

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

10 DEC 1975

TO: [REDACTED] OLC
FROM: Deputy Director for Operations &
SUBJECT: World Peace Council

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Yearbook on
International
Communist Affairs
1975

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1975

solution to the crisis lies in the restructuring of the system. This includes establishment of direct relationships between producing and consuming states, thus replacing the existing role of the multinational companies; the increased involvement of unions in the development of national energy programs; and the immediate halt to the rise in prices resulting from decisions taken by the monopolies. Overall, the WFTU deems it important that the people understand the true nature of the problem, and that the capitalist system not be allowed to use the crisis for its own benefit. In this latter context, the WFTU rejected Kissinger's efforts for Western cooperation: "the ideology of all-round solidarity which the capitalist governments are calling for from their people must be fought, for it can contribute to strengthening the false idea that states and their monopolies have been forced to adopt the present austerity policy despite their wishes." In sum, the WFTU views the crisis facing the developed capitalist countries as one of their own making, and the solution to be a fundamental social and political adjustment to the realities of the historical moment.

Consistent with its attitude toward the problems existing in the Middle East, the WFTU extended its full backing to the struggle of the Palestinian people. In a statement issued to support the request of several countries that the Palestine Liberation Organization be invited to appear before the United Nations, the WFTU called on the U.N. General Assembly not only to respond affirmatively to the request but also to give a massive vote of approval to the Palestinian cause. It also indicated that it would seek to mobilize world-wide trade union support for a permanent and just peace in the Middle East.

The Trade Union Internationals were active during the year in implementing the general policies laid down at the Eighth Congress. At a meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Commercial, Office, and Bank Workers' TUI it was stressed that future activities should bear the stamp of the WFTU's unity policy (*Flashes*, no. 2). The Metal and Engineering Industries' TUI issued a declaration on the deteriorating situation in the car industry. In it the workers were urged to resist measures being adopted by the multi-national companies aimed at making labor suffer the consequences of the oil crisis. The TUI then put forward proposals for cooperation with the ICFTU and the WCL (*ibid.*, no. 1). These unity proposals were apparently rejected by the ICFTU and the WCL (*ibid.*, no. 5). Irina Tsikora (U.S.S.R.), secretary, represented the World Federation of Teachers' Unions (FISE) at the 44th International Congress on Secondary Education. On behalf of the FISE she called on the teachers' movements to promote joint action; she also announced that the FISE would hold a "World Teachers' Conference" in 1975 (*ibid.*, no. 34).

Publications. The most important publication of the WFTU is an illustrated magazine, *World Trade Union Movement*, circulated in some 70 countries and in English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, and other languages. *Flashes*, published several times a month in four languages, is a four-to-five-page information bulletin containing brief reports and documents.

World Peace Council. The "World Peace" movement headed by the World Peace Council (WPC) dates from August 1948, when a "World Congress of Intellectuals for Peace" in Wroclaw, Poland, set up an organization called the "International Liaison Committee of Intellectuals." This committee in April 1949 convened a "First World Peace Congress" in Paris. The congress launched a "World Committee of Partisans of Peace," which in November 1950 was renamed the "World Peace Council." Originally based in Paris, it was expelled in 1951 by the French government, moving first to Prague and then, in 1954, to Vienna—where it adopted the name "World Council of Peace." Although outlawed in Austria in 1957, the World Council of Peace continued its operations in Vienna under the cover of a new organization, the International Institute for Peace (IIP). The IIP has subsequently been referred to by WPC members as the "scientific-theoretical workshop of the WPC" (CTK, Czechoslovak news agency, 16 December 1971). In September 1968 the World Council of Peace transferred

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its headquarters to Helsinki, while the IIP remained in Vienna. Although no formal announcement was made, the World Council of Peace has reverted to its original name, the World Peace Council.

Structure and Leadership. The WPC is organized on a national basis, with peace committees and other affiliated groups in some 80 countries. No exact figure is available on the total individual membership. At the Council meeting in February 1974 several significant changes took place in the organizational structure. Although the Council remains as the highest authority, an expanded Presidential Committee was established of 101 persons. This committee in turn elects the Bureau (24 persons) and the Secretariat (18). On the Bureau are representatives from peace movements in the following countries: France, Italy, Belgium, and Great Britain; the U.S.S.R., the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Poland, Hungary, and Bulgaria; Cuba, Chile, Panama, and Argentina; Madagascar, Egypt, and Ghana; Vietnam, Japan, India, and Bangladesh; Iraq/Syria, the United States, and Australia. The number is completed with a representative of FRELIMO. The Secretariat has representatives from Chile, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Madagascar, India, the GDR, the U.S.S.R., Argentina, Iraq, Italy, Egypt, Hungary, France, Bulgaria, Poland, South Africa, the United States, and Panama. It should be noted that various international organizations such as the IUS, WFSW, WFTU, WIDE, and WFDY are represented on the Presidential Committee.

Amendments adopted at the 1974 Council require the Council hereafter to meet every three years instead of every two; the national peace movements are urged to meet annually. The Presidential Committee will now meet only once a year instead of twice. The newly created Bureau will normally meet three or four times a year to review international events and the Council's work, and to execute decisions of the Presidential Committee. It appears that the Bureau will have the authority to act independently on a wide variety of matters (BTA, 19 February). The executive bodies of the IIP—ostensibly independent of those of the WPC, but in fact elected by the WPC Council—are the 7-member Presidium and 30-member Executive Committee.

The 1974 Council created two new commissions: one on mass media and one on peace research (*Peace Courier*, No. 6).

Romesh Chandra (India) was reelected as secretary-general of the WPC. As secretary-general he not only heads the Secretariat but is also a member of both the Bureau and the Presidential Committee.

UNESCO's Executive Committee on 24 June voted to admit the WPC to the status of "Consultation and Association—Category A". Only 36 of some 330 non-governmental organizations have been admitted under this category. "The new status grants the World Peace Council a number of advantages, such as the right to send observers to UNESCO's General Conference and Commissions, to advise the Director General on matters pertaining to UNESCO's program, to attend meetings organized by UNESCO on matters within its competence, and to receive subventions from UNESCO for activities which make valuable contribution to the achievement of the World Organization's activities" (ibid., July).

Views and Activities. In pursuance of the decisions taken by the Presidential Committee in Warsaw in May 1973, the secretary-general circulated a note calling for a Council meeting in February 1974. Entitled "New International Climate, New Peace Movement, Stronger Organization and Structure of the World Peace Council," the note put forward a set of proposals for discussion at the Council meeting. Many of these proposals dealt with organizational changes; others, however, suggested expanding both the "contacts" and activities of the WPC (*Peace Courier*, January). In the dialogue preceding the Council, particular attention was given to charting a new "action program" to take advantage of the improved international climate. The key to success in a period when "peace and détente" have the growing support of millions "will be the unity of action of all peace forces throughout the world, a unity bringing together diverse political forces concerned with the future of

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mankind" (ibid., February). Immediately before the Council, the Presidential Committee finalized the agenda, drew up for approval proposals to amend the statutes, and prepared the lists of Council members for election (Conference Documents).

The Council opened in Sofia before nearly 600 participants representing 103 countries and 30 international and non-governmental organizations. Bulgarian state and party head Todor Zhivkov delivered the initial speech. He was followed by Chandra, who thanked both the Bulgarian people and the other socialist countries for their contribution in the struggle for peace. In talking of the future, he emphasized the need to take into account the growing desire of all peoples for peace and thus the opportunities available to the WPC. Chandra added that the WPC is prepared for the occasion: it is a mass movement with national organizations in all parts of the world, and increasingly enjoys the support of groups not only in the socialist countries but also in the capitalist and non-aligned ones; all movements struggling for national liberation have sided with the WPC. Chandra spoke again and again of the need for unity of all peace-loving forces. (Sofia radio, 16 February.)

Four general commissions met during the second day. In one, representatives from peace organizations reviewed the role of the WPC, and the previous WPC Congress, in the "struggle for victory of peace and the relaxation of international tension." Speaking in this commission, Chandra noted "that certain peace organizations should be watched because they had taken an anti-Soviet stance—they had stopped being genuine peace organizations." The second commission discussed cooperation between the WPC and international organizations. It was determined here to continue the practice by the WPC affiliates of taking a stand on important questions in the United Nations and its Committees. In the third, on disarmament, the delegates denounced the high expenditures on armaments and praised the Soviet proposal for a cutback in the military budgets. The Bangladesh delegates accused the imperialists—including China—of hampering the establishment of a lasting peace on the subcontinent. The fourth, on "Hotspots: the Middle East and Indochina," saw Israel's occupation of Arab lands as the source of extreme tension, and the continued U.S. support of the "puppet" regimes in Southeast Asia as dangerous and war-provoking. (BTA, Bulgarian news agency, 17 February.)

On the third day the regional commissions on Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America held their sessions. The main topic throughout was disarmament and the regulation of arms. All speakers referred to the decisive role played in the area of disarmament by the socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union. The European group reviewed progress on European security and the role public opinion could play in reducing tensions. The African, Asian, and Latin American Commissions argued on behalf of liberation struggles and for the creation of united anti-imperialist fronts on each continent. Future seminars and conferences, on topics such as "Problems of the Indian Ocean," were projected. (*Daily Bulletin*, 19 February; BTA, 18 February.) Resolutions called for the peace forces to rally behind the struggle to build the edifice of peace; to defeat fascism, particularly in Chile; to remove Israeli forces from Arab lands; and to wage a just struggle against the imperialists in Indochina (BTA, 19 February). (The full reports of these commissions were issued on 13 March and are contained in the *Peace Courier* of that month).

After the close of the World Congress of Peace Forces, October 1973, a delegation from the Congress visited the United Nations headquarters in New York. This organized post-Congress activity was consistent with the general directions issued at the Congress. The delegation delivered the "conclusions" of the Congress to the president of the U.N. General Assembly and then spoke with the secretary-general. Prior to its departure, the members met with various U.N. representatives to discuss the "urgent issues" raised at the Congress (*Peace Courier*, no. 11, 1973). In early 1974 Chandra announced that the "Steering Committee," which had been set up at the October Congress, would convene for the first time in Moscow in February. This committee was created to maintain post-Congress organizational direction over various "peace" activities. In making this announcement Chandra indicated that the committee would operate under the slogan "There is no Time to be Lost" and

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would discuss the mechanics of further strengthening cooperation with all organizations and parties which participated in the Congress and ways of realizing the decisions of the Congress and its 14 commissions. (TASS, 15 January.)

Representatives from 20 international and 34 national organizations took part in a meeting of the Steering Committee in Moscow on 9-10 February 1974. Participants reported on the broad support the decisions of the Congress had received in their respective countries. It was also noted that the Congress had sent representatives to the highest level in the United Nations and UNESCO and that these bodies had pledged their cooperation in the struggle for peace. The Steering Committee decided that it was necessary to establish a body to coordinate the activities of the international and national organizations represented at the Congress. This decision led to the formation of the Permanent Liaison Committee of the World Congress of Peace Forces. This new committee, headed by Chandra, acts as an international coordinating body for the WPC. Other executives of the committee are vice-chairman, Sean MacBride (Ireland; president of the International Peace Bureau); executive secretary, Oleg Kharkhardin (U.S.S.R.); Horace Perera from Sri Lanka (secretary-general of the World Federation of United Nations Associations); and Mikhail Zimyanin (U.S.S.R.; IOJ vice-president). In its first public statement, the Liaison Committee issued a letter on 12 March outlining an extensive list of activities that would be undertaken under the sponsorship of the WPC in the months ahead. (*Neues Deutschland*, East Berlin, 10-12 February; TASS, 11 February.)

The first meeting of the Working Commission of the Continuing Liaison Committee was held in London on 22-23 June with the All-Britain Peace Liaison Group as host and representatives from numerous international organizations on hand. Problems in Chile, Vietnam, and the Middle East were discussed; concern was expressed at the slow progress of the negotiations on European security; and special emphasis was placed on the need to increase the cooperation between non-governmental public organizations and the United Nations and other inter-governmental organizations (*Peace Courier*, no. 7).

The WPC Secretariat called for observance of a special month of celebration in honor of the "twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Peace Movement." This month, 25 April-25 May, was highlighted by a Presidential Committee anniversary meeting in Paris on 26 May, preceded by rallies held by national peace movements of such countries as Argentina, Norway, Senegal, Finland, and Bulgaria. On 28 May, more than 2,000 persons attended the commemorative meeting in the Salle Pleyel in Paris. (*L'Humanité*, Paris, 23, 27, 29 May; *Peace Courier*, nos. 4, 5.)

A consultative meeting on the Middle East was held by the WPC in Rome early in December 1973. Discussion was focused on possible initiatives by public opinion to pressure Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab territories and to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. It was decided to hold another international conference on the Middle East and the Italian Peace Committee, given the responsibility of convening an international preparatory committee, organized a meeting in Rome on 23 February which was attended by representatives from the international fronts and from numerous national groups (*WFTU Flashes*, no. 10). A second preparatory gathering, in Rome on 1 June, decided to hold the conference no later than the end of October (*L'Unità*, Rome, 5 June).

On 15-19 October the WPC Bureau met in Panama. The session, devoted to problems of Latin America, ranged over a number of subjects, but the main stress was on the importance of the national liberation movements and the danger inherent in the "fascist dictatorship" in Chile. The rise of fascism in Chile and other areas of Latin America was blamed on imperialism, international corporations, and the machinations of local oligarchies. To combat the multi-national companies, it was decided to organize an "international week of mobilization of masses" that would bring public pressure against these business corporations. The Bureau also determined to establish a new regional organization in Latin America to "defend the interests of the peoples." (TASS, 19 October.) A week after the Bureau meeting, the "International Committee for Continued Actions and Contacts of the

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World Congress of Peace Forces" met in Moscow, 25-27 October. More than 80 international and national organizations from almost 100 countries were represented. Vasily Isaeve, vice-chairman of Moscow City Soviet, welcomed the participants. In his speech, Chandra indicated that the forces of cooperation and détente had begun to prevail; fascism had been routed in Portugal, Guinea-Bissau had been liberated, and a new government had been formed in Mozambique. The final communiqué stressed the need for the continued struggle against the menace of imperialism. (TASS, 25, 27, 28 October.)

In line with the general interest over population questions, the WPC sponsored with the "Congolese Association of Friendship among Peoples," a seminar on "Population and Development" in Brazzaville. Third World countries and international organizations were well represented. All points of the agenda linked population with economic, social, and racial issues; the concluding remarks noted that "false and confusing theories were being put forward" on the issue of population. (*Peace Courier*, no. 7). The report of this seminar was subsequently presented to the U.N.-sponsored Population Conference in Bucharest, where the WPC held a series of informal discussions with the delegates (ibid., no. 8/9).

The WPC was represented at an "International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations against Apartheid and Colonialism," held at Geneva, 2-5 September and organized by the Sub-Committee on Racism and Decolonization of the Special NGO Committee on Human Rights. R. Chandra is the chairman of this sub-committee. In addition to the NGOs, governments and national liberation movements were also well represented. Indeed, the national liberation movements were the driving force behind much of the discussions. (Ibid., no. 10.) The fact that Chandra chaired the sub-committee which organized the gathering, that Sean McBride, commissioner of the Council for Namibia and executive of the WPC's new Steering Committee, chaired the opening plenary session of this gathering, and that other WPC members were prominent in the organizations and national liberation movements represented clearly indicated that the WPC has attained an influential position in this and other "peripheral" organizations of the United Nations. Indeed, the WPC's influence in the United Nations can no longer be discounted.

The WPC along with other international fronts and non-governmental organizations met in mid-September in Paris and called for "urgent implementation of the Resolution of the Security Council on Cyprus." The declaration issued at the end of the session accused NATO of trying to deny Cyprus its independence (TASS, 23 September). This action followed a special WPC Bureau meeting in July which had set in motion the machinery for the Paris gathering (*Peace Courier*, no. 8/9).

A "Second International Seminar on Oil and Raw Materials for Economic Development, Social Progress and Equitable Economic Relations" was planned for Baghdad in November, to be jointly sponsored by the AAPSO. Among the agenda items are nationalization, oil revenues in the service of development, and the use of oil as a weapon in the struggle against imperialism. (Ibid.)

Chandra addressed the "All-India Peace and Solidarity" meeting in August, a national preparatory committee gathering for the "Conference on the Indian Ocean Bases" to be held in New Delhi in November. It was decided at this meeting that during October there would be a broad-based campaign on the Indian Ocean issue and against monopolies, and that 1 November would be observed as Indian Ocean Day. (*New Age*, New Delhi, 1 September.) In Hyderabad, India, earlier in the year Chandra led a WPC delegation to a similar conference sponsored by the All-Indian Peace and Solidarity Organization. The delegates called then for the liquidation of U.S. and British military bases in the Indian Ocean, and proposed the Indian Ocean Conference (*Patriot*, New Delhi, 8 January).

Christian Peace Conference. The Christian Peace Conference (CPC) emerged in 1974 as a particularly active group. Since the CPC operates in tandem with the WPC, the CPC activities are discussed in this section. A few years ago *Le Figaro* (Paris, 10 October 1973) had the following comment: "After

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the 1968 events in Czechoslovakia deep repercussions have occurred within the CPC so that it has become an instrument of Soviet policy."

On 5-7 December 1973, the CPC Secretariat met in Prague and reviewed plans for 1974 (*CPC Information*, no. 143, 8 December). On 17-20 January 1974 more than 50 participants attended a meeting in Budapest of the CPC's Committee for International Affairs which discussed "peaceful coexistence and the tasks of churches and Christians" (MTI, 18 January). Shortly thereafter, in Moscow, CPC president Metropolitan Nikodim (U.S.S.R.) held general discussions with CPC secretary-general Karoly Toth (Hungary) and 16 other delegates. Preparations were made for several upcoming meetings. (Ibid., no. 146, 1974.)

In Prague on 4-8 March, the CPC Study Commission for Economy and Politics discussed threats to world peace and agreed that an essential part of Christian activity consisted of exposing the "warlike political-economic mechanism of imperialism." (ibid., no. 149, 11 March). On 12-15 March some 50 representatives of churches and Christian organizations gathered in Prague as a working commission to review means of cooperation of all peace forces and the tasks of the CPC. The debate ranged over problems connected with the Indian Ocean, European security, Chile and Vietnam; the results of the World Congress of Peace Forces were fully supported (Prague radio, 14 March).

The CPC Sub-Commission on the Middle-East met in Cairo on 23-27 April. H. Hellstern (Switzerland), Bishop Samuel (Coptic Orthodox Church), and Archbishop Filaret (Russian Orthodox Church) chaired the commission. A series of topics were discussed, all of which dealt in some fashion with the politics of the area; the general position of the participants was supportive of the Arab struggle against Zionism. Several speakers linked the Christian commitment to the liberation struggle of the Palestinians while others talked of oil and its impact on politics and peace. In the end the meeting adopted a statement of principles placing the CPC firmly behind the struggle against Zionism. (Ibid., no. 153, 20 April.)

Representatives from the WPC Secretariat and Finnish churches attended the CPC International Secretariat meeting in Helsinki, 4-8 June. The report of the secretary-general, K. Toth, focused primarily on European security and Chile. It also noted, however, that "new prospects" were opening up for cooperation with churches in Africa and Asia. Agreement was reached on Cuba as the site of the next meeting of the International Secretariat; plans were laid as well for an "Asian Christian Peace Conference" in India. (Ibid., no. 156, 10 June.)

Publications. The WPC issues a semi-monthly bulletin, *Peace Courier*, in English, French, Spanish, and German, and a quarterly journal, *New Perspectives*, in English and French. The WPC also distributes occasionally a *Letter to National Committees*, and a *Letter* to members. Two new publications appeared in 1973: *Middle East News Letter* and *Spotlight on Africa*. Documents, statements, and press releases are issued in connection with conferences and campaigns.

California State College
Stanislaus

Paul F. Magnelia

**INTERNATIONAL
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SEPTEMBER 1973

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL (WPC)

Conseil mondial de la paix; Weltfriedensrat; Consejo Mundial de la Paz

HEADQUARTERS

Lonnrotink 25A, Helsinki 18

HISTORY

The Communist world peace movement dates from August, 1948, when a *World Congress of Intellectuals for Peace* was held at Wroclaw, Poland. This led to the first *World Peace Congress* in Paris in April, 1949, which launched the "World Committee of Partisans of Peace", which in November, 1950, became the World Peace Council. Although the name subsequently changed to the World Council of Peace (WCP), in 1970 it reverted to the name World Peace Council.

The WPC was originally based in Paris but was expelled in 1951 by the French Government for "fifth column activities". It first moved to Prague and then in 1954 to Vienna, where in 1957 it was banned by the Minister of the Interior for "activities directed against the interest of the Austrian State". However it continued to operate in Vienna under the guise of the International Institute for Peace (IIP) (see page 63) until it moved to Helsinki in September, 1968.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

The *Council* is the highest authority of the movement, and comprises representatives of international and regional organisations, national peace committees and other national bodies. The membership fluctuates and is currently about 700. Provision is made for Honorary Members and Observers in the case of individuals, and for Associate Members in the case of organisations. It meets at the same time as the World Peace Congress, now held every two years. Nine Congresses have been held: April, 1949 (Paris and Prague), November, 1950 (Warsaw), December, 1952 (Vienna), June, 1955 (Helsinki), July, 1958 (Stockholm), July, 1962 (Moscow), July, 1965 (Helsinki), June, 1969 (East Berlin), and May, 1971 (Budapest). The next Congress will be held in Moscow in October, 1973.

The *Presidential Committee* is elected by the Council, although new members are often appointed between meetings. It controls the WPC between Council meetings and normally meets twice a year. Since the death of Prof. Joliot-Curie in 1958 there has been no President. Although Prof. J. D. Bernal was Chairman of the Presidential Committee from May, 1959, until he resigned owing to ill-health in July, 1965, he did not have the powers of President. In 1966 Romesh Chandra, a member of the Central Committee of the Indian Communist Party, was appointed Secretary-General, a post which he still holds. The Committee has gradually

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increased in size and currently has about 69 members, including two observers. A *Working Group* of the Committee was set up in 1969 to consider urgent matters between meetings of the full committee, and its membership varies. There are also four Honorary Presidents: Rev. Ralph Abernathy (USA), V. K. Krishna Menon (India), Ekangati Nzo (Cameroon) and Louis Saillant (France).

The *Secretariat* is the executive arm of the Presidential Committee, which appoints its members. It is responsible for implementing decisions of the Committee and initiating further action in accordance with its general directives. It consists of the *Secretary-General* and 14 full-time *Secretaries*, most of whom are Communists. There are also a number of other full-time Secretariat staff. The Secretaries are:

Mohamed Al Jundi, Egypt
 James Forest, USA
 Josiah Jele, South Africa
 Kazimierz Kielan, Poland
 Evgenia Kiranova, Bulgaria
 Manuel Lafuente, Spain
 Michel Langignon, France
 Dr. Gabor Nagy, Hungary
 Ardito Pellizzari, Italy
 Om Prakash Paliwal, India
 Emilson Randriamiasinoro, Malagasy Republic
 Alfredo Varela, Argentine
 Nikolai Voshchinin, USSR
 Alfred Wilke, East Germany

The main staff members are:
 Aleksandr Berkov, USSR
 Leonid Vladimirov, USSR, (Director of the WPC Information Centre)
 Vladimir Glukhov, USSR, member of the Editorial Board, and
 Gerhard Voigt, East Germany, Administrator.

Subsidiary Organisations

The WPC has set up numerous subsidiary bodies, usually on a specific subject for a specific campaign. Those which are currently active include: *Disarmament Commission*, *National Independence Commission*, *Cultural Commission*, *European Security Commission*, *Commission on Development and Commission on Racism and Racial Discrimination*.

Membership

The WPC is organised on a national basis. No figure of the total membership has ever been given, but over 80 countries have members on the Council, the majority as representatives of National Peace Committees, though many of these are

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inactive. These committees are controlled by Communists and fellow-travellers, and although some non-Communists join in the belief that they are supporting an idealistic peace organisation that is above politics, the true rôle of the WPC has been increasingly exposed. Although the WPC has recruited new members to replace those who have resigned or died it has attracted few prominent personalities who are not Communists or Communist sympathisers. It has also been largely unsuccessful in trying to persuade other international bodies to join its ranks, and nearly all who have done so are themselves Communist front organisations, some set up on the initiative of the WPC.

Finance

According to the WPC its funds are obtained from contributions from National Peace Committees, donations to the World Peace Fund and collections for special activities. Every national organisation, movement or group represented in the WPC, and every individual member of the Council must, according to the rules, make an annual contribution to the funds. It is, however, impossible for its vast expenditure to be raised by normal subscriptions. Although there are periodic pleas for funds, most of the WPC's expenses are met by the Soviet Union and East European Peace Committees, particularly in the form of air fares and accommodation facilities for meetings and conferences, and for delegations.

Publications

The WPC journal *New Perspectives* was introduced in May, 1971, to replace *Perspectives*. It is published every two months in English and French and Romesh Chandra is the Chief Editor. *Peace Courier* replaced the *Information Bulletin* in September, 1971, and is published monthly in English, French, Spanish and German. The WPC also publishes *Indo-China Newsletter*, issued monthly. *Voice of the WPC*, published monthly or twice monthly, and a series of letters from the Secretary-General to National Peace Committees and members. The first issues of two new publications, *Middle East Newsletter* and *Spotlight on Africa*, appeared in April, 1973.

A number of pamphlets are issued which report on major meetings or topics of current interest, e.g. *The WPC and Bangladesh*; *For the Admission of the GDR to the UN and its Special Agencies*; *For Peace and Justice in the Middle East*; *Solidarity with the People of Guinea*; *Stop the bombing of Vietnam Now*.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Front Organisations

The WPC maintains close relations with all the other major front organisations, some of which are represented on the Presidential Committee and most on the Council. Since 1966 the WPC has sought to increase and co-ordinate this relation-

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WPC

Confederation for Disarmament and Peace (ICDP) and the War Resisters' International (WRI). But co-operation was short-lived and confined largely to one major issue or campaign, e.g. Indochina (see under Campaign on Indochina). The Christian Peace Conference (CPC), with which the WPC has for some time sought closer relations, disintegrated following the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, and many prominent members from West European countries resigned. It is now a Soviet-controlled organisation, working closely with the WPC, and efforts are being made to strengthen its influence, particularly in the developing countries (see page 62).

More recently efforts have been made to secure the co-operation of regional organisations in the developing countries. These include the Organisation for African Unity (OAU), represented on the Presidential Committee, and the All-African Trade Union Federation (AATUF), and the Permanent Congress of Latin American Trade Union Unity (CPUSTAL), both represented on the Council. Other organisations with which the WPC has close connections are the Stockholm Conference on Vietnam (see page 64), and the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) (see page 66).

AVOWED AIMS

The stated aims of the WPC, as amended and adopted by the Assembly in May, 1971, are:

- Prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction and ending of the arms drive; abolition of foreign military bases; general simultaneous and controlled disarmament;
- Elimination of all forms of colonialism and racial discrimination;
- Respect for the right of the peoples to sovereignty and independence, essential for the establishment of peace;
- Respect for the territorial integrity of States;
- Non-interference in the internal affairs of nations;
- Establishment of mutually beneficial trade and cultural relations based on friendship and mutual respect;
- Peaceful co-existence between States with different political systems;
- Replacement of the policy of force by that of negotiations for settling differences between nations.

ACTUAL POLICIES

Since its inception the WPC has defended Soviet policies and attacked those of the West. It has attacked the Marshall plan, the European Defence Community, NATO and the European Common Market and supported Soviet policy on the Hungarian uprising (1956), nuclear tests, the Cuban missile crisis (1962), and, more recently, European Security, the Middle East crisis and Indochina. Soviet

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ship and at the World Assembly for Peace in June, 1969, meetings of specialist groups, e.g. trade unionists, youth and students and women were organised by their respective front organisations to give support to propaganda lines laid down. Similar group meetings were held during the 1971 Assembly. Bi-lateral meetings have also taken place and recently delegates from the WFDY, IUS, WIDF, AAPSO and the Christian Peace Conference (CPC) have visited the WPC Headquarters.

United Nations

Following the move of the Secretariat from Vienna to Helsinki in 1968 the WPC made determined efforts to secure membership of the UN special agencies. It secured category C status with UNESCO in 1969 and was admitted to category B in May, 1971. Since then it has conducted a continuous and vigorous campaign to develop and publicise its association with the UN in an attempt to give the organisation an authority, particularly among the developing nations, which it would not otherwise achieve. Nevertheless it supports only those aspects of UN activity which do not conflict with Soviet policies. It also seeks UN support for and participation in, its own campaigns, e.g. on anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism. UN delegates are regularly invited to its meetings in the hope that their presence will help to attract prominent non-Communists to the WPC, thus widening its sphere of influence and helping to disguise its true nature and objectives.

Several WPC delegations have visited the UN in New York and Geneva. In New York in 1971 delegates were received by the then Secretary-General, U Thant and by the President of the Assembly, and members addressed meetings of the Special Political Committee and the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly. The WPC has also played an increasing part in the activities of the Non-governmental organisations Committees on Disarmament, the Second Development Decade and Human Rights. It is a member of the Bureau of the Conference of Non-governmental organisations and is seeking to promote a number of jointly sponsored meetings. In February, 1973, a representative of the UN Special Committees on Apartheid and on the Situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples visited WPC Headquarters in Helsinki for talks on future co-operation.

Consideration is being given by the WPC to the appointment of permanent representatives to several centres where it is playing an increasing rôle in UN activities, i.e. New York, Geneva, and Paris. It is also seeking UN participation in the *World Peace Assembly* in Moscow in October, 1973.

Other Organisations

In recent years the WPC has made considerable efforts to secure closer co-operation with non-Communist organisations, particularly pacifist bodies and religious groups. Although this campaign has had little success, largely because the WPC is unable to convince others for long that it is impartial and non-aligned, there has been contact with certain pacifist bodies, such as the International

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foreign policy of our party and government and an expression of confidence in the Soviet peoples and their multi-million strong army of fighters for peace.

Replying to questions on the peace movement and the rôle of the WPC from readers of the *World Marxist Review* of May, 1973, Chandra said that "... the most important changes in recent years can be linked to the Peace Programme adopted at the 24th CPSU Congress... Everywhere the Communist and Workers' parties are in the forefront of the struggle for peace. Naturally this applies to the ruling parties in the Socialist countries. This is the political cornerstone of our movement". Commenting on the award of the International Lenin Peace Prize to Leonid Brezhnev, Chandra said that it was a "recognition of the successes of the Soviet Union's peaceful foreign policy..." (*Tass*, the Soviet news agency, May 5, 1973).

ACTIVITIES

Congresses

These meetings (see page 7 for details), are propaganda events to which the WPC endeavours to attract the attendance of numerous prominent non-Communist organisations and personalities. The main decisions and organisational work is done by meetings of the Presidential Committee and Council immediately before and after the Congress, however.

Current Campaigns

Indochina

Indochina has for a number of years been the major propaganda subject of the WPC. It has organised or supported numerous meetings and activities and issued regular statements in support of Soviet policy on the war and its aftermath. In particular the WPC has actively supported the activities of the *Stockholm Conference on Vietnam* which it helped to set up in 1967/68 (see page 66). Numerous WPC delegations have visited North Vietnam.

The WPC has also supported the *International Commission of Inquiry into US War Crimes in Vietnam*, set up as a subsidiary to the Stockholm Conference early in 1970 (see page 64).

European Security

In support of Soviet policy on European Security, and of the Warsaw Pact powers call for a governmental Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the WPC mounted a campaign in 1963 to obtain public support for such a conference. It was hoped to bring pressure to bear on the governments of Western European countries by organising a series of meetings, culminating in an *Assembly of Peoples* which, after several postponements, was held in Brussels in June, 1972, and

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control of the organisation has been exposed on many occasions. In 1950, when it was barely two years old, Sir Vincent Tewson, then General Secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, referred to it as "the stool pigeon of the Cominform", and during the Sino-Soviet dispute the Chinese delegate to the Presidential Committee meeting in April, 1964, accused the Soviet delegates of turning the organisation into "a tool for carrying out the erroneous foreign policy of the Soviet Union".

Following the World Peace Assembly in June, 1969, one of the delegates, Peggy Duff, the British General Secretary of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace (ICDP), wrote in *Tribune* of July 4, 1969, "there were also a number who decided to vote against the general resolution for three reasons (a) it was platitudinous (b) it was one-sided and (c) in protest against restrictions on minorities and the Press within the Assembly. This proved impossible in the end for no vote was taken." She contended that there were individuals and some organisations within the WPC anxious to liberalise it as far as possible within the "strait-jacket of its Soviet face..." but there were obstacles in the way, e.g. too many delegates and their organisations were "client States" of the Soviet Union... "what controversial discussions took place were behind closed doors and rarely reached the Press".

W. E. Gollan, member of the National Executive of the Australian Communist Party and a member of the WPC, also commented on the suppression of controversial issues at the 1969 Assembly. He said "my feeling is that there was a certain air of unreality in that some important questions were not discussed. These were particularly the questions of China, Czechoslovakia and Biafra" (*Tribune* (Australia), July 16, 1969).

The Indian weekly, *Political and Economic Review* of November 4, 1970, questioned Chandra's promise at the Assembly in June, 1969, that all delegations would be able to express their opinions. It quoted from an interview with the Yugoslav delegation reported on June 25 by the Yugoslav news agency *Tanyug*: "All delegations have not enjoyed equal treatment at the plenary sessions or the commissions, sub-commissions and specialised groups, and in working out the final documents. Some had more opportunity to state their views and influence the shape of the reports and other documents, whereas the others, especially small delegations—including the Yugoslav—found it difficult to state their views to an audience larger than a sub-commission."

A report in *The Current* (India) of November 6, 1971, commenting on the revival of WPC activities following the set-back after the Czechoslovak crisis said that "the Russians are again reinforcing it so that it will take its place at the head of their various propaganda agencies".

Full WPC support for Soviet policies was claimed by N. Tikhonov, Chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, writing in *Pravda* of January 4, 1973. Referring to the decision of the WPC to hold its next Congress in Moscow in October, 1973, he said: "We regard it as an expression of support and approval for the peace-loving

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place in Santiago in October, 1972, and a *Meeting of Central American Peace Forces* was held in Panama in June, 1973. A number of other meetings, which the WPC hoped to hold there in 1972 failed to materialise, however.

Africa

The WPC has made little progress in its attempts to strengthen its position in Africa, and the Cairo-based AAPSO has been preoccupied with the Israeli/Arab dispute. No major meetings have been held although a number were planned for 1972, usually in co-operation with AAPSO. A meeting of the WPC National Independence Commission was held in Conakry in November, 1971, and a meeting of African Peace Committees was held in Tananarive in July, 1973.

The WPC has made considerable efforts to support the African liberation movements which are represented on the Presidential Committee by Marcelino Dos Santos, Vice-President of the Liberation Front of Mozambique (FRELIMO) and Dr. Agostinho Neto, President of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). A meeting of representatives of the liberation movements and the WPC Secretariat was held in Helsinki in February, 1971. The WPC also actively supported the *International Conference on Namibia* held in Brussels in May, 1972, and held a meeting of its *Commission on Racism* immediately after the Conference.

It has recently made vigorous efforts to establish close relations with the Organisation for African Unity (OAU), and Chandra led a delegation to meet the Secretary-General in February, 1973, when they discussed ways of strengthening co-operation between the two bodies. The OAU has been awarded the WPC Joliot-Curie Gold Medal.

Middle East

The WPC has continued its campaign of support of Soviet policy on the Arab/Israeli dispute (see under Campaigns, page 14). It has also recently taken an active interest in economic matters in the area, jointly sponsoring with AAPSO two meetings in Baghdad (in August and November, 1972) supporting the nationalisation of the oil industry by the Iraqi Government. It has supported the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and at a *Meeting of Arab Peace Committees* held in Cairo in May, 1972, supported the convening of a *Popular Arab Conference in support of the Palestine Revolution*, subsequently held in Beirut in November, 1972, with WPC participation.

The WPC has maintained its close co-operation with AAPSO, whose Secretary-General, Yusuf El Sebai, is a member of the Presidential Committee. A number of jointly sponsored meetings have been held, mainly on Middle East affairs, and more are planned for 1973. The close links between many National Peace Committees and National Afro-Asian Solidarity Committees was emphasised at the *All-India Congress for Peace and Solidarity* held in Calcutta in September, 1972, when the two Committees merged.

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became known as the *Brussels Assembly*. By this time, however, most Western governments had already agreed in principle to such a conference, and the campaign thus lost much of its momentum. Before the Assembly the Russians had initiated the formation of *National Committees for European Security* to stimulate the campaign and to widen its appeal. The Belgian Committee which absorbed the original Belgian Sponsoring Committee, organised the Assembly, closely supervised by the Soviet Committee. According to Romesh Chandra, the WPC "took a leading part" in preparations for the Assembly, and members of its Presidential Committee "were among the principal organisers and leaders of activities in support of the Assembly". The other major front organisations also supported the conference and a *Committee for Contact and Co-ordination* was set up to continue its work. The Committee plans to hold a number of meetings during 1973.

Middle East

The WPC has organised and supported various meetings and activities in support of Soviet policy on the Arab/Israeli dispute including a *Meeting of Solidarity with the Palestinian Resistance*, August, 1971, in Cairo, and a *Meeting of Arab Peace Committees*, May, 1972 in Cairo. A *Conference on Peace and Justice in the Middle East*, scheduled for 1970, was postponed several times due to disagreement over Israeli participation, but was eventually held in Bologna, Italy, in May, 1973. It was co-sponsored by the AAPSO, with which the WPC has worked closely on Middle East questions.

Regional Activities

Europe

WPC activity in Europe in recent years has concentrated almost exclusively on supporting Soviet policy on European Security (see above). It also supported the campaign for the recognition of East Germany, and for its admission to the United Nations. In April, 1972, a WPC delegation, led by Krishna Menon (India), Hon. President, visited Northern Ireland on a "fact-finding" mission under the auspices of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA), but its findings were never published. Other meetings held include a *Seminar on Fascism, Neo-Fascism and Neo-Nazism*, Frankfurt (May, 1970), a meeting on European Security in Reykjavik (June, 1973), and a meeting on disarmament in Basle (June, 1973).

Latin America

The election of Salvador Allende, WPC member and a recipient of the WPC Joliot Curie Gold Medal (1971), as President of Chile was welcomed by the WPC. "he has always given the WPC valuable co-operation". This, coupled with an improvement in Soviet/Cuban relations, encouraged the WPC to step up its activity in Latin America. The first meeting of its Presidential Committee to be held there took

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU)

Fédération syndicale mondiale; Weltgewerkschaftsbund; Federación Sindical Mundial

HEADQUARTERS

Names: Curleovych 1, Prague 1

HISTORY

The WFTU was set up in Paris in October, 1945, on the initiative of the British Trades Union Congress, which convened a preparatory conference in London in February. Louis Salliant (France) was appointed Secretary-General on the insistence of the Russians, and he became increasingly powerful, packing the Secretariat with Communists. They rapidly secured control of WFTU's ruling bodies and in 1948 Arthur Deakin, Chairman of the TUC, said: "The WFTU is rapidly becoming nothing more than another platform and instrument for the furtherance of Soviet policy."

By January, 1949, the position had deteriorated to such an extent that the British TUC, the American CIO and the Dutch NVV led a withdrawal of non-Communists from the WFTU and in the following November they set up the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in Brussels. Mr. Deakin told the TUC in September, 1949: "We started with an honest intention, but we were not dealing with honest men."

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

The Congress is the highest authority of the WFTU and is held every four years. It has met as follows:

October, 1945	Paris
June, 1949	Milan
October, 1953	Vienna
October, 1957	Leipzig
December, 1961	Moscow
October, 1965	Warsaw
October, 1969	Budapest

The Eighth Congress is due to be held in Varna, Bulgaria, in October, 1973. At the Seventh Congress in 1969 several major changes were made in the structure. The *Executive Committee* was abolished and the powers of the *General Council* and the *Bureau* changed accordingly. An Honorary President was appointed

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Asia

WPC activities in Asia have been almost exclusively concerned with the Vietnam war (see Campaigns, page 13).

The few WPC meetings held in Asia have been concentrated in India, where Chandra has close links with the Indian Communist Party (CPI) and the Peace and Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. In March, 1972, the WPC and AAPSO jointly sponsored a *Seminar on Imperialism and Independence* held in New Delhi. It also supported the *Conference for Peace and Afro-Asian Solidarity* held in Calcutta in September, 1972, and held an *International Conference on Peace and Security in Asia* in Dacca in May, 1973. Chandra, addressing the conference, said that "... only co-operation with the USSR can serve as a guarantee of the independence of peoples and collective security of Asia ... " (Tass, May 23, 1973).

The WPC has also supported Soviet policy, in statements and resolutions, on the "growth of Japanese militarism", support for the peoples of Bangladesh and its leader (a WPC delegation visited Bangladesh in January, 1972), criticism of the Pakistan Government in the Indian-Pakistan conflict in December, 1971, and support for the Indo-Soviet Treaty.

International Peace Prizes and Medals

Since 1949 the WPC has introduced a number of Peace Prizes and Medals. Those currently awarded are the Joliot-Curie Gold Medal and the Gregoris Lambrakis Silver Medal. The number awarded fluctuates from year to year.

Anniversaries

The number of "Anniversaries" and "Solidarity Days" celebrated by the WPC grows from year to year and is now very large, covering most of the campaigns and countries about which it has held meetings or issued statements. A number of "Cultural Anniversaries" are also celebrated annually, selected from nominations submitted by National Peace Committees.

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