



WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
FEDERACION SINDICAL MUNDIAL
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ
ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНЫХ СОЮЗОВ

15. V 1961

Prague,

Address all correspondence to
Adresser la correspondance au:
Toda comunicaci6n ha de ser dirigida a:
Адресовать всю корреспонденцию:
SECRETARIAT DE LA
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
PRAGUE 1, NÁM. CURIEOVÝCH 1
TÉLÉPHONE 67.856
ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE: FESYMOND PRAGUE

Madhukar Kashinath Pandha
All-India Trade Union Congress
4. Ashoka Road
New Delhi India

AES/Cir. No.86/61

Dear Brothers,

In order to promote united action and international solidarity on the question of social security, the General Council of the W.F.T.U. decided at its 11th session in Peking last June, to call a broad International Trade Union Commission for Action on Social Security.

The Commission is made up of representatives of trade unions in the following countries:- Brazil, Chile, China, France, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Czechoslovakia, the U.S.S.R. and a representative of the UGTAN.

The first meeting of the Commission took place in Prague from March 27 to 30, 1961. We would like to point out that the meeting was attended not only by representatives of National Centres belonging to the W.F.T.U., but also representatives of independent unions and those affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U.

A draft Charter on Social Security was unanimously adopted by the Commission on the basis of a report on the position in Social Security, presented by the W.F.T.U. Secretariat. This testifies to the community of interests among the workers throughout the world as regards social demands, regardless of their national and international affiliation.

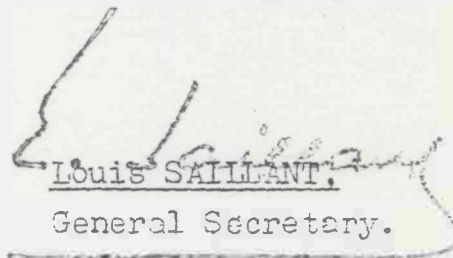
It has, furthermore, been recommended to submit the draft to a vast discussion among the workers and trade unions, since it contains vital demands shared by all the workers and because the Charter could constitute an effective weapon in campaigns for the achievement, improvement and protection of social security.

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That is why we are sending you the draft Charter and ask you to examine it so that you may let us have your comments and proposals before September 1, 1961. These comments will be considered during the final drafting of the document which will then be submitted for adoption to the 5th World Trade Union Congress of the W.F.T.U. when it meets in Moscow from December 4 to 16, 1961.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the draft Charter as well as the Social Security standards adopted as part of the general programme by the International Conference for the Defence, Improvement and Extension of social insurances and social security (Vienna, March 2 to 6, 1953). These standards specify in detail the principles contained in the draft Charter. The provisions contained in the latter must be sufficiently flexible so that they may be endorsed by the majority of countries. Moreover, we are enclosing the Report presented by the W.F.T.U. Secretariat to the Commission and the press communiqué on the formation of the Commission.

Awaiting the results of your discussion and your proposals, we remain with fraternal trade union greetings,


Louis SAILLANT,

General Secretary.

Draft for Discussion at
V WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS

SOCIAL SECURITY CHARTER

The following

~~A~~ draft Charter on Social Security was unanimously adopted by the ~~Commission~~ International Trade Union Commission for Action on Social Security, convened by the World Federation of Trade Unions in Prague in March this year. The WFTU has circulated the Draft Charter for discussion by workers the world over and to express themselves on the Charter.

In the light of the comments received, the ~~Draft~~ document ~~Charter~~ will be re-drafted for submission to the 5th World Trade Union Congress which is being held in Moscow from December 4 to 16, 1951.

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Copy
of
the
document

STANDARDS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

(International Conference for Social Insurance and
Social Security - Vienna, 1953)

Preamble

To assist in the drawing up of a national programme for each country, the International Conference considers it useful to set down the following standards of social security.

1. Sickness

a) All medical services including drugs, appliances, hospitals, clinic and home consultations and treatment for the insured and their dependents in all cases of sickness, and without any limitation.

b) Cash benefits payable from the first day and for the whole period of sickness and incapacity for work, including convalescence and rehabilitation, guaranteeing a proper standard of living.

c) Cash benefits under the same conditions for any member of the family who is obliged to stay at home from work to take care of a sick child.

d) Functional and occupational re-education and rehabilitation with a guarantee of re-employment.

2. Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases

a) All medical services including drugs, appliances, hospitals, clinic and home consultations and treatment, for the insured and their dependents in all cases of sickness and without any limitation.

b) Functional and occupational re-education and rehabilitation with a guarantee of re-employment.

c) For the temporarily disabled, cash benefits during the period of medical treatment, and rehabilitation, paid from the first day, and guaranteeing to the victims of industrial accident or occupational disease their previous standard of living.

d) For the permanently disabled, a pension calculated on the basis of earnings, according to the degree of physical and industrial incapacity.

3. Maternity

a) Examinations, complete pre- and post-natal medical care, hospital care and confinement, free of charge.

b) Maternity leave of 14 weeks partly before and partly after confinement, with payment of an allowance which guarantees the same standard of living as before.

c) The dismissal of pregnant women and mothers of infants of less than one year, to be prohibited.

Social and health protection at work: pregnant women should be relieved from work which is unsuitable for them, without loss of earnings.

d) Supply of layette, and nursing allowances to all mothers.

e) Paid rest time during nursing period.

.../

4. Old Age and Disability

a) The pensionable age should be 50-60 years for men, 45-55 for women, according to the nature of their work.

b) Disability and old age pensions should be paid regardless of other sources of income.

c) The minimum rate of old age pensions should guarantee a proper standard of living; disability pensions should be increased beyond this minimum, taking into account the degree of functional and occupational incapacity.

d) Those receiving old age and disability pensions to enjoy the right to free medical care, and to home help where they are unable to care for themselves.

e) War invalids to enjoy the same rights to social security.

5. Total and Partial Unemployment

a) Unemployment benefit to be paid for all unemployed from the first day and for the entire period of unemployment, guaranteeing a proper standard of living.

b) Unemployment benefit should not be made conditional upon the acceptance of a job which does not correspond to the qualifications of the person concerned.

c) In the case of partial unemployment, benefit should be paid for hours worked below the legal working time, and should ensure a proper standard of living.

d) Unemployment benefit should be paid to young people who have reached the working age and have not been able to find work.

6. Family Allowances

a) Family allowances should be paid for all children and for all other dependents who have insufficient resources to assure a reasonable standard of living.

b) Family allowances should be the same for all children and so adjusted that, taken together with earnings and available social services, they provide for the normal upbringing of children and give them an equal start in life, enabling the family to maintain a proper standard of living, regardless of the number of children.

7. Survivors' and Death Benefit

a) Funeral benefit should be paid sufficient to cover the costs.

b) The widow and other dependents should receive a pension assuring them a proper standard of living.

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936/20-4-61.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
FEDERACION SINDICAL MUNDIAL
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ
ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНЫХ СОЮЗОВ

Prague.....

April 14, 1961.

Address all correspondence to
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SECRETARIAT DE LA
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
PRAGUE I - RUE JANSKA 100
TÉLÉPHONE : 67.856
ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE : FESYMOND PRAGUE

- To the National Centres
affiliated to the W.F.T.U.
- To the T.U.Is. (T.D. of the
W.F.T.U.)

SG - 83/61

Dear Brothers,

Enclosed please find a copy of the Appeal
for May Day 1961 launched by the W.F.T.U. to the
workers of the world.

With fraternal greetings,

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.



1 Encl:

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 18, 1961.

TELEGRAM

A. I. T. U.	
Received	10325/25-4-61
Replied

FROM THE W.F.T.U.
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Sir,

The World Federation of Trade Unions, conveying the feelings and demands of all trade union organisations which approach it, asks you to call an urgent meeting of the Security Council to condemn and stop the aggression launched by the Government of the United States against the people and territory of the Republic of Cuba.

The American arms and equipment and the support which the Government of the United States is lending publicly to the aggressors against the Cuban people, are a flagrant and sufficient proof of its guilt.

Louis SAILLANT
General Secretary of the
World Federation of Trade Unions



Push
12/1/57

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
FEDERACION SINDICAL MUNDIAL
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ
ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНЫХ СОЮЗОВ

July 6, 1961.
Prague,

Address all correspondence to
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SECRETARIAT DE LA
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
PRAGUE 1, NÁM. CURIEOVÝCH 1
TÉLÉPHONE 67.856
ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE: FESYMOND PRAGUE

To the affiliated organisations
in capitalist countries

A. I. T. U. C.
I. R. No. 208 Date: 7/11/61
File No. Replied on

Circular: 93/61

Dear Brothers,

Considering the agreement reached between the W.F.T.U. Secretariat and the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, the Secretariat has established a list of delegates for each country. We suggest that your country should be represented by .. *20* .. delegates.

We draw your attention to the need to make up as united a delegation as possible, eventually including a number of guests or observers from non-affiliated organisations.

The travelling expenses are the responsibility of the organisations represented at the Congress. We wish to remind all trade union organisations that they should make a broad approach to the workers in order to send widely united and representative delegations to the Congress.

The greatest attention should be given to the collection of financial means to cover the travelling expenses of the workers' delegates, since it is, in itself, an important way of mobilising the working people in the preparation of the Congress.

The W.F.T.U. is, however, ready to examine any exceptional requests for assistance that should be submitted to it.

We have pleasure in informing you that the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions and the W.F.T.U. will bear all expenses for those delegated during their stay in Moscow.

We remain, dear brothers,

Yours fraternally,



Saillant
Louis SAILLANT,
General Secretary.

January 3, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

THE W.F.T.U. GIVES MATERIAL SUPPORT TO
BELGIANS ON STRIKE

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U., which is closely following the development of the strikes being waged by Belgian workers to achieve satisfaction for their economic and social demands, is glad to note that the wave of international solidarity is growing and taking many different forms enabling workers in various countries to give active support to their brothers in Belgium.

In line with this vast movement of proletarian internationalism, the W.F.T.U. Secretariat has decided that the International Solidarity Fund administered by this organisation should place a sum of 5,000 pounds sterling at the disposal of the Belgian workers on strike.

Issued by the Press Dept.
of the W.F.T.U.

No.208

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

January 9, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE W.F.T.U. AND THE SOHYO DELEGATION

On January 8, 1961, a meeting took place in Prague between the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. and the delegation of the SOHYO, headed by its President, Brother Kaoru Ota. The talks were held in an atmosphere of fraternity and sincere collaboration.

The President of the SOHYO informed the W.F.T.U. Secretariat about the trade union situation in Japan, the important campaigns waged against the Japan-US "Security Treaty", the Miike miners' strike and the tasks with which the Japanese trade unions are faced in strengthening unity of action by all unions and workers in the struggle to improve living and working conditions and to preserve peace.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. again expressed its sincere and wholehearted solidarity with the SOHYO and Japanese workers and reaffirmed its desire to reinforce fraternal and co-operative relations with the Japanese trade unions.

Issued by the Press Dept.
of the W.F.T.U.

No.209

31 JAN 1961

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

January 27, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

THE W.F.T.U. PROTESTS AGAINST THE REPRESSION OF GREEK TRADE UNIONISTS

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to Mr. KARAMANLIS, Prime Minister of the Greek Government:

"The World Federation of Trade Unions, on learning from the trade union organisations of new measures of repression against the Greek workers and trade unionists, and especially of the arrest and deportation of the trade unionists, Kostas Lykouris, Jean Goulinaris and Eleufterios Tzarkos, as well as of police brutality against the old trade unionists Basile Nefeloudis, repeats its angry protest against these fresh and flagrant attacks on freedoms and the hindrances to the free practice of the trade unions and to the right to strike. In the name of the 101 million organised workers in its ranks throughout the world, all of whom support the Greek workers and democrats, we ask you to put an end to this brutal repression against the Greek people and to re-establish democratic freedoms and trade union rights guaranteed by the international conventions."

Published by the Press Dept.
of the W.F.T.U.

No.210

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

January 28, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

MESSAGE FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE SECOND LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE FOR A POLITICAL AMNESTY IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

The General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. Louis SAILLANT sent the following message to the Second Latin American Conference for the amnesty of prisoners and political exiles from Portugal and Spain, which is now being held at Montivideo:

"In the name of its 101 million organised workers throughout the world and in the certainty that it is truly expressing the feelings of all workers and democrats, the World Federation of Trade Unions warmly greets your Second Latin American Conference and the many personalities, politicians, workers and intellectuals who are taking part.

"It wishes you every success in this noble campaign of solidarity which you have undertaken and which is making an effective contribution to the big international campaign for the amnesty of prisoners and political exiles from Spain and Portugal. This is a great help to the powerful and ever wider and more united struggle of the people of Spain and Portugal.

"The fresh wave of repression which is more brutal and disgusting than ever, and which has broken out during recent months, together with the worsening of the penal code in Spain are a new and flagrant attack on individual and trade union rights and freedoms, an attack which was recently denounced by the W.F.T.U. before the General Assembly of the U.N.

.../

"This worsening of penal and police repression in Spain and Portugal, far from being a sign of the strength of these regimes, on the contrary emphasizes the growing economic, social and political difficulties which are confronting the dictatorships of FRANCO and SALAZAR in the face of pressure from the people.

"The W.F.T.U. will not cease to increase its efforts to multiply measures for achieving a broad unity of all national and international trade union organisations in support of the activities of the workers and people of Spain and Portugal for their freedom.

"The united struggle of the workers and of large sections of the population in Spain and Portugal, supported by the active and growing solidarity of all workers, trade unions and democrats throughout the world, will put an end to these regimes of fascist dictatorship."

Issued by the Press Dept.
of the W.F.T.U.
No.211

212A

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES SYNDICATS
DES TRAVAILLEURS DES TRANSPORTS,
DES PORTS ET DE LA PECHE
(DÉPARTEMENT PROFESSIONNEL DE LA F. S. M.)

МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЕ
ПРОФСОЮЗОВ ТРУДЯЩИХСЯ ТРАНСПОРТА,
ПОРТОВ И РЫБНОГО ПРОМЫСЛА
(ПРОИЗВОДСТВЕННЫЙ ОТДЕЛ В. Ф. И.)

TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONAL
OF TRANSPORT, PORT AND FISHERY WORKERS
(TRADE DEPARTMENT OF THE W. F. T. U.)

UNION INTERNACIONAL DE SINDICATOS
DE TRABAJADORES DE LOS TRANSPORTES,
PUERTOS Y PESCA
(DEPARTAMENTO PROFESIONAL DE LA F. S. M.)

SECRETARIAT:
JANSKÁ 100
PRAGUE I — TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE
TÉLÉPHONE: 67856

COMMUNIQUE

By its breadth and because of the problems which motivated it, the big struggle of the working people in Belgium against the "Loi Unique" and the austerity policy of the Eysken's government, goes beyond the frontiers of this country and is part of the hard struggle that the workers in all the capitalist countries, and especially those of the Common Market, are waging against the policy of the monopolies.

The Belgian port and transport workers have played an important part in this courageous struggle.

The Appeal launched by our TUI to all transport workers and their trade unions to organise effective moral and material solidarity with the struggle of our Belgian comrades has found a great deal of support from the workers in our industries.

At Rouen, Cherbourg, Boulogne, Dunkirk, Amsterdam, Bremen, Hambourg and in other important ports the dockers refused to load and unload the boats diverted from Antwerp. The French railwaymen refused to drive their trains beyond the Belgian frontier and sent delegations to the headquarters of the national organisation of the Belgian railwaymen to express their solidarity and to pay the sums of money sent by their Federation and collected from subscriptions taken at the place of work. The French CGT Transport Union also collected subscriptions and made a first payment to the tramways and local railways union. Hundreds of messages of solidarity and telegrams have been sent by the national and local trade unions of transport workers in France, Italy, the USSR, China, Hungary, the GDR, Bulgaria, Australia and so on.

- 2 -

The Secretariat of our TUI also sent a delegation to Brussels to express its moral and material solidarity to the Belgian workers. The delegation met the leadership of the Railways Division of the Federation of Public Services.

The Trade Unions International of Transport, Port and Fishery Workers salutes the workers and trade unions, which by taking part in these international solidarity campaigns, give their support to the rightful struggle of the Belgian workers and help to strengthen the united action of the workers on an international scale.

The Secretariat of the TUI

Brague, January 30, 1961.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A. I. T. U. C.
Received 129/1.3.61
Replied.....

25 February 1961

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

PROTEST BY THE W.F.T.U. AGAINST THE DEPORTATION OF CLOTARIO BLEST

The Chilean authorities have sentenced CLOTARIO BLEST, President of the United Trade Union Centre of Chile, to 541 days' exile in a far-off village in a northern part of the country because of his trade union activities.

Luigi GRASSI, Secretary of the W.F.T.U. has therefore sent the following telegram to Jorge ALESSANDRI, President of the Republic of Chile :

"The World Federation of Trade Unions has learned with indignation that Clotario BLEST, President of the United Trade Union Centre of Chile, has been unjustly sentenced to a long period of exile for having staunchly defended the workers' legitimate demands. We strongly protest against this flagrant violation of trade union rights.

"On behalf of 107 million workers affiliated to the W.F.T.U., we demand that this sentence be revoked immediately and that the trade union rights and liberties of Chilean workers be respected."

A telegram was sent also to the National Council of the CUTCH. The W.F.T.U. salutes Brother Blest and expresses full solidarity with the struggle waged by the CUTCH and all Chilean workers for the complete freedom of C. BLEST and for the respect of trade union and democratic rights.

Issued by the Press Department
of the W.F.T.U.

No. 213

March 14, 1961.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

CONSTITUTION OF THE TRADE UNION AND LEGAL COMMISSION FOR THE DEFENCE AND EXTENSION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND THE PROTECTION OF THE VICTIMS OF REPRESSION AGAINST TRADE UNIONS

The meeting of the International Trade Union and Legal Commission for the defence and extension of trade union rights and for the protection of the victims of repression against trade unions, the formation of which was decided upon by the Peking General Council, met on March 9-10, 1961, at the W.F.T.U. headquarters in Prague. The proceedings were presided over by Louis Saillant, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

The W.F.T.U. Secretariat, representatives of the national centres both affiliated and non-affiliated to the W.F.T.U. and lawyers and barristers from different countries took part in the meeting.

There was very wide discussion on the report presented by Elena Teodorescu on behalf of the W.F.T.U. Secretariat, "On the trade union rights in different regions and countries of the world and the prospects for the development of action for the defence of these rights and for the victims of repression against trade unions".

The Commission decided to become permanent because its activity should, in collaboration with the W.F.T.U., be based both on mass action and on legal action. As an integral part of trade union activity itself, the Commission will develop solidarity with the victims of repression against trade unions and for the defence and extension of trade union and democratic rights throughout the world.

This Commission is composed of a Bureau including:
a president :

CAMPOS JUAN Vice-President of CUTCh (Chile)

two vice-presidents:

GRANDJEAN-COSYNS ANDREE Lawyer (Belgium)
MATSUMOTO YOSHIAKI Lawyer (Japan)

and a Secretary:

Elena TEODORESCU W.F.T.U. Secretary

and the following members:

AMANU WACHID Secretary of SCBSI (Indonesia)
BOITEL MAURICE Lawyer (France)
HOSTETLER JOHN Lawyer (St. Britain)
MA CHUN KOU W.F.T.U. Secretary
MONJOVIS LUCIEN Member of the Trade Union Bureau
of the Paris area (C.G.T. - France)
MUJICA ROJAS MARCO Lawyer (Venezuela)
PEREZ JULIO Representative of the workers of Spain
RABINOWITZ VICTOR Lawyer (U.S.A.)
ROY RATAN Secretary of the T.U.C. (India)
THIAM ABDULAYE General Secretary of U.G.T.A.N.
VAIS MARCO Member of the C.G.I.L. (Italy)
ZAKARIA IBRAHIM W.F.T.U. Secretary

A representative of the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions

A representative of the Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions

Published by the W.F.T.U. Press Dept.

No.214

INTERNATIONAL TU COMMISSION

The meeting of the International Trade Union and Legal Commission for the defence and extension of trade union rights and for the protection of the victims of repression against trade unions, was held in Prague on March 9 & 10, at the headquarters of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Ratan Roy, General Secretary, Bihar branch of the AITUC, who was nominated as a delegate to the meeting, could not attend because of refusal by the Government for the grant of passport facilities.

The meeting of the Commission was presided over by Louis Salliant, General Secretary of the WFTU, and attended by the representatives of various affiliated and non-affiliated national trade union centres, besides lawyers from many countries.

The Commission following discussion and report resolved to become a permanent body because its activity should be based both on mass action and legal action. As an integral part of trade union activity itself, the Commission will develop solidarity with the victims of repression against trade unions and for the extension and defence of trade union and democratic rights throughout the world.

The Commission elected a Bureau with ~~xxPresident~~ Juan Campos (Chile) as President, two vice-presidents, Elena Teodorescu, as Secretary and twelve persons from different countries including Ratan Roy (India) as its members.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Received 567/28-3-61
Replied.....

March 25, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Message from the World Federation of Trade Unions to the West European Conference for an Amnesty in Spain

The General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., Louis SAILLANT, has sent the following message to the West European Conference for an Amnesty in Spain.

On behalf of its 107 million members the World Federation of Trade Unions sends warm greetings to the West European Conference for an Amnesty for Spanish political prisoners and exiles, and to all participants.

It gives its full support to the Conference, wishing it every success in the accomplishment of the noble and humane tasks which it has set itself and which are a great encouragement and an effective contribution to the great international campaign for an amnesty in Spain.

This month of March 1961 is exactly 22 years since the end of the Spanish war. And yet despite the long time which has passed the laws in vigour in the country are emergency laws. Hundreds of Spanish workers and intellectuals are in prison and tens of thousands of others are forced to live in exile. This situation has grown even worse as a result of the new wave of repression which has broken out in recent months under the Franco Government, and as a result of the enforcement of the decree of September 21, 1960.

The W.F.T.U., which has continually denounced the Franco repression and which has always supported the workers and the Spanish people in their just and humane struggle, will make still greater efforts and take further steps to bring about an amnesty and the re-establishment of trade union and democratic freedoms in Spain.

The W.F.T.U. believes that it is necessary to insist that the Spanish Government pass an Amnesty Law providing for the immediate release of political prisoners, the repatriation of exiles and the annulment of the emergency laws, especially the decree of September 21, 1960.

The broad basis of representation at the Conference, the participation and support of the eminent political, trade union, scientific, artistic and religious personalities, clearly show how close to their hearts men and women of goodwill consider the question of an amnesty in Spain.

Trade union organisations from all countries and the international trade union movement can and must make a still more powerful contribution to the success of the campaign for an amnesty.

To make this campaign more effective, the W.F.T.U. wishes for the widest possible unity between all the trade union organisations. It will continue its efforts for the unity of all trade unions of all affiliations in action for the success of this campaign of solidarity with the Spanish workers and people.

The Spanish people, supported by the active solidarity of their millions of brothers and friends and by all men and women inspired with humanitarian sentiments, will make justice triumph by obtaining the amnesty, an achievement that will encourage the re-establishment of harmony and democracy in Spain.

Published by the W.F.T.U.
Press Dept.

No.215

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 31, 1961

Press Communiqué

International Trade Union Commission of Action for Social Security formed.

The Secretariat of the WFTU has called a meeting of an International Trade Union Commission of Action for Social Security. It met in Prague from March 27 to 30, 1961 and was attended by representatives of trade unions from the following countries some of which are affiliated to the WFTU, others not: Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Brazil, Chile, China, India, Japan, Lebanon, Finland, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia and the USSR.

After an extensive discussion of the report presented by Elena TECDORESCU on behalf of the WFTU Secretariat on "the position and growth of struggles for the achievements, protection, widening and improvement of social security in the various countries of the world", the Commission decided to function on a permanent basis.

Its purpose will be to promote greater united action and international solidarity by all workers and all trade unions, irrespective of affiliation, in order to ensure the protection, widening and improvement of social security and social insurance.

The Commission has drawn up a draft Charter on Social Security which will be a valuable weapon for working class campaigns for the achievement, defense and extension of social security. After being discussed by the workers and ^{trade} unions in all countries, it will be submitted to the Fifth World Trade Union Congress which will meet in Moscow from December 4 to 16, 1961.

Published by the Press Dept.
of the WFTU

No. 217

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 6, 1961.

W.F.T.U. STATEMENT ON ANGOLA

To exploit the riches of its colonies the SALAZAR dictatorship has created and is maintaining in Angola a slave system that is legal and official: 250,000 men and women workers are annually subject to forced labour. More than 80,000 of them are annually sold as slaves to the mining companies of South Africa. So the hateful regime of SALAZAR based on the exploitation and suppression of the Portuguese people is imposing the most barbarous regime of slavery on the workers of Angola and the other Portuguese colonies for the greatest profit of the monopolies.

The workers and the people of Angola inspired and encouraged by the example of its brother peoples who have already freed themselves from colonial exploitation and have won their national independence are redoubling their efforts in the struggle against Portuguese colonialism and all the imperialist forces who support it and for national independence despite the tortures and the bloody repression carried out by the Portuguese colonialists.

In their brave struggle the workers and people of Angola can depend on the unshakeable and powerful solidarity of the international working class, the progressive trade unions and all the democratic forces who are struggling throughout the world for the right of the peoples to independence and for their free determination.

The World Federation of Trade Unions is trying to show the workers and people of Angola the unswerving support and solidarity of its 107 million members. By denouncing the persecutions, the violations of the Rights of Man and the fundamental freedoms, the collective murderers and the bloody repressive methods practised by the Portuguese colonialists, it pays homage to the countless victims of this colonialist repression. It appeals to the workers and trade unions throughout the world to support even more firmly the rightful struggle of the workers and people of Angola for complete and immediate independence.

W.F.T.U. Secretariat

Received 97/12-4-61
Replied.....

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 14, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONAL OF TRANSPORT, PORT
AND FISHERY WORKERS IN SOLIDARITY WITH DANISH STRIKERS

The Trade Unions International of Transport,
Port and Fishery Workers (T.D. of the W.F.T.U.)
has sent the following telegram to the unions
of seamen, dockers and transport workers of
Denmark who are on strike:

"On behalf of 9 million members Transport T.U.I. (W.F.T.U.)
conveys you and Danish dockers its complete solidarity and
wishes full success in your great and just struggle."

Published by the Press Dept.
of the W.F.T.U.

No. 218

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS.

April 19, 1961.

DECLARATION BY THE W.F.T.U. ON THE ARMED AGGRESSION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC AND PEOPLE OF CUBA

By supplying arms, money, planes and political support to mercenary gangs of former big landowners and Cuban capitalists, trained on its territory and in Guatemala, the Government of the United States has instigated an invasion of the Republic of Cuba.

This reveals duplicity and guilt of a government which did not hesitate to violate the national sovereignty of another member State of the United Nations in order to satisfy its imperialist interests.

Whatever the pretexts hypocritically used by the United States, this attack again exposes the aggressive nature of American imperialism, who is the worst enemy of the people's political and economic independence and world peace.

Speaking for its 107 million members and conveying the feelings of the workers in all countries, the World Federation of Trade Unions indignantly condemns this criminal act. It stigmatises its authors - the American monopolies. It condemns all who have served as accomplices. Among them are the leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. and its regional organisation in America (ORIT) who have helped to prepare this invasion politically by a systematic campaign of slanders and hatred directed against the Popular Cuban Revolution. Everyone knows that they openly collaborated with the Batista dictatorial regime.

All attacks against Fidel Castro's democratic and revolutionary government and, on the trade union level, against the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC/R/), are at the same time attacks against the gains and social achievements of the Cuban workers and peasants which the monopolies and their agents are anxious to destroy.

These achievements are a rousing example, and endanger the monopolies' profits and sordid interests in Latin America and that is why they want to thwart them.

They are attacking the most progressive land reform which has given land to the working peasants, as well as the eviction of the big landowners and monopolies and the suppression of illiteracy and racial discrimination. They want to restore their absolute domination and economic plundering.

In view of the successes and international authority won by the Cuban Revolution, they want to repeat the operation they launched against Guatemala in 1954. But times have changed. The United Fruit Company and other United States monopolies can no longer determine the fate of all the Latin American Governments and the destiny of their peoples.

The Cuban workers and peasants are not alone. Their democratic and popular Revolution has become the heritage of the workers and peasants of the whole of Latin America and of all the workers of the world. Their cause is that of all people who cherish peace and freedom.

That is why the aggression perpetrated by the American imperialists against Cuba is considered everywhere as an attack against the workers and people of the whole world.

That is why workers in all countries are rising by the side of their Cuban brothers and sisters to condemn the imperialist aggression with exceptional vigour and to demand that an end is put to it.

The W.F.T.U., confident in the victory of the noble and just struggle of the Cuban people, calls upon the workers and trade unions to broaden and strengthen even more international working class solidarity with the brave Cuban people.

Together with them, it declares that Cuba must be able to live in peace, to be free and independent.

Halt the aggression against Cuba!

Long live the democratic and popular Revolution
of the Cuban workers and people!

World Federation of Trade Unions

April 20, 1961.

Received: 1005 U/24-4-61

Replied:

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

*Copy. Ital
News*

The following
MESSAGE was sent by
**THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS TO
THE WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS OF LATIN AMERICA:**

*WFTU Press Statement
Sent to R
JH*

Workers and trade unions of Latin America !

The aggression against the Cuban people by hordes of mercenaries, armed by the American imperialists, has aroused deep indignation among workers throughout the world.

The workers of Latin America know better than anyone else the full implications of this aggression against a people who are raising high the banner of freedom and national independence.

For you, the Cuban revolution has a very definite significance. It has returned the land to the peasants, it has put an end to domination by foreign monopolies, it has raised the purchasing power of the mass of the workers, it has done away with racial discrimination and has begun the construction of a democratic, prosperous and independent country

These are radical reforms which, together with the heroism of the Cuban people, promise them even greater victories.

The American imperialists have mustered and directed gangs of immigrants, which include supporters and mercenaries of the dictator Batista as well as certain exploiters of the people who oppose these economic and social reforms.

The aim of the aggression is to revive on the island of Cuba exploitation by foreign monopolies and big landowners, and to restore political domination by the United States.

Workers of Latin America !

From the very outbreak of the aggression you have understood that your national and class interests are closely tied up with the defence of the freedom and independence and of the

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achievements of the Cuban Revolution; you have understood that this aggression is directed not only against Cuba, but also against the right of the people of Latin America to free self-determination.

That is why you are making a powerful demonstration of your solidarity with the Revolutionary C.T.C. and with all the workers and people of Cuba. We welcome your actions and support your demonstrations of solidarity.

Under these circumstances, the World Federation of Trade Unions assures you of the full solidarity of the workers of the world.

When we condemn the hypocritical and double-dealing attitude of the United States' Government, in preparing and organising the aggression against the Republic of Cuba, we ask you to take note of the analogous attitude adopted by the leaders of the ICFTU and of ORIT who, having supported the Batista regime and collaborated with it, did not change their position and have opposed the social and political reforms introduced by the Cuban people.

The military adventure in which the imperialists and their mercenaries have engaged is doomed to failure. The heroic Cuban people fighting under the leadership of the Revolutionary Government of Fidel Castro, with the support of the working class and people of Latin America and of the whole world, defeat the imperialist aggression and safeguard their great achievements and gains of the revolution.

Workers and peasants of Latin America !

Your solidarity is still necessary. The W.F.T.U. appeals to you most ardently to increase and strengthen your campaigns of solidarity.

Make the American imperialists feel the full weight of your censure and indignation.

In each of your countries, establish unity of action among all workers as well as a broad united front of all democratic and anti-imperialist forces.

Long live the great Cuban Revolution !

Long live the Latin American workers fighting against imperialist aggression !

Long live international working class solidarity !



WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 24, 1961.

MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

to the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), to the French Confederation of Christian Workers (CFTC), to the CGT-Force Ouvrière (CGT-FO), to the National Teachers' Union (FEN), to the National Union of French Students (UNEF) and to the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA)

The W.F.T.U. expresses its own solidarity and that of the 107 million workers it represents to all trade union and democratic organisations, to all the workers and people of France who have risen in the face of the military and fascist attack in Algiers.

The W.F.T.U. calls on all trade unions and workers in all countries to demonstrate their solidarity with the working class and people of France, fighting against the threat of fascism and for negotiations with the Provisional Government of the Republic of Algeria. It furthermore, expresses its solidarity with the Algerian people fighting for independence.

The W.F.T.U. reaffirms that under the present circumstances the strengthening of fraternal contacts between the French and Algerian trade union organisations and the expansion of friendly relations between the French and Algerian people is one of the most important ways of defeating all military and fascist plots in Algiers.

The W.F.T.U. is confident that the working class and people of France, fortified by their tradition in anti-fascist and united struggles, will deliver a fatal blow to the seditious groups.

It assures all workers and democrats in France of international working class solidarity in their campaign for the defence of the Republic and democratic liberties, and for an end to the war in Algeria by way of negotiations with the Provisional Government of the Republic of Algeria. It, moreover, assures the Algerian workers of its full solidarity in the face of the growing threats directed against them by the seditious operation by the 'ultras'. The mustering of all French, Algerian and international forces, without discrimination, against the 'ultras' will lead to the defeat of the enemies of a negotiated peace in Algeria.

Louis SAILLANT

General Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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✓

THE W.F.T.U. IS WITH THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

On April 17, the General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. Louis SAILLANT, sent the following telegram to the Cuban C.T.C.:

"Workers of all countries have just learnt with deep indignation and anger of the aerial bombardment on the civil population of Cuba and the landing of armed counter-revolutionaries organised by American imperialism.

"In the name of these workers the W.F.T.U. expresses its strongest objection to this shameful act of aggression, inspired and led by the United States government. It assures the revolutionary C.T.C. and the workers and people of Cuba of its complete international solidarity and of its complete confidence in the victorious outcome of their rightful struggle for the defence of their freedoms and the magnificent achievements of the democratic and population Revolution in Cuba.

"In these difficult hours the W.F.T.U. is appealing to the workers of the world to support you. They are already demonstrating in every way their warm support for their Cuban brothers and sisters.

"Shame on the aggressors! Long live the working people of Cuba!"

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

~~SOLIDARITY WITH FRENCH WORKERS~~ April 25, 1961.

MESSAGE FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE REVOLUTIONARY
C.T.C.

~~The following message was sent~~ ✓

Dear Brothers,

Workers throughout the world were thrilled at the news of the magnificent victory of the Cuban people over the counter-revolutionary hordes in the pay of American imperialism.

Speaking on their behalf, the World Federation of Trade Unions wishes to convey the warmest congratulations to the Revolutionary C.T.C. and, through its intermediary, to the workers and the entire people of Cuba who, closely united around their revolutionary government, have routed the imperialist aggressors.

It pays tribute to the unshakeable courage shown by the Cuban revolutionary fighters. Workers all over the world pay homage to the memory of the heroic sons of the democratic and popular revolution in Cuba, who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of independence and freedom in their country and for the cause of all peoples.

The victory of the Cuban workers and peasants is the victory of all workers and democrats throughout the world. The defeat of their aggressors is a bitter defeat for American imperialism and for all forces of reaction and subservience.

The W.F.T.U. hails the powerful international solidarity movement in Latin America and all other continents which has vigorously supported your struggle and helped to bring about victory.

In hailing your victory and the preservation of your revolutionary achievements, the W.F.T.U. urges the workers and trade unions throughout the world to remain on guard so as to deal successfully with any further plot by the imperialists who have not abandoned their aggressive plans.

Long live the Cuban Revolution and its valiant defenders!

Long live international working class solidarity with the workers and people of Cuba!

Louis SAILLANT

General Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

M E S S A G E

From the W.F.T.U. to the Workers of the World
on May Day , 1961

Working men and women of the world:

On May , 1961, we will be celebrating the International Day of struggle, solidarity and unity of workers all over the world, at a time when profound and irrevocable changes are ensuring the victory of the forces of peace and the complete and final liberation of the working class.

- Extraordinary powerful workers' struggles are shaking the capitalist system, which is being torn by insoluble contradictions.
- The oppressed peoples' struggles is bringing about the collapse of the colonial system and the liberation of young nations from the imperialist yoke.
- Over one third of the globe, we can see the spectacular achievements of the socialist system, which embodies the century old aspirations of mankind.

On this 1st of May, 1961, the World Federation of Trade Unions pays warm tribute to your continuous battles and your daily struggle.

Wherever capitalist exploitation has been abolished and the working class controls its own destiny, it is pursuing its efforts, joyfully and confidently, to consolidate and extend its achievements, to fulfil its goals of constant progress, of well being and peace. In these countries labour will be celebrated and honoured on this May Day.

In those parts of the world where exploitation of man by man and monopoly power still reign, workers are fighting ever more tenaciously , with greater class-consciousness and enthusiasm, and in an increasingly united way for aims common to all our class brothers.

.../

They are fighting ardently for peace and to thwart the aggressive plans of imperialist circles headed by the United States, who are carrying on their policy of military adventure; they are suffering the economic and social hardship imposed by the armaments race, which greatly lowers their standard of living; they are uniting with peace forces throughout the world in demanding a reduction in military expenditure and the use of the sums released for peaceful purposes and in urging complete disarmament and peaceful co-existence. All these aims are possible of achievement today. The imperialist camp can no longer have everything its own way. The superiority of the socialist over the capitalist system, of peace forces over the forces of reaction and war becomes more evident each day and guarantees that those efforts will lead to victory.

Workers are fighting, sometimes arms in hand, to end colonialism once and for all, to win and strengthen national independence, to defeat the open or covert manoeuvres of imperialism, to achieve economic independence, to industrialise their countries and to carry out agrarian reform so that they may look forward to a better life.

Workers have to contend with employers and monopolies that are reaping fantastic profits from their labour and which are doing everything possible to make them carry the burden of the economic crises and recessions inherent in the capitalist system; many are threatened with unemployment; in some countries mass unemployment already exist; workers are continually faced with attacks upon their trade union and democratic rights, with reductions in purchasing power, with insecurity and illness.

Everywhere, therefore, they are demanding:

- a general wage increase and the elimination of every form of discrimination in the payment of wages ;
- reduced working hours without loss of pay;
- full employment ;
- the introduction and improvement of social security;
- the recognition, defence and extension of trade union and democratic rights;

Whatever their trade union affiliation and political or religious views, whatever country or continent they come from and whatever social and economic system they live under, working men and women are deeply conscious that theirs is a class struggle, the aims of which are shared by workers all over the world. The conditions, the forms and the immediate objectives of that struggle may vary considerably, but they know that all workers are united by international working class solidarity and that this is the guarantee of success.

For more than 70 years, international working class brotherhood has found expression on this great day of united action and working class struggle that is May Day. And on May Day 1961 we can point to a substantial growth of international trade union relations, to active, practical working class solidarity and to joint action by workers and trade unions of every affiliation.

These developments will find their most significant and effective expression in the 5th World Trade Union Congress which will meet in Moscow from December 4 to 16, 1961, when workers of every country and affiliation will discuss their experiences, express their views freely and frankly and forge fresh links enabling them to advance towards international unity.

Long live international working class solidarity !

Long live the 5th World Trade Union Congress !

Long live May Day !

Prague, April 14, 1961

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SECURITY

The meeting of the International Trade Union Commission on Social Security was held in Prague from March 27 to 30. Louisie Grassi, Secretary of the WFTU presided over the meeting.

Representatives from Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Brazil, Chile, China, India, Japan, Lebanon, Finland, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia, and USSR attended the meeting.

Elena Teodorsecu, Secretary of the WFTU, in her report on the conditions of social security in different parts of the world dealt at length on the growth of workers struggles for protecting and improving the social security systems.

Together with the problems of work accidents and occupational diseases, working conditions of women, ~~young~~ ^{elaborated} young workers and children, she ~~elaborated~~ the impact of capitalist exploitation and use of forced labour on the social security systems.

Detailing the effect of mechanisation and automation on production which increased the fatigue of workers, she said: " The modern machine functions at fantastic speed. It is no longer the worker who governs the machine, it is the machine which governs him. It only demands a few simple operation from the worker but they must be fast, precise and uninterupted and these actions put his entire nervous system under constant pressure."

The increased intensity of the work, she continued,

the insecurity of jobs, the long and everyday journey between the home and the work-place and other incidental conditions of work, have made the workers more vulnerable to risks from accidents and sickness.

She explained how the WFTU since the 4th World Trade Union Congress viewed with concern the alarming situation and proved itself alert to the immediate economic and social demands of the workers. The creation of the International Commission on Social Security was continuation of that interest in this field, she said.

Concluding her report, Elena Teodorescu, laid down the ~~the~~ following immediate and long term tasks of the Commission:

1. To make a thorough study of the existing systems of social security as obtaining in different countries and regions of the world.

2. To make known to the WFTU Secretariat the experiences of the workers struggles in this field.

3. To propose ^{to} the WFTU Secretariat the forms of ~~struggle~~ action to unite the workers around the problems of social nature.

4. To draw up propaganda material on these themes.

5. To take measures on the lines of WFTU policy for the improvement of social legislation as regards the International organisations, I.L.O., UNESCO etc., and

6. To see how technical aid and assistance in the field of social security should be given to trade unions of the countries which have recently acquired independence.

The Commission discussed the report in the light of experience gained in various countries and approved it. It further finalised a draft charter on social security which will be circulated for discussion among the workers and trade unions of all countries.

Taking note of the suggestions from national centres, it was decided that the revised draft will be submitted to the fifth World Trade Union Congress for adoption.

The Commission decided to function on a permanent basis with a view to promote united action and international solidarity by all workers and all trade unions, irrespective of affiliation, in order to ensure the protection, widening and improvement of social security and social insurance.

Dr.M.K.Pandhe (AITUC Central Office) and Mahendra Sen (AITUC representative at the WFTU headquarters at Prague) represented the AITUC in the meeting of the Commission.

A. I. T. U. C.
Received... 15/58/26:5:61
Replied.....

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

212-A

May 23, 1961

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE W.F.T.U. TO THE I.L.O. ABOUT THE VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN IRAQ

The General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., Louis SAILLANT, has addressed a letter to the Director-General of the I.L.O., David MORSE, with reference to the violation of trade union rights in Iraq.

In this letter the W.F.T.U. condemns a number of violations of trade union rights and persecutions committed against trade unionists in Iraq: the arrest of trade unionists, the falsification of trade union election results, the closing down of trade union buildings, police and armed action against strikes and demonstrations with sometimes even the murder of demonstrators, workers brought before military tribunals, and trade unionists dismissed because of their union activity.

The W.F.T.U. requests the Director-General of the I.L.O. to take necessary and effective steps to obtain the immediate liberation of the imprisoned trade unionists, and for the respect of trade union rights in the Republic of Iraq including the holding of new trade union elections in conditions which would allow the workers affiliated to trade unions a free choice of their trade union leaders.

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No. 226

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

May 27, 1961

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

A. I. T. U. C.
Received 15.92/305-21
Rephed.....

W.F.T.U. CONDEMNS IMPERIALIST PLOTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

The W.F.T.U. has sent the following message to the President of the Vietnamese Federation of Trade Unions :

At a time when the people in all countries are anxious to see a peaceful solution to the situation in Laos in order to lessen tension in Indochina, the United States are increasing their aggressive manoeuvres in South Vietnam by the visit of Lyndon Johnson and the sending of American troops, thus arousing the indignation of the workers and people in South and North Vietnam.

The continuously worsening situation in South Vietnam is due entirely to the repeated violation of the Geneva agreements by the Government of the United States during the past seven years which supports the cruel domination by the Ngo Dinh Diem clique. The workers and people of South Vietnam have had to unleash a struggle against them and fight for their right to live, to obtain freedom and the unification of their country.

The W.F.T.U. indignantly condemns the recent plot by the American imperialists. It firmly supports the patriotic movement by the workers and people of South Vietnam. It is certain that the workers and trade unions throughout the world will increase their vigilance in order to defeat all plots by the American imperialists and the Ngo Dinh Diem clique so as to safeguard peace in Indochina and in the world.

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N° 227

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

June 19, 1961.

I.R.N. (967) ... 22.6.61/...

File No. ...

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

to the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions and to the workers of the Soviet Union on the 20th anniversary of the nazi aggression against the Soviet Union

Twenty years ago, on June 22, 1941, Hitler Germany unleashed its aggression against the Soviet Union.

Brought to power by the German monopolies and their allies, the American, British and French monopolies, the nazi power, after destroying the German workers' movement by ruthless repression, set itself the task of attacking the international progressive and labour movement. The attack against the first socialist State was part of the criminal plans of the monopolies and reactionary forces in the world who had been unable to carry out their intentions during the first armed intervention against the young Soviet Union. This second attack was condemned to the same failure and, in the face of the most formidable war machine bringing destruction and crimes, the army of the Soviet workers and peasants who bore the heaviest burden, won a decisive victory for the evolution of mankind.

The unity of the Soviet people around the socialist government, their heroic battle, their sacrifices and the concerted and solid force of all anti-fascist and democratic forces in the world brought about the defeat of Hitler Germany.

On this 20th anniversary of the nazi aggression against your country, the W.F.T.U. sends it most fraternal greetings to the trade unions and workers of the Soviet Union.

The W.F.T.U. was forged in this struggle against fascism. Its birth in 1945, the expression of the desire for unity felt by all workers of the world, coincided with the victory of the peoples over the forces of reaction.

On this 20th anniversary, the W.F.T.U. also wishes to recall the betrayal of the hopes for peace, unity and progress which arose from the victory over fascism and the need for the workers to be vigilant.

The monopolies and governments in their service are continuing their traditional anti-social and war policy in the capitalist countries. They have formed aggressive military blocs such as the NATO. Sixteen years after the end of the second world war, they are opposing the conclusion of a Peace Treaty with the two German States and the constructive proposals made by the

.../

Soviet Government to change West Berlin into a free city. They have encouraged the rebirth of militarism in West Germany and have created in West Berlin a hotbed of war and provocation for the revenge-seekers. But the balance of forces is today no longer the same as twenty years ago. Throughout the world, the forces of peace have become much stronger and as a result, war is today no longer inevitable, but can be averted and peace can be saved and consolidated.

Once again, this result which opens bright prospects to mankind, could be obtained, above all, thanks to the workers of the Soviet Union who are in the front ranks of the struggle against imperialism and for peace, peaceful co-existence and independence of the peoples. The workers of the Soviet Union have given proof of the exceptional social, technical and human opportunities offered by socialism and are working for international working class unity and solidarity.

On the occasion of this anniversary, the W.F.T.U. calls on workers in all countries to increase their campaigns for the defeat of the criminal plans of the imperialist monopolies and to bring about universal and complete disarmament so that the chances of a new world war should be excluded once and for all time.

Louis SAILLANT

General Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

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No.229

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A. I. T. U. C.

I.R. No. 2107 Date 3.7.61

File No. Registered

June 28, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

DECLARATION OF THE W.F.T.U. ON THE SERIOUS SITUATION PREVAILING IN SOUTH VIETNAM

At a time when the peoples of the world wish for a peaceful solution of the Laotian question to be found at the enlarged Geneva Conference, the W.F.T.U. brings to the attention of the workers and trade unions the world over, the serious situation prevailing in South Vietnam, seven years after the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements signed in 1954, which is endangering peace in Indo-China and all South-East Asia.

The dictatorial and bloodthirsty NGO DINH DIEM administration, acting upon the orders of the American imperialists, has launched an actual war against the people, harrasing workers and patriots mercilessly. During the last seven years it has put 77,500 people to death, imprisoned and tortured to the condition of invalids more than 500,000 people, and today some 300,000 are still kept in prison.

Industrial and agricultural production is declining as never before. South Vietnam, famous previously as the South-East Asian rice granary is today starving to death. In the towns the army of unemployed reaches 1,500,000 people which is 10% of the population.

The fundamental cause of this state of affairs is the increasing day by day intervention of the American imperialists, who act in flagrant violation of the Geneva agreements, and their intention of turning this territory into a military base and a colony.

During the last seven years, they have openly put South Vietnam into the so-called "protection area" of the South-East-Asian aggressive military bloc (SEATO); they have illegally introduced military equipment and thousands of military advisers into the country and they have built many strategic roads, naval bases and airfields. They recently took a further step in their interventionist and annexationist policy. The KENNEDY administration announced the so-called "8 Point Programme" aimed at totally submitting South Vietnam to the former's military, political and economic control. The joint JOHNSON-NGO DINH DIEM communique clearly indicated that the American imperialists will help NGO DINH DIEM to increase his armed forces from 150,000 to 300,000 men. The Americans will increase their military aid by 41 million dollars and will send a new contingent of 1,000 military advisers to South Vietnam.

.../

This situation has forced the workers and people of South Vietnam to rise and wage a resolute struggle against the imperialist yoke, for national liberation, democracy, freedom and the peaceful reunification with the northern part of the country which is now in full economic, political, and social development.

On behalf of its 107 million members, the W.F.T.U. expresses its complete support for the just struggle of the Vietnamese workers and people against American imperialist aggression and the repression carried on by the NGO DINH DIEM clique. It demands that the 1954 Geneva Agreements should be carried out, the imperialists' unwarranted interference and aggression should be brought to an end, and that the SEATO military bloc be abolished.

On July 20, 1961, the 1954 Geneva Agreements, through which peace was restored in Indo-China, will have been in existence for precisely seven years. The W.F.T.U. is convinced that the workers and trade unions in all countries will take all necessary steps to prove to their Vietnamese brothers their active solidarity, and their desire to ensure peace and security in Indo-China and in all South-East Asia.

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Published by the W.F.T.U.
Press Department.

No. 230.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A. I. T. U. C.
I.R. No. 2108 Date 3.7.61 ...
File No. ...

June 28, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Preparations for the 5th World Trade Union Congress

THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF THE W.F.T.U. ADOPTS A DRAFT PROGRAMME OF TRADE UNION ACTION

The Executive Bureau of the W.F.T.U. held its 40th Session in Prague from June 23 to 26, 1961.

It heard the report submitted by the special Commission appointed by the 22nd Session of the Executive Committee for the drafting of a preparatory document for the 5th World Trade Union Congress.

The Executive Bureau of the W.F.T.U. unanimously adopted the "Draft Programme of Trade Union Action at the present stage for the defence of the workers' interests and rights". It was decided that this document, which refers to the essential problems of the trade union movement, should be widely popularised and sent to all trade union organisations. It will finally be submitted for discussion at the 5th World Trade Union Congress, to be held in Moscow from December 4 to 16, 1961.

This same Session of the Executive Bureau also discussed the situation in regard to the preparations for the Congress which has already given rise to considerable interest among workers and trade unions. It noted with satisfaction the establishment of National United Committees for the preparation of the Congress and the election and sending of the delegations. The Executive Bureau was also gratified to hear of all that the Soviet trade unions have done to guarantee a warm welcome for the delegates and for the progress of the proceedings.

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No. 231.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

W. U. C.
I.R. No. 2219 Date 17 8 JUL 1961
File No. Replied on

July 4, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Telegram sent to A. MAACHOU, General Secretary of the General Union of Algerian Workers on the occasion of the 5th of July, National Day against the partition of Algerian territory.

On occasion, of the National Day against the partition of Algerian territory, the 5th of July, the W.F.T.U. declares once again its entire solidarity with the Algerian workers and people who struggle for the national independence of all Algerian territory.

We strongly condemn the manoeuvres of the de Gaulle authorities, who pursue their colonialist war, who unilaterally interrupt the negotiations and who seek to impose the dividing up of Algerian territory.

We greet the new and powerful demonstrations of the Algerian people united behind the F.G.A.R.

Your heroic struggle supported by the workers of the world, will allow you to impose the victory of your just cause.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.

Published by the W.F.T.U.
Press Department.

No. 232

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

24th July, 1961

STATEMENT BY THE W.F.T.U. ON THE FRENCH AGGRESSION AGAINST TUNISIA

A. I. T. U. C.

I.R. No. 256 (Date 31 JUL 1961)

File No. Registration

The peoples and workers of the whole world heard with profound emotion of the new aggression committed by French imperialism.

In response to the legitimate demand of the Tunisian Government and people for the evacuation of the air and naval base of Bizerta and the complete liberation of their territory, the French colonialists have behaved as they did towards the Egyptians in 1956 and as the imperialists usually do in order to maintain their domination over the oppressed peoples.

The armed intervention in Tunisia and the massacre of hundreds of Tunisian patriots proves that, so far as the French Government is concerned, decolonisation is meaningless and a fraud.

Supported by Anglo-American imperialism in the emergency session of the Security Council, but condemned by all progressive humanity, this act of aggression proves once more, if further proof were needed, the brutal intransigence of colonialism, which cannot be disguised by whatever new form it may take.

The W.F.T.U., which consistently supports the peoples' struggle for independence and against colonialism, protests vigorously, on behalf of its 107 million members, against the criminal intervention of the French Government. It demands that the Bizerta base be evacuated immediately by the French troops, that the sovereignty of the Tunisian people be respected and that peace in Africa and in the world be preserved.

The W.F.T.U. calls upon all trade union organisations and workers in every country, regardless of their political outlook, to demonstrate their active solidarity with the people and workers of Tunisia and to support their just demand.

We pay tribute to the memory of the Tunisian heroes who have given their lives for the independence and sovereignty of their country, and repeat our absolute conviction that, united, the oppressed peoples and workers of the world will put an end to the crumbling colonial system and remove all vestiges of it, wherever it still exists

The W.F.T.U. has also sent
the following telegrams :

Chairman of the Security Council, NEW YORK, U S A :

ON BEHALF OF 107 MILLION MEMBERS WE STRONGLY PROTEST AGAINST ARMED INTERVENTION BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN TUNISIA AND AGAINST MASSACRE

OF TUNISIANS DEFENDING THEIR FATHERLAND STOP WE SUPPORT DEMAND BY TUNISIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT FOR EVACUATION OF BIZERTA MILITARY BASE AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY STOP WE DEMAND EFFECTIVE MEASURES REGARDING FRENCH AUTHORITIES

Sugiri, Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

UNION GENERALE DES TRAVAILLEURS DE TUNISIE Maison des Syndicats
TUNIS. TUNISIA

ON BEHALF OF OUR 107 MILLION MEMBERS WE EXPRESS OUR FRATERNAL SUPPORT OF TUNISIAN WORKERS AND PEOPLE IN STRUGGLE FOR COMPLETE LIBERATION OF THEIR TERRITORY AND SYMPATHY WITH THE FAMILIES OF PATRIOTS VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION STOP HAVE CALLED UPON WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO EXPRESS ACTIVE SOLIDARITY AND HAVE PROTESTED TO SECURITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF DEMAND FOR EVACUATION OF BIZERTA

Sugiri, Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

ALL-AFRICAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS 222 Avenue Royale
CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

CONDEMNING FRENCH AGGRESSION AGAINST TUNISIA WE HAVE CALLED UPON WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO EXPRESS ACTIVE SOLIDARITY WITH TUNISIAN PEOPLE STOP HAVE PROTESTED TO SECURITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF DEMAND FOR EVACUATION OF BIZERTA STOP HAVE INFORMED UGTT OF STEPS TAKEN

Sugiri, Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A. I. T. U. C.

I.R. No. 2211 Date 21 AUG. 1961.

File No. Registered

August 15, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS AND PEOPLE OF TUNISIA

The General Union of Tunisian Workers has sent a telegram to the W.F.T.U. asking it to support the decision taken by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee to observe August 18 as a Day of Solidarity with the Tunisian people fighting the remnants of colonialism. On receiving the telegram, the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. sent the following cable to the UGTT:

"The W.F.T.U. true to its anti-colonialist struggle and in the spirit of its statement of July 27 on French colonial aggression against your country, renews its support and solidarity with the workers, trade unions and people of Tunisia in their just struggle for independence, sovereignty and freedom of their country. The W.F.T.U. is approaching the United Nations asking them to condemn the aggression, to ensure the complete evacuation of French troops from Tunisian soil and the payment of compensation to the families of victims. Today we have called on our affiliated Centres to demonstrate solidarity with the just cause of the workers and people of Tunisia on August 18. Assuring you of our complete solidarity, we send you fraternal greetings."

The following telegram was sent by the
~~Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. to~~
Mr. HAMMARSKJÖELD, Secretary-General of
the United Nations:

"Sir, On behalf of its 107 million members and certain of conveying the feelings of workers in all countries as well as of the workers and people of Tunisia, the World Federation of Trade Unions, true to its anti-colonialist policy and the struggle for the respecting of each country's independence and sovereignty, asks the General Assembly of the United Nations, whose special session

it approves, to condemn the shameful armed aggression by the French authorities directed against the Tunisian people, thus violating their national sovereignty. It, furthermore, calls on the General Assembly to take a stand in favour of the complete and immediate evacuation of French troops from Bizerta, sovereign territory of the Republic of Tunisia, to provide guarantees to the Tunisian people, ensuring the respect of their full national independence and obtain compensation for the families of victims of aggression. Workers, trade unions and people throughout the world expect the special General Assembly to take a firm stand in support of the Tunisian people's legitimate rights."

In its telegram to all its affiliated Centres, the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. asks them, despite the short notice, to take every possible step to make August 18 a real Day of Solidarity with the workers and people of Tunisia. This should include meetings, large assemblies, messages to the United Nations, telegrams of solidarity to the UGTT and so forth.

Published by the
Press Dept. of the W.F.T.U.

No.234

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

FERDINAND SMITH, A GREAT TRADE UNION LEADER
HAS DIED

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has been greatly distressed by the news of the death of Brother Ferdinand SMITH, President of the Jamaican Federation of Trade Unions, affiliated to the world Federation of Trade Unions. He was 68.

Even though he had been seriously ill for several years, the Jamaican authorities repeatedly refused him permission to leave his country.

As a result of trade union pressure, he finally obtained his passport and was expected in Czechoslovakia where he was to receive treatment and undergo a cure suited to his state of health.

We were looking forward to receiving him at the W.F.T.U. since he was a member of its General Council.

Workers all over the world, who have lost in him a fine leader with unshakeable courage in the face of persecution, shall not forget that Brother SMITH was a trade union leader, well known in the United States where for many years he had been General Secretary of the National Maritime Union. He was also a member of the Executive Bureau of the CIO.

A victim of political persecution during the sinister period of McCarthyism, Brother SMITH had to leave his country and for a time worked at the W.F.T.U. headquarters in Vienna. He returned to Jamaica after a long absence and immediately resumed his active part in the trade union and political struggle in his country.

The W.F.T.U. pays deep homage to the memory of this great man who throughout his life had always been a victim of racial and capitalist repression, but who never surrendered. His life will always serve as an example for all workers.

Louis SAILLANT has sent a telegram of condolence to the Jamaican Federation of Trade Unions on behalf of the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.

Published by the
Press Dept. of the W.F.T.U.

No. 235

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Prague, August 22, 1961.

A. I. T. U. C. 23 AUG 1961

I. R. No. 2366 Date.....

File No..... Replied on..... PRESS COMMUNIQUE



The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has examined the international situation in the light of the recent events in Berlin.

It maintains that the preservation of peace is the primary task of workers' organisations and that they must, therefore, oppose and act against any and every policy that does not aim to save peace among States and the peoples.

Under the circumstances, the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. again reaffirms that the German Democratic Republic is a peace-loving State which does not threaten any other State and whose policy strives for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of all problems pending solution since the end of the Second World war. The most important of these are the signature of a peace treaty and genuine negotiations on the status of West Berlin.

As a result, the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. understands and endorses the legitimate measures taken by the Government of the G.D.R., guaranteeing its national sovereignty, as well as security and peace in Europe. The measures taken by the G.D.R. have delivered a direct blow at every type of provocation coming from West Berlin.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U., speaking for 107 million workers affiliated to its ranks, expresses its solidarity with the FDGB whose duty is to adopt a firm stand in favour of peace, against all plans and provocations by the imperialists, militarists and revenge-seekers and to carry on its constructive efforts to build a socialist society in the G.D.R.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. notes that the D.G.B., the trade union centre of the German Federal Republic and its branch in West Berlin have again adopted an attitude which, in more than one way, recalls to the workers of the world the weakness and capitulation of German trade union leaders in 1933 when they fell into line with the nationalist, aggressive and militaristic positions imposed on Germany by capitalist monopolies, feudal lords and the militarist clique that brought the nazi régime to power.

In view of all these facts, the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. and the Secretariat of the F.D.G.B. will hold a joint meeting in Berlin on August 28 and 29, 1961.

Issued by the Press Dept.
of the W.F.T.U.

No.236

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Prague, August 22, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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No.236

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A. I. T. U. C.
I. R. No. 2416. Date. 6/9
File No. Reference. August 31, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. and the Secretariat of the F.D.G.B. met in Berlin on August 28 and 29, under the chairmanship of Brother Louis SAILLIANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., and Brother Herbert WARNKE, President of the National Confederal Committee of the F.D.G.B.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U., in agreement with the F.D.G.B., decided to issue an Appeal to the international working class and trade union movement calling for joint action to bar the road to German imperialism and militarism, thus preserving peace.

Enclosed is the Appeal of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Published by the
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No.237

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

I.R.N. 3140 - 8 SEP. 1961
File No.

September 2, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

W.F.T.U. EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH BRAZILIAN PEOPLE

Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to:

- the Permanent Committee of Trade Union Organisations in the State of Guanabara,
- the Trade Union Council of the State of Sao Paulo,
- the Trade Union Council of the State of Rio Grande do Sul:

In these serious times for the Brazilian people, the World Federation of Trade Unions wishes to express its fraternal and wholehearted solidarity with the workers and trade unions struggling to safeguard freedom, democracy and the complete sovereignty of the country.

We place our confidence in the united and powerful campaign by the mass of the workers and all democratic and patriotic forces who are firmly opposing the conspiracy of the anti-national and pro-imperialist forces.

-In the name of 107 million workers, we protest against the arrest of a large number of trade union leaders and the closing of trade union premises in several States, and demand the immediate release of all imprisoned trade unionists and the respect of trade union rights.

You can count on the support of the international working class movement and its solidarity in your patriotic struggle for the defence of freedom and a free and democratic future for Brazil.

September 6, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

STATEMENT BY THE W.F.T.U.
IN FAVOUR OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON PRESENT
PROBLEMS RELATED TO UNIVERSAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

For more than ten years, the W.F.T.U. expressing the desire for peace of workers throughout the world, never stopped its relentless campaign in favour of an international agreement for a ban on atomic and nuclear weapons within the framework of universal and complete disarmament.

Throughout this period, workers were able to see that the Soviet Union, true to a consistent peace policy, has put forward countless proposals and taken significant steps to bring about

- universal and controlled disarmament
- a ban on atomic and nuclear weapons
- the suspension of tests
- the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

In particular the proposals of the Soviet Government for universal and complete disarmament at the 14th and 15th Sessions of the U.N. General Assembly provided a striking demonstration to the world of this desire for peace.

The workers were able to see for themselves that while the Soviet proposals were always hailed by the peoples, they were always opposed by the western governments particularly that of the United States. The latter has steadily increased the arms drive and continued to inspire and pursue a policy of aggression while threatening mankind with a third world war. The western powers, members of NATO, have given free rein to atomic tests by tolerating that the French Government carries out tests in the Sahara.

Under the present circumstances, the workers cannot underestimate the brutal reality that in West Germany an aggressive

armed force has been revived and that its plans include atomic armament and its objectives a war of conquest against the G.D.R. and the socialist countries.

It is in this general context that the Government of the U.S.S.R. has decided to resume test explosions on nuclear weapons.

The W.F.T.U. notes with satisfaction that in taking this step, the Soviet Government solemnly declared that it would never be the first to use these weapons and that it is always ready to sign an agreement on universal and complete disarmament, ending at the same time thermo-nuclear tests.

The W.F.T.U. feels that this decision must be seen in the light of the position adopted by those who have played the distressing game of thwarting and torpedoing all steps towards peace taken by the U.S.S.R. It maintains that this is a measure ensuring the security of the workers in the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, as a measure safeguarding the interests of the international working class and peace and as a severe warning to all instigators of war and possible aggressors.

The W.F.T.U. is certain that today as yesterday the working class of the world can rely on the tireless efforts by the Soviet Union to safeguard and consolidate peace.

The W.F.T.U. call on workers and trade unions to redouble their efforts and wage a vigorous battle for the triumph of their desire for peace and to impose genuine negotiations on the western powers.

It maintains that a general disarmament agreement including a ban on atomic and thermo-nuclear weapons and, therefore, the suspension of tests is a most urgent necessity. It reaffirms its stand in favour of genuine negotiations for the signature of a German peace treaty and a peaceful settlement of the West Berlin problem.

It is in this spirit that the W.F.T.U. is calling an International Trade Union Conference for a German peace treaty, a peaceful solution of the West Berlin problem and against war provocations to be held in Berlin from September 22 to 24.

The W.F.T.U., therefore, intends to carry on its efforts for the preservation of peace and peaceful co-existence.

Prague, September 6, 1961.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A. I. T. U. C.
I.R. 3226. Date 21/9
File No. Repl. ed.

September 18, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

THE W.F.T.U. PROTESTS AGAINST REPRESSION IN SOUTH KOREA

Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. sent the following telegram to the General Federation of Korean Trade Unions - PYONGYANG :

"Vehemently condemn outrageous and unprecedentedly inhuman fascist attack of South Korean authorities for sentencing director and journalists of Minjok Ilbo to death and other heavy penalties under manipulation of US imperialism. So-called reason for sentencing these patriots was Minjok Ilbo together with South Korean people advocated peaceful unification of Korea without foreign interference and demanded withdrawal of US imperialists from South Korea. In name world workers and trade unions W.F.T.U. vigorously demands immediate repeal of illegal sentences release of all innocent people restoration of human rights and democratic freedoms and punishment of agents of US imperialism and national traitors."

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Published by the
Press Dept of the W.F.T.U.

No. 239

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A. I. T. U. C.
I.P. No. 3625 Date: 30.9.1961
File No. Registered on:

September 30, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

THE BERLIN INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFERENCE THANKS N.KHRUSHCHEV AND W.ULBRICHT

The General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., Louis SAILLANT, has sent the Memorandum adopted by the International Trade Union Conference for a German Peace Treaty, the Peaceful Solution of the West Berlin Problem and against War Provocations (Berlin, September 22-24, 1961) to the President of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, N.S.KHRUSHCHEV together with a letter of thanks for the message Mr.Khrushchev had addressed to the Conference:

"The Conference" - writes Louis SAILLANT in his letter - "received your kind message with enthusiasm. The Conference considered it to be a valuable contribution to the achievement of its aims and asked me to convey to you its sincere thanks".

Louis SAILLANT also thanked the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, W.ULBRICHT, for his message addressed to the Conference:

"In answer to your message" - writes Louis SAILLANT - "which was a great help to each participant and each trade union organisation involved in the struggle for a German Peace Treaty and the demilitarisation of West Berlin, I can assure you that the Berlin Conference, although convoked at short notice, played its full part in raising the level of the mass struggle waged for our aims".

Published by the
Press Dept. of the W.F.T.U.

No.242

3625

3/10 ...

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

September 30, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

MEMORANDUM ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN BERLIN

The International Trade Union Conference for a German Peace Treaty, a peaceful settlement of the West Berlin problem and against war provocations which met in Berlin from September 22 to 24, adopted the enclosed Memorandum which was sent to the Governments of the U.S.S.R., Great Britain, the United States of America and France as well as to the Governments of the two German States: the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic.

Published by the
W.F.T.U. Press Dept.
No.141

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A. I. T. U.

I.R. No. 2526

File No.

9 OCT 1961

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

W.F.T.U. PROTESTS AGAINST ARREST OF SACTU PRESIDENT

The W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to the Minister of Justice of the Republic of South Africa:

"Deeply indignant at arbitrary arrest of Leon Levy President of South African Congress of Trade Unions, W.F.T.U. considers arrest an illegal and flagrant attack on trade union rights and Declaration of Human Rights. They protest vigorously on behalf of 107 million members and demand immediate release of Levy and punishment of persons responsible for his unjust arrest".

Published by the Press Dept,
of the W.F.T.U.
No. 243.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

October 21, 1961.

3736 24 OCT. 1961

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The 5th Session of the Trade Union Committee for Co-ordination and Action in the Common Market Countries

The Trade Union Committee of Co-ordination and Action in the Common Market Countries created in Paris in 1958 uniting the trade union organisations affiliated to the W.F.T.U. in the countries of the Common Market, held its 5th Session in Milan from October 12 - 14, 1961.

The representatives of the Trade Unions Internationals of Metalworkers, Miners, Textile Workers and Chemical Workers (Trade Departments of the W.F.T.U.) also took part in this Session of the Committee which published the following communique at the end of its proceedings:

"The Trade Union Committee for Co-ordination and Action in the Common Market Countries met at Milan on October 12, 13 and 14, 1961.

In the course of this meeting the Committee was unanimous in observing the deterioration of the international situation, especially because of the increasing activity of German militarism.

The representatives then discussed very thoroughly the following two items of the agenda:

1) The development of the struggle for the demands of the working class of the Common Market countries and the lessons to be deducted from them for the application of the decisions taken by the Committee in Seclin (France) in May 1960;

2) The problem of co-ordinating the power resources in the countries of the Common Market and of defending the interests of the workers.

On the first point the Committee confirmed that the introduction of the Common Market found its expression in an acceleration of the process of capital concentration and in the growing power of the monopolies, especially of German monopolies. A characteristic feature of this greater power of the monopolies is an even more belligerent attitude towards the living and working conditions of the working class, trade union liberties and rights, and trade union privileges.

On the other hand the Committee noted with satisfaction that the struggle of the workers for peace, economic and social progress and democracy is growing in importance.

The characteristic feature of these struggles is the fact that they develop more and more often on the basis of demands which have certain points in common even if there are certain differences and conditions which are peculiar to each country.

The first steps made in this field enables us to look with confidence to the future development of unity of action of the workers in these six countries and of their trade union organisations regardless of national or international trade union affiliation. This applies to the level of different undertakings in one trust or making a similar product as well as to the same industrial branches and even between workers of the same trade.

The Committee decided to support a number of initiatives on this subject, tending to facilitate and accelerate this development.

Concerning the second question, the Committee discussed mainly the coal crisis in the ECSC countries, especially in Belgium and France.

The Committee is of the opinion that this crisis is mainly due to the Governments of the respective countries basing themselves on the policy of the ECSC and the International Oil Cartel.

In face of the wide and complex character of these problems concerning power sources and new perspectives - mainly in the field of nuclear energy - the Committee decided to make a deeper study of this question and to draw conclusions from it which can be expressed in practical proposals to help the workers and their trade unions to oppose the harmful policy of the monopolies with their own progressive proposals."

Published by the
A.F.T.U. Press Department.

No. 246

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A. I. T. U. C.
I.R. N. 3935 Part 2 No. 1961
For Secretary, W.F.T.U. Secretariat, 100

October 27, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

TELEGRAMS FROM THE W.F.T.U. ON THE OCCASION OF THE VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN ADEN

The Secretariat of the World Federation of Trade Unions addressed the following two telegrams on October 26, 1961:

1) To the Governor of Aden

"On behalf of its 107 million members the World Federation of Trade Unions strongly protests against repressive measures taken by Aden authorities against five thousand technical workers on strike for protection their legitimate rights. Highly indignant at this violation of trade union rights we demand annulment of the 1960 anti-strike law and withdrawal of proceedings started under provisions of this law against Aden trade union leaders who are to appear before tribunal November 1st and satisfaction of their justified demands".

2) To the Aden T.U.C.

"We learnt with indignation of repressive measures taken by Aden authorities against five thousand technical workers and their trade union leaders for striking to defend their legitimate rights. On behalf of its 107 million members the World Federation of Trade Unions asks you to convey its fraternal solidarity to strikers. We have sent a cable to Aden Governor protesting against the repressive measures taken against the leaders of the strike".

Published by the W.F.T.U. Press Service
No. 250.

November 3, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

MESSAGE OF THE W.F.T.U. ON THE 4th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BROTHER DI VITTORIO

Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following message to Agostino NOVELLA, General Secretary of the C.G.I.L. (Italy) on the 4th anniversary of the death of Brother DI VITTORIO

"On this 4th anniversary of the death of our lamented Brother DI VITTORIO, the Secretariat of the World Federation of Trade Unions wishes to pay homage to his memory by writing to the Secretariat of the C.G.I.L. and to Brother Di Vittorio's family.

"The memory of Brother DI VITTORIO is deeply rooted in the ranks of the World Federation of Trade Unions and everyone remembers this militant and courteous, cordial and friendly man who, as President of the World Federation of Trade Unions, always encouraged the feelings of comradeship and international friendship, which form one of the bases of our unity.

"Respecting the memory of Brother DI VITTORIO and paying tribute to his militant life, the World Federation of Trade Unions carries on his task for the determined defence of the workers' interests, for the cause of peace and the struggle for unity, and against his enemies.

"Honour to Brother DI VITTORIO".

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

December 22, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

INFORMATION

OF THE TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONAL OF WORKERS IN COMMERCE ON THE STRIKE IN ITALY.

An important struggle of the workers in commerce is going on in Italy. The three trade unions, affiliated to the Italian General Confederation of Labour, the Italian Confederation of Workers' Trade Unions and to the Italian Labour Union respectively, started a united strike movement throughout the country from December 17 to 22, 1960.

The workers are waging a struggle for the renewal of the national collective agreement, based on fundamental demands, comprising the reduction of working hours, equality of wages for equal qualification, increase in allowances in case of sickness, work accidents and tuberculosis, revision of apprenticeship regulations, etc.

In view of the inflexible attitude of the Employers' Confederation which refused to negotiate, the workers waged their first national day of protest on December 17. On December 18 and 19, a 48-hour strike with a 90% participation was organised in Trieste; On December 16, 17 and 18, a sectorwide strike was waged at Modena. In the course of December 22, the campaign was extended to shops in large Italian cities such as Venice, etc.

On December 22, the Employers' Confederation informed the Federations of trade unions that it was ready to negotiate. Discussions will take place at the beginning of January.

Should the Employers' Confederation not change its attitude in the course of the negotiations, the three trade Federations, pursuing their action, are prepared to call a nation wide general strike of workers in commerce.

In view of the volume, the importance and the difficulties of this struggle, the Secretariat of the Trade Unions International, while giving its full support to this campaign, feels that affiliated and friendly organisations of the T.U.I. will not fail to express their solidarity with the Italian workers in commerce.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

DECLARATION OF THE W.F.T.U. ON THE STRUGGLE OF THE BELGIAN WORKERS

For more than ten days the Belgian workers have been engaged in a powerful strike which is constantly gaining in breadth and fighting spirit. The World Federation of Trade Unions, as soon as it began, sent a message of solidarity to the Belgian Trade Union Centre, the F.G.T.B., which is leading the strike.

The workers in all enterprises, in the public and private sectors, regardless of their trade union affiliation, are resolutely opposed to the austerity law put forward by the Government which, acting for the monopolies, wants to make the working people pay for the disastrous consequences of an anti-labour policy serving the interests of the huge capitalists and the colonial policy in the Congo.

The Belgian workers are, with good reason, taking action against the serious attacks on their living standards contained in the Government proposals, and against the threat of new dismissals and worsening unemployment, with which thousands of miners particularly, victims of the policy of the European Coal and Steel Community, are already familiar.

They are taking action against heavier taxes and the attacks the Government is making on their social gains, so dearly won.

They are demanding higher wages, better living and working conditions; the restriction of the power of the monopolies, to ensure an economic policy more in line with the interests of their country and the people.

In their just struggle the Belgian workers are courageously facing up to the repressive apparatus of the capitalist state. Civil servants see their right to strike challenged; trade union and democratic rights are in danger. But the requisition of strikers, the brutal actions of the police, the mobilisation of the army and the arrest of trade union members, cannot succeed in taming the magnificent fighting spirit of the workers, who are in the course of action continually strengthening their unity.

The W.F.T.U. once more expresses to them, as well as to all the trade union organisations leading the struggle, its warm feelings of solidarity in their fight and its wishes for their complete success.

It welcomes the many demonstrations of working class solidarity which are being expressed in increasing numbers by trade union organisations and workers of other countries, and particularly in the countries of the European Economic Community, towards their brothers in Belgium struggling against the monopoly coalition of the Common Market, with its policy of super-exploitation and worsening of social conditions.

The W.F.T.U. sees in these acts of international solidarity evidence of the deep desire for unity among workers of all trade union affiliations, who are struggling against the same class enemies, in particular in Italy, France, Federal Germany, Holland and Luxemburg, and who wish to bring together all their forces to increase the effectiveness of their struggle.

In this spirit of unity, the W.F.T.U. calls on the organisations affiliated to the Trade Unions' Internationals, and all the workers, to demonstrate ever more actively and in appropriate forms their solidarity and support to the struggle of the Belgian workers.

Their success against the monopolies and the monopolies' Government will be a success for all workers.

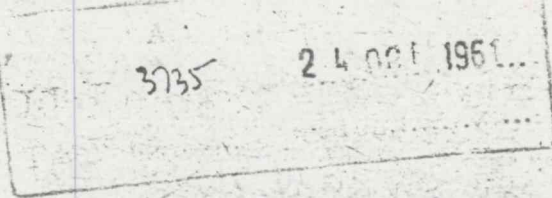
The new links of unity which will be established between the workers and their trade unions of different countries in the course of this struggle will create the conditions for fresh progress in common action against the power and domination of the monopolies, and for the success of the economic and social demands of the workers for democracy and freedom.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

October 20, 1961.



APPEAL TO THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ON THE OCCASION OF THE 7th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR IN ALGERIA

By November 1, 1961, 7 years will have passed during which the Algerian people and workers have been fighting heroically and without pause for their independence, at the price of the blood of hundreds of thousands of their best sons.

For 7 years the representatives of colonialism and the monopolies in power in France, supported by their NATO allies, have engaged enormous armed forces in an abominable colonial war.

Despite these well-equipped armed forces, despite a formidable police force backed up by para-military and civil groups of a fascist type, despite the tortures, executions, concentration camps, prisons and mass deportations of the population, they could not crush the exemplary resistance of the Algerian people and workers. On the contrary, in the course of these last months the struggle has become ever more bitter and large mass actions have developed.

This national liberation struggle, now about to enter on its 8th year, has become the symbol of the fight of peoples against colonialism and for national independence.

During these last months the force of that heroic fight, and the pressure of the people and workers of France and the whole world, have compelled the De Gaulle Government, against its will, to agree to direct negotiations with the delegates of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, the only legal representative of the Algerian people.

But the break-down of the Franco-Algerian meetings at Melun, Evian and Luqrin clearly showed the neo-colonialist aims of the French Government and the monopolies it represents, who want to continue the war and to reduce to an empty shell the right of the Algerian people to self-determination.

The W.F.T.U., which has always supported the legal demands of the Algerian people and workers, and which makes an important contribution to the action of the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Algerian Workers and People, intends, on the

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occasion of the 7th anniversary of the unleashing of the Algerian war, to increase still further its solidarity and efforts for this just cause.

It hails the courageous struggle of the Algerian workers, fighting side by side with their entire people for the independence and integrity of their national territory, and assures the UGTA of its active fraternal solidarity.

On November 1, 1961, the day on which the war begins its 8th year, the W.F.T.U., on behalf of its 107 million affiliated members, launches an urgent appeal to all its affiliated organisations as well as to all workers and trade union organisations of all tendencies throughout the world to intensify their actions and to take steps of every kind to support by mass actions the struggle of the Algerian people and workers, to force the French colonialists to enter into negotiations and to demand the liberation of all prisoners.

It appeals to them to make November 1, 1961, a day of international solidarity with the struggling Algerian workers.

We are convinced that the united actions of the workers of the whole world in support of the Algerian people's fight for its national independence will contribute effectively to the defeat of the French colonialists and imperialist monopolies, and to the satisfaction of the legitimate demands of the Algerian people, national independence, the integrity of its territory, freedom and peace.

The victory of the Algerian people will mean a new success in the fight against colonialism and imperialism and for the preservation of world peace.

Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFERENCE FOR A GERMAN PEACE TREATY, A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST BERLIN PROBLEM AND AGAINST WAR PROVOCATIONS

(Berlin, September 22 - 24, 1961)

MEMORANDUM

To the Governments of the Soviet Union,
United States of America, Great Britain,
France, the German Democratic Republic
and the German Federal Republic on the
conclusion of a German peace treaty and
the peaceful settlement of the West Berlin
problem

Alarmed by the threat of a new war and anxious to safeguard world peace, the 183 delegates and observers, representing more than 114 million workers in trade union organisations in 47 countries in all continents and of different affiliations, met in Berlin, capital of the German Democratic Republic, on the initiative of the World Federation of Trade Unions in full agreement with the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions of the G.D.R. (F.D.G.B.), at the International Trade Union Conference for a German Peace Treaty, a peaceful settlement of the West Berlin problem and against war provocations.

The Conference welcomes with satisfaction this new step taken by the World Federation of Trade Unions.

This step takes a particularly important place in the consistent struggle for peace and especially against German militarism, which this powerful international centre, expressing the will of the workers all over the world, has never ceased to conduct since its foundation.

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In this spirit, and particularly at inter-zonal conferences of the German trade unions, the W.F.T.U. has done its utmost ever since 1945 to prevent the division of the German nation. It has supported the struggle for the restoration of German trade unity, closely linked with the struggle for a genuinely democratic peace treaty with Germany.

The General Council of the W.F.T.U., at its 2nd Session in June 1947, addressed the commandants of the occupation zones asking them to do everything in their power to prevent the revival of German militarism.

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Since then the W.F.T.U. has been sounding a continuous warning to the peoples of Europe against the effects which could be foreseen from the baleful policy being pursued by the West German Government. At the European Workers' and Trade Union Conference held in LEIPZIG in 1955, at the European Trade Union Conference held in BERLIN in 1956 and again in 1959 at the GOERLITZ Conference for a peace treaty with Germany and to avert the danger of war, it reaffirmed the need to check German militarism.

The Goerlitz Conference sent an important Memorandum to the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Geneva, asking that decisive measures should be taken for the conclusion of a German peace treaty and the preservation of peace.

The 22nd Session of the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U., held in Berlin in February 1961, made a fresh analysis of the serious situation in Europe and West Germany and explicitly demanded the conclusion of a peace treaty with the two German States and the peaceful solution of the West Berlin problem.

The W.F.T.U., as a defender and executor of the will of the workers of the world, has always and everywhere spoken in favour of peace and against the danger of war.

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The F.D.G.B., for its part, carrying on the old fighting traditions of the German working class, has associated itself closely with the activities of the W.F.T.U. Ever since its foundation, it has taken a firm stand for the full application of the Potsdam Agreement, for peace, democracy and social progress.

The F.D.G.B. has made countless approaches to the D.G.B. for a united struggle for the conclusion of a German peace treaty and a peaceful settlement of the West Berlin problem, against militarism and war, for understanding and the peaceful reunification of the two German States.

The Conference notes with satisfaction that in the Eastern part of Germany, in the German Democratic Republic, a truly democratic movement was inaugurated and that this has served the common interests of the workers both in East and West Germany, as well as the interests of all peoples.

-II-

But it notes that the workers' profound desire for peace and the signing of a German peace treaty has been completely ignored by the three western powers.

The situation is so serious that the will of the workers of the world must finally be taken into consideration. The workers want to see an end to the danger of war which is hovering over the world and which, in Europe, originates principally from West Germany. They demand the conclusion of a peace treaty with the two German States and the peaceful solution of the West Berlin problem.

German imperialism and militarism are again threatening to drag the peoples into the abyss of a new world war. The commitments undertaken together in 1945 in the Potsdam Agreement providing for the denazification, demilitarisation and decartelisation of Germany have been violated, while in the western occupation zones German militarism has been set back on

its feet economically, politically and militarily. International tension is today being aggravated to an extreme by the United States of America and its West German partners in NATO by an unprecedented arms drive and by a growing policy of aggression.

The Potsdam Agreement says: "German militarism and nazism will be extirpated and the Allies will take, in joint agreement, now and in the future, the other measures necessary to assure that Germany will never again threaten her neighbours and the peace of the world".

In the part of Germany which is now the G.D.R. these principles set forth in the Potsdam Agreement and in the decisions of the World Trade Union Conferences in London and Paris to set up a peaceful and democratic Germany, have been fulfilled. A new stronghold of peace in Europe has been born.

In the western part of Germany on the other hand, in the German Federal Republic, the power of the imperialists, monopolies, and German militarists has been restored with the help of the American, British and French Governments and their occupation troops. These aims have been achieved with the help of the Marshall Plan, a separate currency reform, the establishment of a "bi-zone", and later "tri-zone" and finally by the establishment of a separate West German state. In this way one part of Germany has been cut off from the national territory. The Federal Republic has become part of the aggressive North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in defiance of the Potsdam Agreement.

The Bonn state has become the staunchest enemy of peaceful co-existence, disarmament and a lessening of tension in Europe.

Relying on a powerful economic and military potential and encouraged by its position in NATO, the Bonn state is conducting a policy of revenge and war propaganda which has the unequivocal aim of using violence to revise the frontiers established after the Second World War.

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Thus the Government of the German Federal Republic is the only government in Europe laying outright claims to territories of other states.

The Bonn Minister of War, STRAUSS, declared on July 25, 1961, at Santa Rosa (California) with a frankness that borders on cynicism: "The Second World War is not yet over..."

The West German Federal Chancellor ADENAUER, harped the same tune as his Minister of War when he told a pre-election meeting of the Christian Democratic Union in Hanover in September 1961: "I shall never allow German soldiers without atomic weapons to deal with an enemy equipped with nuclear arms".

The Ministers of the Federal Cabinet make no secret about their revengeful aims. Here are some facts: Hans-Christian Seebohm, Minister of the Adenauer Government and Chief of the revenge-seeking organisation of "Sudeten Germans" declared: "One of our aims is a fatherland without Czechs and without communists. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is to be regarded as a colonial region which needs a German spirit. Negotiations with the East have no value whatsoever".

The fascist Henlein could not have said it any better.

Following in GOEBBELS' footsteps, Walter STEIN, member of the Federal Council and Minister of the C.S.U. Government in Bavaria declared: "We must not forget that Germany again needs more Lebensraum. We do not have enough space. But this space is to be found with our neighbours who do not need it. Practically depopulated regions are waiting for us in the East beyond our frontiers".

Von HASSEL, President of the Council of Schleswig-Holstein (C.D.U.) said: "Our territorial claims go beyond the Oder-Neisse line. We are demanding regions which were previously under German domination".

The aggressive policy of the West German monopolies is also directed against the western neighbours of the G.F.R. The Government journal "Heimatwacht" appearing in Hanover, wrote on May 4, 1959:

"France should know that Germany cannot and will never be her sister as long as France mixes with Germany's eastern neighbours, contrary to German rights and interests".

We could quote many more examples of this kind. Very often these outcries of revenge are described as isolated cases of extreme terminology. As representatives of millions of organised workers, we reaffirm that this policy is the government programme of the G.F.R. Federal Minister Von Brentano emphasized in a government statement to Parliament: "The Federal Government has always made it clear that the German Reich continues to exist within its borders of 1937, since the German people does not recognise the unilateral decisions taken during the years after complete defeat".

The hatred felt by the Bonn militarists, headed by War Minister Strauss, is directed above all against the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic. Strauss is competing with Hitler. At a pre-election meeting of the C.S.U. at Hollfeld (Franconia) he is known to have said: "We are living in an era of advanced technique when the concerted power of our allies is sufficiently strong to wipe the Soviet empire from the map".

The Conference deplores the fact that the three big western powers are encouraging the G.F.R. to establish military bases of aggression in various European countries.

Officers of the Bundeswehr territorial army are being trained near Worley (Bedfordshire), air force training bases exist, notably, in Woodbridge (England), in Norway, at the military base at Bandirma (Turkey), Decimomanu (Sardinia-Italy), at Suippes near Reims, at Montpellier (France) and elsewhere.

We salute the workers and trade unions who in countries such as Britain, Italy, France, Norway and Holland are waging a

struggle against the stationing of West German troops on their territory. We call upon them to carry on and to increase their campaigns even further.

In order to carry out its plans of criminal aggression, the Federal Government is carefully looking after former fascists and Hitler generals as well as revenge-seeking organisations and Waffen-SS formations. According to official data of the Bonn Government, there are today 29 "Landsmannschaften" (1) and 50 "displaced persons" associations to advocate their programme of restoring the former frontiers of the Reich. These "Landsmannschaften" are headed by former fascists who have accumulated a wealth of experience especially in psychological war propaganda as leading officials of the Hitler regime. Their primary task is to prepare former displaced persons for a new crusade towards the East, to create confusion among them and to create war hysteria by a propaganda of revenge.

The 1,300 military organisations and "traditional organisations" registered at the moment, occupy an important place in this policy. President LUBKE, Chancellor Adenauer and several Secretaries of State and Ministers attend meetings of these associations and there defend the criminal demands put forward. Former Hitler generals such as Heusinger, Foertsch, Speidel, and former Hitler admirals such as Dönitz and Ruge hold the highest functions in these organisations. Some of them such as Speidel and Heusinger, Foertsch and Ruge at the same time belong to the NATO general staff.

This policy, dangerous for the labour movement and world peace, manifests itself also in other spheres. The International Trade Union Conference solemnly warns the governments of the three western powers against incorrigible nazis who today still hold key positions in the Bonn Government and in the state

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(1) "Landsmannschaften" = revengful and chauvinistic organisations in the G.F.R. rallying persons from the same region (Pomerania, Sudetenland, Saxony, etc.)

apparatus and are encouraging the revival of nazism in West German public life. Among the 18 members of the Federal Government, 11 have a seriously compromised nazi past, especially ADENAUER'S assistant and close collaborator, Secretary of State GLOBKE, who is known to be responsible for the murder of millions of Jews, Minister of War STRAUSS, Minister of Transport SEEBOHM and Minister of Interior, SCHRODER.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 84% of all leading civil servants used to belong to the nazi diplomatic service under RIBBENTROP. The position is the same at the Ministry of Interior. SCHRODER, himself a former member of the S.A., did his best to include in his administrations former nazis with a strongly compromised past. On the whole we can say that 50% of all directors and councillors of the central administration held leading positions in the nazi state apparatus and are using their experience to destroy democracy in West Germany once again, to persecute progressive leaders and liquidate their organisations.

The delegates at the International Trade Union Conference are particularly alarmed by the fascist development in the West German legal system. A still incomplete documentation proves that 1,155 magistrates of Hitler's emergency tribunals again hold key positions in the courts. They are the same men who in the past pronounced verdicts on courageous anti-fascist fighters, sent their victims to nazi concentration camps and pronounced thousands of death sentences.

Today the same confirmed fascists have already passed sentences on more than 14,000 anti-fascists who are fighting against atomic war and renilitarisation in West Germany.

The American imperialists and their allies have also violated the Potsdam Agreement in the economic sphere and have completely changed its content.

Point 12 of the Agreement states:

"At the earliest practicable date, the German economy

shall be decentralised for the purpose of eliminating the present excessive concentration of economic power as exemplified in particular by cartels, syndicates, trusts and other monopolistic arrangements".

But in fact the contrary has happened. The characteristic feature of West Germany and her economy is that the concentration of capital in the hands of a small group of "Konzerns" is far greater than German imperialism has ever known before.

Total turnover figures of 40,000 small establishments amount to only 2% of the total turnover of industry; on the other hand, 17 monopoly cartels own 80.3% of Federal German share capital. Fortified by imperialists are the absolute masters of the state and shape its home and foreign policy. This applies, in the first place, to concerns owned by war criminals known throughout the world, such as AEG, KRUPP, SIEMENS, FLICK, I.G. FARBEN, QUANDT, DEUTSCHE BANK, etc.

- III -

As a result of its predominant position in the European Economic Community, West German imperialism exercises economic and political pressure on its partners. In addition, it is penetrating more and more into newly developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, where the shameful exploitation of the workers reaps exorbitant profits.

The Conference draws the attention of world public opinion to the fact that West Germany's war economy, which has reached a very high degree of concentration, is today run by the "Wehrwirtschaftsfuehrer" (1) and geared to military purposes by former armament specialists of the Hitler regime.

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(1) "Wehrwirtschaftsfuehrer" = specialists of the large nazi Konzerns who had the task of studying and completing the transformation of peace industries into industries geared to war and organising the pillage and deportation of entire populations from nazi-occupied countries.

More than 200 former "Wehrwirtschaftsfuehrers" are today working in West German concerns and monopolies. The nazi generals Milch, Von Schönbeck, Meister, Bodenschatz, Manteufel, Galland and others today hold important posts because of their qualifications as military and armament specialists. Krupp, Von Bohlen and Holbach, Zangen and Thyssen together with fascist generals today form the leading nucleus in the West German economy. War criminals who were responsible for the extermination of countless human beings, having been in charge of and pushed forward the manufacture of lethal gas, are back in their posts. The Bayer S.A. Leverkusen trust is using the thousands of millions of marks brought in by mass murder for the invention and manufacture of gas and other products of the same type. Apart from I.G. Farben, we should mention Siemens and AEG, manufacturing fuel for missiles and electronic components for guided war missiles, the Flick trust, building aeroplanes, and the Rheinmetall Co. Ltd. (Rössling), manufacturing arms and ammunition. These facts are public knowledge. The delegates at the International Trade Union Conference strongly insist that the four great powers should take immediate steps to stop this criminal development.

The growing war economy the remilitarisation and fascism which is being spread in Federal Germany, the spirit of revenge and chauvinism encouraged by Bonn with the help of the American, British and French imperialists, today represent the greatest danger for the workers and people, including those in West Germany.

The Conference emphasizes that the entire burden of armament expenditure has to be borne by the toiling masses. In West Germany "officially" planned arms expenditure is growing all the time. While in 1956 and 1957 it was planned to spend 3,400 million marks on armaments, in 1961-62 this figure has reached 11,700 million marks. To this we must add 137 million marks granted to the Minister of War Strauss under the pretext of "protecting the civiliam population", 580 million marks for "civil

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expenditure in the event of an emergency", 500 million marks occupation expenditure and 207 million marks for the "protection of the Federal frontiers". In 1961 2,000 million marks will be used in the West Berlin powder-keg for military purposes alone.

In the name of the struggle against communism and under the pretext of defending "Western freedom" the reactionary forces are bringing political, economic and financial pressure to bear on the whole population. A growing pace of work, increased exploitation and premature exhaustion of the workers, a steady rise in work accidents and in the cost of living - these are some of the most harmful effects of the armament policy.

SCHRODER, present Minister of the Interior and former member of the S.A., is reinforcing his repressive staff. Democratic rights and trade union liberties are being violated all the time, progressive leaders are being persecuted and sentenced and progressive organisations banned. Certain laws, such as the law laying down general dispositions on labour questions in the enterprises (1) give the employers the power to prevent the free functioning of trade union organisations and attack the workers' trade union rights.

Lessons from the past demonstrate that the desires of the German imperialists for expansion and war go hand in hand with the persecution of the workers and trade unions and with the attempt to change the latter into tools of government policy.

The trade unionists gathered at the International Trade Union Conference in Berlin deplore and severely condemn the attitude of certain trade union leaders such as D.G.B. President Richter, who acts among the West German working class as an agent of the monopolies, and agitates against the G.D.R. and its trade unions. He sabotages the carrying out of the decisions of the D.G.B. organisations on disarmament and calls for the speeding-up of the atomic arming of the Bundeswehr. This attitude confuses the West German working class and is evidence of the harmful influence which the militarists and the imperialists

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(1) Betriebsverfassungsgesetz

exercise on the West German trade union movement.

A special role has been assigned to West Berlin in the preparations for a war against the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union and the entire socialist camp. West Berlin, situated on the territory of the German Democratic Republic, has been transformed by the western powers and the West German imperialists and militarists into an extremely dangerous centre of provocation.

-IV-

More than 80 West German and foreign espionage organisations have their headquarters there, side by side with American, British and French subversive agencies. Their task is to organise aggression, espionage and subversive activities against the socialist countries. The ruling circles of the United States and West Germany as well as the West Berlin municipal authorities are giving these espionage and terrorist organisations substantial technical and financial assistance.

That is where the incorrigible revenge-seekers and fascists are hatching their plans. The West German Government, the municipal authorities, as well as American, British and French occupation troops, are giving every encouragement and support to meetings and demonstrations by the forces of revenge.

The Federal Minister for all-German affairs, LEMMER, and the Mayor of West Berlin, Willi BRANDT, are posing as defenders of these demands for revenge.

BRANDT wrote in the American publication "New Leader" in August 1961:

"Since the start of the cold war it has been shown that we could make West Berlin a source of considerable difficulties for the U.S.S.R., since it contributes to making trouble in East Germany and has become a rallying-point for the western powers, she could mobilise their forces there".

Through the extension to West Berlin of the application of the Federal law of May 11, 1951, dealing with the legal status of persons mentioned in article 131 of the Constitution, former nazis and judges of Hitler's emergency tribunals have been allowed to resume their posts in the West Berlin administration and legal services. Today there are some 18,000 former nazi civil servants and 36 judges from Hitler's days in the West Berlin administration.

Since 1945 the policy of the three western powers has opposed every democratic development and has concentrated on the division of Berlin. The separate currency reform which they carried out in 1948 completed the division of Germany and Berlin. The Allied Control Commission and the offices of the allied commandants in Berlin ceased to exist.

On December 21, 1948, the western powers formed the 3-Power Central Commission for West Berlin. On May 14, 1949, they adopted the "Small Occupation Status" for this part of the city. Thus they annulled the 4-power status of Berlin. A 3-power status for West Berlin is in direct contradiction with the principles set forth in the Potsdam Agreement.

Today, sixteen years after the war, the continued occupation of West Berlin has the aim of hindering democratic development in West Berlin, reinforcing the position of the militarists and fascists and transforming West Berlin into a NATO bridgehead directed against the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union and the socialist countries.

The security measures adopted by the German Democratic Republic on August 13, 1961, dealt a severe blow to these criminal plans. The German Democratic Republic acted in the interest of the entire working class and world peace. That is why the International Conference welcomes and endorses these security measures.

The proposals, accepted by the G.D.R., to transform West Berlin into a free, demilitarised and neutral city,

constitute a considerable concession by this State, underlining its desire for peace.

The Conference welcomes the countless measures taken by the Soviet Union towards removing the remnants of the last world war, especially its proposal for the early signature of a peace treaty with the two German States and the peaceful settlement of the West Berlin problem.

It particularly welcomes the Soviet proposals for universal and complete disarmament put forward at the 14th and 15th Sessions of the U.N. General Assembly, which provided the world with a striking demonstration of its desire for peace.

Application of these proposals would remove the danger of nuclear weapons and would place atomic energy entirely in the service of mankind.

In recalling these facts to the Governments of the U.S.S.R., Great Britain, the United States of America and France, the Conference emphatically asks them to serve the interests of world peace and to put an end to all plans of revenge both in West Berlin and West Germany by ensuring the loyal fulfilment of the Potsdam Agreement.

The experiences of two world wars and the new threat to peace created by the German forces of revenge and the militarists demonstrate that a durable peace can be guaranteed in Europe only when militarism and the spirit of revenge have been crushed and eliminated in accordance with the demands of the international working class.

After a careful discussion of this serious situation and considering all possibilities for the preservation and consolidation of peace, the International Trade Union Conference declares that under the present circumstances the early conclusion of a peace treaty with the two German States is an effective way of barring the road to the spirit of revenge and militarism of averting atomic war and saving peace in Europe and the world.

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Such a treaty should be based on the principles which guided the anti-Hitler coalition. It should:

- ban the armament of German militarists and forces of revenge;
- guarantee the frontiers fixed after World War II;
- prepare the neutralisation of both German States by their withdrawal from NATO and the Warsaw Pact, These two States would undertake never to manufacture, stockpile or use weapons of mass destruction;
- ensure the transformation of West Berlin into a free and demilitarised city whose freedom of communication would be established by agreement with the G.D.R. and whose right to choose its political, economic and social system would be guaranteed.

This treaty would pave the way for a lessening in international tension, the suspension of nuclear tests, universal and complete disarmament and peaceful co-existence between States with differing social systems.

This treaty must be achieved through firm negotiation taking into account the existence of the two German States and respecting the frontiers fixed after the Second World War, including the Oder-Neisse and Czechoslovak frontiers.

If the forces of reaction and war continue to oppose the signature of a Treaty with the two German States, the conclusion of a Peace Treaty with the G.D.R. would become inevitable.

The International Trade Union Conference deplures and condemns the attitude of the western powers and the Government of the German Federal Republic, who reply to the proposals for a peace treaty and a peaceful settlement of the West Berlin problem by unleashing feverish war propoganda, by distorting facts, misrepresenting the most legitimate measures of protection

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and by military threats.

Such an attitude encourages all sorts of provocation which might result in a terrible atomic war for which the western powers would bear full responsibility.

The International Trade Union Conference appeals to the governments of the four great powers and to the governments of the two German States to open immediate negotiations to bring about the early conclusion of a peace treaty.

All people and all workers want peace. On their behalf, we, delegates of the International Trade Union Conference in Berlin, call on the four great powers to listen to the voice of the workers and the peoples who are demanding that peace should be assured throughout the world.

We, representatives of trade unions and workers throughout the world, declare our determination to fight with all our might for an end to German militarism, for the early signature of a peace treaty with the two German States and for the assurance of world peace.

International Trade Union Conference
for a German Peace Treaty, a
Peaceful Settlement of the West
Berlin Problem and Against War
Provocations.

Berlin, September 24, 1961.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS 2

22nd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Berlin, 2 - 4 February, 1961)

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MAIN RESOLUTION OF 22nd Session OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF WFTU

Having heard and approved the report by the W.F.T.U. Secretariat on Item 1 of the Agenda

The 22nd Session of the Executive Committee has decided to convene the 5th World Trade Union Congress in Moscow from 4 to 16 December 1961.

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In agreement with the workers and trade unions of various countries, who celebrated the 15th anniversary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the Executive Committee considers that the general principles laid down in the Constitution adopted by the 1st World Trade Union Congress in 1945 remain basically valid today and should guide the preparation of the forthcoming Congress.

The general conditions in which the 5th World Trade Union Congress will be held are particularly favourable for the solution of problems affecting the vital interests of all workers. The present international situation is characterised by the fact that the balance of class forces is changing more and more decisively in favour of socialism and the world working class. The creative efforts made by the workers in socialist countries, the national liberation movement of oppressed peoples and the economic, social and political struggle carried on by the workers in the capitalist countries together form a powerful current that is undermining the world imperialist system and sharpening the general capitalist crisis. The superiority of the socialist forces over those of imperialism, of the peace forces over those of war, becomes daily more evident. It is the world working class and the world socialist system - its greatest achievement - that constitute the main force in our era. They are the assurance of victory in the fight for peace, democracy, national independence and social progress.

The world socialist system is becoming the decisive factor in the development of society.

In this general situation, the Vth World Trade Union Congress will be an important international Court of the working class. In conformity with the directives laid down by the 11th Session of the General Council, and to meet the requirements of the international situation as defined by this Session of the Executive Committee, the Vth Congress will be asked to lay down the tasks to be fulfilled by the trade union movement in relation to the workers' struggle against capitalist exploitation and for the end of colonialism, for trade union rights and democratic liberties, for social progress and world peace.

The 22nd Session of the Executive Committee believes that the primary task of the international trade union movement is to fight for peace and to aid the working peoples to remain vigilant and active in order to thwart the intrigues of the warmongers.

The workers of the world, who are waging a vigorous, decisive struggle against the aggressive policy of the imperialists, are firmly resolved not to permit the unleashing of a new world war. They realise more and more clearly that the socialist countries, the international working class and the peace camp together represent a sufficiently powerful force to defeat war provocations and to enable mankind to avoid a third world conflict.

The workers and peoples of the world are also aware that imperialism, headed by the United States, is doing everything to halt the progressive march of history and to hinder the developing struggle for national liberation.

The political and military interference, carried out by American imperialism in Laos and South Vietnam, its continual provocations against the People's Republic of China, its military occupation of South Korea and its support of Japanese militarism are sufficient illustration so far as Asia is concerned. Similarly its policy of armament, military bases and atomic equipment of the Bundeswehr, its aggressive policy and economic blockade against Cuba and, finally, the support it gives to French, Belgian and Dutch colonialists in Algeria, Congo and West Irian are serious threats to world peace.

6. Dangerous as imperialism may still be, however, it can no longer do whatever it likes today. It is opposed by the powerful united forces of the socialist camp, the national liberation movement, the working class and all peaceloving mankind.

The smooth, rapid progress made by the entire socialist camp in the economic, social and cultural fields continues, along with scientific and technical achievements. This contrasts vividly with the chaotic evolution of capitalist economy which is weakened and undermined by internal contradictions and the crushing burden of military expenditure and is dominated by the monopolies. In their drive for profits, the latter are opposed to any improvement in the working people's standard of living. The achievement of the socialist camp, especially in the Soviet Union, the systematic and general improvement of living standards, the shortening of working hours, the reduction and elimination of taxes and the growing role of the trade unions in society increasingly demonstrate the moral and material superiority of socialism over capitalism.

Such progress constitutes a powerful encouragement for the working class in the capitalist world. It brings out even more clearly the exploitation to which it is subject, the limited and precarious nature of the gains - even the important gains - it has won through struggle and the threat to these gains represented by the reactionary policy of the monopolies and their constant attacks on democratic and trade union rights.

In these conditions which are favourable for peace and freedom of the peoples, the WFTU insists on the need to unite all forces of the working class and trade unions in powerful actions :

- for a ban on nuclear weapons and an end to the arms drive launched by the imperialist camp;
- for the evacuation of the imperialist military bases throughout the world, which are a permanent danger for peace and a violation of the national independence of the peoples;

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- for universal and complete disarmament and a policy of peaceful coexistence;
- for the end of colonialism everywhere;
- for the signing of a Peace Treaty with the two German states and for a free, demilitarised city of West Berlin, by supporting the tireless efforts of the trade unions in the G.D.R. to unite workers throughout Germany against the re-militarisation and atomic armament planned by the West German revenge-seekers;
- for the abrogation of the Japan-US military treaty, which creates tension in the Far East, by upholding the magnificent mass campaigns by the workers, trade unions and people of Japan.

The Executive Committee reaffirms that the general struggle for the preservation of peace is inseparable from the fight for national independence of the peoples, and calls on the workers and trade unions to increase their joint struggle to eradicate colonialism completely and to thwart colonialist manoeuvres in whatever form they appear. To assist these aims, the Executive Committee instructs the Secretariat to continue co-operating with the trade unions in South Africa and in Africa generally in order to form a Solidarity Committee with workers in the Union of South Africa, in accordance with the decisions of the 11th Session of the General Council.

The Executive Committee instructs the Secretariat to widen its contacts with all African trade unions and to examine with them the possibility of forming an International Trade Union Committee to support the workers throughout Africa in their struggle for the eradication of colonialism from that continent.

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It greets the heroic united struggle of the Algerian people for genuine self-determination and national independence. It notes with satisfaction the recent development of international working class solidarity and joint action on behalf of the Algerian workers and people, particularly in France, where working class militancy and unity is increasingly opposed to the colonialist war conducted by French imperialism.

The Executive Committee invites all trade unions to strengthen their support of the workers and people of Algeria. It endorses the proposal by the W.F.T.U. Secretariat to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the General Union of Algerian Workers and the three French trade union centres to organise a conference in a neutral country with the aim of promoting and coordinating international working class solidarity with the Algerian workers and peoples. It notes with satisfaction the decisions by the General Union of Algerian Workers and the French C.G.T. supporting this proposal and the response it has evoked throughout Africa, where it is supported by the Ghana TUC and the General Union of Workers of Negro Africa. It requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to insure that such a conference is held.

In view of the serious situation in the Congo produced by Belgian and American imperialists particularly, and the growing struggle by the Congolese people against the colonialists and their agents, the Executive Committee reiterates its solidarity with the workers in the Congo fighting against imperialism and the Katanga Mining Union monopolies which are behind recent events. It demands the withdrawal of all Belgian troops from the Congo, the release of members of the legal Congo government headed by Patrice Lumumba, and the exercise of Congolese sovereignty by the assemblies and government of the Congolese people.

Condemning Belgian armed intervention carried out from Ruanda Urundi, the Executive Committee demands that Belgian administration of this territory be ended and that the latter's accession to independence be assured.

12.

The Executive Committee reaffirms its solidarity with the workers and trade unions of Cuba and welcomes the fine economic and social achievements of the Cuban peoples' revolution. It has decided to adopt a special declaration on Cuba.

13.

The Executive Committee fully supports the just struggle waged by the people of Laos for unity and national independence. It has decided to adopt a special declaration on the situation in that country.

It supports the struggle by the workers and people of Korea to secure the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and the establishment of a Confederation or Economic Committee for North and South Korea as an intermediary step leading towards unification of the country.

It supports the Vietnamese workers' and peoples' struggle for the unification of their country.

14.

After discussing the conditions of the workers and the recent growth of workers' struggles in capitalist countries, the Executive Committee notes a remarkable increase in the number of economic campaigns in all of these countries, which take the most diverse forms, as well as in the fighting spirit, unity and solidarity of the working class against increased exploitation by the monopolies.

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These developments are illustrated particularly well by the powerful strikes which have become increasingly numerous throughout the capitalist world, particularly in many Latin American countries; by the especially widespread strike of the Belgian workers in protest against the policy of the Belgian and international monopolies; by large-scale united movements in Italy and France; and by the militant campaigns organised by the workers of Japan, India and other Asian countries.

16.

In the course of these powerful movements, workers and trade unions of all outlooks in these countries have raised the political level of their actions. More and more, they are directly opposing the anti-democratic, warmongering policy of the monopolies and fighting to end the latter's political domination of the State. They are

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demanding further democratic rights, nationalisation of the main industries on which the monopolies' economic power depends and democratisation of the management of these industries. More and more often, they are demanding that the entire economy be switched to peaceful purposes to meet the people's needs and to improve the workers' living conditions. Workers and trade unions of every affiliation are campaigning for the introduction of genuine agrarian reform and for the protection of the interests of the working peasants against monopolist tyranny. In those struggles, the trade unions have increased their authority and strength as mass organisations of the working class.

17. Experience gathered in the course of recent struggles shows that a wage increase remains everywhere the fundamental demand of the working class in capitalist countries. This claim, which is presented in various forms according to country and circumstances, is one on which the widest sections of the people could be united for action.

18. Together with wage claims, the demand for shorter hours of work without loss of pay is one of the most widespread in all the capitalist countries. It is a basic necessity for workers in those countries if they are to combat the effects of speed-up, dismissals and unemployment. It is also linked to other demands concerning increased productivity.

Since the demand for the 40 hour week without loss of pay is advanced by all workers in Europe, as in other continents, the Executive Committee approves all measures helping to unite the efforts of workers in these countries to obtain the 40 hour week. As this demand corresponds to the present concerns and struggles of the workers, it must be linked with the preparation of the Vth Congress.

19. Countering direct and indirect attacks by the monopolies and capitalist governments on social security schemes, workers in many countries are insisting not only on respect for the gains which they have already won by their struggles, but also on an improvement in existing systems and, often, their more democratic administration.

The International Trade Union Commission for Action on Social Security should have the task of determining ways and means of trade union struggle for the establishment, defence, extension and improvement of social security schemes. It would, further, have to prepare a draft Charter on Social Security which could be submitted to the Fifth World Trade Union Congress for approval.

20. In view of the fact that in all capitalist countries persecution of the trade unions is growing worse in all its forms (attacks on the right to strike, restrictive laws, compulsory arbitration, states of emergency, wilful arrests and detentions, armed suppression of working class demonstrations), the Executive Committee feels that it is indispensable to link preparations for the Fifth World Trade Union Congress with a strong international campaign for the protection and extension of trade union and democratic rights. The work of the International Trade Union Commission for the Protection and Safeguarding of Trade Union Rights, with the participation of outstanding lawyers, must be accompanied by increased mass campaigns and stronger action by workers in the factories for the protection and extension of trade union rights. The Executive Committee therefore agrees that a Conference on trade union rights in Africa should be convened.

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21. The Executive Committee welcomes the substantial progress made recently towards unity of action and of international trade union relations. It is pleased to note that attempts by American imperialism to worsen the international situation were as a rule not accompanied by a deterioration in international trade union relations, despite the enemies of unity. Neither were they followed by a weakening in the trend towards unity and working class solidarity. The working class remains greatly attached to greater unity and international solidarity and is more aware of the urgent reasons in favour of wider fraternal relations between trade unions of all affiliations for the preservation of peace and the achievement of common demands.

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The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. welcomes, in particular, the increasing number of fraternal delegation exchanges between workers and trade unions affiliated to the ICFTU and those belonging to the W.F.T.U. In 1960, new relations were established between national trade union organisations affiliated to the ICFTU and the majority of trade unions belonging to the W.F.T.U., despite the decisions taken by the ICFTU. The W.F.T.U. and its TUI's have recently increased friendly contacts with independent organisations and trade union leaders, as well as with those belonging to the ICFTU, in connection with growing workers' struggles.

The Executive Committee notes that, despite great divisionist activity by the ICFTU in Africa and Latin America, the trend towards trade union unity in those regions is developing considerably. It supports all efforts in favour of trade union unity in those continents.

These factors illustrate a definite weakening of the forces hostile to unity in the trade union movement, which must not, however, make us underestimate and ignore the influence and demagogical manoeuvres of these forces. This progress is also accompanied by a remarkable growth in international working class solidarity against imperialism and the monopolies, which is particularly striking in regard to the struggle waged by the valiant Algerian people for independence, and in respect of the Cuban people and the workers and people of Japan, as well as in Europe at the time of the magnificent strike by Belgian workers. The W.F.T.U. and its organisations have played a very active part in these developments.

During the period leading up to the Vth Congress, since general conditions are becoming daily more favourable to the W.F.T.U.'s policy for unity, the Executive Committee recommends that trade unions take the following steps :

- to increase and extend delegation exchanges, contacts, and bilateral and multilateral agreements between trade union centres of different affiliations in different countries;
- to increase joint action everywhere;

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- to publicise the struggles and experiences of workers in every country;
 - to strengthen existing trade unions and the recruitment of new members;
 - to publicise attractively among the working peoples the great economic, social and cultural achievements of workers in the socialist countries;
 - to relate the preparatory work for the Vth World Trade Union Congress as closely as possible to the struggles and concerns of the workers.

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In its desire to contribute to the necessary cooperation among all trade unions of the world, in the interest of the workers and their concerted struggles, the Executive Committee welcomes and fully supports the repeated suggestions made by various trade unions to hold a World Consultative Trade Union Assembly, attended by all national and international trade union centres, to discuss the major problems confronting the workers and trade unions of the world. The Executive Committee is convinced that by carrying on their untiring work for unity in connection with the workers' struggles and concerns, the W.F.T.U., all trade union organisations and all workers will make the Vth World Trade Union Congress a far-reaching event in international trade union life.

Berlin, 4 February 1961

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

22nd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Berlin, February 2 to 4, 1961)

~~2nd DRAFT replacing previous draft~~

DECISION

~~on the convening of the Vth World Trade Union Congress.~~

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In accordance with the terms of reference received from the XIth Session of the General Council, the 22nd Session of the Executive Committee approves the report of the Secretariat on the convening and organisation of the Vth World Trade Union Congress.

The Executive Committee approves the agreement reached by the W.F.T.U. Secretariat and the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions and thanks the Soviet trade unions for their invitation. It therefore decides :

- to convene the Vth World Trade Union Congress in Moscow from 4 to 16 December 1961; ~~and~~

- to propose the following agenda for the Congress:

- Universal
General
Assembly
- 1) the activities of the W.F.T.U. and the present tasks of trade union organisations for peace, against imperialism, for peaceful coexistence and in favour of the economic and social demands of the workers;
 - 2) the development of trade union activities and solidarity to aid peoples fighting to end colonialism;
 - 3) auditors' report;
 - 4) election of the governing bodies of the W.F.T.U.

The Executive Committee instructs the Secretariat to publicise this decision and to inform the working peoples about the convening of the Vth World Trade Union Congress.

Berlin, 4 February 1961

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

22nd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Berlin, 2 - 4 February 1961)

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DECISION

on the setting up of a Special Commission
for the Vth World Trade Union Congress

In conformity with the decision adopted by the 39th Session of the Executive Bureau to set up a special commission responsible to the Secretariat for the preparation and publication, in June 1961, of a document on the tasks of trade union organisations and of the Vth World Trade Union Congress at the present time,

the Executive Committee has decided to establish a Special Working Commission comprising representatives from trade union organisations in the following countries :

- Soviet Union
- People's Republic of China;
- Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia;
- France ;
- Italy.
- India.
- Indonesia ;
- Latin America ;
- Republic of Sudan.

This Commission, the Chairman of which will be the General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., should complete its work on 1 May 1961. A special session of the Executive Bureau will meet on 15 June 1961 to examine and publish the document drawn up by the Commission.

Berlin, 4 February 1961.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

22nd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Berlin, February 2 to 4, 1961)

2nd DRAFT

Resolution on Iraq

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U., meeting in Berlin at its 22nd Session from 2 to 4 February, 1961, notes that the Government of Iraq has not replied to the message sent by the General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. last November on the serious violation of trade union rights in Iraq, and that attacks upon the trade union and democratic movement in that country, as well as unjustified condemnations of trade union militants and democrats continue. It therefore instructs the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. to intervene once more for the respect of trade union rights and liberties in Iraq. Respect for such rights would improve the situation and to consolidate national independence, not only in Iraq but also in all Arab countries and to encourage the struggle especially in those countries which still suffer directly from colonial domination.

The Executive Committee address itself to the Government of Iraq, and propose that it should free all trade unionists who are imprisoned or detained and that it permit the free functioning and daily activity of the trade unions without interference in their internal affairs .

The Executive Committee has decided to make public the text of the above mentioned message from the General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

It expresses the full support and solidarity of the W.F.T.U. and its 107 million members with the Iraqi workers who are courageously fighting for the consolidation of their country's national independence, for a better life and for peace.

Berlin, February 4, 1961.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

22nd SESSION OF ~~THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE~~
(Berlin, February 2 to 4, 1961)

2nd DRAFT

WFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~~WFTU STATEMENT~~

ON THE VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN AFRICA

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The 22nd Session of the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U., notes with indignation and concern that in a large number of the African countries, among those still under the colonial yoke as well as among those that have acquired their independence, trade union rights and democratic liberties are being flouted or attacked.

The free exercise of trade union rights is of primary importance in all countries of the world and is absolutely essential on the continent of Africa where the trade union movement has played and continues to play a fundamental part in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism, for economic and political independence and for a higher living standard for the African peoples.

The Executive Committee notes that the trade union leaders and militants who have been dismissed, arrested or imprisoned are very numerous. So are the strikers who have been victims of repression from the police and the employers. This anti-trade union campaign is most frequently accompanied by government adoption of new anti-working class laws which tend to legalise the infringements of the most fundamental rights of the workers - and primarily the right to organise and to strike - written in the Charter of Trade Union Rights adopted by the W.F.T.U. in 1954.

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(A) In certain countries which have recently acquired their independence, the governments continue to carry out an anti-democratic policy and so considerably hinder trade union campaigns for the improvement of the living and working conditions of the people. This policy prevents the trade unions from playing their part in the struggle for the liquidation of the aftermath of colonialism in every field and also hinders their struggle for the economic development of their country.

This is especially the case in the so-called countries of the French Community like Congo (Brazzaville), Gabon, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Niger, Tchad, the Upper Volta and Dahomey.

Many active trade unionists have been thrown into prison or expelled from the territory, trade unions have been dissolved, and their headquarters occupied by the police. In many cases the trade union press cannot possibly appear.

(B) The violation of trade union rights or their complete absence in countries still under the colonial yoke, especially in the Portuguese colonies (Angola, Mozambique, so-called Portuguese Guinea and so on), in certain British colonies (Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and so on) are an integral part of the general repression directed by the colonialist and imperialist powers against the African workers. The object of such repression is to maintain the colonialist system at all costs and to deny the workers all freedom of speech and organisation that are aimed at improving their living and working conditions.

(C) In Algeria, where for more than six years the French colonialists have conducted a disgraceful war, the workers are denied the most elementary trade union and human rights. A great number of active trade unionists and trade union leaders have been deprived of their freedom, and have been tortured, killed or summarily executed. All the trade unions have been made illegal.

7. In the Union of South Africa trade union repression is of a very special nature and made still worse by the different forms of racial discrimination and by the government's apartheid policy. Anti-working class laws impose limits on trade union rights, especially on multi-racial trade unions. Police repression is suffered by trade union leaders in the performance of their duties, seizures have taken place at trade union headquarters, the trade union press is not free and the activities of the trade unions are continually prevented.

8. A very serious situation also exists in the Republic of Sudan where for two years the trade union leaders (including Shafie Ahmed El Sheikh, General Secretary of the Sudan Federation of Trade Unions and Vice-President of the W.F.T.U.) have been in prison and where trade union rights and democratic freedoms are almost non-existent.

9. In other countries, as for example in Morocco, which won its independence some years ago and where the class struggle is growing, the government, the instrument of the ^{bourgeoisie} ~~national~~ bourgeoisie, is attacking trade union rights with the aim of weakening the workers' struggle.

10. In certain African countries a tendency is shown by certain governments to transform trade union organisations into docile instruments of their policy.

The direct interference by the Government of the ^{United Arab Republic} ~~U.A.R.~~ in the internal affairs of the trade unions in the Syrian region as well as repression against other trade union leaders has forced the leadership of the Confederation of Syrian Trade Unions to resign en bloc.

11. The Executive Committee emphasizes the fact that the struggle for the defense of trade union rights is closely linked with the general campaign for the improvement of the living standards of the working people and represents at the same time a basis for joint action on

which the unity of all trade union organisations without distinction can be achieved.

The Executive Committee notes that the W.F.T.U. campaigns and actions of international solidarity with trade union victims of repression, as well as the material aid and legal assistance given to active trade unionists in prison, have had concrete and positive results. Thanks to the strong action waged by the African workers, supported by the vigorous solidarity campaign, and to the protests made to the government, to the complaints lodged with the International Labour Office and to the lawyers sent to defend the imprisoned CGAT leaders in the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), their freedom as well as a nonsuit for their case was obtained.

The Executive Committee recommends to the Secretariat and to the International Trade Union Commission for the Defence and the Protection of the Trade Union Victims of Repression that they increase their efforts to encourage and develop a wide campaign of solidarity with those trade union organisations and active trade unionists who are victims of trade union repression in the various countries of Africa.

(2) The Executive Committee strongly condemns once more the violations of trade union rights in Africa and assures the African trade unions and workers that the W.F.T.U. will continue to give its active solidarity in their struggles for :

- the abolition of all restrictions on trade union activities ;
- the release of all imprisoned trade unionists ;
- the full exercise of trade union freedoms and the protection of trade union rights.

It asks the United Nations Committee on Human Rights and the International Labour Organisation to take all necessary and effective measures to ensure that trade union rights are restored and respected throughout the continent of Africa.

(3) The Executive Committee, realising that the full exercise of trade-union rights and democratic freedoms in the African countries, as

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elsewhere in the world, is an essential condition for the victory of the peoples against colonialism, against international monopoly capital and against the attacks of the imperialists, and for economic development and improvement of the living standards of the working people, therefore appeals to the workers and trade unions of the world to increase their solidarity campaign with the African trade unionists who are victims of trade union repression, so that respect for trade union rights in all African countries may be fully ensured.

~~Berlin, February 4th, 1961~~

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

22nd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Berlin, February 2 to 4, 1961)

3rd DRAFT

DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN LAOS

The 22nd Session of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions notes that the aggressive manoeuvres of American imperialism in Laos constitute a serious danger for the independence and sovereignty of that country and for world peace.

In an attempt to change Laos into a colony and a military base, the American imperialists are stepping up their intervention and aggression against Laos. They are openly bringing into the country planes, large quantities of arms and military equipment, and even troops from countries which obey their orders, by making use of the S.E.A.T.O. military bloc.

These acts by the American imperialists are in complete violation of 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China. They have already been strongly condemned and firmly opposed by all peaceloving people in Laos, South-East Asia and throughout the world.

Workers, peasants and other sections of the population of Laos, who have all been mobilised and are firmly united, are putting up a determined opposition to intervention and aggression by the American imperialists and Thailand reactionaries. They are waging a resolute battle against the traitorous Phoum-Boun Oum clique in order to safeguard the independence, peace and neutrality of their country.

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⑤ The Executive Committee calls on workers and peaceloving people in all countries to uphold the just struggle of the workers and people of Laos. It demands that the military and economic assistance given by the American Government to the Phoumi-Boun Oum rebel elements should cease immediately and that all military personnel and equipment supplied by America, Thailand and South Vietnam should be withdrawn forthwith. It maintains that a conference on the lines of the Geneva Conference of 1954, as proposed by the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, must be called immediately, that the International Control Commission for Laos should begin to function again and should contact and cooperate exclusively with the Souvana Phouma Government, which is the only legal government of Laos, and that aggression by American imperialists and by Thailand, South Vietnamese and S.E.A.T.O. reactionaries must end.

⑥ The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. greets the workers and wide sections of the people of Laos who are uniting and waging a determined battle against the imperialists and their lackeys.

⑦ The Executive Committee is deeply convinced that with the firm support of the working class and peaceloving people all over the world, the workers and people of Laos will utterly defeat foreign intervention and aggression and will safeguard the independence, peace and neutrality of Laos.

~~Berlin, February 4, 1961~~

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

22nd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Berlin, February 2 to 4, 1961)

1st Draft

WFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

N° 16

RESOLUTION OF SOLIDARITY TOWARDS CUBA

1. The 22nd Session of the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U., warmly greets the people and workers of Cuba who, led by their revolutionary Government, are advancing firmly on the road to economic independence and full national sovereignty, to agrarian reform, industrialisation and a steady improvement in their material and cultural standard of living.

2. By its social and democratic achievements, the Cuban revolution expresses and symbolises the will to independence, freedom and progress felt by all Latin American peoples.

3. The Executive Committee condemns the aggressive policy pursued by North American imperialism against Cuba, the aim of which is to restore the hateful domination of foreign monopolies and big landowners. It strongly condemns the continual provocations, the economic blockade, the breaking off of diplomatic relations and the organisation of armed mercenary bands for the purpose of invading Cuba.

4. On behalf of more than 100 million workers affiliated to the W.F.T.U., the Executive Committee reaffirms its firm support of the Cuban working class and its trade union centre, the Confederation of Cuban Workers, in their valiant united fight to defend the liberty and independence of their fatherland and the achievements of the revolution.

5. The Executive Committee salutes the workers and trade union organisations of the entire world, especially in Latin America, for their fighting solidarity with the Cuban people. It calls upon them to remain vigilant to the threats from imperialism and to strengthen still further their actions of solidarity towards Cuba.

Berlin, 4 February 1961