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31. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DEFENCE
OF THE RIGHTS OF YOUTH IN VIENNA

The International Conference in Defence of the Rights of Youth was held in Vienna from March 22nd to 27th, 1953. It resulted from an Appeal launched in July 1951 by a group of young Dutch workers of the Wester Sugar Refinery in Amsterdam.

In July 1952, a number of personalities and representatives of international and national organisations met together in order to constitute an International Initiating Committee.

Preparations for the conference were made in more than 80 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and America.

National conferences took place in 15 countries, including Japan, France, Iran, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, the Netherlands, and Norway. Several thousand local and regional conferences were held in other countries.

In the international field organisations like the YMCA, the International Federation of Photo Amateurs, the International Table Tennis Federation, the World United Nations Students Movement, the Womens International League for Peace and Freedom, showed interest, wished the conference complete success, and in certain cases sent observers to take part in its work. The World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Democratic Federation of Women, the International Organisation of Journalists, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, took part in the work as members of the International Preparatory Committee.

The Conference was the parliament of world youth. The report of the Conference Credentials Commission showed that the International Conference in Defence of the Rights of Youth brought together 329 delegates, 79 observers and 41 guests from 71 countries.

The Conference was needed because the conditions of life were deteriorating every day: low wages, the threat of unemployment, unhealthy working places, constant speed-up of production; and because, as young people from Hamburg said: "We have noted that our needs and our cares are the same as yours, and in consequence we must unite to obtain success."

The Conference, echoing the feelings of all young people, proclaimed that youth have a right to a happy and peaceful life. The Conference therefore demanded:

- the guaranteed right to work, which assures human dignity. Until such work is assured, the granting of unemployment benefits to young people, enabling them to have a normal standard of living.

- equal pay for equal work, better wages, real possibilities for learning a trade, annual holidays with pay.
- land for young peasants, decrease of rents on land, State credits and modernisation of rural amenities, reduction and regulation of working hours for agricultural workers.
- the right to general education, free, equal, democratic and without discrimination, free use of libraries, etc.
- the right to leisure, health, labour protection for young workers, material opportunities for taking part in sports and cultural activities, free medical aid.
- the right to marry and set up a home.
- the right to vote and to be elected.
- the right to build their own organisations, to have their own press, freely to discuss their needs and to unite for their achievement.
- complete equality of women and men in economic, social and political life.

The Conference condemned absolutely all discrimination by race, nationality, sex, age, political or religious opinion among young people.

Reports of the Conference aroused great interest in the various countries, and a number of activities arose from it. The biggest single result was perhaps the International Gathering of Rural Youth in Vienna in December 1954.

Where to find further information:

1. Texts and documents of the International Conference in Defence of the Rights of Youth.
2. Book and report of the Vth World Youth Congress in Bucharest, 1953.
3. Reports of the Council meeting in Peking, 1954.
4. Resolutions of the Warsaw meeting of the WFDY Council.

3e. INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF RURAL YOUTH IN VIENNA

In December, 1953, the young people of San Alberto di Ravenna, Italy, appealed to the rural youth of the whole world to organise an International Meeting of Rural Youth.

This idea found wide-scale support in the countryside of all countries. An International Preparatory Committee for this meeting was set up on April 4th, 1954, at Vinding Vejle, Denmark. At this meeting a plan for the World Charter of the Demands of Rural Youth was drawn up. It was the beginning of intense activity in all the countries for the improving of the conditions of the young people in the countryside - activity in which the WFDY took a large part.

The International Meeting of Rural Youth, which took place from December 9th - 15th, 1954 in Vienna marks a new stage in the history of the rural youth movement. It was the first time that 356 delegates from 69 countries, representing hundreds of millions of young people in the countryside of every opinion, and of every category had met to discuss together the situation of the young people in the villages, and to decide on methods of joint action to obtain a better life. The World Charter of the fundamental demands of rural youth contains the principal demands of young people living in the countryside all over the world - work, higher pay, and access to plots of land, according to the conditions in each country, the abolition of all remnants of feudalism and the granting of democratic liberties, the reduction of taxation, necessary sanitary assistance from the state, teaching in the mother tongue, the right to rest and to the development of culture and sports.

The meeting in Vienna was only a beginning. The World Charter, the Appeal and the resolutions passed will make possible the strengthening of the work begun in order to win new sections and new young people in this activity.

4. SOLIDARITY WITH COLONIAL COUNTRIES

The World Federation of Democratic Youth has always made a large contribution to the fight for liberty, national independence and for a happy future for the young people of colonial and underdeveloped countries. In various ways it has shown its solidarity with these young people. No blow has been struck against the rights of the people and the youth, no repression or violence has taken place in Asia or in the Middle and Near East, in Africa or in Latin America, but that the WFDY has not taken up the issue and made its protests known.

February 21st, international day of struggle against colonialism, and of solidarity with the youth of colonial and dependent

countries - an idea launched by the WFDY and IUS - has become a traditional demonstration of the international youth movement.

In large scale undertakings, such as the Conference for the Defence of Rights held in Vienna and the World Festivals of Youth and Students, the Federation has always placed the utmost importance on the problems of the colonial countries.

Dozens of delegations and representatives of the WFDY have visited many colonial and dependent countries in the past years.

The WFDY Council which met in August 1954 in Peking, examined the question of the movement of the youth in colonial and dependent countries for their rights, national independence and peace. During the reports and discussions the 263 representatives of youth organisations from 68 countries arrived at the unanimous conclusion that misery, famine, unemployment, mass epidemics, illiteracy, racial discrimination and the absence of political rights are the lot of young boys and girls in the colonial and dependent countries. The colonial system stops the people of these countries from deciding their own fate, hinders the development of their economy and stamps out their national culture. The peoples and youth daily strengthen their fight against colonialism, for national independence, peace and a better life.

In conclusion the Council unanimously launched an appeal to the youth of every country to strengthen their struggle and deepen their unity against colonialism.

Another way of helping young people in the colonial and dependent countries is the International Solidarity Fund. The Fund was started by the WFDY in order to strengthen solidarity and friendship with the youth of colonial and underdeveloped countries.

The Fund is fed by donations and money collections; sports, cultural and medical equipment collected in the countries on the appeal of the WFDY.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth collects all these contributions and distributes them according to existing possibilities, taking into account the requests of the interested countries. Also, in certain countries, collections are made for a specific purpose, or for a particular country, as for instance collections were held in Sweden, Norway, Finland etc., to help the youth of various colonial countries to come to the Warsaw Festival.

5. THE WFDY AND CULTURE

To attempt to give a picture, in the course of a brief article, of the wealth of cultural activities which the WFDY has either initiated directly or participated in over the last 10 years, is like trying to give a 5 minute summary of a lengthy and rich symphonic composition. Many of the details must be missed and only the most important highlights can be touched upon.

Since its inception, the Federation has consistently placed the question of culture to the fore, and as stated in its Constitution one of its main aims is "to work for the development of cultural activities amongst all youth". In fulfilling this aim, the record of the Federation speaks for itself.

The most outstanding cultural activities of our Federation are those cultural events organised during the World Youth Festivals. At the Festivals, many thousands of young people can see the culture of other lands, and in turn, have the opportunity of presenting their own. Although space is short, a few figures will indicate the scope of the cultural content of the Festivals.

At the Bucharest Festival in 1953, 442 national and 95 international cultural programmes were presented, seen by no less than 2,346,830 spectators. 157 films from 33 countries were shown. In the cultural competitions during the Festival, 5,711 young people from 32 countries participated, while over 1200 works in literature, music and the arts were received for the competitions organised by the magazine "World Youth".

The Warsaw Festival saw the participation of young people in the various cultural events in the following numbers:

375 national and 93 international cultural programmes; 226 films; 992 young people from 38 countries participating in the cultural competitions during the Festival (here it should be remembered that unlike Bucharest, most of the competitions were solo or duet, while what groups there were, were limited to 8 persons); 2750 works from 58 countries entered in the "World Youth" cultural competitions. Undoubtedly, the Festivals have been a tremendous opportunity for young people to bring forward and further develop their cultural talents.

The Festivals have been a world-wide review of the cultural talents of young people without precedent, the high calibre of which is testified to by all who have witnessed them. In all countries, the preparations for the Festivals have given rise to a myriad of cultural activities. The cultural events of the Festivals are as varied as the countries participating, and the national culture of all find a place for the youth of the world to see.

But big as they are, the Festivals are only one aspect of the Federation's work in the cultural field. Young people will remember the cultural competition, "The Life of Youth in the Countryside",

organised by "World Youth" in honour of the International Gathering of Rural Youth. Over 1,000 entries from 28 countries were entered in this competition which was undeniably a tremendous stimulus to the cultural talents of rural youth. It is well also to recall the serious and rich discussion on "culture and education in the service of peace" which was held at the International Conference in Defense of the Rights of Youth in Vienna, 1953, and in which our Federation played an active role. And in fact, at all international gatherings which the WFDY has organised or participated in, the question of culture, whether in discussion or in colourful and varied concerts, has always been an important highlight. Further, the Federation has given its support to other international cultural events, such as the International Song and Music competitions held each spring in Prague.

Since its first issue, "World Youth" has reflected this interest of the Federation. Articles by such well known personalities as Ewan MacColl, famous English folk singer, in addition to articles on culture by young people themselves have appeared in its pages. Book and film reviews have both been a regular feature, as have the publication of songs from many different countries.

Both "World Youth" and the Federation have commemorated the anniversaries of those cultural personalities honoured each year by the World Council of Peace, and articles on them have appeared in the magazine. During the Warsaw Festival, special evenings were set aside in honour of Schiller, Whitman, Cervantes, Montesquieu and Mickiewicz.

One of the most important aspects of the work of the Federation culturally has been the material help it has given to colonial and under-developed countries in the way of sending such materials as cinema projectors, films, dia-films, cameras, musical instruments and so on. The International Solidarity Fund, launched by the Federation at its 1954 Peking Council meeting, has been of great aid in this type of activity. In this connection, also, many of the organisations affiliated to the WFDY have organised libraries and courses against illiteracy, as well as organising cultural groups who give performances in the countryside, as in India, Argentina, Japan, Mexico. In addition, a song book containing youth songs of many countries has been produced, along with 360,000 phonograph records of youth songs which have been distributed in 100 countries.

What has been done, however, is only the beginning, and the perspective given for this work at the Federation's last Council Meeting is a bright one indeed. After much discussion in the cultural commission in which many new ideas were put forward, it was unanimously agreed that the Federation should develop a more specialised work toward the different branches of culture, help and support the development of many local, national and regional cultural activities, develop even more cultural exchanges of young people, organise meetings, seminars and study courses for cultural specialists and leaders, organise the exchange of

materials, publications, songs, plays, dances, films, records, manuals, etc., strengthen its links with the cultural organisation of UNO and other international organisations concerned with culture, and create at the Headquarters of the WFDY a Cultural Bureau as well as publish regularly a bulletin dealing with cultural and educational problems. Overwhelming support was given to the idea of cultural competitions in honour of the 10th anniversary of the WFDY and there is no doubt that in all countries this year the celebration of this anniversary will be marked by the biggest and richest cultural programmes ever.

A proud record for a great international youth organisation with an ever greater future programme of activities to come.

6. ITS WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS ACTIVITY

The young generation of today is becoming more and more interested in different sports, physical culture and open-air activities. These provide them not only with spare-time activities, but also with physical and cultural education, the development of health and vitality, and the opportunity to show and prove their ability at sports. Our Federation, recognising the important role of such activity throughout its ten years of existence has always tried to contribute to the satisfaction of the demands of young people in this field by encouraging the creation of opportunities for sport and open-air activities, and by surmounting the difficulties which have arisen.

We can say with justifiable pride that we have supported the launching and organisation of international competitions of a high level, for instance, the International Friendly Sports Meetings of Youth, where each time more than 4,000 young sportsmen participated. Our Federation has launched competitions in which large numbers of young people could take part: such were the competitions for the sports Badge of the WFDY, in which more than 3,000,000 young people from nearly 100 countries took part.

Our Federation and member organisations have organised or initiated thousands of open-air events and competitions for individuals and for teams during the past ten years. In this category are the Trophy competitions held both in the countries, and in the course of the Festival.

Our Federation has supported many national and international sporting events. It patronised the cycle competitions which took place in England in 1954 for the Grand Prix of England, it has offered prizes in the traditional international Prague-Berlin-Warsaw Peace cycle race, for the youth fencing championship in Budapest, and for others.

In the coming period our Federation intends to pay even more attention to its activities for the satisfaction of the sports demands of young people in accordance with the decision of our Warsaw Council meeting in August, 1955.

Our aim is to give even more careful attention and help to the youth of every social strata in every country in their efforts to establish opportunities for practising sports, physical culture and open-air activities, in cooperation with already existing organisations whose aim is to produce young people healthy in body and spirit.

To achieve these aims our Federation will also support national and international activities in the future, offering the youth opportunities for sport.

We would like to extend even further the competitions for the WFDY sports badges and Trophies. We want to help as much as we can the correspondence competitions in every discipline and in cross country, which are very popular among the youth in many countries.

We would like to suggest that in 1956 the youth might spend their holidays in organising camps and what the French call "caravans touristiques" - group touring on foot, by cycle, on horseback or by any other means. We hope to encourage participation in sports activities by using a greater part of the Solidarity Fund for gifts of sports equipment, and for the support of sports activity.

We believe that one of our most pleasant tasks is to support the XVIth Olympic Summer Games and the VIIth Winter Olympic Games which will take place next year and will undoubtedly contribute largely to the strengthening of the bonds of friendship and spirit of mutual understanding between the peoples and between young sportsmen. The Olympic idea and the hopes of young people make obligatory for us an aspiration which can be expressed in this one phrase - "our youth do not want to measure their strength on battle fields, but on the green fields of sports stadiums".

7. THE WFDY, ORGANISER OF FESTIVALS

At the inaugural meeting of the WFDY, held on November 10th, 1945, in London, the participants decided, among other things, to organise large scale peace meetings from time to time, where the youth of every country could get to know each other better, and strengthen their friendship. Thus was born the idea of the greatest of all meetings of the young generation - the Festivals.

Since that time the Festivals organised by the WFDY and the IUS have become mighty demonstrations of unity and the will of young people to join the growing forces for peace.

The first of the Festivals, which have now become a tradition, took place in Prague in 1947. The youth movement had never before seen such a grand event. It was the first time since the 2nd world war that 17,000 young people from 72 countries had met in an atmosphere of enthusiasm to express their ardent wish to live a happy life in a world

which knew no misery or fear of war. The 1st Festival was also a grand cultural and sports review. During the Festival, there were 297 cultural programmes and 103 sports teams took part in the 75 sports competitions organised during the Festival.

"We vow to lead the fight for peace to a victorious finish", said the 10,370 young people from 90 countries who took part in the 2nd World Festival organised in 1949 at Budapest. Any means of transport was good enough to get to Budapest - trains, boats, buses, lorries, airplanes, bicycles. During the Festival - so rich in unforgettable events - there were 112 national performances from 42 countries. The 358 film shows were seen by 162, 142 spectators.

Berlin 1951. In spite of the campaign against Festival delegates in some Western countries more than 26,000 young people from 104 countries came to Berlin to take part in the 3rd Festival which was even bigger and more wonderful than the two previous ones. This Festival marked an important stage in the fight of the people and the youth for the signing of a peace pact among the 5 Great Powers. The 3rd Festival was more successful than the previous ones. The number of cultural performances, for example, rose to 4,917.

The IVth World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship in Bucharest, 1953. - more than 30,000 young people from 111 countries participated in this grand demonstration of the young generation. This Festival marked that great victory for the peace forces of the whole world - the conclusion of an armistice agreement in Korea. A new stage opened up - the work for peace was showing results. During the Festival 196,620 sports badges were awarded to Festival participants. Cultural groups from 65 countries participated in the rich cultural programme of Bucharest.

It was in the city of Warsaw that the WFDY and IUS organised the Vth World Festival from July 31st - August 14th, 1955. The Festival opened in the spirit of the positive results of the conference of the 4 Great Powers, and continued in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, and sincere friendship. 30,000 young people from 114 countries met there. The large scale participation of young people of all political opinions and religious beliefs and the richness of the programme made the Vth Festival the grandest meeting of friendship and peace of the youth of the world. During this fortnight no less than 547 concerts and artistic programmes which were seen by more than 2,470,000 people, and 500 inter-delegation meetings took place.

8. FOR EXCHANGE TOWARDS BETTER UNDERSTANDING

"East is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet". Perhaps to some extent true in Kipling's time, but certainly not valid today. More and more people, particularly the youth, are visiting those far-away places and taking advantage of the chance to meet and make friends with their inhabitants.

Believing that such visits are of immeasurable help in increasing international friendship and understanding, the WFDY has always paid the greatest attention to the organisation of youth exchanges. In the first issue of "World Youth", Guy de Boysson, then President of the WFDY, dealing with the need to inform youth about other countries wrote: "The Federation therefore intends to develop international exchanges among young people by organising visits to foreign countries and the creation of international camps." All this, and more, has been done.

Undoubtedly, the World Youth Festivals are the biggest single aspect of this programme. In all, 115,000 young people from all countries of the world have attended the Festivals and have made many lasting friendships as well as learning a great deal about other lands. Post-Festival visits have also contributed greatly to this understanding. For example, following the Warsaw Festival, delegates from Brazil, USA, Canada and several other countries were invited to Czechoslovakia, China, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

Much noteworthy work for exchange has been done by the member organisations of the WFDY, with the active support of the Federation. A glance through the back issues of "World Youth" recall the many international youth camps that have been organised - Czechoslovakia in 1947, Austria, Denmark, Italy, France and the Henri Martin camp in Germany in 1952, to mention only a few. Here, young people from varied countries have lived, worked, played, sung and made friends together.

At the Executive Committee of the WFDY held in January, 1954, first importance was given to the question of youth exchange, and a great campaign "Through Knowledge and Understanding to Friendship", was launched by the Federation, to last from World Youth Week until World Youth Day.

As a result, last year, 1954, international camps were organised in Austria, Bulgaria, Britain, France, Italy, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, along with the Northern Youth Festival Camp for Peace and Friendship held in Oslo, Norway, and the Festival of South American youth held in Sao Paulo, Brazil (February 1955).

In addition national camps and Festivals were organised in Belgium (fraternal delegates from 5 countries), France (fraternal delegate from more than 12 countries), Germany (fraternal delegates from 28 countries), Israel (delegates invited from Middle East, Italy, France and Bulgaria), as well as Festivals in Canada, South Africa, Australia, Holland, New Zealand, Indonesia, and Switzerland. The Assembly of British Youth in May, 1954,

brought together young people from all parts of Britain, as well as guests from 4 countries.

Apart from these camps and Festivals, many direct youth exchanges have been carried out. In 1954, youth delegations from Iceland, France, Finland, GDR, Italy, Hungary, Denmark, Czechoslovakia and other countries visited the Soviet Union, while cultural and sports delegations from the Soviet Union visited Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, France, Holland, Britain, Egypt, Argentina, Germany and Hungary. Young apprentices from Denmark visited Czechoslovakia, while youth delegations from Britain and the Soviet Union visited People's China. In all, the Soviet Union last year sent 80 sports teams and delegations to visit a total of 26 countries, while delegations from at least 20 countries visited the Soviet Union.

Last year, all the participants of the Peking Council Meeting of the WFDY were invited to visit China for a period of some weeks. In preparation for the Warsaw Festival, two representatives of the Polish youth visited Canada for one week.

Along with all these visits and exchanges, are the visits made by representatives of the Federation to various countries. Since the Federation was established, these visits have been a regular part of its work in order to better understand a particular country or region and acquaint the youth there with the activities and conditions of young people in other parts of the world. It is not exaggeration to say that every continent, and almost every country, has been visited (in many cases many more times than once) by representatives and delegations organised by the Federation. In preparation for the 5th Festival this year, the Federation organised visits to over 30 countries.

Of course, not everyone can visit other countries, and therefore, the Federation attaches great importance to the development of pen-pals.

The popularity of this method of "exchange" is proved by the many requests for such "pals" that reach the editorial board of "World Youth" every month.

International youth exchanges has become an integral part of youth activities everywhere, and has proved to be the best way of breaking down barriers of mistrust and misunderstanding. Recognising this, the WFDY at its last Council Meeting resolved to further intensify its work in this field, and to establish a separate bureau at its head-quarter to work on this question. Next summer will be a "summer of friendship", with national and international camps, festivals, frontier meetings and exchanges of delegations the order of the day.

With consistent work in this direction, and with the present relaxation of international tension, there is no doubt that youth exchanges will be a hegemony of youth's activities for a world of friendship and peace.

9. THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE WFDY

November 1945, London

The World Council of Youth, in which 437 delegates and 148 observers representing 30 million young people in 63 countries took part, decided to found the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

August 1946, Paris

The WFDY organised an international conference for the support of youth of the Spanish Republic. It was here that the decision was taken to celebrate every April 14th as International Day of Solidarity with the Spanish Anti-franco youth.

September 1946

The first issue of the official organ of the WFDY - World Youth - appeared.

March 1947, Cuba

For the first time since the 2nd world war, delegates from 14 Latin American countries met under the auspices of the WFDY to discuss youth problems in this part of the world.

July - August 1947, Prague

The 1st World Youth Festival with the participation of more than 17,000 young people from 72 countries. 99 cultural groups presented 294 artistic programmes. The World Youth Song was sung here for the first time.

August 1947, Prague

The WFDY Council decided to organise the International Conference of Working Youth.

February 1948, Calcutta

On the initiative of the WFDY and the IUS a youth conference was held in South East Asia. Since then February 21st has been the International Day of struggle against colonialism and solidarity with the youth of colonial countries.

April 1948, Mexico

The WFDY and IUS organised a Conference of Latin American youth and students, in the course of which representatives from 10 countries discussed the tasks of the youth of their country for peace and the satisfaction of their rights.

August 1948, Warsaw

International Conference of Working Youth. 446 delegates from 46 countries, representing 45 million young people took part. The WFDY, on the basis of the conference documents, presented a memorandum to the UNO on the demands of working youth.

August 1948, Warsaw

The IIIrd Annual Council of the WFDY decided to hold the IIInd World Festival of Youth and Students in Budapest.

August 1949, Budapest

The IIInd Festival opened here with 10,370 young people from 90 countries participating.

September 1949, Budapest

The IIInd World Congress of the WFDY elected the Executive Committee of the Federation. At that time 60 million young people from 72 countries were united within the WFDY.

September 1950

A delegation comprising representatives from 36 countries visited China for the first time.

November 1950, Vienna

The 6th session of the WFDY Council decided to hold the IIIrd World Festival in Berlin.

August 1951, Berlin

IIIrd World Festival of Youth and Students at which there were 26,000 young people from 104 countries. It was during this Festival that the first issue of Festival appeared.

August 1951, Berlin

7th session of the WFDY Council. The Council approved requests for affiliation from 36 youth organisations in 26 countries. In August, 1951, the WFDY was already leading 75 million young people in 84 countries.

August 1951, Berlin

International Meeting of Young Signature Collectors, organised on the initiative of the WFDY.

July, 1953, Oslo

The WFDY Executive Committee gave full support to the Dutch young peoples' idea of organising an International Conference for the Defence of the Rights of Youth.

January 1953, Prague

The 8th session of the WFDY Council decided to hold the IIIrd World Youth Congress and the IVth World Festival in Bucharest.

March 1953, Vienna

The WFDY delegation took an active part in the work of the International Conference for the Defence of the Rights of Youth which was attended by 451 delegates from 71 countries.

July 1953, Bucharest

The 3rd World Youth Congress in which 1500 delegates from 106 countries participated. The Congress elected members of the Council and Executive Committee of the WFDY. The Federation had in its ranks 83 million young people from 90 countries.

August 1953, Bucharest

During the World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship 30,000 young people from 111 countries got to know each other.

January 1954, Stockholm

The Executive Committee of the WFDY gave its support to the Italian youths' idea of organising an International Meeting of Rural Youth.

March 1954

The beginning of the campaign "Friendship through Knowledge", an initiative of the WFDY.

May 1954, Berlin

A WFDY delegation participated in the Conference of European Youth against EDC (European Defence Community).

May 1954, Prague

Under the auspices of the WFDY the International Competition of Young Singers was organised.

May - July, 1954

WFDY delegations visited Denmark, France, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, North Africa, Latin America and countries of the Near and Middle East.

August 1954, Peking

The 9th session of the WFDY Council discussed the youth movement in colonial and dependent countries for national independence, peace and for their rights. They decided on the active participation of the WFDY in the preparations for the International Gathering of Rural Youth. It was decided to hold the 5th Festival in Warsaw. The WFDY already united 85 million young people from 77 countries in its ranks at that meeting.

September 1954, Great Britain

Great Cycle Race in Great Britain under the patronage of the WFDY.

September - October 1954

WFDY delegation visit to South East Asian countries, Korea and Japan.

December 1954, Vienna

International Gathering of Rural Youth with the support of the WFDY. The Gathering was attended by 356 delegates from 69 countries.

March 1955

First issue of the magazine "Rural Youth".

July - August 1955, Warsaw

Vth World Festival of Youth and Students during which 30,000 young people from 114 different countries were able to meet.

August 1955, Warsaw

WFDY Council. 389 representatives of youth organisations took part. The Council accepted the affiliation of 11 new organisations and discussed forms of youth work for the defence of the rights of youth, cultural and sports activities and the future tasks of the WFDY. The Council decided to hold the VIth World Festival in Moscow in 1957.

Each Year

- February 21st, International Day of struggle against colonialism, and solidarity with the youth of colonial countries.

- From March 21st - 28th, World Youth Week.

- April 14th, International Day of Solidarity with the Spanish anti-franco youth.

- November 10th - World Youth Day 1/2 anniversary of the foundation of the WFDY.

10. THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFILIATION TO THE WFDY

	<u>Country</u>	<u>Millions</u>
1945	30	63
1951	84	75
1953	90	83
1955	97	85

Information Service

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8 9 10

① C.M. 32

CONTENTS

- WFDY Annual Council Meeting	Page. 1.
- Message from President Nesser	1.
- Towards the VIth Festival	1.
- Friendship Summer	3.
- For the Development of Friendship and Knowledge	5.
- European Girls Meeting	6.
- In Defence of their Rights	7.

June - July, 1956. 11

No. 8.



WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH
 ADDRESS: BENCZUR-UTCA 34 BUDAPEST - CABLE ADDRESS: DIVSZ BUDAPEST

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WFDY ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The annual Council Meeting of the WFDY will take place from August 20th - 23rd, 1956 at Sofia, in the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria, with the following agenda:

1. Activities of youth for their rights, friendship, peace; future tasks of the WFDY and the convening of the IVth World Youth Congress.
2. Work of the WFDY and its member organisations to develop preparations for the Vith World Festival of Youth and Students.
3. Report of the Finance Control Commission on the WFDY's 1955-56 budget and proposals for the 1957 budget.
4. Election of Executive Committee.

The Council will also have new affiliations to the WFDY to ratify.

In this period of international relaxation these discussions on the future activity of young people take on an ever greater importance. It is the youth in particular who strive for friendly exchanges, international contacts and peace and it is the task of this forthcoming Council to find how the WFDY can best satisfy the needs of our young generation. The discussions on the IVth Congress and the Vith Festival therefore are of special importance in this light, because these world events will be centres of co-operation between the young people of different backgrounds and nationalities.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NASSER

In reply to a message from the WFDY Secretariat to the Egyptian people and government on the occasion of the anniversary of Egyptian independence, Gamal Abdel Nasser, the President of Egypt sent the following telegramme to the WFDY:

"I HAVE RECEIVED WITH GREAT PLEASURE YOUR GRACIOUS MESSAGE CONVEYING YOUR CONGRATULATIONS AND SINCERE GOOD WISHES ON OUR NATIONAL DAY SINCERELY WISH ALL THE MEMBERS OF YOUR FEDERATION GOOD LUCK AND SUCCESS - GAMAL ABDEL NASSER".

TOWARDS THE Vith FESTIVAL

Constitutive Meeting of the International Preparatory Committee

The convening of the constitutive meeting of the International Preparatory Committee for the Vith Festival on August 14th, 15th, and 16th, in Moscow has aroused interest in many countries. Large national

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Information Service

T.T. 62.

CONTENTS

TT 62.

- * Statement by the WFDY Secretariat
- * Message from the WFDY to the I.U.S.Y. camp at Tampere
- * WFDY Executive Committee and Council meeting at Sofia
- * The Vith Festival
- * Friendship Summer Campaign
- * Youth and Disarmament
- * European Girls Meeting
- * In defence of rights
- * Youth and Sport

July-August

Budapest 1956

TB 111

STATEMENT BY THE WFDY SECRETARIAT

The decision of the Egyptian Government to nationalise the Suez Canal has had world-wide repercussions.

Egyptian youth received this event with enthusiasm, seeing in it an assertion of the sovereignty of their country and new possibilities for intensifying their constructive work and obtaining the means necessary for developing their country and for ensuring a better life for its people.

Young people from the most different countries and of the most diverse opinions understand and approve of what they regard to be an expression of the powerful movement marking our generation: towards political and economical independence, for the ending of colonialism, for a future of prosperity and peace.

This new phase of an irresistible development has given rise to alarming declarations. Young people have been mobilised, arms are got ready. Military intervention has been evoked as a possibility against the right of the Egyptian people, recognised by highly competent quarters, and when Egypt has given explicit guarantees for free passage on the Canal.

The Secretariat of the WFDY expresses its concern over the threat to peace such attitudes entail. In so doing it knows that it is voicing the feelings of the immense masses of youth who will not permit recourse to arms in order to impose an impossible return to the past and who hope that a peaceful solution will be found in negotiations and in the respect of the principles of the United Nations' Charter, which guarantees to each people its right to self-determination and to non-interference by foreign parties.

The Secretariat of the WFDY assures Egyptian youth of its full sympathy. It welcomes the attitude of solidarity of the young people of many countries who support the right to freedom and progress. It calls on its member organisations and on other youth organisations convinced that together they will work to avert every threat of armed conflict and that the cause of sovereignty, peace and friendship between the peoples will triumph.

MESSAGE FROM THE WFDY TO PARTICIPANTS AT THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH' CAMP

at

T A M P E R E

The World Federation of Democratic Youth sends its warm greetings to all young Socialists taking part in the IUSY camp at Tampere. There are many problems confronting the IUSY, the WFDY and their member organisations. We believe that exchanges of viewpoints and experiences would be to mutual advantage. The slogan for the Xth anniversary of the IUSY "Let's build a new world" is a worthy one. We believe that the solution to the different problems facing the youth of today lies in co-operation with different youth organisations based on mutual respect and confidence. Strength and experience combined with different youth organisations would be able to accomplish many things. In fact, a new world could be built.

We appreciate the fact that in the young socialists' programme there can be found activities which lead our members towards peace and against colonialism, support for the youth of under-developed countries and in defence of young workers' rights. We believe that co-operation in these fields would be of immense benefit to the youth of the world.

It is in this spirit that we propose that international youth organisations jointly conduct their efforts towards the United Nations and its specialised agencies on questions affecting young people. It is in this spirit that we invite all youth organisations to organise together the World Youth Festival in Moscow during the summer of 1957.

We hope that your camp will contribute towards strengthening friendship between the youth of different countries.

With our best wishes,

For the Secretariat

Jacques DENIS,
General Secretary

Bruno BERNINI,
President

WFDY COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

IN AUGUST

AT SOFIA

The Council which will meet from August 20th to 23rd at Sofia will be discussing particularly preparations for the Congress and for the Vith World Festival of Youth and Students.

There will be many member organisations present at this meeting, and also many guests and observers, notably representatives from the following organisations: Denmark Organisation of Danish Youth, Y.M.C.A. France Ligue de l'Enseignement, Fédération Française des Maisons de Jeunes, German Federal Republic Deutsche Jugendgemeinschaft, and the President of the Organisation of Opponents of Military Service; Great Britain the Rev. Marcus James, member of Christian Action; Honduras Federation of University Students; Indonesia Demokrat Pemuda. The Youth Section of the Indian Congress Party will be attending as an observer.

The Executive Committee, which is called for August 18th, will study the principal documents to be presented at the Council Meeting, the plan of work, as well as a report on the meeting between the WAY and the WFDY, and events for 1957.

The Council debates which look like being effective will be followed with much attention by the most different youth organisations.

BUDAPEST

After the floods which recently devastated Iran, the WFDY Secretariat sent the following message to the Prime Minister of Iran:

"We express our sympathies with the flood victims and ask you to accept these 200 dollars as a modest contribution towards their help."

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Constitutive Meeting of the International Preparatory
Committee for the VIth Festival, August 14th, 15th, 16th,
at Moscow

Support is reaching us for the meeting which will be held in Moscow during the first fortnight of August, from the most varied youth organisations and personalities in different parts of the world representing the various fields of culture, sport, and science.

More than 60 countries will be represented at Moscow by the most important youth organisations, amongst them: The South African Committee of Action, Peoples' Youth of Belgium as well as the President and Secretary General of the Young Socialist Guard of Belgium (as observers), the Confederation of Young Mexicans, the Young Communists of Mexico, the Council of Pupils from the Teachers' Training Schools in Denmark, Centre d'Entraînement et d'Éducation des Méthodes Actives, Fédération Française des Maisons de Jeunes, Tourisme et Travail, F.S.G.T., Union of French Republican Youth, Union of French Girls, Mr. Brilakis, delegate from the E.D.A. Mr. Marinakis, member of the Board of the Greek Athletic Federation; from Ceylon, Mr. S.D. Bandaranaike General Secretary of the Shrilanka Youth League, member of Parliament; from Malaya, Mr. S. S. Chandram, from the United Nations Association, Honorary General Secretary; from Ecuador, Mr. Trajano Vargas, President of the Liberal Youth, Mr. Jorge Rivedeneys, Vice President of the National Federation of University Students; India, the Youth Section of the Indian Congress Party will be represented in the capacity of observers at the Moscow Meeting by Mr. K. Venkstram Reddy; Sweden, the National Central Committee of the Local Swedish Youth Councils will also be present at the Constitutive Meeting of the IPC at Moscow as well as a number of other organisations, whom space does not permit us to mention.

Meeting of Experts for the Festival's Cultural Programme

From August 12th to 14th in Moscow there will be a meeting of experts to study the Festival's cultural programme and the rules for the competitions. Experts from the following countries will be taking part: Great Britain, France, Poland, China, Italy, USSR, as well as representatives from the International Union of Students, the World Peace Council and the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

The cultural programme and the rules for the competitions drawn up by the working commission of experts will be presented to the plenary session of the IPC constitutive meeting.

U.S.S.R.

Soviet personalities who are giving their support to the International Preparatory Committee are:

- Mrs. Galina OULANOVA, ballerine and people's artist of the Soviet Union
- Mr. David OISTRAK, musician and people's artist of the Soviet Union
- Mrs. ZIBINE, World champion Olympic recordholder
- Mr. PETROVSKI, academician, Rector of the Moscow University
- Mr. KABALEVSKI, composer and people's artist of the Socialist Republic of Russia
- Mr. ROMANOVSKI, President of the Committee of Soviet Youth Organisations
- Mr. CHELIEPINE, Secretary of the Komsomol (Leninist Young Communist League of the Soviet Union)

- . . -

SWITZERLAND

In Bienne, the Bienne Association for international youth exchanges is now preparing for the Moscow Festival. A group of young photographers is preparing an exhibition on the life of the young people of Bienne in the fields of sport, education and work.

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POLAND

On the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the Vth Festival, the Polish youth newspaper devoted 4 pages to the results of this event, and is giving much space to different preparations for the VIth Festival.

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YOUTH AND DISARMAMENT

This step taken by the W.D.Y. on the question of disarmament and the position of young people on this problem is arousing lively interest among young people and their organisations.

Opinions are reaching us from young people in Poland, the Indies, Madagascar, Japan and Germany.

The Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth League of Japan, states in their reply to our inquiry:

"We believe that if an international agreement on disarmament was signed, if the arms race was ended and international tension became

.../...

more relaxed, this would have immense bearing on the life and future of young people. We know that all young people's hopes and dreams can only be realised in a world of peace. The Japanese people can never forget the experience of living three times through the launching of atomic and hydrogen bombs. The Japanese people also can never forget the history of Japanese militarism, and its continual arms drive, which together with that of fascist Germany started off the 2nd World War and threw the peoples of Asia and our country into indescribable horror.

If there was general disarmament, including a ban on the manufacture, testing and use of the A and H bombs, this would mean the lessening of international tension, the perspective of peace, which is the dearest hope of Japanese youth for the assurance of their happiness, would be still more strengthened. Disarmament would make it possible to reduce the burden of military expense on the nation's economy. In Japan if the reconstruction of one submarine was ceased this would allow 15,228 young men and women to get married and have homes.

We believe that the actions of the Japanese youth can be further developed and that together with all Japanese people the movement for banning the A and H bombs, against the extension of atomic and hydrogen bases and against the importing of atomic arms of Japanese soil and in the Okinawa Isles, can contribute to strengthening world opinion on the question of disarmament.

At the moment we want to develop our activity in order to ensure the success of the 2nd World Conference for the banning of the A and H bombs (August 6th at Tokyo, August 9th, 10th, 11th, at Nagasaki) and by this to strengthen the links between the desire of the Japanese people for the banning of the A and H bombs and world opinion on disarmament.

Nearly all representative youth and students' organisations in Japan are members of the Preparatory Committee for this conference and together with trade unions, intellectuals and well known people representing different sections, they are developing the preparations. Thus the Japanese youth organisations can contribute to the achievement of an agreement on disarmament."

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

In Federal Germany there is a huge protest movement growing among young people after the adoption of the compulsory military service law by the Bonn parliament.

In Bavaria there has just been set up on new bases a section of young people opposed to compulsory military service, a member of the International Resistance. In a letter to the WFTU, the President, Dr. Walter Lidl proposes that a contacts and links should be established between West German organisations and organisations in other countries who have an active as well as a juridical experience against conscription. Amongst other things, he says, it would be good to get to know the points of view and ideas of the youth of other countries.

NA 18

The youth elected during these different activities, met in provincial, regional conferences which resulted in the National Conference of young peasants held on November 19, 20, 21 in Ferrara with the participation of more than 400 delegates, young men and women coming from all corners of Italy, speaking of their difficult living and working conditions.

The conference decided to organise a National Conference of Small Peasants in the summer of 1955, also local festivals in the villages, with days devoted to young women, during which messages will be sent to the young girls of the world.

THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 5TH FESTIVAL HAVE BEGUN

A broad Constitutive Session of the International Preparatory Committee will take place on December 17th in Vienna.

A number of youth organisations, outstanding personalities have given their support to the International Preparatory Committee, the first meeting of which will take place on December 17 in Vienna.

Among them, we can quote: From Great Britain, Mr. William Rains, delegate of the British League of Racing Cyclists, Mr. Richard Smiles, Public Relations Officer of the British Swimming Teachers Association; From Denmark, Lise Ringheim, actress at the Royal Theatre, Dan Sterup Hansen, painter, Erik Jacobsen, president of the Young Workers Trade Union in Alborg, Henrik Sechenskjel, musician of the Royal orchestra and others; From Japan, the composer Yasugi Akutagawa; From Spain, the hero of the Spanish people and youth Lopez Raimundo; From Cuba, Nicolas Guillen, the poet; From Norway, Kare Bredesen, Secretary of the Norwegian Boxing Federation; From Finland, Elso Sylvestersen, ballerina, Tarmo Mary, actor, Felix Krohn, director of the Conservatory; From Luxemburg, René Michel Schroeder, member of the Federal Council of Gymnastics. All these organisations and personalities have sent their messages of support.

Also Lebanon announces that six personalities, among them the Olympic champions Hussein Sejan and Nassif Matkudani and the writer Abdallah Alyli, support the preparations for the Festival. From Algeria, five members are proposed for the International Preparatory Committee, among them Mustapha Kateb, artist of the Opera of Algiers, Mustapha Soudoun, Secretary of the Algerian Democratic Youth Union.

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RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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