and trading firms / especially external trade/; to control the activities of the trusts and financial groupings; they envisage the in-acting of social reforms ; they create the basis for industrial development, etc. Many forces in the liberation movement and in the trade unions define the alternative to the process of neo-colonialism as a "socialist" line of "non-capitalist development" to "exclude the crises to which an economic development built up on private capital necessarily leads: that means the incoherence, the anarchy, the ignorance of general interests... the general degradation in human relations, the oppression and social injustice which are produced by a system based on private profit."

The trend towards and the growth of the lack of balance among the various regions of the world and inside them forms an integrate part of the "logic" of capitalist development. In the developed capitalist countries new and old contradictions and economic and social tensions are manifesting themselves, the economic situation of the developing countries has a whole has worsened. The common reasons for these disproportions and contradictions lie in the mechanism of monopolist capital development and in the process of private accumulation forming its basis; it represents the centre of the class struggles in the capitalist countries as well as the centre of the anti-imperialist struggle in the developing countries.

The definition of a common fighting strategy against imperialism and neo-colonialism, built up on a common action against the activity and power of the monopolies and large trusts, therefore constitutes the fundamental question of the day for the total international trade union movement.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESULTS , PROBLEMS FACING THE
WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS

- The development of technics, of the organisation of work, the changes in production and structure have caused important changes in the working and living conditions of the workers of our industrial branches.

- In the field of employment we can observe a constant decrease in the labour employed in nearly all the developed capitalist countries, especially in the more important textile branches but also in clothing and leather industries of various countries.

The industrial concentration and the policy of the most powerful monopolies and trusts caused - in agreement and with the assistance of the state - the closing and disappearance of a considerable number of small and medium enterprises and the dismissal of many thousands of female and male workers. The course of capitalist "restructuration" of these industries has been used by the large employers to reduce staff, to increase production and profit, to strengthen their own power and control over an ever growing part of the production and markets.

- Working conditions - Capitalist exploitation is constantly growing - Labour productivity has increased considerably. Progress in technology and means of production is to a certain extent forming the basis of this "jump" forward in productivity. But, especially for certain industrial branches, the growth of productivity is mainly built up on the application of "rationalisation" methods in production / greater division in operations, speeding up machines, system of "studies of working times and movements" , work at a belt or similar equipment, production specialisation etc./

- The employers try to increase productivity and profits constantly and therefore use all means to accelerate continuously the pace and rhythm of work and to increase the number of machines in charge. The consequences are considerably higher physical and psycho-nervous fatigue which often reach an intolerable level.

- These operations requiring a maximum exploitation of physical and psycho-nervous energy also tend towards the annihilation of the worker's personality, towards his isolation and towards breaking him between the cog-wheels of a so-called modern labour organisation.

- Trade qualification - Technical development, advanced mecanisation, the introduction of automatised machines have resulted in important changes in the structure of the working class in our branches of industry. The number of employees and especially graduated engineers and technicians has a rising tendency. Certain traditional trades are disappearing, others are newly created and require new types of skill and qualification.

- Profitting from this situation the employers have performed an enormous declassing operation within the mass of workers especially in the higher industrialised countries. This policy is directed particularly towards the working women who, generally speaking, are at the lowest level of trade qualification.

- In most countries the employers tend to intensify their attack against qualification and to minimise the professional capacity of the workers. One of the most typical means used consists in the substitution of classifications based on trade skill by systems of wages connected with the job and built up essentially or exclusively on non-professional elements / load of work or machines, physical fatigue, factors of ambition etc./.

- Women and young workers - In most of our industries women represent the large majority of labour employed and in some branches there are nearly women only. Therefore women's problems are essential in our professions. To a large extent this is also true for young workers. The employers' exploitation reaches its peak when directed against women and young workers because of the systematic application of discriminating methods, especially concerning wages, the level of qualification, training and preparation for the trade.

- The constantly growing part played by women in production and modern society clashes more and more with the reactionary policy of the employers and the incapability of capitalist society, even at its higher levels of economic and industrial development, to solve the fundamental problems about the right to work and the existence of conditions enabling women to benefit from it fully / professional and technical instructions and qualifications, individual and collective domestic equipment, nurseries and kindergartens etc./.

WAGES - In spite of the considerable growth in productivity and profits, the average wage level and the purchasing power in our industrial branches lies - for the developed capitalist countries - at the lowest level in comparison with the other sectors of the production industries of the various countries. On the other hand the rising prices form a heavy burden weighing down their living standard. Apart from problems relating to trade qualification, it seems possible to discover certain essential lines in the policy of the employers concerning the question of wage contracting:

a/ not to fix any / national or territorial / minimum wages by agreement or to limit them at considerably lower levels than the real average wages

b/ to attempt to consider the minimum wages established in the collective agreements as absolute maximums

c/ to tend to prolong the duration period of collective agreements and wage agreements as far as possible.

In several countries wages are depending on the rise to the index of consumers' prices and there the employers are attacking violently, they try to eliminate this system, to make it lose all efficiency.

The services of the social insurance, the indirect wage of the worker, are also often attacked, especially concerning Health Insurance and Old Age Pensions.

- Hygiene and safety of labour - The introduction of new technologies and methods of work has contributed to a wider use of chemical products, which are often very detrimental to the worker's health. The most severe case is the use of benzol adhesives / or its derivatives / in the shoe industry.

The growing speed of the machines, the larger number of automatic machines, the results of the application of "rationalization" methods, the noise, the dust, the dampness etc. often pose very serious problems of hygiene and safety of labour.

- The tendency of the employers to introduce more and more shift work and night work contributes, especially in the last case, to seriously endangering of the worker's health apart from disturbing greatly his family life.

Home work - In spite of modern development, an exploitation with signs of the past is still existing in many capitalist countries. It is the industrial home work and the relations of sub-contracting the sole reason of existence of which is the permitted ^{pe}surexploitation of the workers and their families by the employer who wants to dispose of many

manoeuvring methods in the field of employment, especially to be able to resist to the demands and struggles of the mass of the workers in certain industrial branches.

Emigration - The accent layed on unequal development and the existence of integrated economic communities led to a considerable extension of the phenomenon of emigration. New types of emigration inside a group of countries, for instance, belonging to the Common Market, developed in addition to the traditional emigration forms. Such workers are used as an instrument of pressure against the workers living in that country. This fact and the serious general conditions given to these workers and their families give rise to new particularly sharp problems .

- In the recent period more violent attacks on the living and working conditions of the workers could be observed in most capitalist countries. They not only put the victories won and results achieved in former struggles in question but they are directed against all freedoms and rights of the trade unions.

- The capitalists are trying to use the state's means and increasingly important economic actions to carry through their aims. Various "stabilisation policies" and "income policies" are used by the employers in our industrial branches to :

- a/ to introduce a stop, if not freeze, on wages /workers' "incomes"/ by attacking their purchasing power. In this way they are creating conditions for new economic difficulties / limitation of internal markets /.
- b/ to contribute to a reduction of the value of incomes by reducing the part of the wage / direct, indirect or differentiated/ in the costs / "competing prices for export..."/
- c/ to increase the profit margins, especially for more important trusts in order to intensify the rate of self-financing / and to favorise in this way also the monopolist production concentration/.

In respect to the trade union the authoritative policy of the employers has got mainly the following purpose:

a/ to impose on the trade unions a "a programmation" aimed at by the monopolies, with all its implications and consequences

b/ to "integrate" the trade union, to limit their real rights, their authonomy and their prerogatives

- Simultaneously the employers reaffirm loudly that essential decisions on the running of enterprises and the power to be exercised will not be divided up;

- the policy and the authorative tendencies of the employers are emphasised all the more at the rate at which evidence is becoming clear that monopoly capitalism is neither capable to provide a maximum development for the productive forces nor to satisfy the just social and democratic needs of the workers and that, therefore, the contradiction between the more and more social character of production and the more and more private appropriation cannot be solved by it;

- this process and these tendencies depend on the economic and political conditions and therefore differ considerably in various countries, but it remains essential that there are many evidently common elements in the most important capitalist countries;

- the growing strength of the monopolies on a national and international level, their policy of control over the state does not only give the working class the task of increasing its force, introducing more cohesion into the actions and demands to be able to resist the attack of the employers and to limit its consequences;

- the monopolist great capital and high finance underline by their policy and their action the contradiction between the developing productive forces and social progress. They clash with the working class, with the strata that tend to ally with it, with the democratic forces and all the social layers which suffer; directly or indirectly, from the effect of the kind of development the monopoly capital wants to impose.

I.

LABOUR STRUGGLES? THEIR OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

These realities of capitalism result in a growth of class consciousness of the workers in our industries which is shown in the development of their struggles against the employers' attacks and for the satisfaction of their economic and social demands.

Various forms of big strikes and struggles have taken place in the past and are taking place now in many capitalist countries. Among the most outstanding ones in our industries were struggles waged in France, Italy, the German Federal Republic, Spain, Chile, India, Uruguay, Japan etc.

The characteristic features of these struggles were :

- their numerical growth and increased power ;
- their ever more united character ;
- they become harder due to the more stubborn resistance of the employers and higher objectives at which the workers are aiming;
- in many cases the workers' struggles are supported by different sections of the population ;
- Women and young workers who are so numerous in our industries, are taking an ever more active part in the preparation and the struggles themselves. They should therefore be considerably more promoted to higher trade union functions.

The more frequent and broader participation of clerical employees, technicians and foremen in the workers' struggles must also be highlighted.

Whatever the forms of this struggle, according to countries and regions, they often show that the textile, clothing and leather workers in the capitalist countries are defending common interests and are fighting for the satisfaction of similar demands.

The struggles have often resulted in successes which cannot be neglected and which made it possible to counter to a certain degree the bad effects of the employers' policy and to hinder this policy.

II.

The following were among the most important achievements of the recent years :

- higher wages ;
- longer paid holidays ;
- shorter working hours ;
- a reduction of the gap between male rates and those paid to women and young workers ;
- protection against the effects of full or partial unemployment.

The most important immediate economic and social demands are common for the workers and their trade union organisations in all capitalist countries and all affiliations.

Despite their different wording, they are always aiming at :

- pay increase and a guarantee of wages;
- a reduction of working hours without loss of pay ;
- protection against unemployment and guarantees of employment ;
- free negotiation of collective labour agreements covering all conditions of work and remuneration ;
- the abolishment of all kinds of discrimination in matters of age and sex in the conditions of recruitment, employment, wages and qualifications ;
- the defense and extension of trade union rights and freedoms at all levels, and particularly at enterprise level ;
- the introduction, defense and extension of social security and provident schemes covering all risks of accidents at work, sickness, motherhood, old age and unemployment.

These demands are a concrete basis for unity at national as well as international level. Thus on this basis of interests held in common by all workers the best initiatives should be sought which would be capable to promote international unity of action.

There are also differences resulting from the situation and conditions prevailing in each country.

In the countries recently liberated from the colonial yoke, in addition to their specific demands the workers and trade unions

are fighting in alliance with the national forces
- for economic independence and the industrialisation of their
countries,
- for progress and democracy.

In certain Latin American countries, the aim of the struggle of the workers and trade unions in our industries are :

- agrarian reform, processing of raw materials on the national territory and democratic control of foreign-trade with these raw materials.

The workers are not able to clear their way towards progress without attacking the economic and political domination of the monopolies of great financial groupings, including their international roots, to thus open the prospects for democratic development.

In face of the new strategy of the monopolies, the workers and trade unions must pay greater attention to problems of structures and to the links between their immediate demands and those for an adjustment of structure and of the economic policies.

The workers and trade unions, particularly in the Common Market countries, are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that it is essential to conduct the struggle for broader economic demands than the traditional ones to eliminate the monopolies from the administration of the State, to nationalize the key sectors of the economy and foreign companies which are particularly important in economy and scientific research, to enforce a democratic control on them as well as on other monopolies, trusts and more important financial groups as well as economic and social development plans, prepared and democratically controlled in the interests of the workers and the people.

The class struggle for economic programming can thus be put into the context characterized by the desire of the workers for a more rapid progress in all fields, the strengthening of the anti-monopolist struggle, necessary and possible gains tending to considerably adjusting the present structures and to favour progress

towards new and greater conquests, a greater democracy in the political, economic and social life.

The differences which exist in the various concrete situations from one country to another naturally influence the forms of struggle, their methods and programmes corresponding to each specific situation.

TRADE UNION ACTION IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES - A NEW
PAGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION
MOVEMENT

The continuous and courageous peace policy of the socialist countries forms a decisive contribution to the struggle of the workers of the world against a third world war, against imperialist aggression in small or large countries with a socialist or other order, for national liberation and social progress.

The trade unions of the socialist countries work for the introduction of a new society which has already eliminated capitalist exploitation and raised human dignity. Under these conditions trade union activity adopted an entirely new contents, it extended to all aspects of the workers' life and work. The trade unions participate on an equal footing in the ~~conduct~~ of state affairs, in working out economic, social and cultural policies, in planning national economy, in working out labour legislature. The laws of the socialist state create most favourable conditions for the defense of the workers' interests, for taking up the initiative in a continuous ^{or} amelioration of their well-being.

3 ~~Total~~ production of raw materials and manufactured goods of our industrial branches is continuously progressing in all socialist countries during the last years. The great industrial concentration facilitates the application of advanced production technologies. Intensive scientific and technological research activity contributed to important inventions, especially in the field of "hard fibres", textile machines, leather, the technology of "non-woven" materials and knitted fabrics. The trade unions support actively the largest possible utilisation of the new techniques and technologies because, contrary to capitalism, these processes are introduced in the interest of the workers, taking into consideration the most important factors such as:

health, the improvement of material conditions, a reduction in working hours, the rising standard of qualification etc.

The number of workers in our trades has considerably grown during the last years. In the Soviet Union alone the number of workers grew from 2.5 millions in 1962 to 3.440 000 in 1965.

Important successes were achieved in the economic, cultural and social fields. The wage, living and working conditions have improved. Among the most significant achievements for our industrial branches it seems necessary to underline those concerning working women and mothers and especially the excellent extension of collective and social services making a real application of the right to work, the continuity of employment and a professional career of working women possible.

For the rational use of the new possibilities existing at present in the socialist system at its given development level, important measures are applied in a number of socialist countries to improve the planning system, rise the management of production, strengthen greatly the interest of the workers in an improvement in the general results of labour in the enterprises. In this way the economic basis for the initiative of the masses, for their larger participation in the production management and in the ulterior development of democratic foundations is consolidated.

The part played by collective agreements tends to grow further

The technical revolution and the enormous means required by it drive towards a rising economic, scientific and technical co-operation among all socialist countries, resulting also in the necessity of closer co-operation among the trade unions of the different countries, to pass their experiences to each other in order to gain from each other while keeping an eye on the particular characteristics of each country.

Trade union activity under conditions of socialism is a new page in the history of the world trade union movement. The experiences of the trade unions in the socialist countries, their successes, their initiatives in the solution of the difficulties and in the elimination of short-comings appearing during the building of a socialist society, contain great values for the whole international trade union movement.

PROSPECTS OF PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL UNITY OF ACTION

- Faced with the solid attack of capitalists the workers of all countries feel ever clearer the absolute need of unity and solidarity in the enterprises, regions, in the national field and on an international level.
- The frequent examples of united struggles in enterprises and regions as well as various countries show clearly that the real reason for division does not lie in the ideological differences existing in the working class.
- It is the policy of class collaboration which represents the main factor of division. The ideological differences are often used as a pretext to justify division, mainly by those who want to impose class collaboration on the workers.

- The common interests of the workers form the solid basis for unity.
The wish for unity and unity itself expand to the extent to which the workers become conscious of these common interests.

Unity is created by penetrating into the living every-day reality and by studying all the new phenomena in the struggle of the working masses as the moving force. Discussion, the precondition of unity starts at the moment at which we succeed to pass from our analysis to proposals and initiatives interesting the workers in our trade in a certain group of countries.

- A favourable development towards contacts and closer relations among all trade union organisations without exception is emerging in different trade organisations which are not affiliated to our International Trade Union. It is in agreement with the requests that the demands for a better life, freedom and peace be satisfied.

- The various initiatives taken by our TUI and its affiliated organisations like
 - Various international meetings
 - Actions at the I.L.O.
 - Furthering contacts and exchanges
 - Efforts in propagation and information

were more than in the past directed towards a factual trade basis and contributed to this development.

- The situation, however, requires larger and more continual efforts on the one hand to determine better the aims we want to reach and on the other hand to work out the starting points and means.

- All the united initiatives should have the central aim of opposing the consolidated actions of the monopolies by coordinated struggles of the workers and trade unions in our industrial branches.

- The way to reach this aim leads over an improvement and extension of the contacts and relations between trade unions at different levels - enterprises, trusts, industrial branches and national federations - on the basis of the defense of interests common to the workers of our industries in the various countries.

- The regional trade union activities among organisations affiliated to our TUI, with other TU affiliation and autonomous ones certainly also help progress in this direction.

- The meeting of the textile, clothing and leather federations of France and Italy made a deeper study of the specific problems of our industries in these two countries possible and explained also questions about the other countries of Europe, especially the ECM.

- The initiatives decided upon for the shoe industry could become an introduction to a future growth of trade union relations in Europe.

The activity of our trade sections should also be directed towards this aim. It should especially permit a better knowledge of the real situations in the various countries or regions in well determined fields.

- The activity of our TUI and of the organisations affiliated to the trade organisations of the I.L.O. / Commissions of industrial branches/ should be developed and improved. It could support the creation of new favourable conditions for the strengthening of relations among trade union organisations with different affiliation.

- The increasingly important part to be played by the working class in the struggle against the attacks of the monopolies and imperialism, for preserving peace, in support of the movement of liberation and progress of mankind, confers greater responsibilities to our TUI: and affiliated organisations as well as to the entire international trade union movement.

- Our TUI has to contribute to the preparation and success of the great initiatives decided by the 6th World Trade Union Congress, but it certainly also has to decide about its own initiatives to be taken in order to further international unity of action on the level of our various professions.

Our 3rd Conference will doubtlessly form a starting point for new efforts of this kind.