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WORLD TRADE UNION

NEWS

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THE REJECTION OF E. D. C.

A victory for the French people and peace

The rejection of the so-called European Defence Community by the French National Assembly on August 30 has been hailed by all workers and by all the democratic and peace-loving forces. By rejecting EDC, this monstrous treaty invented by the American leaders to cover up the rearming of the German militarists, the French people have set an inspiring example of struggle in defence of their national interests, and have dealt a severe blow to the American policy of preparing for war and deliberately increasing world tension.

This new, important victory of the French people, and primarily of the working class, by opening up new prospects for the peaceful settlement of the German problem, unquestionably represents a step forward towards real collective security in Europe.

A communique from the French CGT

After the vote of the French Parliament, which has just put paid to the European Army, the French General Confederation of Labour (CGT) Executive Committee has published a communique from which we quote below:

".... In keeping with its long standing and glorious traditions, the CGT, far from remaining neutral, took a stand from the outset against this criminal plan, calling on the working class to oppose it with all its strength. The working class responded magnificently to this call.

"The defeat of EDC is a victory for the whole of the people in the interests of the nation and peace.

"Congratulating the organisations and members of the CGT and the workers in all trade unions on the decisive part they have played in this victory, the Executive Committee calls on them to keep up their pressure in still greater unity against any other form of German rearmament, for the resumption of Four-Power talks, for the peaceful settlement of the German problem, for the organisation of collective security in Europe and for general simultaneous and controlled disarmament.

"With the burden of EDC lifted, the legitimate demands of the workers, including their demand for national economic recovery, can and must be more speedily met."

Delegations, petitions, work stoppages

During the week before the vote of the National Assembly, the French workers, answering the call of the CGT, once again made clear their uncompromising opposition to the rearmament of a militaristic Germany.

Hundreds of workers' delegations coming sometimes from the most distant districts joined up in Paris, bringing to the government and Members of Parliament petition forms and resolutions protesting against EDC and demanding a favourable reply to the Soviet proposal for an international conference for collective security and examination of the German problem. In the Paris suburbs and in the provinces many work stoppages took place. In Dunkirk, for example, the dockers and engineering workers stopped work in unity; so, too, did the miners in Audun-le-Tiche (Moselle), dockers in Pallice and Boulogne and building workers in Marseille, etc.

As soon as the news came through that EDC had been rejected, the workers demonstrated their enthusiasm. Many meetings were immediately organised in the

Paris district. The workers in the nationalised Renault works at a tremendous meeting passed a resolution congratulating the deputies who had voted against EDC. Emphasising the fact that the threat of German militarism has not been finally removed, the Renault workers have pledged to fight against all forms of German rearmament and have called for a conference of the big powers on the German problem.

WORKERS OF EUROPE

Unite against EDC and the remilitarisation of Western Germany, which lead straight to war,
unite for collective security which leads to peace,
work to bring into the struggle all the honest forces of your country.
Wage a broad international campaign in support of collective security, through rallies, meetings and all means at your disposal.

(Extract from the Appeal to All the
Workers of Europe.
Berlin June 20-22, 1954)

Peoples' referendum against EDC in
Western Germany

The powerful movement which is now growing in Western Germany involving millions of workers is living proof of the profound dissatisfaction of the people with the policy of Chancellor Adenauer, the most virulent champion of EDC, and the rearmament of a militaristic Germany. Following the rejection by France of EDC, more and more voices are calling for a further conference of the great powers to find a peaceful settlement to the German question.

Everywhere the workers are making plain their opposition to EDC by taking part in the People's Referendum organised outside the factory gates.

In West Berlin, for example, 627 workers at the Siemens Spandau works (British sector), 129 workers at the Osram factory, etc., have opposed EDC. At Mülheim in the Ruhr 327 workers in a large engineering plant voted, despite police interference, for the peaceful re-unification of their country. In the same town, 364 miners out of 416 at the "Rosenblumendelle" pit voted against EDC.

In Witten, 174 workers in the railshops and Nuremburg-Docos and 143 strikers in the Faun factories have said they are against EDC and for a peace treaty, while at Recklinghausen, 52,000 miners have called for the banning of a meeting of former SS men arranged for August 28 and 29. At Iserlohn (Westphalia) the representatives of 6,000 engineers have protested vigorously against a "meeting" of former SS men planned for September. In the Palatinate 21 shop stewards and trade union officers have signed an appeal against EDC.

Engineering workers' trade union branches at Dortmund and Düsseldorf have asked their trade union centre to condemn the recruitment and rearmament of German youth.

At Plattling, the leadership of the union of the food, hotel and restaurant workers has urged that the next congress of the DGB takes a stand in favour of the peaceful reunification of Germany and against EDC. Building workers' trade

union branches at Munich and Regensburg and the union branch of house painters in Rosenheim (Upper Bavaria) have also called for concrete measures against remilitarisation.

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SCHUMAN PLAN, PLAN OF POVERTY AND WAR

The common market for special steels was opened on August 1, 1954. This is a fresh blow to the steel industry and economy of certain member countries of the Schuman Plan.

The coming into force of this market will make it easier for the strongest monopolistic groups to finish off the destruction of the small and medium fine steel plants.

Italian and French steel producers are alarmed. The Italian government has asked the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community for permission to maintain tariffs to protect Italian fine steel. Similarly, the French government has asked that protective measures be taken. The High Authority has turned down these requests.

The clash of interests within the Schuman Plan is becoming more bitter. The peoples are increasingly making clear their desire for peace and their opposition to the warmongers, and especially to the plan for revenge of the German Nazis. The EDC is in a bad way and the character of the Schuman Plan is becoming increasingly apparent as an instrument of war and poverty serving the German-American monopolies.

THE STRIKES IN WESTERN GERMANY

The powerful movement, touched off on August 4 by the strike of Hamburg transport and public service workers (see "News" No. 8) is continuously becoming more widespread. At present, 5 million workers have put in their claims which are mainly concerned with wage increases and shorter working hours. The 15,000 Hamburg strikers have since gone back to work after winning success.

In Bavaria, the strike of engineering workers is continuing in complete unity despite brutal police intervention and the attempts at provocation by the employers. On August 18, 109 firms employing 44,000 workers had already conceded the workers' demands.

Socialist, Christian and Communist workers and those of no party are side by side picketing their factories. Sometimes even women and children take their place in the picket lines. The solidarity movement is irresistibly forging ahead. Thus, when pickets at Siemens-Schuckert at Amberg were attacked by the police under the orders of the Social-Democratic Minister of the Interior, 700 miners in Amberg left the mines and came to the help of their fellow workers.

Everywhere in Western Germany, as in Democratic Germany, the workers are collecting money and food for the strikers. The railwaymen at Nuremberg decided to keep the pickets supplied with food and the unemployed workers in the same town have promised not to act as strike-breakers.

A message from the WFTU

The movement of international solidarity is also growing in scope. In France, Britain, Holland, etc., the workers are expressing their sympathy with their German brothers in action. For its part, the WFTU has sent them a message from which we quote some passages:

Brothers

On behalf of more than 80 million members, the WFTU sends you and your trade unions, engaged in a great struggle for just wage demands, fraternal greetings, and assures you of its complete solidarity.

The attention of the workers of all the countries of Europe is now focused on your struggle, which is being supported by a widespread movement of international solidarity.

Already the workers of France and their CGT have expressed their solidarity with your fight; the Unified Trade Union Centre of the Netherlands (EVG) and the FDGE have offered material solidarity. This solidarity movement is growing daily. The workers of all countries know like you that the cause of the intolerable decline in your living standards - while the industrial and financial magnates are making colossal profits - lies mainly in the policy of remilitarisation and war preparations against which they themselves are fighting.

Fellow workers of Western Germany, the Third World Trade Union Congress showed in its Open Letter to all trade union organisations and to all trade unionists not affiliated to the WFTU that victory can only come from unity in the struggle of the workers of every affiliation and belief.

By strengthening the unity of your ranks still further you will score a great victory.

Long live the unity and international solidarity of the workers!

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Trade union organisations in Latin America and
the Middle East greet the WFTU

The Unified Centre of the Workers of Chile (independent) has recently thanked the WFTU for its assistance to the workers and peasants of Chile in their action to defend their rights. The Teachers' Union of Chile states in a letter to the WFTU: "Chilean teachers are convinced that the WFTU, an organisation which represents millions of workers, is fighting resolutely to win better living conditions for the workers, for the national independence of the colonial and dependent peoples, peaceful co-operation between the nations and the preservation of world peace."

The National Confederation of Building Workers (independent), the district federation of building workers and the local branch of building workers of La Paz in Bolivia have asked the WFTU to convey their fraternal greetings to the workers of all countries who stand for social progress, freedom and peace.

Following the gesture of the National Trade Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards of Brazil, affiliated to the ICFTU, which, on the occasion of May Day last sent us a flag as a token of solidarity, the Regional Congress for Social Security in Espirito Santo has also sent warm greetings to the WFTU.

To achieve working class unity

Seubhi Khatib, President of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Syria, an organisation not affiliated to the WFTU, writes to us:

"On behalf of the workers of Syria we thank you for the powerful support you gave to the cause of the Damascus workers during their strike

"The fight of the Syrian working class is a part of the struggle of workers throughout the world to win a better life, to strengthen the cause of freedom, democracy and peace, and to achieve working class unity throughout the world"

Another non-affiliated organisation, the Progressive Federation of Trade Unions of Syria, greets the WFTU "which unceasingly works to see that justice is done and working class unity achieved throughout the world ..."

PROGRESS OF UNITY IN INDIA

First national congress of leather workers

The first national congress of the leather and shoe workers of India took place in Kanpur from June 19-20, 1954. The general crisis, with its resulting closure of factories and unemployment, has led to everyone uniting to defend the industry and jobs.

A provisional committee has been set up with representatives from the three national trade union organisations, the AITUC, HMS and INTUC, as well as representatives from independent trade unions.

The president of the committee is Rajaram Shastri (secretary of HMS) and among the vice-presidents are S.S. Yusuf (AITUC), G.D. BAJPAL (HMS), P. Awasthi (Congress Party), Arona (INTUC) and G.S. Chaubey.

The Kanpur textile workers show the way towards trade union unity

Recently the 46,000 textile workers of Kanpur (India), by uniting under a single banner - that of the Kapra Mill Mazdoor Sabha (KMMS), have ended the trade union disunity of the last eight years. The KMMS came into existence on August 1, 1954, as a sequence to the merger of the six textile trade unions of Kanpur - the Mill Mazdoor Sabha (affiliated to the AITUC), the Suti Mill Mazdoor Union (led by the PSP), the Mazdoor Congress (also PSP-led), the Mazdoor Panchayat (affiliated to the HMS) and the Industrial Employees' Union (independent).

The experience of the struggle of the Kanpur textile workers led them to take this step of forming a single union. In the big Swadeshi mill, 11,000 workers have already achieved unity against dismissals and the multiple shift system. Unity was also achieved on the question of bonuses in the Swadeshi, Muir and Victoria mills. In May 1953, a 24-hour strike managed to temporarily stave off the application of a new rationalisation scheme.

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The Rumanian workers celebrate the 10th anniversary of their liberation

On August 23, 1954, when the Red Army liberated Rumania, the patriotic forces, led by the working class, wiped out the fascist dictatorship of Antonescu and established a democratic regime. During the 10 years which have passed since that time, the working class, in close co-operation with the working peasantry, have obtained important successes in every sphere.

Today the trade unions have a membership of more than 2,500,000. The fight to achieve the programme of development of agriculture and of light industry and to increase the production of essential consumer goods is now the central task of the trade unions.

During the last six years, the state has allocated more than 6 thousand million lei to the trade unions for social insurance and social security. This year, 375,000 workers and 125,000 workers' children will go to rest homes.

Under people's power, the trade unions have set up thousands of workers' clubs, libraries, mobile cinemas, sports grounds, etc. Amateur artistic activities are developing.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the liberation of the Rumanian people from fascist domination, the WFTU sent fraternal greetings to the Central Council of Trade Unions and to all workers of Rumania.

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THE DEFENCE OF TRADE UNION AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS
OF THE WORKERS

In the Supplement to "News" No.7, we published the Definition of Rights to Appear in the Charter of Trade Union Rights. Throughout the world the workers are now studying this document, which will be presented to the next meeting of the General Council of the WFTU in Warsaw in November. In order to contribute to the general discussion, we shall try to feature all the opinions, criticism and suggestions which we receive from trade union organisations and workers whether or not they are affiliated to the WFTU.

In Latin America, a week of action ●
in defence of the people of Guatemala

The Central Committee of the Confederation of Workers of Latin America (CTAL) has decided to organise a continental week of action in defence of the workers and people of Guatemala. This week will begin on September 8, the anniversary of the foundation of the CTAL.

In its statement on July 17, the WFTU condemned the vicious repression launched against the workers and democrats of Guatemala by the Military Junta hoisted into power by the North American imperialist circles.

Repression is continuing with the same intensity. There are 15,000 prisoners in the country 4,000 of whom are in the prisons of the capital alone. Every night the repressive forces shoot prisoners in the Campo Marte ravine.

Armed gangs hound down the trade unionists who have so far managed to escape oppression. Among these trade unionists is Victor Manuel Gutierrez, General Secretary of the Guatemalan CGT and member of the Executive Committee of the WFTU.

The employers are carrying out mass dismissals of the workers merely because they belong to a trade union.

In the countryside the landowners are organising armed gangs which terrorised and murder the peasants and take away from them the land received under agrarian reform.

The decision of the Central Committee of the CTAL has been enthusiastically welcomed by the trade union organisations of Latin America. An example of this is

the appeal launched by the Confederation of the Workers of Brazil (CTB) to the workers and trade union organisations of Brazil urging them to take an active part in the continental week of solidarity with the workers and people of Guatemala.

Letter from South Africa

A European worker in South Africa, member of a trade union not affiliated to the WFTU, has sent us a letter from which we give extracts below. Our correspondent asks us not to reveal his name because of the repression which is rife in his country.

....."Despite the strong international condemnation by the United Nations Organisation, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Peace Council and the international organisations of students, women and youth, the fascist-type nationalist government of South Africa is going ahead at an ever increasing speed to implement its barbarous and brutal doctrine of white domination over the non-white people of South Africa.

"The government has also legislated to remove whole communities consisting of tens of thousands of African people from one area to another against the wishes of the people concerned and without consultation with them or giving consideration to their jobs and family and thereby destroying the whole fabric of their family lives, just to satisfy its insatiable appetite of apartheid (racial segregation).

"With the enactment of the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) act, and the introduction of the new Industrial Conciliation Bill (1), the government intends to smash the democratic trade union movement and destroy the fruits of decades of trade union struggle and replace united workers' organisations with numerous small and ineffectual racial unions as a prelude to an all-out attack on the wages and working conditions of all workers, black, white and coloured. Dozens of trusted, elected trade union officials have already been driven from their posts.

"Whilst the non-European workers' organisations welcome with heartfelt gratitude the messages of solidarity and support coming from their millions of friends all over the world, more and more of them are beginning to realise that the ruthless policy of the nationalist government can only be defeated by the organised and united strength of the working class.

"Unfortunately at present the trade unions of the African workers are still very weak and it is the task of the African workers to build up their trade unions into powerful weapons. For this purpose they have just established a National Campaign Committee to organise workers' councils of action through the length and breadth of South Africa so as to organise the African workers in the fight for their rights, liberties and better living standards...."

Nigeria

The government is afraid of unity

The decision of the Council of Ministers of Nigeria to forbid the publications of the WFTU and of many other international organisations entering this British-controlled territory has aroused widespread protest among the population of this country.

The United Working People's Party of Nigeria has condemned this ban on publications whose sole crime is that of advocating united action by the workers to defend and improve their living conditions, their liberties and peace.

1) For more details on these laws, see article on "Malanzism" in WFTU No.7-8/1954

Algeria

Solidarity of the Algerian workers with their Tunisian and Moroccan brothers

On August 8 in Orléansville, during the Moslem feast of Aid-Zl-Kébir, the representatives of scores of thousands of Algerian workers in all industries demanded the release of the many Tunisian patriots imprisoned in Orléansville by the French imperialists, and powerfully demonstrated their solidarity with their brother peoples of Morocco and Tunisia, fighting for their independence.

Despite their wretched living conditions and their low wages, the agricultural, building and engineering workers, and dockers, etc., have collected goods and money for the prisoners.

The Algerian workers, after the success of this demonstration of solidarity, are determined to carry forward and step up the struggle against repression and for the reinstatement of dismissed trade unionists.

El Salvador

Cayetano Carpio freed!

On July 5, Salvador Cayetano Carpio, worker's leader of El Salvador, arbitrarily imprisoned two years ago, has been released. Leader of the bakery workers' union, he was one of the most active organisers of the Committee for the Reorganisation of the El Salvador Trade Unions, disbanded by the government. Carpio was also director of the journal "Unidad Obrera". On September 26, 1952, he was arrested along with many other trade unionists and democrats and savagely tortured.

Salvador Cayetano Carpio, whose arbitrary imprisonment was denounced by the WFTU before the Economic and Social Council of the UN, has come out of prison as a result of the persistent action of the workers of El Salvador and international solidarity.

Cyprus

General strike against repressive laws

In Cyprus, the enforcement by the British governor of repressive laws suppressing all freedom of expression has aroused the indignation of all working people on the island. On August 12, the workers in every trade union launched a 24-hour general strike.

Norway

A victory for solidarity

The 361 workers in the Torp cardboard works who have been on strike since February 27 (see "News" No.3) unanimously decided to go back to work on August 2.

Their struggle, more than any other in Norway since the war, has shown that the workers are determined to defend their trade union rights. For more than 5 months the sympathy and active solidarity of the whole working people have sustained the strikers. 650,000 crowns were collected in the local union branches and in the factories.

A large number of trade unions have sent to the government, parliament and the Norwegian trade union centre, resolutions demanding the repeal of paragraph 40 of the law on industrial disputes, which provides for fines from 5,000 to 25,000 crowns and or prison sentences of up to 3 months against anyone who takes part in an "illegal" strike or gives any kind of support to workers involved in such a strike.

The power and unanimity of the solidarity movement which grew up in support of the Torp strikers, despite this law, forced the leaders of the trade union centre to press the authorities to repeal paragraph 40.

ACTIVITIES OF THE TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONALS

Delegates of the World Federation of Teachers' Unions (FISE) attend the FLAI and FIPESCO Conferences

The World Federation of Teachers' Unions (T.D. of the WFTU) was invited to send observers to the annual conferences of the International Federation of Teachers' Associations and the International Federation of Secondary Teachers, which were held in Oslo from July 28-31, 1954. FISE was represented by Maria Marchant (Chile), Dina Jovina (Italy) and Oldrich Stelclain (Czechoslovakia).

These conferences discussed the role of teachers and the cultural life of the community and the defence of secondary school teaching. The resolutions adopted have much in common with the programme of FISE, particularly with regard to the need to devote sufficient sums to the building of schools, for scholarships, modernisation of equipment and increased salaries for teachers.

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STRUGGLES AND VICTORIES OF THE WORKERS

Iran

Despite dictatorship, the Abadan workers celebrated the anniversary of the nationalisation of oil

Despite repression and fascist terror being directed against the oilworkers of Iran, the workers in the refineries and oilfields held nation-wide celebrations to mark the anniversary of the expropriation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., and the nationalisation of the oil industry. These demonstrations took place throughout the province of Khudistan under the slogans "Hands off our oil", "We demand the unqualified implementation of the nationalisation law", "We shall not allow our country to become a base for aggression against the Soviet Union".

In preparation for this day, the workers in the Abadan refineries gave out thousands of leaflets throughout the oilfields calling on all who oppose imperialism to celebrate this day.

Despite the mobilisation of vast police forces and preventive arrests of trade unionists, many meetings, rallies and demonstrations took place throughout the area with the participation of all the oilworkers together with many shopkeepers and craftsmen.

Switzerland

The hell of Chippis

In the foundries of the Aluminium Industrie AG (AIAG) in Chippis, Valais district, the 1,600 workers work under very hard conditions. The heat in front of the furnaces varies between 150 and 200° F. Work is non-stop, three shifts are worked daily throughout the week. On Sunday instead of three shifts there are two which work 12 hours each. The 48 hour week is a piece of fiction since 60 hours are worked two weeks out of three.

The methods of productivity fashioned on the American model are particularly elaborate. During the last 6 to 7 years, the number of workers has fallen by between 30 and 40%, while production has tripled.

The profits of this aluminium trust, the biggest in Switzerland, are fabulous. The last balance sheet showed a net declared profit of 10.8 million Swiss francs. A worker would have to work from 104 to 110 years to earn the equivalent of the annual pay of a single director, 500,000 Swiss francs.

So it is not surprising under these conditions that the 1,600 workers at ALAG began a three-day strike on August 9 to remind the company of their demands: provision of a minimum wage of 500 francs a month, in the form of an hourly wage of 2.25 francs instead of 2.10 plus an average collective bonus of 0.25 francs.

These three days of struggle against the employers' greed achieved an initial success. The workers have realised that united action pays. The management had to call off its measures of reprisals and resume discussions on the workers' demands.

Finland

A victory for united action

The Finnish building workers have recently renewed their collective agreement. The negotiations were preceded by intense activity on the part of the workers for better wages and working conditions.

Thus, at Uleaborg, when the employers refused to consider their demands, the 700 building workers in the town came out solid, despite threats to lock out the workers for a week. The workers laid down as a condition for a return to work: revision of piece-work rates, increased hourly wage for labourers and payment for time lost during 5 strike days.

After the strike had lasted another week, the employers and the building construction firms were forced to call for a resumption of negotiations. Faced with the unity of the strikers, they had to give way and agree to the reinstatement of all workers; immediate granting of 3 day's pay for time lost during the week when they were locked out; minimum time wage increases bringing them up to 120 and 135 Finnish marks for the various grades of labourers, that is, an increase of 24 and 25 marks an hour respectively. The full significance of this victory for unity and solidarity will be appreciated when it is remembered that the Finnish employers have hitherto refused any kind of compensation for workers who have been locked out.

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"THE SONG OF THE RIVERS"

An interview with Joris Ivens

At the International Film Festival at Karlovy vary, the special correspondent of "Lavoro", the weekly journal of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL), asked Joris Ivens, director of "The Song of the Rivers", to explain the theme and significance of his film made for the WFTU.

- "At first", J. Ivens replied, "the idea was to make a documentary film on the Third World Trade Union Congress, which met in Vienna in October 1953. Later the initial idea was changed to that of making a great fresco illustrating the struggle of the trade union organisations of the world. That is why the film started before the Third Congress. It describes the situation of the workers in the various countries and tries to show their needs and aspirations to which the Vienna Congress and its important results corresponded.

- Why the title "The Song of the Rivers" ?

- "Because the theme of the film follows the course of the six great rivers of the world, the Mississippi, the Amazon, the Nile, the Ganges, the Volga and the

Yangtze. To portray this theme, the German poet Berthold Brecht wrote the words to a song for each of these rivers and Shostakovich, the Soviet composer of world fame, composed the music, taking up the melodic theme at the end of the film to make it into a new anthem for the workers."

- Could you give us some technical details about the making of the film?

- "Only a group of experienced international filmmakers could, by devoting much work and all their efforts, make a film of this kind. Production started in May 1953 under the auspices of the WFTU and with the help of DEFA of Berlin. To gather together the material, coming from 30 countries of the world, I worked together with the producer Joop Huiskens; Giulio Petroni shot scenes in Italy; Robert Ménégez in France; Ruiz Santos in Brazil. As we had to use part of the excellent material which already existed, we had to make the film in black and white."

- When will the world distribution of the film begin?

- "For the moment the German version is ready and we are now working on other versions. The distribution of the film will probably begin in September. I hope that this work, unique in its kind, will help the workers of the whole world and contribute to increasing still further their confidence in victory."

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37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

(Message of the WFTU to the Central Council of
Soviet Trade Unions)

Expressing the sentiments of the workers of the entire world, the World Federation of Trade Unions shares the joy of Soviet workers on this 37th anniversary of the October Revolution. On this occasion it sends its most fraternal greetings to the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions.

The example of the unshakeable unity of the Soviet workers and peoples, the example of the continued blossoming of socialism in the USSR, and its policy of improved international relations and peaceful co-existence, greatly encourage the workers in capitalist and colonial countries who are waging a bitter struggle against poverty, exploitation by the employers and for their unity, national independence and the safeguarding of peace.

The workers of the whole world have confidence in the selfless and peaceful efforts of the manual and intellectual workers of the USSR, organized in the Soviet trade unions. Through their growing unity and struggle they support the desire for peace and the successes of the Soviet workers and trade unions.

Long live the 37th anniversary of the October Revolution!

Long live the united struggle of the workers throughout the world for peace and social progress!

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AGAINST THE REARMAMENT OF WESTERN GERMANY

West German workers demand that the decisions
of the 3rd DGB Congress be carried out

While President Eisenhower assures Chancellor Adenauer of full support by the United States for German rearmament, holding out the prospect of military aid to the tune of 3,000 million dollars, the West German workers are stepping up their action for the implementation of the decisions of the 3rd Congress of their trade union Confederation (DGB) to refuse any military participation in the European army and prevent German rearmament (see "News" No.12).

An uninterrupted flow of resolutions against rearmament adopted by trade unionists is coming from the factories and trade union conferences in Western Germany. Thus, the workers in the C.H. Schlemper firm in Solingen have decided on the strict enforcement in the factory of the DGB decision to refuse any military contribution and production of arms. Many union branches of national unions, trades councils and local union committees in big towns such as Mannheim, Solingen, Mörfelden, Hilden, etc., have decided to make known to the whole population, by posters and leaflets, how they are developing action against rearmament. The leadership of the Engineering Workers' Union branch at Solingen has called for the immediate holding of a national conference to discuss "how to prevent the conscription of youth, military service and rearmament."

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The Conference of delegates from the Nuremberg branch of the Engineering Workers' Union, the Trade Union Committee of the Erne branch, a big industrial town in the Ruhr, young railwaymen in Dortmund, representatives of branches of the Metalworkers' Union in Reinhausen, Frankthal and hundreds of other towns have not only endorsed the decisions of the Congress but called for more vigorous action by the unions to see that these decisions are put into practice. In Cuxhaven, apprentices in categories liable to be called up are campaigning for the setting up of a committee against conscription for the Atlantic army, basing their case on the decisions of the DGB Congress.

Meeting of French and West German railwaymen

While on October 31, the day of struggle against the rearmament of the German militarists was taking place in France and Western Germany (see "News" No.13), Strasbourg was the scene of a moving demonstration. A delegation of French railwaymen from Marseille-Prado, belonging to all unions - CGT, FO and CFTC - was meeting a delegation of German railwaymen from Kehl.

Speaking about the fight of the West German working class, a member of the German delegation recalled that 6 million trade unionists had gone on record against the disastrous London agreements to resurrect the Wehrmacht, thirsting for revenge.

"We French and German workers together will prevent the implementation of the London agreements and the revival of the Wehrmacht, which would be commanded by former SS men". After this statement, it was the turn of a member of the railwaymen's delegation from Marseille-Prado to extol the spirit of working class internationalism which unites French and West German railwaymen in their common struggle against the resurgence of German militarism so that peace may prevail.

French teachers stand for a peaceful settlement of the German problem

The Executive of the National Teachers' Union, which has 148,000 members, that is, nearly all elementary teachers in France, on October 5 published a resolution stating:

"A genuine policy of peace requires from men who claim to speak in the name of the peoples that, on the basis of common agreement, the four powers occupying Germany should decide to re-establish the unity of that country on the basis of free elections, restore its independence by a Peace Treaty and keep it disarmed outside of any coalition of a military character, while these powers themselves take effective measures to bring about a mass reduction in their armed forces."

The growing movement in Denmark...

On October 21, a group of soldiers wearing the hated Hitler uniform goose-stepped across the Copenhagen Town Hall Square. "have they come back?" asked passers-by, astounded. Leaflets told them that this was a demonstration organised by the Danish youth, who had put on the Wehrmacht uniform so as to remind people of the terrible days of the occupation.

The demonstration of October 21 was but one illustration of the great movement of opposition which is developing among all sections of the Danish

people, particularly among the workers, to the remilitarisation of Western Germany.

In trade union meetings and at places of work ballots were held on the question of the remilitarisation of Western Germany, letters were sent to the government and Parliament by the workers of entire factories, delegations went to Parliament, leaflets were distributed and posters put up in the factories.

A referendum was recently held in Copenhagen. Ballot boxes were set up in the streets where, during the war, Danish citizens had fallen victim to Nazi bullets. Ballot boxes were also taken from door to door to encourage families to vote on this question so vital to the country's future. The secret, democratic ballot showed overwhelming majorities against German remilitarisation.

...and Norway

The fight against the rebuilding of German militarism is also going ahead in Norway.

At a recent meeting, the workers in the big chocolate Freia factory in Oslo passed a resolution against the participation of Western Germany in the North Atlantic Pact. The resolution says:

"We call on all organised workers to protest and demand a popular referendum so that they can make clear their opinion on this important question..."

A meeting of workers in Trondheim sent a protest to Parliament against the remilitarisation of Western Germany.

Finally, 404 workers at the saltpetre works in Eidger wrote in a letter to the chairman of Parliament: "We are against any remilitarisation of Western Germany."

Viennese workers deal a blow
at fascism

The Austrian "Kameradschaftsbund", an appendage of the Association of Veterans of the Wehrmacht in Western Germany, wanted to hold for the first time in Vienna one of its war-like and provocative demonstrations in November. It chose as the date of its provocation the anniversary of the erection of the "Monument to Heroes", raised by the Austrian fascists in 1934, after the bloody suppression of the Austrian working class movement. This monument was thus to serve again as war propaganda in favour of a Germany intent on revenge and a new "Anschluss".

The news of this fascist provocation aroused a storm of protest among workers in the factories and the population as a whole. The government was bombarded by so many protest messages, letters and telegrams from the workers that it had to ban the demonstration.

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JAPAN FOR THE BANNING OF WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION

President of Sohyo writes to the WFTU

On October 8, the World Federation of Trade Unions expressed its feelings of sympathy and solidarity with the Japanese workers on the occasion of the

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death of Aikichi Kuboyama - one of the fishermen affected by radio-active ash caused by the U.S. atomic experiments in May 1954.

Louis Saillant, WFTU General Secretary, in his letter to Sohyo President Totaro Fujita, wrote:

"On this sad occasion, the World Federation of Trade Unions would like to reassure Sohyo that it wholeheartedly supports the fight of the Japanese people for the banning of weapons of mass destruction and for peace, and of its readiness to associate itself with every move to put an end to this intolerable threat to all the peoples of the world."

The President of Sohyo in his reply stated:

"Inexpressively sad and sorry as we are over this tragical event brought about by an arbitrary act committed on the high seas, we feel it our duty to push our movement with redoubled force for the banning of such weapons of mass destruction in the cause of peace and happiness of all mankind, and we are very appreciative of the efforts you and your organisation are putting forth for the common cause.

"We take this opportunity to reaffirm our firm determination not to give up our struggle for the eradication of all threat of atomic and hydrogen weapons until our object is attained and, at the same time, to ask for your continued powerful co-operation and support in our fight."

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: The National Japanese Peace Committee
: announces that 14,557,485 signatures have been
: collected in Japan for the banning of atomic and
: hydrogen weapons; 1,787,743 of these signatures
: have been gathered by the Trade Union Centre -
: Sohyo
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DEFENCE OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS

A letter from the WFTU Secretariat

The WFTU Secretariat has recently sent an important letter to the members of the General Council and the Executive Committee with regard to their participation in the forthcoming meeting of the General Council, reviewing the position of trade union rights in the world.

The letter firstly analyses the situation in the United States, where "the workers and people are threatened with a series of laws restricting trade union rights and drastically curtailing civil liberties". The letter makes particular reference to the Taft-Hartley Act, directed against the right to strike; the Act allowing special charges to be brought against trade unionists of foreign birth, even when they are naturalised; the thought-control Smith Act and finally the most recent anti-labour law, the so-called "Communist Control Act", which puts

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trade unions under the jurisdiction of the Subversive Activities Control Board. Any trade union, explains the letter, found by this Board to be "communist-infiltrated" loses all its rights to represent the workers in collective bargaining with the employers, to participate in trade union elections, etc.

The letter then points out that "this process of anti-trade union repression is by no means confined to the United States". In some countries, states the letter, an examination of anti-labour legislation reveals some striking resemblances to American laws.

In the second part of the letter, the WFTU Secretariat gives many examples drawn from anti-working class legislation in Italy, France, Japan, Malaya, Iran, Brazil, Guatemala, etc., which show how far American measures of repression have become an item of export.

WFTU proposal to the United Nations

In a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations, the General Secretary of the WFTU, Louis Saillant, has proposed the inclusion of the following item in the agenda of the 19th session of the Economic and Social Council: "examination of the results obtained by the Council concerning the violation of trade union rights".

"The growing number and the seriousness of the attacks on trade union rights now to be observed," points out the letter, "make this a matter of paramount importance for the workers, an essential aspect of guaranteeing human rights and of maintaining democratic liberties in general.

"We therefore believe that the United Nations Organisation should fully assume its responsibilities as laid down by the Charter, so fulfilling the hopes of the workers who continue to appeal to the U.N. for more effective and real help.

"That is why, in our opinion, the time has come for the Economic and Social Council to make a searching review of its activities to guarantee trade union rights, on the basis of the actual results obtained up to now.

"We consider", concludes the letter, "that it would be useful, so as to make an accurate estimate of the efficacy of present procedure, if the Secretary General could work out for the 19th session of the Economic and Social Council a report on the results of the protests against violations of trade union rights received by the Council. Such a report would make it possible to go ahead more rapidly and effectively with revising and improving the action of the Council in this field."

An African worker writes to the WFTU

The discussion on the draft Charter of Trade Union Rights drawn up by the WFTU continues to arouse keen interest. We publish below a short extract from a letter we have received from a worker in Tougue in French Guinea:

"Any worker anxious to defend his interests and any trade union leader mindful of his responsibilities cannot but approve the draft, whose contents deal with trade union issues from the point of view of the workers themselves.

"We know from experience that to win trade union rights and defend them

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against the blatant intrigues of the workers' enemies is a problem facing the trade unions in the capitalist countries and especially the colonies where the workers suffer the worst exploitation in the interests of big business.

"In these countries the rights of the workers are daily violated by the authorities who exclusively serve the employers. In French Central Africa, which the imperialists want to keep in their grip, to continue to exploit it, trade union rights are denied to the workers despite the fact that new labour legislation has come into force.

"We workers are duty bound to approve the draft Charter of Trade Union Rights and make it known among our workmates as it represents a weapon in the hands of all workers, a weapon which we shall rightly use to defend our interests which are daily threatened by those who callously exploit us."

SOLIDARITY WITH THE IRANIAN WORKERS

"International working class solidarity will end anti-democratic repression and the massacre of a people who are fighting for a better life and independence."

"Those were the final words of the stirring appeal recently sent by the Central Council of Unified Trade Unions of Iran to all trade union organisations throughout the world. This appeal condemns the foul policy of anti-working class repression of dictator Zahedi and calls on the trade unions of all countries to express active solidarity with the Iranian workers by organising delegations to Iranian embassies and by letters and telegrams of protest to the government and the U.N., etc.

We publish below extracts from the statement made on this question by the WFTU:

"The dozens of death sentences passed by the military courts meeting in secret, the recent execution of patriots which the world press has graphically reported show that the Iranian government is ruthlessly determined to blot out every trace of democratic liberties in that country.

"The recrudescence of repression and the unleashing of bloody terror in Iran coincides with the return to U.S. and British monopolies of the country's oil resources and independence. They indicate the unshakeable determination of the workers and the entire Iranian people to defend their rights and gains.

"Greeting the splendid, courageous struggle of the people and patriots of Iran, the World Federation of Trade Unions condemns before world public opinion these inhuman acts, these frenzied attacks on the liberties and democratic rights of an entire people.

"The workers and their trade unions cannot be indifferent to such crimes.

"The World Federation of Trade Unions is convinced that the Iranian workers, strengthened by their bitter experiences and past struggles, will be able to find the best path to reconstitute their representative trade unions, based on the broadest unity between the workers and run in accordance with the principles of the fullest trade union democracy."

Intensified persecution
in Chile

The situation in Chile is growing worse from day to day, with the sharpening of anti-trade union and anti-democratic repression. Applying the law for the so-called "Defence of Democracy", which the workers call the "Cursed Law", the

government is stepping up its attacks on trade union rights in an attempt to destroy the great united centre, CUTCH, whose influence among the working people has steadily grown since it was formed two years ago.

Some weeks ago, many trade union leaders and rank and file members were deported to isolated areas. Among the first to be hit were the trade union leaders Baudilio Casanova and Juan Vargas Puebla, respectively General Secretary and Treasurer of CUTCH, the leader of the miners' union, Juan Garcia Romero, the leaders of the agricultural workers' union, Gregorio Lartica and Rene Vega, and many other trade unionists and national and district trade union officers.

Repression is not only striking at Chilean trade unionists, but is also hitting Guatemalan trade unionists who have taken refuge in Chile. For example, the General Secretary of the National Peasants' Confederation of Guatemala and a number of Guatemalan trade unionists have been deported to the unhealthy Arica region near the Bolivian frontier.

The movement of opposition to this policy dictated by the imperialist monopolies, a movement of which we have already given some examples in our last issue, is becoming stronger and more widespread from day to day, bringing in new sections of the population and rallying a considerable number of workers, craftsmen, small shop keepers and professional workers.

AGAINST THE TERROR RAGING IN GUATEMALA

(A protest of the WFTU)

The news agencies are informing the world of dictator Castillo Armas' determination to have many Guatemalan patriots, democrats and trade unionists executed.

This news is arousing the deepest indignation and anger of the workers of all countries and all viewpoints. In the name of every one of them, the WFTU demands the cancellation of these odious sentences and the ending of the persecution of the best workers, peasants and intellectuals of Guatemala.

The example of Jesus Farias

Laureano Torrealba, the well-known Venezuelan metal workers' leader, has just been exiled by the Perez Jimenez dictatorship after being held for more than three years in the jails of Venezuela where, for many months, he was detained together with the beloved leader of the Venezuelan working class, Jesus Farias, Vice-President of the CTAL.

On his arrival in Mexico, Torrealba gave an interview to the official organ of the CTAL, Noticiero de la CTAL, in which he spoke at length about the way the great Venezuelan workers' leader has been treated.

"For two years", he said, "I was with Jesus Farias in the General Penitentiary of Venezuela in San Juan de los Morros. He has been there since

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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