

The Politics of FISE

"U.S. imperialism, stained with the blood of Korean women, is trying to spread war all over the world and to throw mankind into the flames."

FISE Executive Bureau, February 1951

The World Federation of Teachers' Unions, commonly referred to as FISE, is a Communist-controlled international front organization. It is a trade Department of the Communist World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). Ninety per cent of its membership is made up of teachers in State controlled unions in Communist countries. It is dominated by the Soviet and Chinese Communist teachers unions. It never publishes its budget or sources of income.

FISE relations with other Communist fronts for the exploitation of labor, youth, women, and students were reaffirmed in the following resolution of the FISE administrative Committee meeting in Budapest, January 14-18, 1956:

"At the same time, while strengthening the links with the WFTU, the secretariat of the FISE will develop collaboration with the WFDY, with the WIDF and with the IUS. Comrade Erdei (Budapest) will be responsible for cooperation with the WFDY, Comrade Wilke (Berlin) with the WIDF and Comrade Stepanek (Prague) with the IUS."

The subversive nature of the activities of FISE on behalf of the Soviet Union is attested to by the fact that it (along with WFTU) was expelled from Paris in 1951 and from Vienna in 1956 because of activities inimical to the interests of its host governments. It is presumed that, like WFTU, it will set up its new Headquarters in a country under Communist control.

FISE makes no attempt to disguise the fact that it is a political organization. It does, of course, wish to camouflage the true orientation of its politics. Nonetheless, its real subservience to the exigencies of Soviet foreign policy can readily be deduced from even a cursory survey of its own pronouncements. These have been characterized by undeviating praise of Communist societies and an obsessive hatred of all governments considered to be opponents of the Soviet Union, particularly the United States. Thus this organization has used the good name of the world teaching profession to support such statements as these:

"Everywhere our enemy is the same - American imperialism which in its determination to dominate the world, tries to impose the same methods of compulsion on all education systems throughout the world.

Teachers of the World, Jan 1952

"The Security Council of the United Nations, which four years ago supported a war of aggression in Korea, rejected the complaint of Guatemala".

Teachers of the World, July-Sept. 1954

"The Executive Bureau of the FISE declares that the armament race and the policy of aggression pursued by the governments of the imperialist states headed by the USA monopolists, are leading to the further reduction of expenditure on peaceful pursuits, and in particular for state education. . . The Executive Bureau of the FISE stresses with indignation that the imperialists are trying to make use of the schools for purposes of war propaganda to spread among the children feelings of hatred towards other nations. This is the reason why today in some capitalist states, and above all in the United States, those teachers are persecuted who stand up for education of the younger generation in the spirit of peace and friendship among nations."

Teachers of the World; May 1953

"Hitler exalted the myth of superior race and blood; he said that the Aryans must rule the world. But in the United States, American capitalists claim "to defend democracy" by persecuting true democrats."

Teachers of the World, Nov. 1953

"Stalin has been the most exceptional educator. . . Stalin's work is founded on a knowledge of the laws that man must learn to understand; these laws are objective; therefore it is possible to teach men how to discover them, to verify their efficacy, and to put them to practical application. Stalin ceaselessly gave this instruction to his closest collaborators, and whenever the occasion presented itself to the entire people. This is why his work is immortal and will continue. . . Stalin was a great educator, an educator of genius, the educator of educators. Teachers of all countries will be inspired by his great example."

Henri Wallon, Teachers of the World  
May 1953

"the work accomplished by Brother Stalin, at the head of the forces of progress, has transformed the world. Thanks to his immeasurable contribution to the cause of the peoples, the future appears brighter to the youth of all countries. The work of Brother Stalin is immortal, his teachings will guide our action to unite the teachers of the world and educate young people to a consciousness of their responsibilities in building the future."

FISE telegram to Soviet Teachers,  
Teachers of the World, May 1953

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"But the law that a nation which oppresses another cannot itself be free has never been demonstrated more clearly. It is in the United States that the most sacred rights of man are most scandalously violated. Freedom of opinion and of conscience although guaranteed by the Constitution, are officially flouted."

Teachers of the World, Feb. 1952

"Not only does the enemy attempt to divide us, to separate us from the workers and the people, but he attempts to isolate the best fighters, to dismiss them, imprison them. This is what is happening in New York India, Latin America and to a lesser degree, in countries like France, Great Britain and Belgium."

Teachers of the World, Jan. 1952

"Far from improving, the situation worsens from day to day. The war budgets grow fatter, eating into the budgets for education. And because the teachers cannot accept this situation, because they struggle for the prosperity and dignity of their profession side by side with their peoples (pupils?) and with the parents of their pupils, attacks are made on their essential freedoms. The aim is to transform them into resigned and passive servants of the rulers who sacrifice education for war.

"This is the position not only in New York, but also in London, Paris, Brussels, Rome, Tokyo, Copenhagen, in the colonial countries and in many Asian and Latin American countries."

Teachers of the World, Jan-March, 1953

"In spite of the unanimous desire of the people that peace should be maintained, reactionary forces are intensifying their activities and are opposing the relaxation of international tension. . .and they are interfering in the internal affairs of the Latin American peoples with a view to imposing on them dictatorial governments which are subservient to the United States monopolies".

Teachers of the World, Jan-March, 1955

F.I.S.E. Attacks on W.C.O.T.P.

"Set up in Copenhagen in August 1952, on the initiative of American monopoly, the so-called 'World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession' is a reactionary organization which has set itself the task of smashing teachers international unity and thus making it impossible for the teachers to struggle actively for their rights and vital interests and for progress in education."

Teachers of the World, May 1953

In resolutions of its directing bodies, in its publications, and in statements of its leaders F.I.S.E. has launched malicious attacks against the W.C.O.T.P. Attempts to discredit and destroy the W.C.O.T.P. antedate the actual founding of this non-political organization dedicated exclusively to the interests of the teaching profession.

For example:

"The splitting activities carried on in the teaching profession by some reactionary teachers' organizations, formed in the interests of American imperialists, will be denounced in every possible way - by press, radio, etc."

Teachers of the World, January 1950

"MEN WHO ARE PREPARING FOR WAR - WE ACCUSE DR. WILLIAM F. RUSSELL, PRESIDENT, WORLD ORGANIZATION OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION. . . . this is the sinister figure who dominates the W.O.T.P., and will seek to dominate the world Confederation of the Teaching Profession, which he has long sought to establish. . . and we sound a warning against this man. . . who is any enemy of trade unions and social progress, and who has always been identified with American big business, whose war for world domination he supports and seeks to foist upon the teachers and the schools."

Teachers of the World, May 1952

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"...we have constantly had the impression that the W.O.T.P.'s major objective is to try and divide the world teaching profession in two, and to divide it taking into account not considerations connected with education, the interests of teachers, the future of the children, or the maintenance of peace, but taking into account the objectives of the big American employers or of organizations such as the International Business Machine Co. This is all in order to develop a 'cold war' offensive, at the expense of education."

Teachers of the World, May 1953

When, despite the best efforts of FISE the WCOTP was actually established by agreement of the International Federation of Teachers' Associations, the International Federation of Secondary Teachers, and the World Organization of the Teaching Profession, F.I.S.E. greeted this instance of teachers' unity by announcing that the Executive Bureau of F.I.S.E. had resolved:

"to instruct the F.I.S.E. Secretariat...to take steps to examine the activity of the so-called 'World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession', formed in August 1952 in Copenhagen in order to make plain its disruptive role and to end any influence it may have on teachers' organizations unaffiliated to the F.I.S.E.

Teachers of the World, May 1953

Given the professional and rigidly non-partisan nature of W.C.O.T.P., what can explain these unbridled attacks by F.I.S.E.? Even more difficult, why does F.I.S.E. now press for "unity of action" with an organization whose destruction it is officially committed to seek? H

To quote F.I.S.E. on this subject:

"There is no more essential task for our Federation than that of achieving the unity of the teaching body, unity in each country and unity on an international scale.

Only unity can make it possible for us to force the war governments to retreat."

Teachers of the World, Jan-March 1953

Unity, then, is valued not as a means for advancing the interest of teachers or as a medium for searching out truth, but as a weapon for exploiting teachers on behalf of Soviet foreign policy. H

"From time to time happenings in one country are highly instructive for the teachers' organizations in others. For example, Teachers of the World published in its first number an interview with our colleague FAN Ming of Peking, who told how, under the Chiang Kai Shek regime, Chinese teachers in that town managed to organize themselves, to build up unity among themselves, and through their active cooperation with factory workers and parents, to develop a vast movement, centered on the teaching profession, which was an important factor in the liberation struggles of the Chinese people.

"The example of the teachers of Shanghai has been an object-lesson for our comrades in other countries, particularly in Asia, where similar problems are now being faced."

Teachers of the World, May 1952

We very much regret to see that UNESCO which was to have been the meeting place of the countries of the United Nations to discuss their educational, scientific and cultural problems, subsidises and recognizes similar private institutions which, instead of defending the national interests of their respective countries, are capitalist profit-making institutions."

Report by Delanoue, Secretary General  
of FISE, July 1953.

The Leadership of F.I.S.E.

The leaders of F.I.S.E. claim to represent 7,000,000 teachers in all parts of the world. Apart from the fact that no substantiation of this figure is possible, it is at least questionable whether the authentic voice of 7,000,000 teachers could have uttered panegyrics to the despicable Stalin.

What are the credentials of the present F.I.S.E. leadership? The President and Secretary-General are French citizens, although there is no known French affiliate of F.I.S.E. Since there has been no international conference of the F.I.S.E. membership since July 1953 the bona fides of the entire leadership is somewhat dubious.

Given the primary purpose of F.I.S.E. (Coordination of Soviet propaganda and tactics among teachers) these considerations are perhaps irrelevant. The significant fact is that the President, four of the five Vice Presidents, the Secretary-General and his two secretaries have specific Communist connections.

The present leaders of F.I.S.E. are:

President:

Henri MALLON (France)  
French Communist.

Vice Presidents:

Ivan S. GRIVKOV (U.S.S.R.).  
President of the Teachers' Union  
of the Russian Federal Soviet  
Socialist Republic.

FAN Ming (Communist China). Deputy  
Director of the International  
Liaison Department of the All-China  
Federation of Trade Unions.

Cesar GODOY Urrutia (Chile).  
Chilean Communist.

Antonio BANFI (Italy).  
Italian Communist.

Secretary General:

Paul DELANQUE (France). Member of  
the Communist-controlled World  
Peace Council and of the General  
Council of the World Federation of  
Trade Unions.

Secretaries:

Maria MARCHANT (Chile).  
Chilean Communist.

Dimitri TAPTIKOV (U.S.S.R.).