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For the International Gathering of Rural Youth

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BULLETIN OF INFORMATION OF THE ITALIAN INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

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1°) THE INITIATIVE OF RAVENNA IS RECEIVING SUPPORT ALL OVER THE WORLD

On December 6th 1953 a great initiative has been launched

The young people of the province of Ravenna, Italy, after discussing and exchanging points of view with regard to their problems, have launched the idea of an International Gathering of Rural Youth; this idea which was unanimously approved by young people of all political and religious opinions should have the most important repercussions in the whole world.

A few days afterward some of the most important Italian organizations and some eminent personalities who are interested in the problems of rural youth, which has the most difficult conditions of life, supported the initiative of young people of Ravenna.

An Italian Initiative Committee for the International Gathering of Rural Youth was created. Adherents to this Committee are some of the youth organizations and personalities such as: BOLOGNESI SAURO, trade-union leader of the province of Ravenna; BOSI ILIO general secretary of the International Union of Agricultural and Forestry Workers; CIFERRI RAFFAELE Professor of Botany of the University of Pavia; GIUSEPPE DI VITTORIO general secretary of the Italian Confederation of Work, President of the World Federation of Trade Unions; GHETTI GIUSEPPE vice president of the Union of Italian Cyclists; ADA GOBETTI teacher, Editor of the magazine "Educazione Democratica"; LEVI CARLO painter and writer who has received numerous prizes in the field of art and literature, author of "Christ stopped at Eboli" and the "The watch"; TISSELLI PAOLO leader of the Italian Union of Work (UIL).

In a letter addressed to organizations and personalities of various countries, this committee has proposed the constitution of an International Committee, which aims to the development of preparation of this Gathering on a world level: "Above the various convictions"- the letter states-"we are united in the common sentiment to give our concrete help to the generous efforts of the rural youth of every country to realize the betterment of their hard conditions of life. We want to open up to this youth also the road towards a better life of work, education and tranquillity."

The call in this letter immediately found warm support from numerous youth organizations, of artists, intellectuals, politicians, of different countries.

For example from far Pakistan we have received the enthusiastic adhesion of Mr. ABDUR RAUF KHAN, general secretary of the Association of Students of Pakistan for the United Nations.

The same adhesion came from the general Secretary of the Federation of Democratic Students of Karachi.

In Japan a national conference of rural youth, which united numerous youth organizations, decided to support the International Gathering of Rural Youth.

In Denmark, a national Committee for the Gathering has been formed; it has already guaranteed the participation of numerous organizations and personalities.

The vice president of the Movement for Defence of Peasants of Belgium has also given equal support.

From Ceylon, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico messages and adhesions arrive every day.

In Italy, where the initiative started the young people are actively preparing the International Gathering. In every town and village, such as Casal Pusterlengo, Milano, Porto Maggiore, Bosco Mesola, Ambroggio, Gazzo Bigarello, the young people join together to organize assemblies, parties, and manifestations, in the course of which they discuss their problems and look for a way of solving them, and how they will participate in the great movement of the International Gathering of Rural Youth.

II°) Messages of Support for the International Gathering of Rural Youth.

From Pakistan the general Secretary of the Association of Students for the United Nations writes:

"It is with great pleasure that we have learnt that the World Federation of Democratic Youth supports the young Italian peasants in the organization of the International Gathering of Rural Youth, which will take place in Italy next year.

This event must be particularly welcomed by a country such as Pakistan, an essentially agricultural country, in which 90% of the population live in the country.

The United Nations believe in the future of the rural people and it would be very important if a project which aims at the betterment of the conditions of life of the rural youth and of all the youth of the world, obtains the support of all men of good will in the world.

I sincerely support the convocation of the Gathering of Rural Youth and I send my best wishes for its success."

The general secretary of the Federation of Democratic Students of Karachi also writes that:

"The young students of our country wait for the International Gathering of Rural Youth; they are interested because the great majority of our young people are from the countryside and because they are sure this Gathering will express their hopes and will show the way to a solution of their problems.

From Italy, ETTORE BARALDI, the responsible editor of "TERRA NOSTRA", writes:

"Seeing in the appeal launched to the rural youth of the world, the hopes of the Italian Youth, of a militant of the Italian democratic peasants youth movement, of students, of sportsmen, I cannot do anything else but support the International Gathering .

In addition to my adhesion as responsible editor of "Terra Nostra", you have the support of the magazine and of the agricultural workers of Fossoli".

Ada ALESSANDRINI, librarian of LINCEI ACADEMIE, ROME, says:

"Your initiative is so completely right, generous, and intelligent, that you have my complete support.

You have shown the right way to a fraternal union between young people to change the life in the countryside.

To this aim I am pleased to offer you, not only my personal help, but also that of the Italian democratic women who do the tiring but worth while work of cultural development."

In its letter of adhesion the Secretariat of the International Union of the Agricultural and Forestry Workers writes:

"Who can refuse to respond to this appeal? Certainly not our Union!

To improve the conditions of multitudes of rural workers , who still, for the most part, suffer for an oppression similar to that of medieaval times, is the aim of our organization. The road to liberty, betterment and and peace is long.

We know with what force the rural youth carry forth the banner of progress when it is entrusted in their hands. Our support of the Gathering is unconditional because it will make the rural youth of the world conscious of their strength and their rights and decisive in their resolution to secure for themselves and for the world a better future. We are happy to give you the adhesion of the members of our Administrative Committee."

III°) HOW IS THE ITALIAN YOUTH PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF RURAL YOUTH ?

The Italian rural youth are preparing in local assemblies, manifestations and parties for the great national gathering, which will take place next April.

In this framework, on December 20th, the rural youth of Ravenna met at Massalombarda, after about twenty local meetings. The 700 participants approved a program, which covers the agrarian reform, the possibility of more work for rural youth, without forgetting the development of sports, cultural and recreational activities in the countryside.

An encounter between the youth of Bologna and Ravenna took place in the same period; they held a big party in the village of Medicina, during which there were artistic and sports manifestations.

In the Po Valley an important movement for the improvement of the life of the agricultural workers, which in February will culminate in a Regional Gathering, has been started. In the four provinces of Milan, Pavia, Cremona e Mantova, the young people of all the trade unions have held joint meetings.

In Puglia a meeting of young technical agricultural workers will take place with the participation of the agricultural students; aiming at a greater development of productivity, at giving a greater number of places for the technical agricultural workers, this meeting confronts this problem: the transformation of the economy of the countryside.

In Lucania they are preparing for a meeting of teachers and professors, which will study how to develop a campaign against illiteracy among young people of the countryside.

To guarantee to the young people of Delta Padano, better conditions of health, a regional conference, in which doctors, nurses agricultural workers, trade union organizations will participate will take place next February.

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