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VI. THE WFTU CENTRAL SCHOOL FOR TRADE UNION CADRES

One of the more significant developments in the international Communist labor movement has been the establishment by the WFTU of a training school for cadres known as the Central School for Trade Union Cadres.

The official decision to inaugurate a full-scale program for the training of cadres was made at the Executive Bureau meeting held in Vienna in February 1953.

At the Third WFTU Congress in October 1953, Louis SAILLANT, Secretary General of the WFTU, gave the first official indication that such a program was already under way when he stated:

"For a long time, the syndical organizations have been requesting assistance from the WFTU in the formation of trade union cadres. Well, during the month of July we opened the WFTU Central School for Trade Union Cadres. We have constituted an organization. The school is created. The first cycle of courses took place during July, August and September, with positive results."

Subsequent statements by SAILLANT have indicated that the school exists for the primary purpose of training trade union cadres from the "colonial and semi-colonial countries."

The Central School for Trade Union Cadres is located near Budapest, Hungary. The WFTU has endeavored to keep secret the location of the school, courses offered, and the identity of the students, and has consistently worked to create the impression that the school is located in Vienna. IT

As far as is known, the faculty of the school is made up of Soviet, Hungarian, and Italian instructors. There is also a staff of translators and interpreters available. Each course, consisting of approximately 30 students, lasts about three months. The course of instruction includes the study of basic Communist doctrine, as well as problems of trade union theory and practice. Four courses were completed during 1953-54.

All expenses are borne by the WFTU which, in addition to paying transportation costs to and from the school, also provides the students with spending money.

In selecting students for training from the "colonial and semi-colonial" countries, where there is no long tradition of trade unionism, the WFTU apparently hopes thereby to raise the level of work and leadership in these countries, and at the same time establish loyal nuclei of trade unionists who, as a result of their indoctrination and training in the WFTU school, will remain amenable to WFTU control.