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The Mothers' Commission for Peace, in a letter to the government, has just requested that the Argentinian representatives to UNO do everything possible to secure disarmament and the banning of nuclear weapons for the strengthening of friendship between the peoples. This committee at the moment is publicising the Declaration of Mothers and is collecting signatures and winning support for it.

The Commission of Women's Rights is a commission which takes up the active defence of families and children.

The Peasant Commission was formed at the meeting of peasant women and women agricultural workers held last May.

The Cultural Committee is developing good activity.

The Executive Committee has planned for the calling of an Extraordinary National Congress, from October 26th to 28th, in La Plata. The new statutes issued at this Congress will have the aim of ensuring the U.A.W. the possibility of rapid advancement and of serious attention to the needs of the women of Argentina. With this aim in view a Commission has been appointed to draw up a plan for the new statutes.

To help towards the success of the National Extraordinary Congress, a plan of work has been prepared, the principle points of which are:

- to strengthen the U.A.W. sections; to create new groups of friends; to make the sections centres of activities for all women in the locality, helping them in their difficulties, their struggles and also helping them to develop culturally.

The plan also provides for:

- the intensification of campaigns against the high cost of living and for peace; the holding of peasant women's meetings; a campaign for the defence of the Law on Maternity.

HOLLAND: The struggle for Peace and the Emancipation of Women

We give here extracts from the interesting report on the development of the work of the Netherlands Women's Movement recently presented to the Secretariat of the W.I.D.F. by Mme. Annie Averink, Secretary of the N.W.M. Women's organisations in the struggle for peace.....

"the relaxation of tension has aroused greater enthusiasm in the work of our organisation for peace and above all in its struggle against German rearmament.

In our country a few years ago we were among the very few to take action for the banning of the atomic bomb, the reduction of armaments, etc. At the moment, different circles are becoming conscious of the fact that peaceful co-existence is the only just way and they are taking action with this in mind.

Recently a great number of teachers sent a letter to the Council of Ministers demanding an end to experiments with atomic weapons. Among them were eminent representatives of the Social-Democrat Party. Our representatives have also taken an active part in the work of the Peace Council. These ideas have found some response in Christian circles. The Women's Cooperative Guild, 300 doctors, the Federation of Teachers, the women's section of the Social-Democrat Party and others have condemned experiments with atomic weapons.

Moreover, in our country there is a union of professional women and intellectuals which has spoken out in favour of the utilisation of atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes.

The International Congress of "Soroptimists" which has just been held here in Holland (where it has a section) asked for protection against nuclear experiments and for the utilisation of atomic energy for medical purposes only.

The women of our organisation actively participate in the activities of the Peace Council. For example, on the initiative of a nurse, women collected the signatures of 300 doctors under a statement for the banning of the atomic bomb.

The Netherland Women's Movement sent a very good and representative delegation to the World Congress of Mothers in Lausanne; it included a member of the Social-Democrat Party, a member of the Women's Co-operative Guild and two writers who went as individuals. More than 2,000 florins were raised independent of the Women's Movement to finance the trip to Switzerland.

After the Mothers' Congress members of the delegation got together to work for the realisation of the decisions of the Congress. The Manifesto was printed and distributed, hundreds of copies were sent to well-known individuals and to the press. Among 500 signatures collected were those of many well-known personalities. The Manifesto was also distributed among readers of our women's review "Women for peace and construction" which has a wide circulation.

The struggle for women's rights and their emancipation is one of our main aims, and in this respect we have conducted many activities of a general character..

The struggle for women's emancipation is necessary for even if discrimination is not very obvious women are still held in an inferior position; some laws in this respect are more than a hundred years old.

It is true that women reach their full age at 21 years, but in our country if she marries she is not considered as being of full age. Until this year among other things, a married woman was not allowed to conduct business, which meant that without the permission of her husband she could not buy, sell or own a business.

A new law, adopted this year by Parliament, registers one step forward, although the husband is still the head of the family; this has deep effects on social laws.

In the case of a married woman earning a wage, this money does not belong to her; it is considered as part of her husband's income and taxes must be paid on the entire sum as the income of one person.

According to law men and women have the same opportunities to study, but in reality girls cannot take up technical studies.

At our Congress we adopted a programme which contains women's main demands:

- women's legal equality in marriage and concerning children;
- equal pay for equal work;
- equality in social laws;
- access to all professions (for married women also) and the same possibilities of promotion for men and women."

ITALY: "Noi Donne"... the means of aiding the progress and broadening of the united movement for the emancipation of Italian women.

The Union of Italian Women considers "Noi Donne", with its present circulation of 240,000, as the best means of propaganda and education for the realisation of the ideal of women's emancipation, and its network of over 15,000 distributors as the most valuable human element in the service of the organisation, capable of making a permanent and living contact with thousands and thousands of women whose spokesman the magazine is.

The problems of improving the magazine, of changing it to better correspond with demands for progress and the broadening of the U.I.W., of introducing it into thousands more homes, farms, offices, factories and of winning over hundreds of other women for its distribution, are constantly the objective of the Union of Italian Women.

These problems were the centre of discussion at the National Meeting of distributors in February 1956 and at the meeting of the/

the propaganda commission during the Fifth National Congress of Italian Women in April 1956.

"Noi Donne" must accomplish the task of educating women having as its aim the ideal of their emancipation. Women will win their emancipation by their everyday demands and struggles for the right to work, the right to a home, to social services, etc. for a better and worthier life for themselves; actions which aim at the development of her as an individual.

Propaganda should assume a new meaning; education should aim at making women conscious of her own duties, her rights and the rightful place she should hold in society and in the family.

A "Noi Donne" month was organised in June to help popularise the subject of emancipation which is the basis of unity in the Italian women's movement.

Apart from traditional activities (fetes, meetings, excursions) this month has been characterised by such new activities as debates on the women's press, on women's rights to work and to social services; conferences on painless childbirth; film festivals, etc. have aroused the interest of women of different social strata - teachers, midwives, doctors, lawyers - in the problems of emancipation.

A competition has been launched by the central editorial board of "Noi Donne"; all friends who sell at least three magazines each week between June and September are entitled to a prize.

For some months there has been great discussion throughout the whole organisation about the magazine; provincial and regional meetings have been called for September to discuss and study the content of the magazine in relation to the tasks of the women's movement. It is considered that big changes are required in the magazine so that it may reflect the demands and aspirations common to all women, regardless of their political opinions.

The conclusions drawn from these studies, this broad debate and all the activities developed around the magazine, will be brought out at the next National Assembly of the Union of Italian Women.

SENEGAL: The women's association has just been formed

The women of Senegal have just formed their organisation, the Senegal Association of Women, and in Dakar several hundreds of women have become members.

With great enthusiasm and for the first time they celebrated International Women's Day and International Children's Day and their experience is that many women join in their activities, women of very different opinions but who are in agreement with the programme - to do everything possible to unite the greatest number of women for the improving of the very hard living conditions of families and for the defending of peace.

They have already opened up free classes for reading and sewing where women like to meet, for the sake of learning.

Mme. Binta Diop, delegate to the W.I.D.F. Council in Peking, spoke to many women of her trip to China and the U.S.S.R. The film, "My Child" was a great success in Dakar.

All this is evidence of the ever-increasing desire of African women to unite and to organise themselves for the bettering of the lives of their children and families.

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Information BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

No. 9

15th October 1956.

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Women's Rights in India:

At the W.I.D.F. Council meeting in Peking, Mme. Hajrah Begum, joint Secretary of the National Federation of Indian Women, said:

"Formerly the Asian women fought for independence and struggled for her rights facing the opposition of society and repression of the authorities, whereas today it is possible for her not only to win her demands but even to get adequate support from governments already pledged to programmes of national reconstruction, industrialisation and a self-sufficient economy.

"Such has been the case in India where the Constitution accepts the equal status of men and women and certain equal rights have been granted to women by recent legislation.

"It goes without saying that these laws remain on paper and are not implemented except under pressure from women's movements; but the very fact that rights are being nationally accepted, opens up the possibilities of unity between all sections of women, to obtain the passing and implementation of such measures. The all-round unity of women's organisations in India, in support of Bills pertaining to marriage laws, inheritance, removal of discrimination against married women are proof of this fact."

Campaign for Inheritance Bill...

After last year's successful campaigns for Hindu marriage and divorce law, this year the National Federation and its affiliated organisations took up the campaign for the Inheritance Right Bill of women. This was the second part of the Hindu Code Bill which was before Parliament for a number of years.

Several circulars and articles in Women's News, organ of the National Federation of Indian Women, were published on this Bill. A small pamphlet in English and Hindi was also printed explaining the provisions of this bill and was very popular. Several meetings in various parts of India were organised to demand that this Bill should be passed without delay. A joint meeting of the National Federation of Indian Women, All-India Women's Conference, National Council of Women and the Congress Mahila Samaj was held to discuss the proposals in New Delhi.

Later on a deputation consisting of ten Delhi organisations visited Parliament and lobbied members of various parties. In Andhra this campaign was taken up very successfully and thousands of signatures were collected. A deputation of three members of the Andhra Mahila Sangham took the signatures to the Parliament. During the discussion on the Bill in the Parliament, daily deputations of ten to twenty-five women visited Parliament for a week to focus attention on this important measure.

As a result of this active campaign the women members of Parliament, especially Mrs. Jaishri Raijee (Congress) and Renu Chakravorty took very effective part in the discussion and debates in Parliament. At last, despite strong opposition from orthodox Hindus, with the support of the Prime Minister of India the Bill became a Law and now women following the Dayabhag system of Hindu law have equal rights in the property with sons.

However, those to whom the Mitakshara Law applies still do not have this right and therefore the women are agitating for the application of this law to all Hindus alike.

Similarly the guardianship Act is also passed giving the right to women to be guardians of minor children.

Dowry System...

Women of India are unanimous in their demand to prevent by law this evil system of paying dowry to the bridegroom. A Bill was presented to

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Parliament jointly by Smt. Jaishri Raiji and Renu Chakravorty on this subject but on the assurance given by the government that they themselves were going to bring a Bill to that effect, the non-official Bill was withdrawn.

The National Federation has at its last Council meeting demanded an early introduction and passage of this bill and has asked its affiliated organisations to campaign for the same.

Maternity Benefit Act...

A Bill for Central Maternity Benefit has been before Parliament for a long time. The Council Meeting demanded that this Bill should be passed during the life-time of this Parliament.

Economic Rights...

Following the campaigns run by the National Federation of Indian Women for employment for women, several organisations affiliated to the Federation have been able to organise work centres for women and also get financial aid from the Central Social Welfare Board which is in charge of carrying out the Social Welfare sections of the National Plans.

These activities for which the women organised and agitated include schools for children and women, work centres, co-operative societies to sell goods produced by women etc. For example, the Madhyangram Samiti is running a Waste Silk Spinning Centre on co-operative basis, and has secured a grant of 12,000 Rupees from the government. This centre employs 50 women who are mainly refugees from East Pakistan into West Bengal. In Hyderabad the Mallapalli Women's Co-operative is given charge of a match factory, which provides work for a number of women. In Delhi also a co-operative was recently started providing women with work for wages. In Mangalore the Stri Samiti is running a doll-making centre and has received good amount for running a co-operation for garments.

The women's organisation in Travancore Cochin has taken up actively the cause of women coil workers and fought for better payment and equal wages.

In Amritsar in the Punjab, peasant women participated in a big demonstration to present a memorandum of demands, regarding Canal water, to the Canal Officer. They marched along with their men to demand the repeal of new taxes.

Against Rising Prices...

There have been mass agitations in Bengal, Tamilnad, Bihar and Orissa in which women also joined demanding immediate action for restriction on prices and the opening of fair-price shops by the government. In Bengal this agitation has been successful and shops are already opened. In other areas the government released stocks in order to bring down the prices of food stuffs.

Political Rights...

Women of Bombay, Gujerat and Bengal have taken very active part in the struggles for the reorganisation of the states on linguistic basis.

FRANCE: For better housing accommodation - an experience.

The Union of French Women which has the defence of children as one of the points on its programme is disturbed by the terrible housing conditions of many French families. Funds allocated for

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construction are small and the war in Algeria is taking money which should be used for the construction of schools, houses, improvements in health services, etc.

The Union of French Women has circulated a "record of demands" on the question of housing accommodation and organized an activity for people with bad housing conditions. Meetings on the problem are being held in the provinces and the Secretary of the Social Commission of Bouches-du-Rhone writes, on the meeting in her province:

The first provincial meeting on the problem of housing accommodation was held in Marseilles.

(Extract from the Social Bulletin published by the National Commission on Children and the Social activities of the Union of French Women, last July.)

For the preparation of this meeting we circulated 5,000 leaflets in the form of a questionnaire to badly-housed people. We think that it was an excellent activity. We also had 300 posters printed. To prepare the activities of committees we circulated a small illustrated bulletin to each provincial committee.

The activity of our committees has not always been adequate. However, we have centred our action mainly on districts and towns in the provinces which are affected by the housing crisis.

Articles were published in the press, we issued a circular letter inviting all elected representatives of the province, all associations, groups, organisations, eminent people and members of teaching and medical professions who would be interested in this question, to the meeting.

The union of the Ministry of Reconstruction was represented and the Federation of Tenants. On the whole we had the impression that our activity was very good, correct and suitable. Only sixty persons were present, but they represented many different circles.

The Hall in Pharo is very pleasant but we think that it is not central enough and that for most people it is difficult to reach. We plan to rent a hall right in the middle of an area where housing conditions are bad. We have learned from experience that in the future we must help these people that we invite to become more conscious of their rights and to straighten out all difficulties if possible for if we want to rouse their interest we must also take into account their very great material difficulties.

Before the meeting we were received at the Ministry of Reconstruction.

The meeting...

Our audience was not as large as we would have wished, but it proved to be very attentive and deeply interested. The chair was taken by our friend Jeannette Rabottet who lives in emergency quarters and has been dealing with the problem for sometime.

I presented a report which I tried to make as full and precise as possible on this subject. I assembled a substantial amount of documentary material from many publications, given me by the Union of French Women, and from our friend Yvonne Estachy, member of Parliament. I made a special point of exposing physical and moral consequences and in particular the effects on children of the housing crisis. To the best of my ability I developed the idea of "housing accommodation - public service" for we think that we should make clear what can be very obscure for people not acquainted with the problem. Finally I developed the

direction and form of the action of the Union of French Women.

After my report we elected a delegation of five badly-housed people led by two friends from the Social Commission of the Union of French Women, to the Ministry of Reconstruction. After that we opened the debate and invited people who are badly housed to speak.

Many speeches were made by these people and especially by tenants of the Cayolle lodgings, furnished hotels of the Rue Longue and from several districts of Marseilles. Several municipal councillors intervened as well as two women doctors and a woman school-inspector who exposed the consequences of bad housing conditions on the intellectual and physical development of children.

Then the delegation returned who gave us a report of their reception by representatives of the Ministry who held a discussion on this question for an hour and found our action perfectly just. They even encouraged this form of activity. They asked us to send them a list of names and information given by our questionnaires for they needed proof to send to the Ministry of Reconstruction. They fully recognised the urgent need of 40,000 flats for our province, whereas funds granted are only enough for 200 small flats that are not convenient for big families.

The delegation said that it was very pleased with the results obtained and we left one another with the promise to intensify our action for this cause and to go on bringing new proofs.

The questionnaires returned to us will be sent to the Ministry in Paris. About twenty new members have come into our organisation.

In conclusion I think that this is a typical activity of the Union of French Women which should be followed up and intensified. Everything should be done to make the committees understand the importance of their activity in this work.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: "Practical Courses for Women"

On September 1st 1956, the Democratic Union of German Women (DFD) started "practical courses for women" so as to be more responsive to women's interest. These courses, held all over the D.D.R. give women the opportunity to learn to sew, embroider, cook, look after children, their own beauty, etc. or to perfect their knowledge of things that are of use to them every day by making them easy and more pleasant. Among other things the programme has the following subjects:

- ... The working woman and beauty care ...
- ... cutting and sewing for the housewife...
- ... we ourselves do the cooking...
- ... in the evening we receive friends...
- ... biology of woman...

To prepare and guarantee these courses, the regional secretary^{iate} of the DFD were helped and supported by directors and professors of the people's universities of their districts who let them know of their experiences and put material at their disposal. Agreements were made between the DFD and people's universities, the Handicrafts Chamber, diverse professional associations, training colleges, etc. by which teachers of these institutes promise to co-operate for these courses which, in general, are held in houses of culture, training colleges, etc. A course consists of 15 to 30 lessons each of two hours. Participants meet once or twice each week. There are elementary courses and courses for advanced pupils of higher qualification.

Expenses are paid by participants. Dues are calculated according to the teacher's lesson, the place of the lesson, heating, lighting,

equipment, etc. and in relation to the number of participants.

Dues are collected by a responsible member of the local or regional leadership of the DFD, a secretary elected by participants of every course is given the responsibility of keeping in contact with local or regional leadership of the DFD. Due to this new task that the DFD has taken up, many women meet together, bonds of friendship are made and strengthened.

Preparatory work for these courses and their popularisation are a new and concrete proof that the DFD is defending the interest of women.

The popularisation is done by many different means: posters, discussions, distribution of programmes of the courses, the announcement of the people's university courses, newspaper articles, cultural meetings, etc.

Many examples could be given to show how great women's interest is in these courses. There is also interest among women who do not belong to the DFD. In some towns the interest is so great that it is necessary for lessons to be held twice every day in the week for three courses.

Leading members of local and regional branches of the DFD make friends of the participants in the courses thus establishing contacts which will be maintained when the courses end, thus helping women to take more active part in social life.

FOR THE DEFENCE OF CHILDREN

India: Organising Milk Centres for Children.

It was during the flood relief work last year that the National Federation took up this concrete form to help the child-victims of the floods in the country.

In India especially because of the under-nourished condition of the children this form of activity is very important and acts as a great help for attracting newer sections of women.

They receive powdered milk from the Red Cross and CARE. They also get butter and multi-vitamin tablets. Thus these milk distributing centres have become a regular activity for organisations in Delhi, Bihar, Hyderabad, Orissa, Punjab, UP. and Bombay. In Mangalore the Service Guild has handed over two whole districts for milk distribution to our women where daily milk is distributed to 1,000 children.

More and more organisations are approaching the Red Cross for this help which is a vital necessity for the growing children and also helps us to be of some active use to the women in various areas.

The Movement for Children in Argentina...

The convening of the Second Social Congress of Doctors and Pedagogues:

The movement for the defence of children has been developing in Argentina since 1952 after the International Conference for the Defence of Children in Vienna, in which took part a delegation of three doctors representing professional and intellectual men and women.

On the delegates' return from Vienna, these groups decided to organise the first congress of doctors and pedagogues for the defence of children which had great success. This Congress formed a National Commission which was to create, a little later, the Argentinian Integral Council for Children.

After a struggle to maintain an independent existence and for the application of the just decisions of the Vienna Conference, the Council

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improved its structure and followed its work with an increasingly greater number of participants and along much broader lines. It tries to interest other non-member associations in the problems of children by informing them regularly of its work.

Towards the end of 1955 the Argentinian Integral Council for Children held its National Assembly with the participation of more than 100 delegates belonging to all political, social and religious bodies; parents, people in the professions, representatives of districts clubs and observers from the Women's Christian Association.

Among other things this Assembly adopted the following resolutions...

- To call the second Social Congress of doctors and pedagogues by planning the participation of scientific, cultural and people's institutions from all over the country and by sending special invitations to Latin American institutions and well-known individuals;
- To demand the application of the provincial law on nurseries and kindergartens; to demand its extension all over the country; to work for a legislation for the benefit of mothers and children;
- To work for the immediate re-opening of all clinics which have been closed;
- To use all our strength for the creation of a national movement for the defence of the health of mothers and children;
- To study and propose solutions for the problem of the high cost, poor quality and general insufficiency of milk for children;
- To write to public authorities requesting them to take emergency measures to solve the problem of the shortage of water in the capital, the provinces and the interior of the country; this is a problem which has special repercussions on the health and hygiene of children, especially in the most humble homes.
- To work for the augmentation of sums for health, education and public works budgets;
- To broaden liaison with mothers' associations, clubs, co-operatives, etc. which have aims similar to those of the Council; to support their activities for the defence of peace;
- To study the influence of literature on education, personality and behaviour of children;
- To create a movement for the banning of all children's literature which has as its subject war, hate among peoples, racial discrimination and persecution and the subjugation of so-called backward people by so-called superior people.
- To ask authorities and institutions to study the production of literature, films, plays and radio programmes which conform to our national traditions and have a content which will contribute to the healthy, spiritual development of children;
- To study and propose solutions to the problems created by the school population (double classes, school buildings, etc.)
- To suggest that the fundamental principles of law 1420 on education be fully applied: non-religious, free, compulsory schools, the participation of parents in schools management (pupils' councils), decentralisation of education towards the government (set up once again the National Council of Education).
- To participate in all congresses, meetings, celebrations, etc. in connection with children; to establish relations with

all organisations and institutions which are interested in some way or another in children.

- To state that full enjoyment of democratic liberties is a necessary condition for the development of all scientific, cultural and people's institutions;
- To plead for the consolidation of world peace, essential basis for the whole development of children; to plead for a wide international cultural exchange so as to make children and parents conscious of the necessity of fraternity and coexistence.
- To support the campaign led by Argentinian mothers for the reform of the maternity law (a) suppression of the forced financial contribution to the maternity fund by working women; (b) prolongation of pre- and post-natal leave; (c) full wages during leave; (d) extension of these benefits to women in domestic service and to agricultural workers; (e) protection of children from the time of their birth; installation of nurseries and kindergartens in all places where more than 50 women work.

The Integral Council for Children has just informed us of the convening of the 2nd Social Congress for Doctors and Pedagogues next November.

ART AND CULTURE

Mexico: Inauguration of the First Annual Exhibition...

sponsored by the Democratic Union of Mexican Women (DUMW) in co-operation with well-known individuals of intellectual and artistic circles of Ciudad, Mexico.

An artistic event was held on July 13th on the occasion of the second anniversary of the death of the artist Frida Kahlo, wife of the great painter Diego Rivera.

For art experts Frida Kahlo is the greatest woman in world-famous Mexican contemporary art.

Frida Kahlo brought her life and her struggle to the canvass. Confined to bed at the age of sixteen by a terrible accident, she dedicated her rebellious and wild life to art and her people. In spite of her infirmity she was always in the front ranks of the struggles of the people; her charming and courageous face was seen in the workers' demonstrations of May 1st, in anti-fascist demonstrations and in campaigns for peace.

Shortly before her death she took part in a meeting of the people in Mexico against North American intervention in Guatemala. That was her last public appearance.

She belonged to the Democratic Union of Mexican Women. Our friends in this country do not and cannot forget her, for she was a symbol of the women of her time - this woman who put to the service of her people's progress and world peace all that she could give, all that was the best in herself.

This year, the second anniversary of her early death, the Democratic Union of Mexican Women was proud to initiate the inauguration of the "first annual exhibition of Frida Kahlo's works" for which it had the collaboration of a big group of Mexican intellectuals and artists.

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Taking part in the Initiating Committee were well-known women including Lola Alvarez Bravo, Maria Asunsolo, Machila Armida, Celia Calderon, Lya Cardoza y Aragon, Paula Gomez Alonzo, Ruth Rivera de Alvarado, and other well-known individuals.

The exhibition - paintings, carved work and engravings - included forty works and was very broad in the sense of having obtained the participation of women painters and artists of many points of view. A journalist said in a daily paper:

"... It is difficult to imagine the works of the following artists hung in the same exhibition - Remedios Varo and Machila Armida, Celia Calderon and Lucinda Urrusti, Olga Costa and Alice Rahon, Andrea Gomez and Ilya Ardy, Leonarda Carrington and Fanny Rabel. On Friday, July 13th, all these artists and many others, in all forty painters, sculptors, engravers, photographers, met in the gallery of Lola Alvarez to pay homage to Frida Kahlo."

Dr. Gomez Alonzo, Vice-President of the DUMW and the highly esteemed intellectual Mr. Andres Benestrosa spoke at the exhibition. The Venezuelan poet, Carlos Augusto Leon, read a critical valuation of the well-known writer from Guatamala, Luis Cardoza Y Aragon, and after that Rosaura Revueltas, the great artist of "Salt of the Earth" read some pages from Frida Kahlo's diary.

Our Mexican friends said:

"... We have had some success with this exhibition; we have paid homage to Frida Kahlo, beloved member of our Democratic Union of Mexican Women, great personality in our own country and abroad, well-known painter and fighter for peace."

They expressed their great satisfaction on the participation of the group of well-known intellectuals already mentioned and on the valuable co-operation of all the talented artists who exhibited their works.

The friends of the DUMW are thinking of organising such an exhibition every year on this date; with this aim in mind they want to set up a Sponsoring Committee still broader than the one that sponsored the first exhibition.

They are also considering establishing an annual prize for the best woman painter and of organising a competition for the erecting of a monument in honour of the great artist they have lost.

NOUVELLES
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NEWS IN KURZE

新闻摘要

KPATKHE HOBOCTH

EDITE PAR LE SECRETARIAT DE LA
FÉDÉRATION DÉMOCRATIQUE
INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES
UNTER DEN LINDEN 13 · BERLIN W 8 · TELEFON: 201117

14th November 1956.

SOLIDARITY WITH EGYPTIAN WOMEN

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM ITS VICE-PRESIDENT, MADAM CEZA NABARAOUI.....

"After abject Israeli aggression and Egypt's refusal to accept ultimatum canal occupation French British imperialists unleashed invasion Egyptian territory, cruelly bombing people to maintain colonial domination in East. Faced with this iniquitous deed which outrages international conscience, violates UNO Charter and threatens world peace, we urge women whole world to act immediately to stop aggression."

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION SENT MADAM CEZA NABARAOUI THE FOLLOWING REPLY.....

"WIDF Bureau Meeting in Rome deeply shocked by military aggression in Egypt, sent a telegram to UNO November 3rd asking for measures to stop intervention immediately and to initiate negotiations for peaceful solution Suez problem. We assure Egyptian women, so tragically attacked, of our full support and urge women whole world take action give aid your struggle for solutions that will safeguard rights of your people and for success our common struggle in defence of peace.

Angiola Minella."

EVERYWHERE WOMEN ARE ACTIVELY PROTESTING AGAINST THIS AGGRESSION AND DEMONSTRATING THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE EGYPTIAN WOMEN. WE REPORT HERE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES BEING CONDUCTED.....

France:

The French Peace Movement has initiated a great national protest action on November 9th to demand an immediate end to armed intervention against Egypt.

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The Union of French Women published a communique supporting this action which said, "The landing of French troops in Egypt has brought to a head the anxiety felt by women and mothers of our country. The Union of French Women asks all its committees, all its supporters and all women to do their utmost to help make November 9th a success, by full participation in the preparatory work of the local peace committees; by holding assemblies and public meetings all over the country; by following the example of the Seine Regional Committee in organising on that day important deputations to public authorities, to elected representatives and to the government.

Activities by women and mothers, such as meetings, signatures, delegations, are acquiring greater scope every day.

Great Britain:

Women have taken part in great numbers in mass demonstrations against aggression and for peace in Egypt.

The English section of the International Co-operative Women's Guild called upon women throughout Great Britain, upon all organisations especially women's organisations, to take part in a mass meeting on November 12th and to join the big delegation to the House of Commons.

German Democratic Republic:

Women of the Centre of Scientific Literature expressed their indignation against aggression in Egypt when they said, "We women who work in the Centre of Scientific Literature have learned with indignation of the incredible outrage committed by Anglo-French aggressors against towns and defenceless women and children.

"We ask women of the whole world to do their utmost to put an end to this murder and to insist on a peaceful settlement of all disputes."

German Federal Republic:

At its Congress held in Velbert (Rhineland), November 4th, the West German Women's Peace Movement sent letters to the governments of Israel, Great Britain and France, protesting against aggression and requesting a peaceful settlement.

Indonesia:

The women of GERWANI (Indonesian Women's Movement) have issued a Statement condemning Anglo-French aggression.

The Indonesian Democratic Women's Association sent a telegram to the General Secretary of UNO asking for an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly to condemn the Israeli, English and French governments as aggressors, since their action against Egypt was a violation of the principles of the world organisation.

They called on organisations to take united action to ensure negotiations, and respect for the United Nations Charter, and for the women of the whole world to show their solidarity with Egyptian women who are undergoing cruel suffering.

PLEASE SEND MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT TO:

Madam Ceza Nabaraoui,
12 Rolo Meadi Street,
CAIRO,
Egypt.

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Information BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

Supplement to No. 9

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"THE WOMAN'S WORLD"

Exhibition organised by the Greater Berlin Municipality along with the Berlin leadership committee of the Democratic Union of German Women. It was open from 15th to 30th September.....

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"The Woman's World" was the name given to a big exhibition organised by the Greater Berlin municipality along with the Berlin leadership committee of the Democratic Union of German Women (DFD). It was open from 15th to 30th September - the days preceding the seventh anniversary of the foundation of the German Democratic Republic.

In these two weeks, the exhibition was visited by roughly 100,000 people, most of whom were, of course, women, who showed great attention and enjoyment in looking at all that was exhibited, the mannequin parades and artistic performances, but did not hesitate to make their criticisms.

The aim of the exhibition was to show how in the last few years women have marched forward towards a new and better life along with their young Republic. It was proof of the great strength that women showed after 1945 and are continuing to show in their help for changing the social conditions. At the same time they were able to realise how much the Worker and Peasant State appreciate women's efforts, how much it encourages and assists them in their employment, and helps them to accomplish their tasks as women and mothers.

The exhibition showed that women were pleased to have acquired their status of equal and respected citizens and to see that efforts are being made to facilitate their household work which enables them to develop their own personality and to have more time for their husbands and children.

The exhibition was open from noon to midnight, every day during which time there was music, artistic performances and two mannequin parades. Of course only a few of the main points of women's rich and varied life could be dealt with:

1. Relationship between man and woman
2. State assistance for women (health, education, protection of children, help in household duties)
3. Woman in her home
4. Woman as artist and writer
5. Woman in production (precision mechanics, construction, transport, etc)
6. Woman and the State.

The Press gave very helpful support for the part "relationship between man and woman." The papers, "Berliner Zeitung", "Eulenspiegel", "Frau von Heute" and others suggested to men, by means of illustrations and amusing drawings, that they be more polite, helpful and pleasant towards women. Visitors to the exhibition were able to take away a little "guide to politeness for husbands" They saw a furnished three-roomed flat with kitchen and bathroom. The furniture was exhibited by two nationalised concerns which occupy a large place in the furniture industry of the G. D. R. The flat was exhibited with the aim of showing contemporary decorative art as a guide to public taste and new household methods.

Twenty-five DFD members went in turn to the exhibition to answer questions, this they did with great patience and friendliness and even had little conferences on the usefulness and design of certain furniture; they also took a great many orders. This little corner, around which there was always a great crowd of interested people, was one of the main centres of attraction.

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There was a display of models and installations of appliances designed to help women as stipulated in the "Law for the protection of mother and child and women's rights." The public health department of the Greater Berlin Municipality exhibited apparatus for saving the lives of prematurely born babies for use in hospitals and in the home. Statistics and pictures clearly indicated the great importance the State attaches to the protection of mother and child and what enormous sums are spent on consultations for pregnant women and care of children. Of particular importance was that the psycho-prophylactic method was commended for the reduction of pain in childbirth.

The part on education also roused great interest. Visitors admired a kindergarten playroom and a class for polytechnic instruction where competent teachers explained the direction and aim of this instruction. Charts showed to what extent parents, making use of their democratic rights in schools by parents' committees and in making efforts to acquire pedagogic knowledge so as to be more capable parents. In this part of the exhibition there was also a beauty salon which the nationalised concern "Kosmadon" had installed with excellent taste and in modern style. During the exhibition many women received beauty treatment whilst many more listened with great interest to secrets given by a specialist on little tricks in beauty care.

The section "Woman as artist and writer" was set up with the cooperation of the Kulturbund of the Berlin theatres who were also responsible for the decoration. There were interesting reproductions, scenes, photographs of well-known actors, singers and artists, theatre costumes and pieces of stage decor. Discussions with popular actors and singers, who gave their autographs willingly, and conversations with writers, was the culminating point.

"Woman in production" did not pass unnoticed or unheard. Tram conductresses took charge of this part. They caused some alarm when they announced that they would bring a tram car; a wall had to be knocked down specially for this purpose. With an amusing sketch on the "politeness" of passengers and some gay songs that they themselves had composed, the conductresses made the visitors who crowded around the tram helpless with laughter. At the same time they did a bit of propaganda work to bring more women into their job.

At the stand of the nationalised "Stern Radio", extremely competent technicians explained how a mass of very fine wires, lamps and other accessories became the marvellous things we know as radios.

In the part reserved for dressmaking, a brigade from the nationalised concern "Fortschritt" gave demonstrations on mass production of women's clothes.

Women workers from a planning office showed that they had a perfect understanding of their work, and were constantly encircled by many inquisitive people.

Visitors who had gone round the whole exhibition finally came to the section "Woman and State" which was entirely prepared by the Democratic Union of German Women. It showed the developing participation of women in political and economic fields in the G.D.R. since 1945. It also pointed out that only part of the German women were able to go along this road and that today it was necessary for women in West Germany and the West Sector of Berlin to struggle against high prices and militarisation. On this question, the role of women's organisations and/

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and their international relations were shown. Photo-copies of documents of the German middle-class and social democrat women's movement drew particular attention. At this same place organisation leaders were there to give any explanations requested, and lawyers answered questions on family legislation.

To make the exhibition still more attractive, household utensils, materials, underwear, shoes and kitted goods were on sale. Inside the hall one could purchase dresses, suits and coats. Many women were very pleased to have this opportunity to make purchases on the spot.

There were nationalised, co-operative and private concerns and handicraftsmen combined to present the mannequin parades.

A competition with five questions on the women's movement was organised and in the pamphlet of the Democratic Union of German Women a page was reserved for criticisms of the exhibition. Many visitors gave their opinions.

Co-operation with the State service during the exhibition and its preparation was very satisfactory. The exhibition has contributed considerably to the prestige of the women's organisation.

The Democratic Union of German Women together with all the participants will learn from the experiences and criticisms; it is now planning to organise a conference with traders and local industry for the supply of household appliances is still insufficient. It is convinced that the effort to give a picture of the woman of today in her surroundings was successful.

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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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