

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS

LIST OF COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS GRANTED CATEGORY (b) OR (c)
CONSULTATIVE STATUS

This list is in accordance with the provisions of section IV, paragraph 4, of the report of the Committee on Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations, approved by the Council on 21 June 1946 (resolution 2/3 of 21 June 1946, in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, first year, second session, pages 360-365).

World Federation of Democratic Youth (Fédération mondiale de la Jeunesse Démocratique)

The Federation in a letter dated 14 March 1949, submits a 29 page Memorandum for the attention of the Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Employment Commission and the Social Commission, entitled "The Contribution of the Working Youth to the Struggle for Peace, Democracy, National Independence and for its Political and Economic Rights."

This Memorandum may be summarized as follows:

Introduction

The Memorandum is presented to help the Council to improve the life of working youth, and to aid it in its work for human rights. Imperialist expansion and the preparation for a new war is the greatest obstacle for a better life for working youth. Imperialist powers have broken international agreements, bolstered up fascist and reactionary régimes and attacked the democratic peoples' movements. They have created political and military blocs and indulged in slanderous and anti-Soviet propaganda. The Western Bloc, the Rio de Janeiro pact, standardization of armaments, new aggressions, atomic war threats, the Atlantic Pact, are not defense measures but are directed against peace and international co-operation. The United States and British imperialists are attempting to turn Western Germany into an arsenal for the preparation of a new world war. United States imperialists in Japan pursue the same aims. Through the Marshall Plan, American imperialism, in its drive for world domination, is trying to subordinate the economy of European countries. The Marshall Plan is a plan of aggression and enslavement which leads to the sharp deterioration and liquidation of domestic industry, increased /unemployment.

unemployment, want and privation in Europe. Military expenditures have been inflated, hindering reconstruction and aggravating the position of working youth.

A comparison of the national budget allocations for armed forces and for education reveal the situation (i.e., United States: education, 1.6 per cent; armed forces, 32 per cent). For 1949-1950, 52 per cent of the United States budget is allocated for war preparation, 27 per cent for expenditure connected with World War II and 7.8 per cent for social welfare, health, security, housing, education and labour. Constant encroachments are made on the elementary democratic freedoms of youth in capitalist countries. Anglo-American imperialism attempts the destruction of national independence by helping the fascist régimes of Spain, Greece and Kuomintang China. In the United States, progressive organizations are persecuted; the Taft-Hartley Law has been passed against trade unions; racial discrimination is growing and the murders of Negroes occur with greater frequency. Many other countries under the pressure of United States imperialism are following this pattern. The economic situation of the working youth in capitalist countries is getting worse. Unemployment is growing, real wages are dropping and a new economic crisis impends. Opportunities for vocational training and general education are very limited or non-existent. But this imperialistic policy is bound to fail. The democratic forces grow stronger and are able to prevent a new war. The peace stand of the Soviet Union and the Peoples Democracies is an outstanding contribution to the cause of peace.

The armed struggle of the peoples of China, Greece, Indonesia, Viet Nam and Malaya, against United States imperialism and its servants, becomes stronger. The democratic movement becomes stronger in many countries - France, Italy, Japan etc., and even in the United States. Premier Stalin's declaration was one of the most important actions against war. The brutal rejection of the Soviet peace offer shows that the American and British imperialists are committed to war preparation and are not prepared to discuss the preservation of peace.

The Memorandum and the International Conference of Working Youth

This Conference was held in Warsaw in 1948, attended by 446 delegates representing forty-five million young workers in forty-eight countries. It passed resolutions against war and in defense of the rights of working youth. This statement is based on these resolutions, the reports of delegations as well as on reports of Commissions of Inquiry sent by the World Federation of Democratic Youth to various countries etc.

Section III.* The Working Youth in the struggle against imperialism, expansion and preparation for war, for peace, national independence, democracy and in defense of its rights

A. The working youth against colonial oppression, militarization and suppression of political freedom

The imperialists, to protect the huge profits from years of exploitation intensify their vicious and inhuman oppression of the colonial peoples. The imperialists made huge profits from armaments and are prepared to launch a third world war to reap still greater profits (i.e., the great monopolists of the United States pocketed \$21,755,000,000 in profits after taxation in 1948).

The imperialistic powers launch new wars of aggression such as the recent war against the Indonesian peoples by the American and Dutch imperialists. The United States imperialists constitute régimes of terror in many countries and militarise youth at an alarming rate (i.e., United States peacetime Conscription Act, inducting 1,200,000 annually; Britain's military conscription period increased from twelve to eighteen months etc.). These measures are against the desires of the people. Consequently, the imperialists try to destroy the democratic rights of the people in order to prevent its opposition. There have been new and ferocious attacks on democratic organizations in general and upon their leaders in particular in the United States itself Africa, South-east Asia, Greece, Spain and many other countries. The Memorandum names many countries where, it is said, the right of youth to freely organize has been abolished by law or in practice: Spain, Greece, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Portugal, Morocco, Kuomintang China, Indonesia, Malaya, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, United States, Algeria, South Africa, India, Cyprus, Gold Coast, Peru, Japan, Western Germany.

The working youth is first in the ranks of the struggle against efforts of the imperialist powers to dominate the people. A number of concrete examples of the situation are given for the United States, France, Great Britain and Malaya.

B. The fight of the Working Youth against unemployment and misery, and for better working and living conditions

The Marshall Plan, the Clayton Plan etc., attack the national independence of the peoples, bar the development of certain industries essential to the complete recovery and independence of the recipient countries, and force national industry in recipient countries to slow down and close down which leads the capitalists of the recipient countries to increase hours of work and decrease wages, and results in a great increase of unemployment, an intensification of racial, sex and age discrimination and the employment of child labour.

* The "Introduction" is counted as a section in this Memorandum

Unemployment

Statements to show that unemployment exists or is increasing are given for Belgium, Italy, United States, Turkey, Cuba and Western Germany.

Low wages and cost of living

Under this heading figures are given for Britain, France, Greece, Tunisia, Western Germany and Venezuela to the effect that young workers receive much less than adult workers, that profits increase while real wages decline; that wages are extremely low and that workers' living conditions are becoming worse.

Working and living conditions and ill-health

Under this heading statements are made on Austria, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Spain, Norway, Sweden and the United States to the effect that conditions are very bad.

Discrimination

Under this heading statements are made on the Union of South Africa and the United States to show that coloured workers receive much less than white workers and are otherwise discriminated against.

Criminal exploitation of child labour

Under this heading, material is given on India, the United States, Egypt and Japan, to show that such exploitation is taking place.

It is stated that people see that their bad economic situation is the result of the Marshall Plan and other American imperialist "aid" schemes. For example, it was shown when after the application of the Marshall Plan to Italy, millions of workers lost their jobs. Recent attempts to split the World Federation of Trade Unions, like attempts to split the national unity of workers by the Right Wing Socialist Leaders working at the behest of the imperialists, have been met by a reinforcement of workers' unity and the growth of prestige in the World Federation of Trade Unions.

C. The Working Youth in the fight for educational and recreational opportunity and for physical development

Huge allocations for war purposes prevent expenditure on educational and recreational facilities. Much greater sums of money are spent on corrupting propaganda for racial hatred, national superiority and the education of youth for war. Only a small fraction of working youths have access to higher education. Sport is a source of profit for the imperialists and is not available for the masses.

Vocational training

Under this heading statements are made on Britain, Austria, Sweden, West Africa (French), Algeria, Malaya, the United States, Cyprus and Western Germany, to show that opportunities for vocational training are limited.

/Cultural

Cultural and recreational facilities and physical development

Under this heading statements are made for France and the United States to show that such facilities are extremely limited.

Section III. Working Youth enjoys a better and happier life in the USSR and the Peoples' Democracies

"In the USSR where exploitation of man by man has been abolished forever, the most perfect conditions exist for the political, physical and cultural development of the youth." They possess all the rights and liberties equally with all other citizens, and these rights are fully realized and enjoyed by them.

Political rights

It is stated that one-third of all deputies to the Supreme Soviet are young people, that hundreds of thousands have been elected to the city and village Soviets, and that youth may set up its own social organizations, co-operatives, sport organizations, cultural societies etc., which are attended by tens of millions of people.

The rights to work and vocational training

Employment and payment for work is guaranteed; economic crises and unemployment have been completely eliminated. General education as well as vocational training is available in thousands of vocational schools which since 1949 have trained four million youth workers. All expenses are borne by the State.

Education

Four year elementary school is compulsory in the villages, seven years in the cities. The higher schools are open to all. There are more than 800 establishments of higher education in the USSR attended by 130,000 students.

Leisure

The work day is eight hours (six hours for juveniles). There are annual vacations with pay and a wide net-work of sanatoriums, rest homes and clubs, a tremendous number of Palaces of Culture, public libraries, cinemas, theatres, etc., and 600,000 stadia etc.

Culture

In the years of Soviet power, 900,000 books of different titles in over fourteen billion copies have been published. The native culture of each nationality of the USSR is assisted by the Soviet State.

The Memorandum then refers to the situation of youth in the Peoples' Democracies (Czechoslovakia, Poland, Roumania, Hungary, Viet Nam) indicating

/by figures

by figures and examples that they also have democratic rights, good conditions of work, freedom from discrimination, vocational training, opportunities for culture and a higher standard of living.

Section IV. Recommendations of the World Federation of Democratic Youth to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

It is stated that it can be seen "that in only a few countries such as the USSR, and the Peoples' Democracies, do working youth have their economical and political rights and enjoy decent conditions for life, work and development". Elsewhere, the situation of youth becomes worse day by day due to the imperialist policy led by United States imperialists. The World Federation of Democratic Youth recommends that the Economic and Social Council -

1. Condemn the imperialist policy of expansion and the Marshall Plan.
2. Appeal to all Member Nations where there are bad conditions of **life** for working youth, to adopt laws to provide for:
 - (a) Free exercise of all political and social rights,
 - (b) Equal rights irrespective of race, creed, sex, social origin,
 - (c) Guaranteed right to work and a higher standard of living,
 - (d) Equal pay for equal work,
 - (e) Prohibition of child labour under age of fourteen years,
 - (f) Allocation of necessary sums for full educational, vocational, cultural and physical development; prohibition of war propaganda; corrupt and immoral literature,
 - (g) Hours of work allowing time for study, rest, and recreation,
 - (h) Medical examinations and free medical assistance.

Where such laws exist but are not implemented, the Council should ask for implementation.

3. Establish a permanent Commission concerned with questions of work and unemployment.
