

LIST OF PRINCIPAL MEETINGS
ORGANIZED OR CONTROLLED BY WFTU IN 1959

Title of Conference:

Meeting of the Executive Committee of WFTU

Date:

31 March-3 April 1959

Place:

Warsaw

Sponsorship:

World Federation of Trade Unions

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Title of Conference

Meeting of the General Council of WFTU

Date:

April 1959

Place:

Peking, China

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Sponsorship:

The World Federation of Trade Unions

Probable Attendance:

A total of 147 regular and alternate members of the General Council are eligible to attend.

Evaluation of Meeting:

This is the most important WFTU meeting to be held between World Congress Meetings. It will undoubtedly plan WFTU policy.

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Title of Conference:

Pacific Area Dockers Conference

Date:

15 April-15 May 1959

Place:

Tokyo

Sponsorship:

1. International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), USA.

This union, which was expelled from the CIO in 1950 for following the Communist Party line, has a record of pro-Communist activity dating from its inception in 1934.

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The ILWU occupies a strategic position in that it has a virtual monopoly on longshore labor in ports on the Pacific Coast of the U.S., in Alaska, and in Hawaii.

2. The All Japan Harbor Workers Union (Zen Nihon Kowan Rodo Kumiai - Zenkowan)

Located at 1825-2 Sanno Ota-Ku, Tokyo, Zenkowan is affiliated with the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (Nihon Rodo Kumiai Sohyogikai - SOHYO). Zenkowan has a claimed membership of 20,261.

3. The Madras Harbor Workers Union

This organization has an estimated membership of 100 (1954). It is affiliated with the All India Port and Dock Workers Federation.

4. Waterside Workers Federation of Australia

60-66 Sussex Street, Sydney, Australia

This organization with a claimed membership of 26,100 is Communist-dominated. It is affiliated with the Australian Council of Trade Unions. Representatives of this organization have attended WFTU meetings in the past.

5. Waterside Workers and Seafarers Union of Indonesia

Reported as Waterside Workers and Seafarers Union of Indonesia, this organization is believed to be the Serikat Buruh Pelabuhan dan Pelajaran (SEPP) located in Djakarta. This Communist-led organization has an estimated 30,000 members. It is affiliated with the WFTU and with the TUI of Transport, Port and Fishery Workers.

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Title of Conference

Third International Conference of the TUI of Chemical and Oil Workers

Date:

25 May 1959

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Place:

Leipzig

Sponsorship:

Trade Unions International of Chemical and Oil Workers,
a trade department of the WFTU.

Probable Attendance:

At its 1954 Conference this TUI claimed attendance of 130 delegates from 34 countries. It is anticipated that the proposed Conference will attempt to surpass this figure by making the Conference as widely representative as possible. Emphasis will be placed on colonial and semi-colonial countries.

Comments:

Georges Van Haute, Secretary-General of the TUI, told the Hungarian Press on January 13 that the 3rd International Conference of the TUI would take place in Leipzig in May. Federations not affiliated to the WFTU would take part, including those affiliated to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the International Federation of Arab Trade Unions, and others belonging to no international federation. The importance of the Conference would be enhanced by the fact that it would deal with professional problems of all branches of the industries, and would provide an opportunity to discuss international questions of the chemical, petroleum and allied industries. The agenda would include questions of trade union co-operation, living and working conditions, and the tasks of the affiliated unions in the struggle against colonial oppression, the abuses of international monopolies, and for national independence.

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Title of Conference:

First International Conference of the International Trade Union of Workers in Commerce.

Date:

1-4 June 1959

Place:

Prague, Czechoslovakia

Sponsorship:

World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

Evaluation of Meeting:

It is believed that the attempt to organize this new TUI as a trade department of the WFTU is being made in order to counteract the influence of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical and Technical Employees, which is affiliated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Comments:

Pierre Delon, Secretary-General of the French National Federation of Office Workers, has stated that the main purpose of the Conference was to form a TUI of Workers in Commerce and to help to bring about close ties between these workers and their trade unions in all countries. Subjects to be discussed would include wages, the general introduction of old-age pension schemes, working hours, working conditions, health, and the general application of the ILO Convention No. 100 on equal pay for equal work. The Conference would also call "for the suspension of death-bringing tests and a ban on atomic weapons of mass destruction".

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Trade Unions which have announced that they will take part in the Conference include: the Union of Commercial Workers in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, the Union of Commercial, Bank and Insurance Workers of the Cameroons, and the Dutch Union of Commercial, Bank and Insurance Workers (E.V.C. 1958).

The Preparatory Committee for the First International Conference of Workers in Commerce was reported to have planned a second meeting in Prague for March 3 and 4, 1958 to examine the state of preparations and the draft reports for the conference.

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Title of Conference:

Third International Conference of the TUI of Miners

Date:

7-11 July 1959

Place:

Katowice, Poland

Sponsorship:

The TUI of Miners, a Trade Department of the World Federation of Trade Unions

Comments:

A meeting of the Administrative Committee took place in Budapest from December 16-18 to survey the TUI's activities since its last meeting in Halle in January 1958 and to prepare for the 3rd International Conference to be held in Katowice next July.

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Other topics included "professional and trade union questions, methods of the miners' struggle for unity and measures against the unemployment resulting from the crisis in the collieries in Western Europe". The 12 countries represented at the meeting were the USSR, China, Roumania, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, France, Italy, India, Belgium and Chile. A Preparatory Committee meeting for this conference will probably be held in Prague 28 May 1959.

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Title of Conference

Preparatory Meeting of the Afro-Asian Labor Congress.

Date:

July 1959

Place:

Tokyo, Japan

Organization:

Trade union organizations in Burma, Ceylon, Ghana, Indonesia, Morocco, Japan, India, Communist China and the United Arab Republic have been invited to send delegates.

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Title of Conference:

Second International Trade Conference of Public and Allied Employees.

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Date:

September 1959

Place:

Leipzig, GDR

Sponsorship:

Trade Unions of Public and Allied Employees.

Comments:

Topics to be discussed include united action by public and allied employees to improve their situation, health conditions of workers and the effects of automation, primarily in the postal, telephone and telegraph services.

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Title of Conference:

Third International Conference of Workers in the Building, Wood, and Building Materials Industries

Date:

October 1959

Place:

Budapest

Sponsorship:

The TUI of Building, Wood and Building Materials Industries, a trade department of the WFTU.