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18

NEWS BULLETIN

AN AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN CHARTERED TO TAKE PERSONS FROM EUROPE TO INDIA FOR THE 10-DAY TENTH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER, 1960.

The plane, a Douglas DC-4, will leave Europe on the 11th December, 1960 and return on the 8th January, 1961.

POINTS OF DEPARTURE:

Passengers will be picked up at London (Gatwick Airport), England and at Frankfurt, West Germany.

COST:

The fare is £125 (or equivalent) return to Madras, from either starting point. This is less than half the ordinary sea or air fare. It does not include any costs in connection with getting to and from the airports, nor the train fare from Madras (Egmore St.) to Ambaturai, the nearest station to the Gandhigram. Those travelling from London must in addition pay the customary seven shillings and sixpence tax. We estimate that £25 should easily cover all necessary expenses in India itself, including the train fare.

BOOKING:

Headquarters will welcome additional tentative reservations for the 72 seats until 15th May, 1960. Thereafter seats will be held only if a £25 deposit is paid. The full fare must be paid by the 15th November, 1960.

The deposit is non-returnable, as the W.R.I. must itself make a non-returnable deposit on the aircraft.

Members making tentative reservations (72 have already been received) will be given the first opportunity to book, as and when original reservations expire or are cancelled. If a sufficient additional number of bookings are received another plane will be chartered, if possible.

QUALIFICATIONS:

International chartering regulations require that each passenger hold membership in the W.R.I. for at least six months prior to the date of departure. (W.R.I. membership ordinarily is held by virtue of membership in one of its affiliated Sections)

IN INDIA:

You will have approximately one week in India prior to the Conference and one week afterward. You will be welcome on the excursions being planned for those wishing to see various aspects of Gandhian work, such as basic education and villages which have become "Grandam" villages under the Vinoba Bhavé plan.

The Conference itself is open to non-members. There is no Conference fee, and board and lodging will be provided without cost for these 10 days.

You will be permitted the usual 20 kilos (44 lbs) for luggage. Light clothing is recommended for the warm climate.

IF YOU WISH TO ENSURE AN INEXPENSIVE PASSAGE TO THE CONFERENCE, SEND US YOUR RESERVATION NOW!

All enquires to: War Resisters' International,
Lansbury House,
88 Park Avenue,
Enfield, Middx., England.

26th February, 1960

BELGIAN CONGO:

ED 71B-18-3

Harold F. Bing wrote the following letter to Dr. Nkrumah following reports that he was considering sending Ghana troops to the Congo independently of the United Nations:

"Dear Dr. Nkrumah,

It was with great interest that we read your speech at the Accra Conference in which you so eloquently advocated the use of Non-Violence by the peoples of the under-developed countries, and particularly the peoples of Africa, in their struggle for freedom and justice. It seemed to us a most happy augury for the future that the newly emerging nations should be rejecting the futile warlike methods of the old European world and turning to the constructive non-violent methods which Gandhi and others have been teaching us.

It is therefore with very great sorrow and disappointment that we now learn of your offer to send Ghana troops into the Congo in certain circumstances in order to take part in a warlike struggle there. We appeal to you to reconsider this matter. Such a conflict would not only be a tragedy for the Congolese people themselves, but would almost certainly provide an excuse for intervention by colonialist powers, involving the risk of a world war. At the very least, it would be a serious set-back in the movement for African freedom.

We are sure that we speak for tens of thousands of well-wishers to Africa throughout the world in making to you this appeal and we trust that you will give it very serious consideration and abandon all thought of a step which could only be disastrous in its results.

We would further ask you to urge Mr. Lumumba to rely on the principle of non-violence in the conflicts of interest in the Congo. This is the only way to avoid disaster there.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) HAROLD F. BING

Chairman

Council Members, Jean van Lierde and Pierre Martin, were asked to use all their influence to persuade African leaders to remain non-violent. Sections should take whatever action they see fit and let Headquarters know.

W.R.I. STUDY CONFERENCE:

Members from Belgium, Eire, England, West Germany, Holland, the U.S.A. and Wales (in deference to Plaid Cymru, the Welsh National Party with the Non-Violent Defence Policy), attended the W.R.I. Study Conference held with the co-operation of the Peace Pledge Union from August 13th-20th in South Wales.

Harold Bing (W.R.I. Chairman) opened the Conference on the first day with a detailed account of the history of pacifism from the 15th Century B.C. to the end of the Second World War. Over

50 people attended, including many P.P.U. members. They heard the speaker range rapidly over the centuries from the non-violent teaching of Buddha to the Sermon on the Mount; from St. Thomas Aquinas' doctrine of "the just war" to the development of the same theme by Grotius, the Dutch lawyer. They heard of the influence of the Quakers, Emmanuel Kant, Rousseau and others, on the development of pacifism as we understand it to-day. Socialism, originally so unequivocally anti-militarist, suffered from the Marxist doctrine of violent revolution while the working class generally came to enjoy sharing the fruits of imperialism with governments and the ruling classes. As a reaction many peace and pacifist organisations came into being after World War I and the W.R.I. itself was founded in 1921.

This exhaustive study of the antecedents of pacifist ideology was a sound introduction to the discussions and controversies which followed during the rest of the week.

On the second day a delegate from each country gave an account of pacifist organisation and activity in his own country. Many questions and contributions followed which gave some indication of the usefulness of this session. As was suggested in the title for the day "Pacifism to-day: methods, influence and confusions", the prevailing note was one of criticism. Controversies about subjects not always related to pacifism within Sections did not help development and some younger delegates thought that W.R.I. Sections were not always making the best use of new techniques. Members of the I.d.K. (Germany) gave more encouraging accounts of local group activities, and Bob Luitweiler, who has some knowledge of the situation in France, in the absence of a French member, drew attention to the activities of the Communauté de l'Arche, led by Lanzo del Vasto, an admirer of Gandhi.

Hem Day, Chairman of the Belgian Section, commencing the discussion on the future of pacifism, indicted the State as one of the main causes of war and suggested that pacifists had in the past neglected to take this fact into consideration. If pacifism were to mean anything in the future pacifists would have to recognise the rôle of the State and by undertaking radical methods of struggle, take a revolutionary position. Anarchism and Pacifism were essentially components of the same revolutionary philosophy. One or two delegates considered that anarchism was impracticable but many others reaffirmed that pacifists should be prepared to take part in non-violent struggles against the State and its constituent institutions, recognising the improbability of abolishing war by legitimate political means.

Arthur Uloth talked about the advantages and difficulties of Community living. He suggested that pacifists might consider the possibility of achieving social revolution by living in communities in accordance with libertarian and pacifist ideals. If this enabled others to see the truth of these ideals the movement might snowball into becoming a social factor of greater significance. He based his observations on personal experience of Communities in England. Religious communities tended, he said, to be authoritarian and non-religious communities to be libertarian. Architecture, women in kitchens, attitudes to sex and education, personal property, country life for habitual town dwellers all presented difficulties. Freedom was of primary importance but it often happened that the proximity of progressive individuals stimulated in some of them unhealthy desires for leadership. In the discussion many contributed their own experiences of community life and some denied that religious communities were always authoritarian. Schools seem to be a good basis upon which to build a community.

In connection with this session it should be mentioned that members of Garthnewydd, a Sarvodaya community in South Wales, were

present. Excursions to the Community House were arranged. Delegates saw the fibre glass factory which gives financial stability to Garthnewydd and also talked with its inhabitants.

Ian Dixon opened the last session on the techniques of non-violence. He drew parallels between the Montgomery bus boycott, the lunch-counter sit in strikes by negroes in the Southern States of America and the activities of the British Direct Action Committee, of which he is a member. Those who had advocated non-violent action in the U.S.A. against racial discrimination were at first thought to be idealists with no chance of success. However, the movement caught the imagination of negroes and sympathisers and with the co-operation of many thousands who were not necessarily pacifists, it achieved many of its aims. The same could happen in Britain against nuclear weapons. It was to be hoped that the D.A.C. would extend its activities to deal with other social injustices and preparations for war. If the pacifist movement did not keep abreast of the direct action movement it would lose initiative, and therefore the means of continuing the struggle towards total disarmament. The mass non-violent demonstrations in France in support of Algerian internees were mentioned in the discussion but in the main, contributions were confined to action in Britain. Some thought that demonstrations by the D.A.C. had not always been in the spirit of non-violence but were of a cohesive nature.

The speaker pointed out that all the legitimate means were tried before illegal action was undertaken and at that stage it became vital to dramatize what is for all of us an immoral and terrifying situation.

Telegrams of support were sent by sympathisers at this session to representatives in four prisons of those who had received sentences of six months imprisonment for their part in obstructing vehicles outside a nuclear weapons establishment at Foulness (England).

Generally speaking it can be said that the Conference was successful owing to the high standard set by discussion leaders and the many worthwhile contributions which were made by delegates. The W.R.I. thanks the Peace Pledge Union for its hospitality and Stuart Morris for the work he did in organising our stay at Clyne Castle. It was especially encouraging that so many P.P.U. members attended the W.R.I. sessions, many of them making valuable contributions. W.R.I. delegates also went to the P.P.U. sessions which took place every evening and in spite of language difficulties intervened during discussions there.

We would also like to thank the speakers and all those who interpreted for, without them, it would have been impossible to realise our aims.

Suggestions were made that a Youth Study Conference should be held next year, either in Holland or Poland.

PACIFIST APPEALS TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE:

Headquarters issued an appeal to Sections to support Luise Eisenmenger-Micko, Secretary of the Austrian Section, in her dispute with the Austrian Government.

At the meeting of the Scandinavian Sections in Finland on the 7th August, representatives from Finland, Sweden and Norway signed the following letter: (The Danish delegate had already left the meeting but the letter was later sent to the Chairman of the Section, Hagbard Jonassen, for his signature)

To The European Commission of Human Rights, Council of Europe,
Strasbourg,

"Representatives from the four Scandinavian sections of the War Resisters' International, meeting at their annual Scandinavian Conference, have been informed that the President of the Austrian W.R.I. section, Mrs. Luise Eisenmenger-Micko, has been prosecuted and sentenced by an Austrian court for having publicly revealed various abuses in the Austrian army and inhuman treatment of the recruits of that army.

"In this regard we want to draw your attention to the articles 6, 9, 10 and 14 of the Human Rights Convention, i.e. the articles concerning the right of a just trial, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to freedom of expression, and finally the principle of equality before the law.

"We refer to Mrs. Eisenmenger-Micko's appeal to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. As far as we can understand her appeal, her prosecution has been a severe violation of the above-mentioned articles.

"Mrs. Eisenmenger-Micko has acted in the spirit of the Human Rights Convention, and her fellow pacifists in the Scandinavian countries therefore urge the European Commission of Human Rights to undertake the necessary steps to reverse her sentence.

Veikars, Vasa, Finland. 7th August 1960."

The Irish Pacifist Movement also registered its protest.

LA 45-a - UNIVERSALA KONGRESO DE ESPERANTO EN BRUSELO:

On August 3rd Esperantists had the opportunity of hearing Harold Bing speak on the basic principles of pacifism at the W.R.I. meeting during the Esperanto Kongress. For members of the W.R.I., he told them, pacifism is a synonym of non-violence - a basic principle which should govern every action of daily life. Based on love and non-violence pacifism is the same in effect as Zamenhof's "homaranismo".

During the meeting interesting additional points were raised, including the work of Albert Schweitzer, the refusal of about 3,000 French soldiers to take part in the Algerian war, countries without conscription, etc.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST I.d.K. MEMBER:

Upon hearing that discriminative measures had been taken against Frau Professor Dr. Riemeck, the I.d.K. National Council Member and Chairman of North Rhein Westphalian I.d.K. Group, a letter demanding an explanation for his action was sent to the Area Minister of Education. Prof. Riemeck was dismissed from her position as an examiner at the Education Academy, Wuppertal. Students staged a sit-down demonstration in her support.

CANADA:

3,000 people attended a rally organised by the Canadian F.O.R. on Hiroshima Day. About 300 afterwards walked to the Japanese Garden which Japan gave to the University in Vancouver for a memorial service.

CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE OF
ORGANISATIONS FOR PEACE (I.L.C.O.P.) :

Pierre Martin (France) and Carl Brenner (Zurich Group) attended the I.L.C.O.P. Conference held at Muttentz from 16th-21st August as official delegates of the W.R.I. Speakers included: William Jordans of the U.N.O.; Sir Seymour Howard; Frau Gertrüd Kürz, who works in Africa for the relief of displaced persons; Danilo Dolci, a nominee for W.R.I. Council and renowned for his work in Sicily; Gerhart Schmidt of the S.C.I.; and Dr. Katz, nominee for W.R.I. Council and a member of the I.d.K. and V.K.

INDIA CONFERENCE:

The first meeting between the India Conference Committee and Arlo Tatum, General Secretary of the W.R.I., took place on the 26th August. The results of this meeting, including provisional Conference Agenda and programme of excursions etc. will be circulated as soon as Headquarters receives the information.

STOP PRESS!!!

The General Secretary has concluded his tour of Ceylon. His visit there was widely reported in the newspapers, including the "Sunday Observer" - "Pacifist due here" and the "Times" of Ceylon - "Curb evil force of politicians!" Radio Ceylon arranged an interview which did not, however, take place. Instead listeners were treated to some pacifist songs by Arlo Tatum who accompanied himself on the autoharp.

After speaking to youth organisations in Colombo he travelled south to Panadura for a Buddhist Meeting: thence north via Colombo and Anuradhapura, the ancient capital of Ceylon, to Jaffna. He visited the ashram at Chunnakam, 7 miles away and a nearby church led by Rev. K.J. Mills. Before leaving by train ferry to India he also spoke to the Town Teachers Association and the Rotary Club in Jaffna.

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

Telephone

Laburnum 3977

88 PARK AVENUE
BUSH HILL PARK
ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX
ENGLAND

NEWS RELEASE

3rd November 1960

THE FIFTH ANNUAL

PRISONERS FOR PEACE DAY

1st DECEMBER, 1960

ED 718-18-6

- Q. Who are Prisoners for Peace?
- A. They are those men and women who, for humanitarian or religious reasons, are willing to sacrifice their freedom rather than join with or, sanction, preparations for War.
- Q. Surely no Government would imprison peacemakers?
- A. On the contrary - most are quite willing to do so.
- Q. What offences have the prisoners committed?
- A. Refusal of Military Service or Civil Defence duties, or Direct Action against particular military installations - for example, rocket bases.
- Q. Is anything done to help them?
- A. Yes, there are many national organisations for aiding conscientious objectors, although support is not possible in some countries. The War Resisters' International tries to help those who have no national organisation to assist them.
- Q. Can I help?
- A. Certainly, by:
1. Contributions to the relief fund of the W.R.I., and
 2. Taking part in Prisoners for Peace Day activities on the 1st December
- Q. What form do these activities take?
- A. Demonstrations and poster parades are held in major cities throughout the world. Pacifists and upholders of civil liberties write to newspapers drawing attention to the plight of the prisoners. Greeting cards (in envelopes only) are sent to the small proportion of Prisoners for Peace, whose names and addresses the W.R.I. is able to supply.
- Q. What response was there last year?
- A. The 100,000 or so cards received were a great source of strength to C.O.'s. A demonstration was held at the United Nations Building in New York. Press, radio and television gave good coverage in certain countries.

WILL YOU HELP?

More details from:

War Resisters' International
88, Park Avenue,
Enfield, Middlesex,
ENGLAND.

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

Telegrams
LABURNUM 3977

88 PARK AVENUE
BUSH HILL PARK
ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX
ENGLAND

ED 718-18-7

W.R.I. NEWS SERVICE

May, 1962

Release No. 2

TESTING - PROTESTING

Two officials of the Japan Council against A and H Bombs began a week-long "sitdown protest" in front of the A bomb memorial tomb in Hiroshima on the afternoon of April 20th to protest the scheduled American nuclear testing in the Pacific. They were Ichiro Moritaki and Kiyoshi Kikkawa. Ichiro Moritaki, who is a Professor at the Hiroshima University, requested the University to accept his resignation on the grounds that his "sitdown strike" may cause the University authorities embarrassment.

The two officials sat quietly and resolutely on a straw mat, with three big placards reading, "Oppose the use of Christmas and Johnston Islands by the U.S.A. and Great Britain", "Oppose nuclear tests by the U.S.A. and Great Britain which threaten to bring war to the human race" and "Let us make our utmost efforts for the sake of peace."

☆☆☆

Mrs Allegranza, a member of the Committee of 100 in London, has been on hunger strike for more than 8 days as a protest against the resumption of nuclear testing. This is her third hunger strike. Mrs Allegranza is serving a 12-month prison sentence for offences under the Official Secrets Act in connection with the demonstration at Wethersfield U.S. Air Force base in December.

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A retired teacher took a fatal dose of aspirin tablets after hearing on the radio that a new series of atomic tests had begun. She was Miss Gladys Malpass, aged 70, of Tidings Hill, Halstead, England. She left a note for the coroner, and others for the police.

After hearing a pathologist's report that Miss Malpass had died of aspirin poisoning, the coroner recorded a verdict that she had taken her own life.

He read a note in which she said, "I am responsible for taking my life, and I do so as a protest against atomic warfare." She put the blame on the USSR, U.S.A. and Britain, and went on, "I am elderly and worn, with few relatives and few responsibilities, and so I am free to make this decision.

☆☆☆

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Committee of 100 have announced their support for the American project to send a boat into the Christmas Island test area. The Committee for Non-Violent Action, which is organising this protest voyage, had appealed to Britain to provide a crew member.

A statement from Bertrand Russell stated recently that the ship would leave on May 14th and would arrive in the area of the tests 20 days later. "The barbarism of these tests," Lord Russell said, "must and will be stopped."

Bertrand Russell also made public a reply from Marshal Tito to a cable sent two weeks ago. The reply, in a letter dated April 27th, said that the idea of sending ships and merchant vessels to the waters round Christmas Island was not unrealistic. "The dangers and responsibilities of today are so great and fateful," Marshal Tito said, "that actions which might otherwise be unusual are becoming justified and inevitable."

The letter went on to say that unfortunately Marshal Tito could not take the responsibility of ordering Yugoslav ships into waters where the tests were to take place. Even if that had been possible, it seemed that the ships would not be able to arrive in time.

President Nkrumah in his answer to Lord Russell says "that the suggestion to send ships to the test area could have been a form of positive action which the non-aligned states might well have considered." But the cable goes on to say that unfortunately it is too late to take such action and stresses Ghana's belief in the need to solve the problem through negotiation and to support the efforts of the non-aligned powers at Geneva.

Bertrand Russell sent his cable to the heads of governments of Ghana, India, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Sweden, Mexico and Brazil. Mr Nehru sent a cable asking for clarification of Bertrand Russell's request.

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In London a continuous 24-hour picket has been maintained in front of the American Embassy since the tests began.

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In Japan a sitdown was staged in Hiroshima, and near Yokosuka naval base about 2,000 fishermen took part in a protest rally. A letter sent to President Kennedy and to Mr Macmillan bore the signatures of 259 scholars, artists, writers and politicians. In Tokyo 2,5000 students demonstrated outside the U.S.A. Embassy.

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The War Resisters' International Headquarters protested to President Kennedy and also urged Khrushchev not to retaliate by starting another series of Russian tests.

☆☆☆

In Australia there were large demonstrations in Melbourne and Sydney. In New Zealand the President of the Methodist Church appealed to the Prime Minister to lodge protest. The Foreign Minister of Finland said his government was opposed to all tests, whoever makes them. The Tunisian government said the tests were "regrettable" and the Ghana government appealed to the U.S.A. to stop the tests.

☆☆☆

In Washington Richard B. Russell, Chairman Of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the reaction was "incomprehensible", and Senator Keating said that the reaction would show "who our friends really are... and which ones must parrot Khrushchev line."

PEACE ACTIVITY IN GREECE

The April 20th demonstration in Athens against the rigged October election was the biggest seen in Athens for many years. It is estimated that 100,000 took part. Strong police forces in an attempt to hem in 3,000 people listening to Mr Papandreu, Center Union Chief, were themselves hemmed in by the crowds trying to get to the meeting. About 50 were arrested and over 40 badly hurt. Among those taking part were doctors and lawyers. Local newspapers confirm the impression that there is strong opposition to the Greek Government and that this demonstration was very successful.

On April 24th a smaller demonstration took place of relatives of political prisoners - 17 women and around 1,500 men, many of whom have served 16-18 years of a life sentence. One man released this Easter is suffering from cancer in an advanced stage. Many are freed only when their health is so broken that they are not likely to live long.

As a member of NATO, Greece is anxious to hide the fact that there is a concentration camp with 500 men imprisoned for 16 - 17 years without trial, and there is talk of scattering the men over Greece in order to close the camp and avoid releasing them. This will result in further hardship to the prisoners.

In spite of restrictions on freedom in Greece, there seems to be a strong peace movement. It has the double task of working against war and for democracy in Greece. It was expected that a recent meeting at which one speaker was to talk about the Aldermaston March would attract 2,000 people. An exhibition of paintings by 43 well-known Greek artists was recently organised for 20 days on the subject "Peace and Life."

As reported by a member of the Peace Pledge Union

"AMNESTY" AND

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Ciaran McNally,
Vice-President of the Irish Pacifist Movement,
(W.R.I. Section)

The AMNESTY Movement was founded last year by a London lawyer, Peter Benenson, with the objective of launching a world-wide campaign for the release from prison of all those individuals whom he describes as "Prisoners of Conscience."

A Prisoner of Conscience is defined as "any person who is physically restrained from expressing any opinion which he honestly holds and which does not advocate or condone personal violence." Excluded from this definition are any persons who have conspired with a foreign government to overthrow their own.

Notable examples in recent years of such prisoners have been Cardinal Mindszenty, Archbishop Beran, Dr. Neto, the Angolan poet, and Constantin Noica, the Rumanian philosopher. But apart from these well known ones there are literally millions of unnamed and unknown prisoners of conscience in jails on each side of the Iron

Curtain, whose only offence is that they hold beliefs different from those of their respective governments and who are deprived of their liberty for maintaining such beliefs.

The AMNESTY Movement (1 Mitre Court Buildings, London, E.C.4) seeks to persuade all governments concerned either to release those persons unconditionally, to give them a fair trial, or, in suitable cases, to grant them the right to seek political asylum in some foreign country. The basis of the appeal is founded on Article 18 of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that -

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom either alone or in company with others in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

These rights are fortified by Art. 19 which provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, a right which "includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

It will be obvious that many of the member states of U.N.O. flagrantly violate their obligations in these respects. The weakness of the U.N. Declaration is that it is not binding on the member states. It has not the force of an international convention; it is purely declaratory. Consequently neither states nor citizens can invoke it when it has been breached.

Dissatisfied with this lamentable failure by the U.N. organisation, a number of European States joined in a separate European Convention on Human Rights in 1948 which is binding in international law and which is enforced by an international Commission of Human Rights and Court of Human Rights, both sitting in Strasbourg.

Cases involving alleged breaches of this Convention have been brought before the Commission by Greece against Great Britain, in relation to Cyprus; by Austria against Italy, in relation to the South Tirol; and by three individual citizens, Lawless (Ireland), Nielsen (Denmark) and De Becker (Belgium) against their respective governments, alleging violation of fundamental human rights guaranteed by the Convention.

The declared aim of AMNESTY is, therefore, in complete conformity with the contractual obligations of the majority of Western European states, and with the professed ideals of all the member states of U.N.O. But the necessity to found such an organisation as AMNESTY arises from the fact that too many states are in grave breach of their international obligations, or professed principles, regarding individual human rights.

AMNESTY seeks to rectify this situation by engendering a vigorous and well informed public opinion in the international community which will keep constant pressure on offending governments to induce (rather than force) them to respect the right of the non-conformist conscience and to accord to the opponents of current state policies and philosophies their inalienable right to follow their consciences in matters of fundamental importance.

Now the significance of AMNESTY to the case of the conscientious objector to military service will be immediately obvious. The C.O. is particularly within the terms of reference drawn up by the organisation, for, far from being penalised for advocating personal violence to others, he is imprisoned for refusing to use violence against others; and this refusal arises, not from political motives, but from the demands of conscience itself. Next to a religious victim, it is hard to conceive a more clearcut example of a prisoner for conscience' sake.

The C.O. is indeed the original prisoner of Conscience (speaking in modern historical terms), for during this century he has had to fight a lone battle with his own Government, unaided by any effective organisation, misunderstood by his fellowmen, branded as a traitor and coward, socially ostracised when at liberty and bullied and illtreated when in prison - especially in wartime conditions.

What is AMNESTY's attitude to the C.O.? It is perhaps too early to answer with certainty, if only for the reason that the movement is still in its formative stage and its directors have yet to formulate and define its policy in relation to several important issues of this nature. But it seems certain that this movement cannot function universally unless it sponsors the case of the C.O. and I have been given to understand that not only has it got C.O.'s already on its list of Prisoners of Conscience, but that it would favour the inclusion of the right to conscientious objection to military service as a human right in the U.N. Covenant on Human Rights and also in the European Convention on Human Rights.

But, at the same time, certain basic principles of AMNESTY's plan of campaign affect its mode of approach to the C.O. problem. Its appeal to governmental conscience is based on humanitarian grounds alone, for only on such universally valid basis do the sponsors feel they can approach governments in a spirit of persuasion that will be at once politically impartial and yet devoid of apology.

Therefore, there can be no question of AMNESTY arguing with Governments from an anti-militarist or pacifist viewpoint; it does not want to be identified with any sectional interest, whether religious, political or social.

Furthermore it prefers to see changes brought about by domestic initiative within States, rather than by external pressure that may only give the impression of "foreign interference". (This ideal will not always be realisable, of course). The C.O. issue is particularly open to misunderstanding in this respect, because in asking a government to give full recognition to C.O.'s one is asking it to voluntarily weaken its military potential. A certain delicacy of approach is, therefore, necessary on this issue.

But on the other hand it cannot be shirked. War has now come into conflict not only with the informed Christian conscience, but also with the conscience of those millions whose sense of right and wrong derives from humanitarianism. Nuclear warfare has brought the frightening spectre of Militaristic Anarchism before the human family and this monster must be denied recruits if it is to be prevented from playing the part of Herod to a helpless humanity.

Those thousands of Catholics who, because of the essential immorality of modern warfare, find themselves precluded from rendering military service, should not only welcome AMNESTY, but should join its ranks and help to ensure that, in the course of its great crusade for the human conscience, it will incidentally lift the case of the C.O. on to the same level as that of the religious and political prisoner and ensure that international society will fully recognise the primacy of conscience in such matters so intimately related to man's spiritual destiny as the hating and killing of his fellow man.

From FAX BULLETIN, organ of PAX, an association of Christians who seek to promote peace and to encourage the practical application of Christian principles to the question of war.

AMNESTY IN GHANA

On May 6th about 160 political detainees were released on Dr. Nkrumah's orders. It is estimated that there are still about 100 - 150 people being detained.

It is interesting to note that AMNESTY recently sent Louis Blom-Cooper, a lawyer and journalist, to Ghana in order to investigate the situation. He reported to a meeting in London that, amongst those detained, were eight women whose only offence appeared to be that they had fed strikers.

Only one year after independence Dr. Nkrumah had said: "Even a democratic system may need backing up by totalitarian methods," although Article 13 in the Republican Constitution of 1960 promised the protection of Human Rights.

Institut für Zeitgeschichte Archiv

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WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

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ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX
ENGLAND

31st July, 1962

NEWS RELEASE NO.3

LENINGRAD PROJECT

It is well known that American pacifists organised recently two attempts with the boats EVERYMAN I and EVERYMAN II to enter the prohibited area in the Pacific in order to protest the American nuclear tests. Now that the Soviet Union has announced its intention to resume nuclear tests a similar protest against these is being planned by an ad hoc Committee with Headquarters in London.

A ship to be named EVERYMAN III is being procured which, with an international crew, will sail the 2,200 miles from London to Leningrad calling at such ports as Calais, Ostend, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki in 25-30 days and then if possible on to Moscow by river and canal to protest against the Soviet tests and to appeal to the Soviet people to express their opposition to their Government's policy.

It is hoped that pacifist groups in all countries where the ship calls will organise demonstrations to welcome it and show their sympathy and support. Volunteers are needed who should be convinced pacifists and if possible also have technical qualifications in seamanship. It is hoped that any pacifist organisations in the countries concerned will finance the expenses of their volunteers to and from London and if possible contribute towards the general expenses of the expedition.

It is intended that, even in the face of a refusal of admission by the Soviet Authorities, every effort will be made by non-violent means to carry out the purpose of the expedition.

W.R.I. Council urges its Sections to give every possible co-operation and publicity to this project. Further details may be obtained from Barnaby Martin, C/o World Peace Brigade, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

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WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:
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88 Park Avenue
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ENGLAND

Telephone: LABurnum 3977

24th September, 1962

NEWS RELEASE

(restricted circulation)

The Israeli Section of the War Resisters' International draws your attention to the case of a young conscientious objector, Reuben Abed, whose experiences are outlined below. After the assurance that was given to Arlo Tatum, (the then General Secretary of the W.R.I.) in January 1961 by the Director of Manpower that conscientious objectors would be dealt with administratively and according to the merits of their case, we feel it important that protests should be made to the Department of Manpower, Ministry of Defence, Hakiryia, Israel.

Reuben Abed refused military service but accepted an offer by the Ministry of Defence to do his alternative service teaching in a settlement in the Negev for four years. Following his application he was not interviewed, as is normally the case, but was sentenced to 14 days in a military prison. There he carried out a hunger strike.

When he came out of prison he was in a bad state of health and was still suffering physically from the treatment he had endured. He was forcibly fed and was beaten about the head and face by a warder. He endured other humiliations but was not granted an interview with the Commanding Officer and so was not able to make any complaint. After completing his hunger strike he was refused food for one day.

The W.R.I. has written to the Director of Manpower demanding reparation for Reuben Abed and an assurance that conscientious objectors will not be treated in this way in future.

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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88 Park Avenue
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ENGLAND

9th October, 1962

NEWS RELEASE NO.5

ED 718-18-12

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

Two British catholics set out on a walk from London to Rome on the 8th October. They are Lawrence Hisslam, a potter who has served several prison sentences as a conscientious objector, a member of the Committee of 100 and for refusal of civil defence rates, and Neil Snelders, a social worker. They intend to arrive in Rome during the last week of the meeting of the Vatican Council to seek a private audience with the Pope to discuss "The scandal of Christians preparing for nuclear war". They are hoping that the Pope will give some guidance to Christians on this question.

Their route will take them through: Calais 11th October, Bethune 13th, Arras 14th, Cambrai 15th, St. Quentin 16th, Rheims 18th, Chalons-sur-mer 19th, Langres 24th, Lausanne 30th, Martigny 1st November and Milan on the 9th November.

The Press or members of the peace movement willing to give them support can contact them 'Poste Restante' at any of the towns mentioned.

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DEMONSTRATION AT V-BOMBER BASE

On the 20th October the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Committee of 100 in East Anglia are organising a demonstration at Bury St. Edmunds, which is to be followed by a demonstration involving civil disobedience at Honington V-Bomber base.

Demonstrators are going to attempt to reclaim the aerodrome for agricultural purposes. They will take ploughs, picks and shovels and attempt to enter the base. If they are prevented they will carry out a symbolic protest just outside the base.

A leaflet which calls upon the people of Europe to stand together against war is enclosed with this news release.

Messages of support from other countries would be appreciated by the organisers

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FASTING FOR PEACE

A group of 5 young pacifists are holding a public fast in Wood Green, a northern suburb of London from the 6th-13th October. They hope to draw the public's attention to the non-violent alternatives to war and famine.

While fasting they are collecting money and clothes for the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. A leaflet explaining the reasons for their action is enclosed with this News Release. Similar actions are being or have been undertaken in France, Switzerland, U.S.A. and West Germany. This is the second action of this type in London during the last two months.

GENERAL STRIKE FOR PEACE

Under the international sponsorship of such personalities as Dorothy Day, A.J. Muste, Bertrand Russell and Professor Pitirim Sorokin, the New York Committee for the General Strike for Peace has issued the following appeal for a world-wide general strike for peace to take place between the 5th and 11th November, 1962:

"The time has come for a General Strike.

A world-wide general strike is the non-violent direct action by which people can convince the governments that we want peace and that we cannot go on existing and co-operating with cold war policies: nuclear testing, war budgets, war threats, mobilization and any other forms of the race to war.

This general strike is a non-violent work stoppage. It is a refusal to participate in the normal functions of the community, except for those absolutely necessary for health and sanitation.

We must withdraw our economic support from those who are using us to bring about our own destruction. We cannot maintain confidence in governments which misuse science for war purposes and lie to us about 'safe' levels of radiation or 'shelter' from nuclear annihilation, which speak of preserving peace while spending billions for war.

Let people in the Capitalist countries join us in the demand that the governments and large corporations begin to convert to peacetime economy.

Let people in the Communist countries join us in the demand that the State begin to convert to a peacetime economy.

We call on all the people of the world, in all countries, and of all political convictions, to join us in this strike. We warn those in power to stop the cold war, to stop testing nuclear arms that are poisoning us, to begin settling their present differences, and to begin bold measures for total disarmament. The governments must disarm. We are not concerned with who begins. We urge them to begin to disarm at once, even prior to negotiations.

This strike is the second of a series. We will call again and again for a general strike until we can live in peace, free from a further increase in the terrible effects of fallout, and free from the threat of a war that might annihilate most, if not all, human beings."

Amongst suggested activities for strikers are: work stoppages of anything from an hour to the whole week; the boycott of goods made by manufacturers of war materials; a voters veto against any candidate who supports cold war policies. The organisers hope that there will be demonstrations at factories producing arms, government buildings and military or atomic installations. They hope that all forms of non-violent protest will be encouraged and supported by pacifists and that everyone will be willing to participate in any demonstrations organised by other peace groups during the strike week. They suggest that on Monday, 5th November, there should be a complete boycott and that strikers should refuse to buy any goods.

From August 13th to November 5th there will be a continuous march by a small group of pacifists in New York to gain support for the General Strike and to acquaint the public with its purpose. For a pacifist comment on the strike read "The General Strike - Myth and Reality", an article by D. McReynolds in the September/October edition of "W.R.L. News", published by the War Resisters' League (W.R.I. Section in the U.S.A.), 5 Beekman Street, New York 38, N.Y.

The address of the New York Committee for a General Strike is 63, West 14th Street, New York City 11, N.Y., U.S.A.

T O W N T W I N N I N G

During the Second World War a young Frenchman, Jean-Marie Bressand, having escaped from a German prison camp near Paris, joined the Free French Forces in England. He subsequently volunteered to be parachuted into France to assist the resistance movement. Accompanied by a group of American and English soldiers, he set off, but as the plane circled the chosen spot, Bressand discovered that his parachute was not working properly. He could speak no English and was unable to explain his predicament to the others. His turn came to jump and in desperation he leapt from the plane. The parachute opened only a few hundred yards from the ground, but he landed safely.

He decided that if he survived the war he would do what he could to enable men to speak to each other and be understood as a major contribution towards the realisation of peace. On August 17th, 1951, the anniversary of his escape from the prison camp, he founded "Monde Bilingua" which took French and English, spoken as first or second language over a large part of the world, as the basis of the plan to challenge everybody to learn at least one language other than his own and thus create the circumstances in which men could understand each other.

The organisation began to establish direct links between municipalities on either side of the Channel or the Atlantic. This process came to be known as "twinning" and out of the "bilingual world" developed the United Towns Organisation, of which Jean-Marie Bressand is to-day the Director General and which has recently held its fourth congress in Coventry, England.

On the basis of the equal status of all member towns, irrespective of size, towns are encouraged to twin with other towns without any discrimination of ideology, politics, religion or race. Though each town is left quite free to chose its twin, it is hoped that real co-operation may be assisted through the association of towns with differences, so that the scheme may help to improve East-West relations and might bring together modern established towns with towns in underdeveloped countries. More recently the scheme has been extended to create triangular links with the idea of adding to towns already twinned a third town from one of the uncommitted nations.

To date 550 towns are members of the U.T.O. There are also several other towns which have twinned without becoming members of the U.T.O., and one hope of the congress was to encourage all towns to realise the value of becoming affiliated with U.T.O.

The refusal to discriminate between East and West and perhaps in particular the recognition of East Germany has brought U.T.O. under the displeasure of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, which in September, 1961, passed a resolution requesting governments of member countries to refrain from giving any assistance to U.T.O. on the ground that its activities were incompatible with the aims of the Council of Europe. The European conference of Local Authorities followed up in March, 1962 by requesting the Committee of Ministers to transmit the previous resolution to U.N., UNESCO and all inter-governmental organisations. The Association of Municipal Corporations in Britain issued a confidential circular asking its members to boycott the congress. In the meantime, the not unusual attempt to discredit the organisation by smearing it with the accusation of being pro-communist was made in France and Western Germany, and in two cases legal proceedings were taken against the authors of press articles. In France, legal proceedings were stopped when the author publicly stated that the patriotism, honesty and independence of U.T.O. could not be suspected. In Germany the Minister of Justice announced that no proof had been produced for the truth of the allegations against U.T.O.

The fourth world congress was attended by over 200 delegates representing 43 towns from all the continents. The largest delegation came from France and the next from Italy. There was a strong delegation from Senegal and other African towns. Four mayors from Soviet cities were present, together with mayors from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary and Yugoslavia. Seven mayors from important towns in East Germany were refused visas and prevented from coming by the action of the British Home Office.

Twenty-two British towns or boroughs sent representatives, but apparently the only observer present who did not represent a municipality was Stuart Morris who went as observer for the War Resisters' International. His application had provoked some consideration because there was doubt as to whether he was representing a fellowship of those who had been involved in resistance movements during the war. When it was explained that the W.R.I. was a fellowship of individual pacifists who resisted all war, he was given a sympathetic welcome and had the opportunity of making a short statement about the aims of the W.R.I. and the P.P.U. He was also able to raise the question of the refusal of visas to the East German representatives and as a result the other British representatives sent a letter of protest to the Home Office and the congress passed a resolution expressing grave concern at the discriminatory action taken by the Western Powers.

In view of the challenge to U.T.O. it was not surprising that much of the discussion centred round the policy of non-discrimination which was unanimously reaffirmed.

The aims of U.T.O. are completely in line with the attitude of pacifists, and there can be no doubt that any increase in the number of twinned towns must make for better understanding and closer ties between different parts of the world. The continued refusal to accept any discrimination helps to lessen the tensions due to the cold war and to break through frontier barriers erected by nationalism.

The whole stress of the congress was on the need to take positive action to avoid war and bring peace. It was interesting to hear a French general, Pierre Billotte, publicly stating that governments had got hold of the problem at the wrong end and that it was for the U.T.O. to transcend what divides men and concentrate on what brings people together. If pacifists can find some way of influencing their own towns to co-operate with U.T.O. and above all if they can through some association with U.T.O. introduce the personal challenge to renounce war, they could be rendering effective service in the cause of peace.

From "The Pacifist", monthly journal of the
Peace Pledge Union, 6 Endsleigh Street, London W.C.1

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WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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88 Park Avenue
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ENGLAND

27th September, 1962

NEWS RELEASE NO. 4

ED 718-18-14

EVERYMAN III

EVERYMAN III left Gravesend near London at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 26th September, 1962 on its voyage to Leningrad in protest against nuclear tests. There were representatives from the War Resisters' International, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Committee of 100 (all sponsoring organisations) to witness the departure.

The boat will arrive at Ostend on 27th September and will remain there for at least one day. Other ports of call will be Amsterdam, Hamburg, Copenhagen and Stockholm and it is hoped that the boat will be allowed to enter Leningrad so that its crew members might put their views before the Russian people.

EVERYMAN I and EVERYMAN II had attempted to sail to the U.S. testing zones in the Pacific. 11 people were arrested in these actions and 5 of them are still in prison.

The crew are calling for an end to nuclear weapons tests and the arms race. Governments are asked to:

- ☆ STOP all nuclear weapons testing immediately.
- ☆ STOP relying on military deterrence; announce that it will never prepare for, undertake or threaten any kind of war.
- ☆ BEGIN disarmament now, and continue to disarm regardless of what other nations do.
- ☆ BEGIN programmes that will ensure that people now working in military industries or serving in the armed forces will have useful jobs after disarmament.
- ☆ BEGIN generous, non-military aid programmes to the poorer nations of the world.

All people are urged to study the most effective forms of non-violent resistance for defending themselves against oppression and to train and organise themselves for such resistance in order to be prepared to defend their freedom and values.

The leaflet for the Project, which will be distributed in many languages, had this to say:

ACT FOR PEACE

In order to encourage your government to act for peace and for the sake of mankind, we ask you to find relevant actions to express your opposition to war. To this end, some people are refusing to do military service, refusing to work in arms factories, refusing to pay taxes that will be used for military purposes. Many thousands of people in many countries are protesting against the military policies of their own governments. We hope millions of people in every country will join in these protests. This is the surest way to bring about disarmament. When enough people refuse to support war and preparation for war, complete and general disarmament can become a fact.

Amongst the crew are: Earle Reynolds, the skipper, an American who is Professor of Anthropology at Hiroshima Women's College. He has much experience with this type of Project and has already sailed in protest against Russian and American nuclear tests; Joel Bøgh, the second engineer, aged 20, from Denmark; Neil Haworth from New York, a crewman and Project Co-ordinator. He is co-secretary of the Committee for Non-Violent Action which is sponsoring the Project; Erwann Chataigné from Nantes, France, who served 5 months prison sentence for demonstrating in solidarity with French Conscientious Objectors: Jean Neveu from Angers, France, who took part in the San Francisco/Moscow march; Lawrence Beck from Sydney, Australia, a sculpter and welder; Alan White, a supporter of the Committee of 100 and a Russian/English interpreter. Altogether there are 12 crew members.

The boat goes with the good wishes of the War Resisters' International and the World Peace Brigade for Non-Violent Action.

The Project office is at 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1. England. Telephone No. EUSon 1377

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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23rd November, 1962

NEWS RELEASE No. 9GERMANY

In the Federal Republic nearly 23,000 applications for conscientious objector registration have been made since compulsory military service was introduced in 1956. Of the 13,000 dealt with by the authorities, half appear to have been sustained, many at the Appellate Tribunals.

PRISONERS FOR PEACE DAY, DECEMBER 1ST

An Honour Roll with the names and addresses of conscientious objectors and other prisoners for peace has been published by the W.R.I. Demonstrations in solidarity with those fighting the cause of world peace behind bars or in detention camps will be organised by W.R.I. Sections throughout the world. As in previous years, it is expected that thousands of Christmas cards will be received by the prisoners.

A large proportion of those about whom information is known are in France, but, for the first time, most of them will be in a civilian work camp. This improvement is largely due to the efforts of Louis Lecoin and other French pacifists who have been campaigning for years to achieve recognition for C.O.'s.

UNITED NATIONS

On December 10th 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed by the United Nations. The decision was unanimous. Activities to commemorate Human Rights Day this year are being organised by AMNESTY. Special services are being held in many churches on the preceding day, Sunday December 9th.

HOLLAND

An International Conference of direct action and pacifist organisations was held in Amsterdam from the 10th -12th November. Some 50 delegates came from Belgium, Britain, France, Holland, Italy, Japan, U.S.A. and West Germany. Plans for building a powerful international movement against war were discussed and emphasis was placed on the need for industrial action in addition to civil disobedience and conventional campaign activities. A full report of the Conference can be obtained from the W.R.I. Headquarters.

Another World Anti-Nuclear Conference is to be held in Oxford, Britain, from the 4th - 7th January, 1963, under the auspices of the European C.N.D. Federation.

BELGIUM

On the 14th of November a Conference of peace and left-wing organisations was called by the International Federation of Initiatives for a Belgian Contribution to International Understanding to discuss plans for the first Easter march in Belgium. Observers from the Amsterdam Conference attended.

ITALY

A law suit has been filed against General de Gaulle, President Kennedy, President Breznev and Mr. Khrushchev by Attorney Nino Musion Sale. He accuses these political leaders of endangering the health of mankind and asks that they be condemned to pay fines and costs. The trial will be held on December 4th in the Civil Court of Genoa.

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The Centre for Non-Violence at Perugia in a statement lists the following as the only viable forces to counteract the dangers inherent in the Cold War:-

- (1) Non-violent methods to be applied in every struggle in repudiation of the policies of mass annihilation.
- (2) The unity of the masses in every country to exercise a constant check from below upon all Governments.
- (3) The consolidation of the judicial work of the United Nations and the admission to the U.N. of states now excluded - China and East Germany.
- (4) Immediate moves for disarmament, unilateral if necessary, with the creation of demilitarised zones and the removal of military bases.

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A bill for the recognition of C.O.'s was rejected in the Italian Chamber of Deputies. All the Christian Democrats voted against, except two who abstained. The Socialists and Communists voted for the measure. Two Liberals were utterly opposed.

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The Vatican

Archbishop Roberts of Bombay, who has long been in favour of recognition of C.O.'s in all countries, spoke at the Vatican Council in favour of setting up a committee of experts to assist theologians in the practical application of Catholic principles in the nuclear age. He maintained that the Vatican Council offered an excellent opportunity to discuss Gandhian techniques of non-violent resistance.

FRANCE

A demonstration of 10,000 people took place outside the atomic factory of Pierrelatte in protest against the French "force de frappe". It was organised by the French Section of the World Peace Council. However, several members of the Communauté de l'Arche took part and one spoke in favour of opposition to the nuclear weapons of East and West.

Action Civique Non-Violente has issued an appeal entitled OUI A LA PAIX - NON A LA BOMBE (Yes to Peace and No to the Bomb). It compares the possession of nuclear weapons to the crimes committed by Eichmann and the Nazis. "All Governments of East and West speak of peace but prepare actively for atomic war." The appeal asks the French people to consider what they could do in these circumstances and suggests that they refuse to participate, directly or indirectly, in preparations for nuclear war, that they reject the preoccupation with profit as a factor to war and that they sponsor understanding and co-operation between all men, whatever their class, race or creed.

AFRICA

In Basutoland Dr. Carl van Aswegen is battling against tuberculosis and other diseases. He is working at the Albert Schweitzer Clinic, Maseru, and as he has to be away every week from Monday to Friday (flying in an aeroplane donated by Oxford University students to see patients), there is no other doctor to attend to the Clinic.

Dr. van Aswegen very urgently needs a doctor who wants a good training in general practice. Remuneration will not be good but the work is very rewarding.

Anyone interested should write to P. Kloppenburg, 36 Airlie Rd., Brighton Beach, Durban, S. Africa.

BRITAIN

The British Government has just announced its decision to carry out a nuclear test underground. In response to this challenge the Committee of 100 will be calling public assemblies in many larger towns and cities to protest. At the same time the Black Paper, a report to the nation entitled "H-Bomb War - What It Would Be Like", published by "Peace News", will be distributed. The Committee of 100 is also launching a campaign against recruitment for the armed forces and to encourage the formation of peace groups amongst the service men themselves. Initial activities will be centered on recruitment offices and on schools where pupils are urged to consider the services as a career.

U.S.A.

For the first time in American education, the subject of world peace - and how to preserve it, is being introduced as a course in the curricula of colleges and graduate schools as a result of the work of the Fund For Education Concerning World Peace Through World Law.

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In the U.S.A. a similar law suit to the one in Italy has been filed against the Atomic Energy Commissioners, the Secretaries of Defence in the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. and the heads of various departments in charge of nuclear tests. The 186 plaintiffs from 22 countries are headed by Linus Pauling, a Nobel Prize winner, and include Gunther Anders, an Austrian philosopher, J.B. Priestley, the British writer and Rev. Martin Niemöller.

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ED 718-18-17

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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ENGLAND

25th October, 1962

NEWS RELEASE NO.8

CUBAN BLOCKADE AND THE INDIA-CHINA BORDER CONFLICT

Considering the gravity of the world situation the War Resisters' International appeals to peace forces all over the world to put whatever pressure they can on governments responsible for the present world crisis to end the hostilities and tensions. The International feels concerned about the Cuban crisis and the India-China border dispute and therefore has sent letters to all its Sections and other contacts, including many peace organisations in London suggesting the following:

Cuba: Letters and telegrams be sent appealing to the U.S.A. to withdraw immediately the blockade of Cuba, and to the Soviet Union to use the greatest possible restraint and to stop all sending of armaments to Cuba. Both Governments should be urged to leave the question to be solved through the United Nations.

India-China: The Chinese and Indian Governments must be approached, directly and through their Embassies, and urged to end the armed conflict by agreeing to an immediate cease-fire and to solve the conflict by peaceful means, such as mediation or arbitration.

The International has already sent letters to this effect to the London Embassies of the United States of America, the U.S.S.R., China and India.

The National Peace Council and the Standing Joint Pacifist Committee of Great Britain have already appealed to the Governments concerned. The latter has asked the British Foreign Secretary to receive a deputation and has called an emergency meeting for Thursday, 1st November where statements will be made and a course of action decided upon. Several other organisations have also started acting on similar lines.

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DEMONSTRATION IN IRELAND

Cuban Blockade

Our Secretary, Tony Smythe, while visiting the Irish Pacifist Movement, telephoned from Dublin informing the Headquarters that on the 23rd October demonstrations took place in Dublin against the hostilities between U.S.A. and the Soviet Union on the question of the Cuban blockade. A march was organised and meetings held. C.N.D. and National Progressive Democrats' meetings were broken up. People attending these meetings decided to go on a march round Dublin and demonstrate outside the American Embassy. 80 people took part in the march. When they arrived at the Embassy, the police cordoned them off and attacked the demonstrators, arresting two of them. One of them was Tony Smythe himself. The police set dogs on the crowd. Several people were bitten and had to be taken to hospital. Later three more were arrested, including Noel Browne, a former Cabinet Minister in Ireland. The arrested people were kept for 1½ hours and then released, being told that the charges against them were dropped. This was the first civil disobedience demonstration of this type in Dublin.

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ITALIAN CENTRE OF NON-VIOLENCE

Aldo Putelli, the Secretary of our Italian Section RESISTENTI ALLA GUERRA, has informed us that a Centre of Non-Violence has been founded in Italy with the joint efforts of our Italian Section, the Y.W.C.A., the M.I.R. (F.o.R.), the Friends of Friends (Quakers) and several individuals, including some important journalists. This centre had planned to hold public demonstrations and a fast with posters on Christmas Day and on Easter Monday as a no-war campaign.

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EVERYMAN III NOT ALLOWED TO STAY IN LENINGRAD

EVERYMAN III which arrived in Leningrad on Saturday, 20th October, has been towed away from Leningrad harbour by a Soviet ship. While being towed from the Soviet territory three members of the crew jumped overboard in an attempt to swim back to Leningrad. They were picked up by a police launch and returned to EVERYMAN III. The skipper of the boat, Earle Reynolds, had stated more than once: "Even if they refuse us entry, we shall press home our attempts to land unless we are physically stopped."

The Project Committee of EVERYMAN III in London and the World Peace Brigade European Section are anxious, as no further news has been received from the crew after EVERYMAN III had been towed away from Soviet territory. The Project Committee sent a delegation to the Soviet Embassy on the morning of October 24th to find out why the EVERYMAN III crew had been refused entry and also to enquire whether any further news about the fate of the crew had been received. The Chargé d'Affaires said he had no information concerning EVERYMAN III and, as the crew had not been given visas, he was unable to help.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

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17th October, 1962

NEWS RELEASE NO.7

ED 718-18-18

GANDHI PEACE FOUNDATION URGES PRESIDENT KENNEDY

IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF NUCLEAR TESTS

It is recalled that the Continuation Committee of the Anti-Nuclear Arms Convention, organised by the Gandhi Peace Foundation and held in New Delhi during mid-June 1962, decided to send two delegations, one to President Kennedy and the other to Premier Khrushchev. The team which met Kennedy is at present in London on its way back to India. It is led by the veteran leader of Indian Freedom Struggle, Mr. Rajagopalachari, the first Governor General of the Indian Republic. The other two members of the delegation are Mr. Shiva Rao and Mr. R.R. Diwakar.

Our representative was told by Mr. Diwakar, the President of the Gandhi Peace Foundation, that they had a very sympathetic hearing with the American President. The delegation stressed the need for immediate cessation of Nuclear Tests, as the first step towards an agreement on complete disarmament.

The representatives met in New York, among others, Dean Rusk, Adlai Stevenson, the Russian representatives at the U.N., Mr. Gromyko and the French Foreign Minister. While in London on 17th October, 1962, they discussed the case for stopping nuclear tests with Mr. Macmillan, the Prime Minister of Great Britain.

* * * * *

EVERYMAN III

October 20th is the date when the 48 ft. ketch EVERYMAN III is expected to reach Leningrad, according to the press statement by the London office of EVERYMAN III. It seems that the Russian authorities have not yet sanctioned visas to the crew.

It is not yet known what kind of reception the Soviet authorities will give them. The voyage has not so far received the co-operation of the Soviet Peace Committee; but remembering the welcome and co-operation that was given to the San Francisco to Moscow Peace Walkers, the crew believes that there is a good chance of their being given visas in Leningrad.

However, the crew has stated that conscience compels them to make every effort to land in order to achieve a direct and personal communication with the Soviet people.

In a letter to A.J. Muste, Chairman of the Committee of Non-Violent Action, Lord Russell said:

"I should wish to urge you in the strongest terms to carry on with your plans for EVERYMAN III. I consider it to be of first importance that the Soviet peace workers understand the meaning of work for a cause such as ours, and the serious obligation involved with respect to independence of the very authorities who perpetrate the policies we oppose

..... "

"It is my view that we must continually remind, by our example, those who profess to be for peace that serious work for peace can only be achieved when no considerations of a national kind are allowed to interfere with the integrity of our protest. For all these reasons, as well as those important reasons you outline in your letter, and in your cable to the Soviet peace workers, I wish to express my serious feeling that the EVERYMAN III must continue and serve as a significant international project for peace - a model of what we hope to achieve in large and small ways in the future."

A.J. Muste and George Willoughby, the Co-Secretary of C.N.V.A. have sent the following cable to the Soviet Peace Committee:-

"EVERYMAN III scheduled arrive Stockholm 10th and depart 14th or 15th October due entrance Leningrad Harbour 18th or 19th. Conscience compels crew members inexorably seek communication with Soviet people but they come in spirit of friendship and without ill-will to Soviet Authorities or citizens as Lord Russell wrote a movement of peace which is truly independent international and in the interest of all countries stop Though we have received no reply our latest communications we continue hope you understand passion for peace which animates us and that crew will therefore be received in friendship despite differences in our views. Friendly personal greetings.

MUSTE WILLOUGHBY "

EVERYMAN III is leaving Stockholm to-day to Leningrad. Till now it has been received extremely well everywhere.

☆ - ☆ - ☆ -

DEMONSTRATION IN OBERHAUSEN, GERMANY

A demonstration will take place on Saturday 20th October in Oberhausen, Germany, to express solidarity with Hans-Dieter Huschke who on that day will go to serve his seven-day prison sentence. Hans-Dieter Huschke was one of the participants in the sit-down protest demonstration in front of the rocket base in Duisburg in September, 1961.

The demonstration will be a silent procession from the Oberhausen station to the prison. It will start at 11 a.m. and will finish at 12.30 p.m. Rev. Martin Ritter in his appeal to demonstrators states: "I would like you all to declare your solidarity with Hans-Dieter Huschke and accompany him to the prison. This is important not only for Hans-Dieter Huschke himself but also an important public witness to show that people do not only talk about peace but also act and do something about it."

We hope that this demonstration will have the fullest possible support from peace workers.

I.D.K. SECRETARY APPEARS BEFORE COURT

Walter Schumacher, Secretary of our German Section Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner, also participated in the Duisburg demonstration for which Hans-Dieter Huschke is now being imprisoned. W. Schumacher will appear before the Court in Duisburg on 30th October, 1962

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:
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ENGLAND

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16th October, 1962

NEWS RELEASE NO. 6

FREEDOM TO C.O.'S IN FRANCELOUIS LECOIN SUCCEEDS

On October 4th, after learning of the decision of the French Prime Minister and the Minister for the Army, Emile Vèran, Pierre Martin, Henri Sellier and Louis Lecoin, all prominent in the struggle to obtain recognition for conscientious objection in France, addressed the following letter to the 120 or so C.O.'s still in prison:-

Dear Friend,

The Government has just let us know that the decision that was made to bring to an end the hunger strike of Louis Lecoin is going to be put into effect. All conscientious objectors now imprisoned will be brought together within a month at a camp in the Dordogne and each, according to his aptitude and physical capacity, will be given civilian work under the direction of the leader of the work camp. This is a temporary measure until the adoption of a Statute formulating the fate of C.O.'s in future.

We are pleased for your sake at this result, which leaves the way open for the introduction of an acceptable Statute, and it is with great joy that we communicate to you this news.

Louis Lecoin will be visiting the camp when you have all been assembled there.

The news was confirmed in LE FIGARO on the 8th October. It also stated that there would be an opportunity for some of the C.O.'s to do civilian relief work in Algeria.

The W.R.I. congratulates Louis Lecoin and all those who have helped him with his campaign and hopes that the persecution of C.O.'s in France will now be brought to an end once and for all.

We would also like to thank the French Government for taking this step and thus removing an injustice which has brought grave discredit upon France in the past.

☆☆☆☆☆

ED 7-18-18-20

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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24th January 1963

NEWS RELEASE NO. 10

O.N.D. OXFORD CONFERENCE

Representatives of non-aligned peace movements throughout the world came together at Oxford to discuss the possibilities of international co-operation and interchange of information. The Conference took place at Summerville College from January 4th - 7th. After long deliberations it was decided to form a Continuation Committee which would, in due course, form an International Confederation to co-ordinate internationally activities of member organisations. The statement of principles and aims for the proposed International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace adopted at Oxford is enclosed with this news release.

FAST ACTION "SATURDAY -24"

Theodor Ebert, who is an active peace worker in Stuttgart, Germany, reports that the project of fasting one day every week to help villages in developing countries has, since summer 1961, collected the sum of £200. Most of the 15 participants in this fast action are members of the non-violent army which Theodor Ebert and his group are building up in Stuttgart. The money has now gone to India to the village where Ralph Keithan, a W.R.I. member, is working.

DANILO DOLCI'S VISIT TO GREAT BRITAIN

According to news from Danilo Dolci Trust of Great Britain, Danilo Dolci, a Council Member of the W.R.I., will be visiting Great Britain in March. He will arrive in London on 13th March and will address public meetings in London, Bristol, Glasgow, Cardiff, Dundee, York, Sheffield and Coventry. For further details write to Dolci Trust, 29 Great James Street, London, W.C. 1.

DISARMAMENT WEEK IN GERMANY

The Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner, one of W.R.I.'s three Sections in Germany, is organising a Disarmament Week from 21st - 28th January, 1963, to coincide with the Lobby Week organised by the Central Committee of Easter Marches in Germany. It is suggested that local groups should try to get as much co-operation as possible from political parties, churches, different peace organisations and trade unions. During the Lobby Week a public opinion poll will be carried out and the public will be asked questions, such as, "When an international inspection organisation starts functioning, do you agree or disagree with the idea that it should be everybody's duty to inform about any possible attempts to hide atom bombs, missiles or any other internationally prohibited armaments?" - For further details write to Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner, Düsseldorf, Diederhofener Str. 4.

SUMMER CAMP FOR TRAINING IN NON-VIOLENCE

The Leadership Training Sub-Committee of the World Peace Brigade, European Council, is contemplating on a 4-week training course in non-violence. The course will be run this summer for 25 participants. Only people with obvious potentialities will be chosen for the course. Further details will be available in due course from World Peace Brigade, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C. 1.

NON-VIOLENT GROUPS' MEETING AT FREUNDSCHAFTSHEIM, GERMANY

A meeting of non-violent action groups of Germany is being organised by the Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer with the co-operation of Freundschaftsheim in Bückeberg, 2nd - 3rd February, 1963. The meeting will discuss the project of a non-violent army which has already been started in Stuttgart. Further details from Freundschaftsheim, Bückeberg, Germany.

NEW DELHI - PEKING FRIENDSHIP MARCH

To reduce the tensions between China and India and to carry the message of friendship to the people of both countries, the Indian Shanti Sena, with the co-operation of the World Peace Brigade, is organising a march from New Delhi to Peking. An international team of 15 experienced peace workers will start on 1st March from the Gandhi Memorial in New Delhi. It is hoped that this international team of volunteers will include the Sarvodaya leader Shankar Rao Dev and the Rev. Michael Scott. Participants from Europe, America and other countries are being selected. For further information please write to Shanti Sena, Sarva Seva Sangh, Rajghat, Varanasi, India.

CODE OF CONDUCT TOWARDS PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

The AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, which was established in 1961, published a code of conduct towards prisoners of conscience on the Human Rights Day, December, 1962. This code of conduct was drafted by an international team of lawyers and based on the experiences of prison and concentration camp conditions. People who had actually suffered torture, forced labour and other types of cruelty have also helped in the formation of this code. A copy is enclosed. Further information can be had from AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, 1 Mitre Court Buildings, Temple, London, E.C. 4.

DOCUMENT ON INDO-CHINA BORDER CONFLICT

The Headquarters of the W.R.I. has brought out a document analysing the China-India situation and reproducing some of the letters and leaflets sent out by the International to peace organisations in other countries and to the Governments of China and India.

C.N.V.A. GOES ON A JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION

The immediate threat created by the Cuban crisis has passed but the basic conflict remains unresolved. The U.S.A. has ended its naval blockade of Cuba but the undeclared economic blockade continues. Tension between U.S.A. and Cuba goes on mounting. The Committee of Non-Violent Action of America has now said it cannot sit back and await a new crisis. The Committee has therefore decided to send a team of volunteers with a supply of much needed medicines to Cuba. The C.N.V.A. will emphasise the need for reopening trade relations between U.S.A. and Cuba. It is also planning to send token parcels of medicines to President Kennedy, with a letter urging him to forward them to Cuba and to remove all barriers to contact with the island. (C.N.V.A., 325 Lafayette St., New York 12, N.Y.)

ED 717-16-21

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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25th February, 1963

NEWS RELEASE NO. 11

THE ARMY'S CONTRIBUTION

The contribution of the Belgian armed forces in Germany to operation "Bread for Peace", launched by Father Pire, was 3,040 dollars. The sum was raised by the sale of vignettes in the Belgian garrisons in Germany.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

A special issue of PAX, the organ of the Norwegian pacifist movement, will be published on the occasion of the W.R.I.'s 11th Triennial Conference in Norway this summer.

C.O. STATUTE

Another statute for the recognition of conscientious objection and for a civil alternative service will be brought before the French parliament in either February or March this year. Information about the provisions for conscientious objectors in other countries, compiled by W.R.I. Council Member Pierre Martin, will be given to all French deputies.

FROM BEHIND BARS

In France Tony Orenge and André Bernard, both of whom have been listed more than once on the W.R.I.'s Prisoners of Peace Honour Roll, were released from prison in January after sentences of three years and 20 months respectively.

In Britain 5 members of the Committee of 100, including W.R.I. Council Member Michael Randle, have just been released after completing sentences of 18 months each for offences under the Official Secrets Act.

A group of British ex-prisoners, all sentenced for peace activities, have published a pamphlet about prison conditions, making many constructive suggestions for improvement. The pamphlet, although dismissed as inaccurate and unfair by the Home Office, was widely reviewed by the Press and on the television. The pamphlet is available from Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N. 1.

CATHOLIC OBJECTOR

For the first time in modern Italian history a Catholic, Giuseppe Gozzini, stood before a military tribunal in Florence on the 11th January and refused to put on a military uniform. In presenting his case Gozzini wrote: "The basis of my conscientious objection is the concept of Christian brotherhood. I have been convinced for several years that I must try to practise non-violence which is based on the new law 'Love thy enemy as thyself.' I obey this law by resisting actively all evil through the power of love."

In a letter from prison Gozzini quoted Pope John as saying to the Vatican Council: "Be people of peace, builders of peace. Do not let yourselves be dominated by prejudices and hostilities. Avoid bitter controversies. This is the aim of the Vatican Council."

Gozzini received six months imprisonment but his case has aroused fierce public debate throughout Italy. When he was sentenced, the court room was filled by priests and monks, university professors and students.

For many years pacifists, with the aid of deputies like the socialist, Signor Basso, have been campaigning for the introduction of legislation for conscientious objectors. Perhaps the courageous stand of this young Catholic intellectual will force the issue and bring about improved conditions for C.O.'s in a country where their refusal to serve can result in repeated sentences.

The period of military service in Italy has now been reduced from 18 months to 15 months in the Army and Air Force and from 28 to 24 months in the Navy.

C.N.D. IN FORCES

In Britain service men are recruited voluntarily. After an intensive campaign the Forces are well up to strength, the minimum target having been surpassed. However, there is a growing concern about nuclear war amongst servicemen. Two members of the Royal Air Force, Michael McKenna and Edward Parker, wrote to the pacifist journal PEACE NEWS recently, stating their intention to form C.N.D. groups. They were arrested and were courtmartialled on the 22nd February. They have been sentenced to 8 months imprisonment and to be discharged with ignominy.

The following week another airman wrote to PEACE NEWS and he, too, has been arrested.

Until now servicemen could leave the Forces if they became candidates for parliamentary elections. This was the alternative to buying release for £250. The consequence was that at one by-election over 100 candidates came forward and at another by-election over 400. Most of these were believed to be servicemen and the Government was forced to take action. A Committee has now been set up to assess whether decision to stand is "genuine". It appears that service life does not suit everyone and young people may be forced to think more carefully in the future before they become involved in the machinery of modern warfare.

EASTER MARCHES

Austria's first Easter March for Nuclear Disarmament will be held this year. Many campaigners intend to take part in Marches in other countries. A plane will be chartered to transport English marchers to Germany and will return with a load of German marchers for Aldermaston.

FACTORY FOR PEACE

In Britain a national appeal to raise £10,000 to open a factory for peace has been launched under the sponsorship of Bertrand Russell, Herbert Read, Compton Mckenzie and others. Information can be obtained from the Rev. James Sim, 214 Clyde Street, Glasgow, C.1., SCOTLAND.

SWITZERLAND

An Association of War Resisters was formed in Bern on 20th Jan., 1963 under the Presidency of René Bovard and the Vice-Presidency of Ralph Hegnauer. The Association will shortly be applying for affiliation to the W.R.I.

FAST AGAINST TESTS ?

Eberhard Grosser, Berlin-Schlachtensee, Studentendorf, Haus 17, Zimmer 202, and other German friends propose that a fast be undertaken in many countries to bring moral pressure to bear upon the USA and USSR to reach agreement about a test ban treaty.

Helge Tempel / H.K.T. 25.5.65
Hotel

wegen WKI-WA 13:

- 1) 22.6. Bonn ohne VK 22
— VACK / Auf. noch —
 - 2) WKI-Bericht an Peace News/
✓isch
 - 3) Italien-Kauf fow. losigkeit?
— sie nicht / Baby! —
-
- er krank / nicht OM-24!

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88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND

21st May, 1963

25.5.63 V.
26.5. Vack
(27.5. PN)

NEWS RELEASE NO. 13

140 arrested at Marham V-Bomber base, Great Britain

Tony Smythe among those arrested

"If they are going to use the Official Secrets Act, they will have to use it, not against six, not against twelve, not against sixty-eight, but against hundreds of us."

With this determination several hundred people went to the Marham V-Bomber base on Saturday, 18th May, to attempt a non-violent entry, organised by the Committee of 100.

This was the second demonstration at Marham. During the previous demonstration a week earlier sixty-eight people were arrested and were charged under the Official Secrets Act. On the 18th May the police arrested more than 70 people; 42 of these were charged for obstruction and were remanded in custody for a week.

In a Committee of 100 news bulletin it says: "We recall that on 8th December 1961 six people were arrested and similarly charged and subsequently gaoled for an offence which hundreds had intended to commit. We wish to make these facts clear. We are frankly concerned to make it more difficult for the Attorney General once again to proceed against a limited number of people in order more easily to inflict heavy gaoil sentences on them."

The law which could change the country into a prison house

In October 1962 the Federal Government of West Germany passed on to Parliament the Emergency Law drafted by the Ministry of Interior. A common citizen in Germany has not the slightest idea of these proposals which can completely alter his life. Anyone with self-respect will be shocked to read the document attached to this news release. It gives a summary of the proposed Emergency Law the West German Government wants to enforce on its people. No words can suffice to condemn this scheme of peace-time war preparations and the militarisation of a nation. The changes in Constitution, if accepted, will give unlimited power to the Government.

The German peace movement is opposed to the proposed Law. INTERNATIONALE DER KRIEGSDIENSTGEGNER and DEUTSCHE FRIEDENSGESellschaft, two of W.R.I.'s three Sections in Germany, are planning to organise a large-scale demonstration in Bonn on 22nd June. It is hoped they will receive all possible support from the Peace Movement everywhere.

For further information about the demonstration write to Herbert Gunneberg, 43 Essen, Hindenburgstr. 50, West Germany.

Negroes march on Washington

"The dynamic that has motivated negroes to withstand with courage and dignity the intimidation and violence they have endured in their own struggle against racism ... may now be the catalyst which mobilizes all workers behind demands for a broad and fundamental programme of economic justice."

A march on Washington is being called on June 14th - 15th. The negroes are appealing to all labour to join them in a mass protest against devastating unemployment. A. Phillip Randolph, who had called two such marches in 1940 and 1945, is the man behind this project. The forthcoming one has a reservoir of negroes with a background of organised Civil Disobedience. Their demand is not to displace white workers, "as both are being displaced by machines." Negroes seek, instead, as an integral part of their own struggle as a people, the creation of more jobs for all Americans.

From "Liberation", 1963, April

International seminar on techniques of non-violence

The Centre of Non-Violence in Perugia is going to organise a seminar from 1st - 10th August, 1963. The seminar will discuss several subjects related to the development of non-violence in society, for instance, Non-Violence and Law, Non-Violence and Civil Disobedience, Non-Violence and Conscientious Objection. People from abroad are welcome to attend.

The Centre at Perugia is run by Aldo Capitini, who is the guiding spirit behind the growing anti-war movement in Italy.

Further information can be had from Centro Di Coordinamento Internazionale Per La Nonviolenza, Perugia, ITALY.

New Delhi - Moscow - Washington

The two young Indian peace-marchers, Satish Kumar and E.P. Menon, are now in Poland after walking through Middle East and Russia. They are hoping to reach England sometime in September, 1963.

W.R.I. Conferences

The W.R.I. Triennial Conference will be held at Stavanger, Norway, from 26th - 31st July to discuss the future rôle of the W.R.I. and the peace movement as a whole.

The Study Conference on Non-Violence and Socio-Economic Change will be held in Château de Charbonnières, France, from 24th - 31st August.

Further information about both Conferences can be had from the W.R.I. Headquarters.

Our German Sections, along with other pacifists in Germany, are very much concerned by the introduction in the West German Parliament of a series of bills for emergency measures to be taken by the Government in certain circumstances. Recent issues of the monthly Friedens Rundschau and of Der Kriegsdienstgegner, the news-sheet of the I.D.K. (German Section of the W.R.I.) devote considerable space to this matter. The following is a summary of the main points in a lengthy article in the latter publication (issue of 1.3.1963):-

BEYOND LEGALITY

"In no case may a basic right be infringed in its essence"
(Art. 9 para. 2 of the Constitutional Law)

In Oct. 1962 the Federal Cabinet passed on to Parliament the Emergency Laws drafted by the Ministry of the Interior and their first reading took place on 24th Jan. 1963. Reports of this were overshadowed both in October and January by other events (Cuba, Der Spiegel action, Common Market negotiations). The Bonn Government timed its actions very astutely! The man in the street has little knowledge of these proposed laws which can completely alter his life.

THE TACTICS OF SILENCE

It is no accident that the majority knows nothing of the context of these laws. The Government talks much of the necessity for emergency measures and little of their nature. The citizens of the Welfare State might organise a massive protest if they knew of the rôles planned for them in an "emergency". The Bonn Government's interpretation of the will of the people is to promise welfare while secretly planning emergency laws.

DECEPTION

Emergency laws were talked about last year at the time of the Hamburg floods and again during the recent frosts when there was a fuel shortage. The talk is of natural catastrophes but the plan is to involve the whole population in military preparations. The present Constitution in fact has adequate provision for necessary emergency measures. The Government hopes that the masses will not trouble to understand the complicated legal phraseology. They will learn soon enough what is involved -- when the laws come into force!

The experience of 1933 when Emergency Decrees facilitated Hitler's rise to power and of recent measures for protection against Communism should serve as a warning. Almost exactly 30 years after the Hindenburg decrees the Bonn Government is proposing new Emergency Laws.

1. The Emergency Constitution

This, the kernel of the emergency code, comes into force if the Government - acting through the President and the Chancellor - declares an "external" or "internal" emergency. An "external" emergency can be declared if the Government claims to have secret knowledge of a threatened attack - even if there is no obvious international tension. Parliamentary elections are then cancelled

"internal" emergency is declared, e.g. in the event of a strike, the Government can override all the citizen's rights guaranteed in the Constitution e.g. freedom of speech, press, association, assembly, movement, choice of work and place of work, the right to strike etc. The Government can take over the powers of Parliament and of the State, issue emergency decrees and even use troops against its own citizens.

2. Civilian Service Law

Government control of all males from 18 to 65 and females from 18 to 55 for emergency service (air-raid protection, evacuation, munitions work). (N.B. The Minister of the Interior has recently complained that of the 320,000 people needed for civil defence only 35,000 have volunteered). Training for these civil defence "conscripts" will be 200 hours or 28 days in the first year and afterwards 100 hours or 14 days per year - in peace time. Non-compliance punishable with 2 years' imprisonment and fines up to 10,000 DM. These "conscripts" will have no right to strike.

3. Protective Building Law

All builders must construct air-raid shelters in houses, hotels, schools, factories, hospitals. Cost reckoned at 200 milliard DM. - to be borne by the builders (apart from small government subsidies) but recoverable later from the tenants or purchasers. The opinion of well-known scientists that such shelters would be useless in a nuclear war is ignored.

4. Self-Defence Law

All citizens over 16 to undergo annual air-raid training of at least 10 hours. Every family compelled to have in the house for every member 14 days' supplies and materials for protection against nuclear, bacteriological and chemical warfare as well as black-out, first-aid and medical requisites.

5. Residence Regulation Law

Government at any time it considers necessary (even in peace time) can proclaim that the inhabitants of a given place should not leave it without official permission. It can order compulsory evacuation of whole regions.

Evacuation exercises can be planned which can be "total", including even hospitals. Owners of building material, unoccupied land, transport facilities can be compelled to make them available for the exercise, including even owners of private vehicles. Cost will be borne by the State (i.e. the taxpayer).

6. Vehicle Registration Law

Even in peace time all owners of motor vehicles can be compelled to present themselves with their vehicles at a prescribed place to assist in the provisioning and movement of local fighting forces. Registration of all car-owners. Fines for infringement 20,000 DM. This law can also be operated as an exercise.

7. Economic Security Law

Government to have full power of intervention in economic affairs: to control the administration, removal or closure of businesses, to supply or withhold raw materials and fuel and to control and regulate Exchanges and Banks. Costs involved to be

8. Foodstuffs Security Law

Plans for control of all available foodstuffs and preparation of a rationing system. Officials appointed for the Federation, the States and parishes. On 4th Feb. the Government announced that the printing of ration cards had already been ordered. The system can be put into operation whenever the Government declares a state of "defence-readiness" to be necessary.

9. Border Police

Power to give the Federal Border Police the status of regular soldiers under International Law.

The Emergency Constitution has to be passed by a two-thirds majority in the Bundestag (Parliament). The other eight laws can be passed by a simple majority.

It is interesting that the same Minister of the Interior who admitted that certain of the measures taken against "Der Spiegel" recently were "somewhat unconstitutional" is now introducing these Emergency Laws. The spontaneous public protests in the Spiegel affair led to the resignation of the chief offender, Franz Josef Strauss.

The compulsory powers granted to the Government by the Emergency Laws would, however, make such actions daily occurrences. They completely destroy the constitutionally guaranteed basic rights of the citizen. They are both unconstitutional and unnecessary since the Constitution already provides for dealing with emergency situations. The German Trades Union Congress in the name of its 7 million members has protested most strongly against the Emergency Code.

The answer to the question: "Why has the Government prepared these regulations giving it absolutely authoritarian powers down to the smallest detail?" can be found only in the Government's policy. The Government's policy of increasing rearmament (including atomic armament) will achieve by these means a complete militarisation of the whole of the national life.

Summary made by

Harold Bing,
Chairman of the W.R.I.

Institut für
politische
Forschung

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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ENGLAND

7th March, 1963

NEWS RELEASE NO.12

ED718-18-24

CANADIAN CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT APPEALS FOR HELP

"As you know, the Government of Prime Minister Diefenbaker fell on the question of Defence and Foreign Policy. We are now preparing for the election of April 8th. This is the most important election in Canadian history, and perhaps for the world. It has been called THE NUCLEAR ELECTION".

"Why is this election so important? Because on it depends which political party forms the next Canadian Government and whether or not Canada will accept nuclear weapons. The Progressive Conservative Party is split on the question with Prime Minister Diefenbaker against the weapons. The Liberal Party under Mr. Pearson, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, is for. The New Democratic Party is against. The Social Credit Party is split. If Canada accepts nuclear weapons, 1) the world will lose a champion for disarmament, 2) the nuclear club will be increased. We all know the grave dangers of increasing the spread of nuclear weapons to countries not possessing them."

"You can help us

1. by sending letters to the Canadian Ambassador, asking him to forward your request to the Canadian Government, not to accept nuclear weapons
2. by holding silent vigils outside the Canadian Embassy in your country on March 31st. The slogans you should use are:
 - (1) NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR CANADA
 - (2) STOP THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
 - (3) LET CANADA LEAD

These two forms of activity will be of great assistance to us. It will show the Canadian people that we are not alone in our struggle. It will show that thousands of people are against the spread of nuclear weapons.

"On March 31st we expect fraternal organisations in many countries to join with us in this great international action. Please inform by April 1st what activities you intend to carry out and the texts of messages you are giving to Canadian Government representatives abroad, because we want to make sure that our press covers all these events."

From: Dimitri Roussopoulos, Canadian CND, 911 St. James St. W., Montreal 3

MILITARY SERVICE IN INDIA

According to the Overseas Edition of the STATESMAN, Calcutta, on February 23rd, compulsory military training will be introduced in schools and universities throughout India from July 1st this year.

When the 10th Triennial Conference of the W.R.I. took place at Gandhigram in December 1960, the findings of the Deshmukh Committee on military service were already known. Many pacifists gave warning as to the outcome, if the recommendations were followed. Military training is already widespread in India's universities. Now it is to be compulsory.

The international peace movement should give Indian pacifists all possible help and encouragement in opposing the rising tide of militarism.

The burden of India's defence budget for this year £650 million - almost double last year's total, will fall upon the lower income groups. Measures to raise money include import duties on kerosene, higher prices for petrol and diesel oil, large increases in income taxes, especially for the lower middle-class wage earners, and a scheme for compulsory savings.

AMSTERDAM PEACE CONSULTATIONS

About 30 young people met in Amsterdam on 23rd-24th February, 1963. They came from many different countries and different organisations, including the Youth CND, Colleges and Universities CND, National Association of Labour Student Organisations, Committee of 100, Britain; the Swedish Youth CND; the Socialist Students of Denmark; the Union of Socialist Students, Norway; Action Civique Non-Violente, Etudiants Socialistes Unifiés, France; Consulta Italiana della Pace and Nuova Resistenza, Italy; Social-Democratic Students Germany; and the Austrian Easter March Committee. The W.R.I. was also represented.

The meeting gave every support to the steps taken at the Oxford Conference to create an International Confederation for Peace and Disarmament, emphasising that the policy of the independent peace movement should be one of non-alignment with any political or military bloc or alliance. This implied "integral opposition to militarism and all political, social, economic and cultural elements which maintain the war structure" and "the necessity of a common European policy for building peace."

There was a particular concern to help newly developing, independent movements in countries such as Austria, Greece and France. Easter marchers would be encouraged to go into these countries to join demonstrations and donations of money and badges would be used to help the French CND. The German delegation was particularly interested in holding international seminars, especially at the time of the Easter Marches.

Attention was drawn to the W.R.I. Study Conference in France, August 24th-31st, and the Nuova Resistenza Congress on the Problems of Democracy in Europe, to be held in Genoa at the end of May. Berlin students are exploring the possibility of having an international congress at the end of September on the problem of Berlin and Disengagement in Central Europe.

Many suggestions were made for developing the international movement at rank-and-file level: 1) International visits and speaking tours among local groups, 2) exchange of letters internationally, 3) the formation of organisational links between local groups in two or three countries which would eventually lead to joint activity, 4) an international peace caravan project in Europe, 5) a youth camp in Austria this summer, 6) use of international facilities already offered by Servas, the W.R.I. and the I.F.o.h. etc.

The idea for an international demonstration at the NATO Headquarters in Paris during the early autumn was put forward for consideration by the French movement.

This Conference was important mainly from two points of view: (1) it brought together young people who were not concerned with setting up an organisation but rather in finding ways for acting together and helping to build a European peace movement that could offer a challenge to the existing military alliances, (2) this was the first occasion upon which many members of Young Socialist Groups had come together internationally to discuss common action with peace organisations. The political difficulties of Young Socialists, especially with regard to their parent Social Democratic Parties, were very apparent, as was their willingness to make action for peace a priority while seeing the only real guarantee for peace as being the creation of a more Socialist society.

E A S T E R M A R C H E S

AUSTRIA

A march from Baden to Vienna is being planned and will need international support. The distance is 33 kilometres and the march will last one day.

BELGIUM

A new Comité pour la March anti-Atomique will organise a demonstration in Brussels at 2 p.m. on the 24th March. Some Belgian campaigners will be joining the Aldermaston March.

BRITAIN

The Aldermaston March will take place as usual, starting from Aldermaston on Friday, April 12th, and will end with a rally in Hyde Park on Easter Monday. The policy of the march was summed up in "Sanity", the quarterly journal of CND :

"Millions of people now reject the folly of nuclear weapons and the cold war. In Britain, since the Cuba crisis, it has become clear that we have neither defence nor independence. Now is the time to turn towards peace. This is why we march against all nuclear weapons, tests, bases and alliances, demanding that the vast resources now used for these be freed for the fight against world hunger and disease.

WE DEMAND ACTION FROM OUR GOVERNMENT:

- in renouncing British nuclear arms tests and bases;
- in opposing a European or NATO deterrent;
- in supporting disengagement in Central Europe;
- in helping to establish nuclear-free zones;
- in accepting the overriding authority of the United Nations.

This is why we march from Aldermaston, where these weapons are made, to Parliament in London, where the decisions was taken."

DENMARK

The Danish CND will organise a march this Easter from Haderslev to the Danish-German border where a meeting will be held together with a German March coming from the South. KAMPAGNEN MOD ATOMVABEN, Vendersgade 13, Copenhagen K is issuing the following appeal:

"The Campaign against Nuclear Weapons in the German Federal Republic has asked us for help. It is our duty to help. In the thirties German Democrats asked for help against the Nazis. They were let down. In the years after the war the German Trade Union Movement and other democratic groups and individuals asked for support to oppose rearmament. They were let down."

"In 1945 the occupying powers in East and West Germany said: 'German democracy means German disarmament'. In 1950 it was said 'German democracy means German rearmament.' "

"To-day there are those who want German nuclear weapons."

"We want Danish-German co-operation and will co-operate in the following:

NO TO THE SPREADING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, TO INDIVIDUAL STATES AS WELL AS TO MILITARY BLOCS, BOTH IN THE EAST AND IN THE WEST. NO TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE DANISH-GERMAN MILITARY ALLIANCE (?! Ed.)

Young Germans have asked us for help. They intend to demonstrate for democracy and human dignity, just as they did in the nation-wide demonstrations when DER SPIEGEL was exposed

"to injustice. For them a token support has a decisive importance. Therefore we appeal to everybody in acknowledgment of the necessity of co-operation."

"Support the struggle against the spreading of nuclear arms. Support the March at the border 1963."

Other activities of KAMPAGNEN MOT AROMVÄBEN include weekend courses, public meetings in many large towns, a congress of local groups in Zeeland, distribution of leaflets to all Danish workers and a petition amongst leaders of trade unions in support of the Easter March.

FRANCE

In Lyon there will be a march to the City Prefecture for a constructive civil service instead of military service, organised by Action Civique Non-Violente. International support needed. Another demonstration in Paris is being considered for the 1st May.

GREECE

A march for Easter is proposed from Marathon to Athens. International support needed.

HOLLAND

There will be a three-pronged march to The Hague on Easter Sunday and Monday, organised by the Comité 1963 voor de Vrede.

ITALY

A token march will be held at Easter and organised by the Consulta della Pace.

NORWAY

The march this year will start from three different towns - Tönsberg, Sarpsberg and Eidsvoll. After three days marching on April 13, 14 and 15, a Rally will be held in Oslo. Slogans will be:

YES TO LIFE - SUICIDE IS NO DEFENCE - NO TO NATO AS
NUCLEAR POWER - NO TO POLARIS

The Norwegian CND strongly opposes NATO as a nuclear power.

Much of the money for the march was raised by the sale of a magnificent 40-page literary magazine produced by the CND called "SOLVERV". It was highly praised in the Norwegian national press and was bought by many non-campaigners, some of whom then became interested in the movement. Recently the Campaign has been decentralised and stress had been laid on local initiatives. This has proved to be successful and more satisfactory than having all the activities centred around Oslo.

SWEDEN

There will be no Easter March. At Whitsun, however, a march will take place from Södertälje to Stockholm. At Easter many Swedish campaigners will be taking part in marches in other countries and they hope that international contingents will join them at Whitsun.

WEST GERMANY

There will be between 8 and 10 marches arranged in three regions. 1. March to Munich, exact route not known. 2. March to Nürnberg from Pegnitz, 3 days. 3. March to Stuttgart from Goppingen and Nurtigen, 2 days. 4. Possibility of a march to Freiberg. 5. A March to Frankfurt (a) from Hanau, 1 day; (b) from Darmstadt via Offenbach, 3 days; (c) from Mannheim and Worms via Mainz, 4 days. 6. March to Dortmund

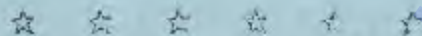
from Duisberg. 7. March to Bremen from Bremenhaven, 3 days. 8. March in Bergen-Hohne starting Maundy Thursday. 9. March to Hannover from Braunschweig, 3 days and from Güttingen, 4 days. 10. March to Hamburg from Neumunster, 3 days. 11. Probaby march in Schleswig-Hollstein to meet with Danish March at the border.

The German Easter Marches will be concentrating this year on the theme of "DISENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE". Slogans will be:

- CENTRAL EUROPE - FREE FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS
- CENTRAL EUROPE - ZONES WITH REDUCED MILITARY PREPAREDNESS
- CENTRAL EUROPE - BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.

People in all Central European countries are being asked to work for these aims, making clear that they do not want Central Europe to be the battlefield for World War III. All people from Poland to France must appeal to politicians to recognise that international problems can only be solved without violence and in an atmosphere of trust.

A charter plane will take British marchers to Germany and German marchers to Aldermaston.



INDIA/CHINA

The Friendship March Delhi to Peking organised by the World Peace Brigade at the invitation of the Shanti Sena Mandal set out from New Delhi on the 1st March. All organisations and individuals taking part are committed to non-violence. The whole action is expected to take about a year. The estimated cost is Rs.100,000 and contributions should be sent to the World Peace Brigade, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1. Information about the marchers:

- Indians: 1. Shankar Rao Da, age 68. Full time. Important leader of the Sarvodaya movement. Once General Secretary of the Congress Party.
- 2. Jawaharlal Jain, age 52. Full time. An ex-history professor. District Director of Khadi Commission. An important Sarvodaya worker and writer.
- 3. Mrs. JanakiTschannerl, age 22. Full time. Sarvodaya worker.
- 4. Tripuri Sharan, age 30. Full time. Sarvodaya worker from Bihar and a colleague of Jayaprakash Narayan.
- 5. Tara Bhagwat, age 24. Full time. A member of Vinoba's Centre at Wardha.
- 6. Dr. M. Ram. Will join in May. Principal of a Rural Institute for Higher Education in Coimbatore.
- 7. S.R.Subramanyam. Full time. Sarvodaya worker.

Asians: 1. Rev. Fuji. Will participate in the first part. Chairman of the Buddha Sangh, Japan. A prominent peace worker.

Europeans: 1. Rev. Michael Scott, Britain, age 56. One month. A prominent leader of African affairs. Co-Chairman of the World Peace Brigade. 2. Max Maxwell, Britain, age 19. Full time. Office Secretary of the World Peace Brigade, European Section. 3. Gerhard Tschannerl, Austria, age 28. Full time. Engineer, student of sociology.

Americans: 1. Albert Bigelow, age 57. First two months. Captain in the Second World war. Leader of the GOLDEN RULE. Council Member of the World Peace Brigade. 2. Edward Lazar, age 29. Full time. Graduate of Columbia University. Ex-soldier. Member of San Francisco-Moscow March. One of the crew of EVERYMAN I.

MOROCCO

Recently death sentences were passed against members of the Baha'i sect and protests were made by organisations and individuals all over the world, including the W.R.I. We are informed by the Chargé d'Affaires of the Royal Moroccan Embassy in London that the case will

be brought before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in March. Amnesty International has sent observers to Morocco to investigate. This is not the first instance of religious discrimination in Morocco. Moroccan Jews have been refused permission to emigrate to Israel and indeed to leave the country at all. Recently a sexton at a Jewish cemetery was described as an Israeli officer in the Moroccan press because he wore a uniform. Illegal immigration is being organised underground by Israeli citizens.

ISRAEL

A petition requesting the Israeli Government to work for the establishment of a non-nuclear zone in the Middle East is being organised amongst University professors. A campaign is also being waged against military rule in border areas.

BELGIUM

A Conference from May 3-5 in Brussels is being organised to discuss a plan for a World Constituent Assembly. Maurice Cosyn, acting secretary of the organising committee (14 rue aux Lains, Bruxelles 1) states in a letter that "those who earnestly work for World Law are inspired by a respect for life and the conviction that non-violence must become a governing force for mankind."

BRITAIN

The East Anglian Committee of 100 is organising a Public Auction of V-Bombers which are at present stationed at RAF Marham, Norfolk on the 11th May. The object of the demonstration is to expose the absurdity of Britain's defence policy after the Nassau consultation with the President of the U.S.A. The Action will be followed by some form of civil disobedience at the base.

GERMANY

A new group of the I.d.K. (W.R.I. has been formed at Erlangen.

A ban on pacifist demonstrations in Essen is being challenged by the local I.d.K. Group.

LATE NEWS:

NEW ZEALAND

Easter March from Paraparauma, a seaside resort to Parliament Buildings in Wellington. Opposition to rumoured plans for a French Nuclear Test on Margareva Island. Calling for Nuclear Free Zone in the Southern Hemisphere.

AUSTRALIA

New South Wales CND organising radial walk in Sydney to support Aldermaston the weekend after Easter.

SWITZERLAND

Demonstrations in Geneva at Easter organised by the Movement against Atomic Armaments and a Youth Study Group.

50748-48-29

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:
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88 Park Avenue,
Enfield, Middlesex,
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Telephone: LABurnum 3977

18th June 1963

22.6.63

NEWS RELEASE NO.14

GREECE

Athens Demonstration Hiroshima Day - August 6th

The Bertrand Russell Committee of 100 in Greece has called for a mass demonstration in the centre of Athens on Hiroshima Day this year. Large numbers of peace workers from other countries are being invited to join the demonstration. The presence of foreigners is of great help to the Greek movement and, as was seen at the time of the March from Marathon to Athens, inhibits the use of police violence. This is particularly important after the murder of Grigoris Lambrakis. With encouragement from outside there is every reason to believe that the Greek movement can develop the techniques of non-violence in its struggle against the repressive and warlike policies of the Greek Government. A convoy of vehicles carrying at least 100 volunteers will travel across Europe, setting out from London on the evening of Friday, July 26th, and arriving at the Greek frontier on the morning of August 5th. Volunteers will be asked to join the convoy in all countries en route. If entry into Greece is refused, there will be a continuous non-violent protest until the demonstration in Athens is over.

The provisional route will be: London, Dover, Ostend, Brussels, Aachen, Köln, Munich, Stuttgart, Salzburg, Liubliana, Zagreb, Belgrade, Nis, Skopje, Salonica, Athens. The peace movements in Belgium, Germany, Austria and Yugoslavia are particularly asked for their co-operation. Volunteers from all countries will be welcome. Enquiries, volunteers, money, help, transport, camping equipment etc. to:- Athens Demonstration, Committee of 100, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4, England.

* * * * *

On the occasion of the funeral of Grigoris Lambrakis, the W.R.I. cabled to Hellenic Peace Committee and Bertrand Russell Committee of 100:

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL PAYS HOMAGE TO GRIGORIS LAMBRAKIS BRAVE FIGHTER FOR PEACE. HIS DEATH GRAVE LOSS TO FRIENDS IN GREECE AND WORLD PEACE MOVEMENT. INTER-FERENCE WITH PEACE ACTION - GOVERNMENTAL OR TERRORIST - MUST BE OPPOSED RESOLUTELY AND NON-VIOLENTLY. YOURS IN SOLIDARITY -

WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE AND SOVIET ROCKET BASES

Letter from British Committee of 100 in reply to communication from World Council of Peace:-

"Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter. We, too, are for the stopping of tests, disengagement and disarmament. The difference is that we are for the anti-war movement acting for these ends immediately and unilaterally.

We shall be glad to hear that you condemn Russian rockets, nuclear weapons and military alliances and to read public statements to this effect. We know that you condemn the Western variety, so do we.

We shall be glad to learn when you are conducting demonstrations against nuclear installations in the Warsaw Pact countries. We shall then try to join you as we joined the Germans at Dusseldorf and the Greeks in Athens.

We understand that there are Russian rocket bases in Eastern Germany at Eisenach, Bernburg, Naumburg and Oranienburg. May we suggest that demonstrations be held at these places? If you agreed, and thereby showed your disinterested concern for peace, you would be very welcome at demonstrations in this country.

On May 11th we are going to auction and endeavour to claim a V-bomber base here in Britain at Marham in Norfolk. We should be very pleased to welcome a group of unilateralists from the World Council of Peace at that demonstration.

We are not impressed by verbal protestations for disarmament. We have a saying in this country that "deeds speak louder than words" - and we await the speech of deeds from the World Council of Peace. Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) Peter Cadogan, International Secretary"

Press statement by the World Council of Peace dated 31.5.63, presumably in reply to Mr. Cadogan's letter, although not addressed directly to the Committee of 100:-

"Dear Friends,

Below we reproduce the text of a statement by the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace about

SOVIET ROCKET BASES IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

"The Secretariat of the World Council of Peace has recently received from a professedly pacifist organisation a letter requesting the World Council of Peace to organise demonstrations at rocket bases of the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe, especially in four places in the German Democratic Republic.

"The organisation announced that it knew where the rocket bases were in the G.D.R.: 'We have learnt (it said) by means we propose to keep to ourselves that there are Russian rocket bases in the German Democratic Republic at Eisenach, Bernburg, Naumburg and Oranienburg'.

"The Secretariat of the World Council of Peace treated this letter with the contempt it deserved.

"Disappointed by not receiving the reply it hoped to provoke, the organisation published the letter through international news agencies and some European and American newspapers, including the suggestion that the World Council of Peace should protest to the Government of the Soviet Union against the maintenance of the above-mentioned and other rocket bases in Eastern Europe.

"To put into the proper light this provocative insinuation by a splinter organisation which is known to be under strong influence of Trotskyist elements, we draw attention to the statement made by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., N.S. Krushchov, on 10 July 1962 at the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace:

'The aggressive NATO bloc began openly threatening us with war over German peace treaty. In such circumstances the Soviet Union was forced to take steps to improve its own thermo-nuclear weapons in order to cool down certain hotheads who suggested putting an end to Russia with a single blow. We should have committed a crime against our own people, against all mankind, if we had not prevented a dangerous development of events in the summer

a Swiss Peace Corps and already 20 young people are training to take part in a pilot scheme. Mr. A. Lindt, Director of the Department of Co-operation, envisages that initially volunteers will serve only in countries in which Switzerland has technical missions, but later the corps would expand to about 500 volunteers, each undertaking an average period of two years' service in any country of the world. Already a large number of young people, most of whom have gained some technical qualifications, have offered their services to the Federal Government. (From the Bulletin of Co-Ordination Committee for International Voluntary Work Camps).

NORWAY

W.R.I. TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The 11th Triennial Conference of the W.R.I. will be taking place at Stavanger in Norway from the 26th to 31st July. Pacifists from all over the world are expected to attend, some from as far as Australia and America.

The main emphasis will be on discussions which it is hoped will lead to the formulation of a programme of action for the next three years. Speakers will include Danilo Dolci from Sicily and the Rev. Günneberg from West Germany on the Relevance of Individual Refusal in the Nuclear Age, Gerry Hunnius, former Secretary of the Canadian CND and now working for the Peace Research Institute, on the International Anti-war Movement, also Pierre Martin, leader of campaign for Conscientious Objectors in France, now doing community development work in Senegal, Bayard Rustin, veteran of non-violent action projects in the U.S.A., Joseph Abileah from Israel, Lanza del Vasto, founder of the Communauté de l'Arche, and Harold Bing, W.R.I. Chairman. Observers from the Czech, East German, Hungarian and Polish Peace Councils will attend for discussions with the W.R.I. Council on East-West contact and co-operation.

INDIA

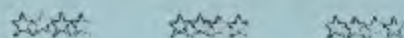
It was announced recently that military training would be made compulsory for all girl students in colleges in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

ITALY

A peace demonstration took place in Rome on the 15th June organised by the Consulta della Pace and was followed by a national conference to which proposals for the setting up of a non-violent action group, industrial action and the formation of a contingent of volunteers for service during crises, were discussed.

GERMANY

A new International Study Centre, Collegium Humanum, is being initiated by the Rev. L.A. Hayman, previously of the Freundschaftshei. Information: Leslie Hayman, Collegium Humanum, 7261 Unterlengenhardt, S. Germany.



SUMMER CONFERENCES AND CAMPS

Austria:

International CND Camp, Micheldorf, near Linz, Austria. July and August. Room for 500. Meals 12 Austr.Shs. per day. Apply: Otto Harbertl, Wien XVI, Fröbelgasse 57/10

of 1961. Those who have been following international events know that the Soviet Union's strength in nuclear rockets is a decisive means of defending peace and that it has more than once already saved mankind from the world war which the imperialist circles of the West had been trying to unleash'.

"The World Council of Peace, which has consistently called for the abolition of all nuclear weapons, and the Chairman of its Presidential Committee, Professor J.D. Bernal, fully and unreservedly endorse this statement". With best wishes, Yours sincerely, The Editorial Board, Bulletin of the World Council of Peace."

Press statement by the Committee of 100 on the 14th June:-

SOVIET ROCKET BASES IN EASTERN GERMANY

"The World Council of Peace wrote to the Committee of 100 on February 27th of this year and after due consideration we replied on April 25th. As the matter was of public interest and because we had nothing to hide, a copy of our letter was at the same time sent to Reuters whence it reached newspapers all over the world.

"The World Council of Peace, having itself initiated the correspondence, then lacked the manners to respond directly and has issued a statement on the subject, dated 31st May, describing the Committee of 100 not as such but as a "professedly pacifist organisation" whatever that means. (Peace News 14th June).

"The World Council of Peace had written to us about disarmament and disengagement. We replied that we were all in favour of both provided that something was done about them "immediately and unilaterally". We suggested that they demonstrated at rocket bases in Eastern Germany - which we named - and invited them to our demonstrations at Marham.

"In Britain we are against all nuclear weapons and we demonstrate at such nuclear bases, i.e. British and American, as are within our reach. We look to our opposite numbers in the East to do likewise. In our view if people in the East who claim to be opposed to nuclear weapons refuse to do anything about the nuclear bases in their own vicinity then we can only suppose that they are hypocritical in their protestations. We judge people by their deeds.

"The World Council of Peace quotes Nikita Khrushchev to the effect "that the Soviet Union's strength in nuclear rockets is a decisive means of defending peace." But defenders of American Government policy make exactly the same defence of American rockets. So how much further forward are we?

"If Professor J.D. Bernal "fully and unreservedly endorses this statement" we can only call this to the attention of CND supporters and respectfully suggest that he can hardly be considered a suitable person to remain on their National Council.

"In view of the total failure of the Geneva talks it seems to us that all who are against the Bomb have to start to take disarmament into their own hands. We began to do this at the Marham base last month. We commend this example to the World Council of Peace".

The W.R.I. maintains the position it has always held, that is, total opposition to all weapons and to all militarism.

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss Federal Government has expressed interest in forming

Bulgaria:

Universal Esperanto Congress, 3rd-10th August. Sofia. W.R.I.
Meeting 4th August. Information: W.R.I.

CANADA:

Summer Programme

Canadian Friends' Service Committee at Grindstone Island Peace Centre, Portland, Ontario, includes a Seminar on "Creative Alternatives to the Arms Race", 5-13th July, and a Training Institute on the "Applications of Non-Violence To-day", 7-16th August 1963. Information: Peace Education Secretary, C.F.S.C., 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto 5.

FRANCE:

ED 748-18-34

W.R.I. Study Conference, Château de Charbonnières, Authon-du-Perche, Nr. Chartres. 24th-31st August. Theme: "Non-Violence and Socio-Economic Change". Speakers include: Theodor Ebert, Gene Sharp, Jean Lasseur, Pierre Martin. Information: W.R.I.

Action Civique Non-Violente, Conference in Lyon. 5th-8th September. Work sessions for group leaders with international participation. Theme: "Non-Cooperation with the Preparation and use of Atomic Armaments". Centre Oecuménique de Travail - 176 rue Pierre Valdo, Lyon.

Also - 1st-20th August. Work Camp for young people at Lyon with Non-Violent Training.
Information: Marie Faugeron, 106 rue Sadi-Carnot - Vanves (Seine)

HOLLAND:

International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Woudschoten, Zeist, Nr. Utrecht. International Conference 29th July-4th August. Theme: "Freedom in Community". There will be discussions on religious liberty; conscientious objection; A.B.C. warfare; race relations; freedom from hunger, etc. Information: I.F.o.R., 3 Hendon Avenue, Finchley, London, N.3.

International Peace Bureau (I.L.C.O.P.) Annual Conference 1963 at Oosterbeek, Nr. Arnhem, 19th-24th August. Theme: International Implications of Regionalism". Discussions on Pan-Africanism, Western European Union, both in relation to disarmament, the cold war and world economic development. Information: Hon. Secretary, 29 Great James Street, London, W.C.1.

SWEDEN:

An International Seminar was held at Lund - May 30th-31st in connection with the Anti-nuclear Marches which took place on June 2nd.

U.S.A.

Peacemaker Training Programme in Non-Violence. In N.Y.C. the second week in August and in the Catskills at Bearsville, N.Y. the following week. Theme: "Radical approach to non-violence and its application to contrasting problems of city and country. Information: Victor Richman, 601, W.115th Street, N.Y. 25.

-6-
ACTIONS

BRITAIN:

Operation PORTON against Germ Warfare. Saturday, June 29th. A March will be organised from Salisbury, followed by a walk on to property controlled by the War Office and attached to Porton, an establishment devoted to preparations for chemical and germ warfare. Porton is protected under the Official Secrets Act. Last year a senior Scientist working there, Geoffrey Bacon, died from pneumonic plague (a variety of the Black Death). International support welcome. Information: Committee of 100, 13 Goodwin Street, London N.4.

State Visit of Queen Frederika of Greece. A special committee, "Save Greece Now", has been set up to co-ordinate demonstrations which, during the royal visit from July 9th, will seek to draw attention to the lack of democracy in Greece, the plight of political prisoners and the rôle of NATO in making an unpopular régime respectable. Information: Save Greece Now, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.

Protest March Glasgow/London. Starting Saturday July 13th and ending in London Saturday 7th September. The March will be to draw attention to Polaris bases and spread the ideas of the anti-nuclear movement, and compare heavy expenditure on war with meagre expenditure on welfare and unemployment. Information: George Williamson, 4 North Frederick Lane, Glasgow C.1.

C.N.D. The C.N.D. will be carrying on a peace campaign throughout the summer, including intensive campaigning in selected areas, an anti-civil defence campaign, an imitation of the Fallex exercise, "Fallex 63", sometime in September; and also activities in connection with the next General Election.

Youth C.N.D. The Youth C.N.D. has launched its "Project 67" - an international holiday scheme and pen-friend service with peace groups in other countries.
Information: C.N.D. and Youth C.N.D., 2 Carthusian Street, London, E.C.1

CANADA/U.S.A.

26th May Quebec/Washington/Guantanamo Peace Walk left Quebec City
24th August arrives Washington D.C.

Information: C.N.V.A., 325 Lafayette St., N.Y. 12, or Canadian Com. of 100 c/o Daniels, 5601 McLynn Avenue, Montreal 29.

10th June Toronto, Ontario/Rome, N.Y. Walk begins. Information: Toronto Com. of 100, P.O.Box 413, Terminal A, Toronto 1, Ont.

4th-6th July Demonstration at Griffiss SAC base, Rome, N.Y.
Information: C.N.V.A. or Canadian Committee of 100, addresses as above.

INDIA

The Delhi/Peking March continues with increased understanding between the marchers and the Indian peace movement.

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND

25th June, 1963

2.7.63 V.

NEWS RELEASE NO.15

GERMANY (F.G.R.)

On June 22nd 1,000 took part in a demonstration organised by W.R.I. Sections, Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner and Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft in Bonn, the Federal capital. The demonstration was in protest against the Emergency Laws which, if introduced, will pave the way for increased militarism and will endanger democracy. It was also in favour of the present Constitution. A meeting at which Attorney Heinrich Hannover spoke, was held in front of the University to be followed by a two-hour march through Bonn. There was no interference from the police in spite of the harassment of the organisers beforehand. The German press and radio has maintained complete silence about the action. Slogans included "1933:- Enabling Law - 1963:Emergency Law?" "Armaments policy creates Emergencies". "Those who disarm do not need Emergency Laws" "Emergency Law: Muzzle for the Press". "Emergency Law: Prison for Opposition". "Emergency Law is a permit for dictatorship!"

(Report cabled by W.R.I. Member Alois Stoff, Essen)

The W.R.I. appeals to all peace organisations to make the facts about the Emergency Laws known and to lend international support to action in Germany.

*** ** *

U.S.A.

Cable from A.J. Muste, Director of the Committee for Non-Violent Action and the North American Chairman of the World Peace Brigade:

PEACE AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIONISTS HERE URGE YOU TO CONVEY TO CONTACTS IN EUROPE DEEP RESENTMENT WE FEEL ABOUT KENNEDY LEAVING THE COUNTRY AT A CRITICAL POINT IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE. URGE DEMONSTRATIONS IN ALL PLACES HE VISITS, EVEN URGING HIM TO GO HOME.

President Kennedy is now in West Germany and will be visiting Italy, Britain and Ireland.

*** ** *

FRANCE

The following summarised report was taken from W.R.I. Associated Publication "La Voie de la Paix", June edition:

"During the last two months 15 Conscientious Objectors have come before the military tribunals at Marseille, Metz, Bordeaux, Dijon and Lyon. They were given a total of 25 years and 9 months imprisonment, or a little more than 20 months apiece. The maximum sentence permitted by the law is two years.

The cases of the last two C.O.'s to be condemned are representative: Philippe Girodel, a Protestant student who wants to enter the Ministry, and Jean-François Besson, a Catholic teacher. In defiance of conditions imposed during the period preceding military service they were doing voluntary work for the homeless up to the time of their arrest. At an interview they declared that they were obeying the 'cry of alarm of the Pope John 23rd'. Three pastors, a Vicar-General and the Archbishop

of Lyon came to proclaim their total solidarity with the two young men. The reply of the Tribunal: 18 months' imprisonment for each of these delinquents.

Happily, the tenacious action taken by Lecoin (his fast last year) seems to be on the point of succeeding. The Council of Ministers held on the 11th June studied the text of a draft law for Conscientious Objectors and is engaged in presenting it during the course of the current Parliamentary session.

According to the latest news received, this text seems to be a clear improvement on the previous one, which dates from one year back and was returned to a Commission by the National Assembly. It admits in effect that the C.O.'s, discharged of all military obligations, may be directed to civil work under civilian control.

It is about time. Louis Lecoin had decided, in the face of administrative delays, to embark upon a new hunger strike on Monday the 17th June. He has provisionally cancelled his decision. One can only hope that he will not have to adopt this position again. We are profoundly delighted both for Lecoin and for all C.O.'s."

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#### WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

The Secretariat of the W.C.P. issued a statement from Vienna on the 21st June related to information included in our last News Release:

"We were astonished to see that Peace News published a statement attributed to the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace and presented as a reply to a letter from the British Committee of 100 on the subject of Soviet bases in the German Democratic Republic."

"This statement is a flagrant forgery! "

"This is the second forgery of the same type in several months. The first one took the form of a duplicated Information Letter dated 24th January last, on letterhead imitating that of the Bulletin of the World Council of Peace, posted out from Vienna (Austria). All this goes to confirm that certain groups of individuals are distributing forgeries in an attempt to obstruct the trend towards unity among the peace forces."

The W.R.I. Secretariat published the letter mentioned above in good faith, believing it to have come from the W.C.P. We deplore the circulation of forged or unauthorised documents which can only lead to misunderstanding and confusion. It would be a great help to the peace movement if the W.C.P. could now clarify its attitude to the Russian rocket bases in East Germany.

The Editorial Board of the W.C.P. Bulletin in its statement gives hints on how to spot fictitious resolutions or statements of the W.C.P.:

"These forgeries are always duplicated on counterfeit letter-head of the Bulletin of the World Council of Peace, the envelopes bear postage stamps and are posted at various Viennese post offices.

"Apart from the contents, these forgeries are easy to recognise as they do not bear a sequence number as do the genuine Information Letters, and as the envelopes bear the postmark of various Viennese post-offices, while the originals are franked with the postal pre-payment machine of "ESTATE" House."

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SWITZERLAND

The case of W.R.I. member Michel Monod, who appeared before a Military Tribunal in Lausanne on 29th May has aroused considerable public interest. In pronouncing the sentence, one month under close arrest, Col. Hans Hof said "The Tribunal understands your situation but is not able to yield before the dictates of your conscience because it administers the law". One observer said "The Judges felt it necessary to give proof of the greatest clemency possible within the limits imposed by the law. Is this enough? It is time to give to the objectors what they claim: a law which would permit them to devote their energies to civil service. It is for this service that they are going to prison.

The Federation of Protestant Churches in Switzerland reaffirmed its support for civil service for conscientious objectors. It believed that the sentencing of pacifists to imprisonment was not a satisfactory solution.

EAST GERMANY

The two Indian peace marchers, Satish Kumar and E.P. Menon, who have marched from New Delhi via Moscow and Warsaw on their way to Washington, are now in East Berlin. They hope to attend the W.R.I. Study Conference in France from the 24th-31st August.

BRITAIN

Police have been raiding the Committee of 100 and the homes of some of its members during the last 24 hours, possibly in connection with the demonstration to be held next Saturday, 29th June, at Porton, the establishment in Southern England concerned with preparations for biological and chemical warfare.

ITALY

There will be demonstrations against American rocket bases at Verona on the 14th July, with supporting action by workers in Trieste. International participation welcome. Industrial workers are planning an anti-nuclear march in Genoa on the 8th September. It will be especially concerned with nuclear weapons in the Mediterranean. The peace demonstration in Rome on the 15th June attracted 10,000 participants and lasted three hours. Delegations came from all over Italy. There was a torch-burning ceremony at the Coliseum. Former conscientious objector, Pietro Pinna, Aldo Capitini of the Perugia Centre for Non-Violence, and Andrea Gaggero, holder of the Lenin Peace Prize, spoke at the public meeting. Messages of support were received from W.R.I. Council Member Danilo Dolci, the Mayor of Florence, La Pira and Bertrand Russell. Peace organisations in Verona are to send a delegation to the Hiroshima Day demonstration in Athens.

At its recent Conference the Italian Methodist Church passed a resolution unanimously calling on all members of both Houses to speed up the passing of the Bill now before Parliament to grant legal status to Conscientious Objectors in Italy.

INDIA

The Sarva Seva Sangh, the organisation of Sarvodaya workers, has issued a declaration calling upon India to be the first to disarm and thus pave the way for universal disarmament.

GREECE

Families who gave hospitality to British participants in the Marathon/Athens demonstration have been prosecuted for failing to register aliens. Letters sent to members of the Bertrand Russell Committee of 100 have been intercepted and returned by the authorities in Greece.

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BELGIUM

A law for Conscientious Objectors has been voted upon in the Belgian Senate. For: 105 votes; against: 21, abstentions 2. This represents a triumph for the efforts of our friends in Belgium, and especially the W.R.I. Section and its secretary, Jean van Lierde.

Over the last ten years 462 C.O.'s have been sentenced to 3,539 months in prison, or 3 centuries of detention! During this period 167 were sentenced a second time, 36 a third time and 4 a fourth time.

The new legislation has been canvassed by the socialist Senator, H. Rolin. It is the result of the deliberations of three Senatorial Commissions attached to the Ministries of the Interior, of Justice and of National Defence. Two degrees of conscientious objection are recognised: (1) refusal of military service with weapons and (2) refusal of all military service. In the first category, the "semi-objectors" serve a period equal to that of all other conscripts. Those belonging to the second category will be placed under the Minister of the Interior and will be assigned to a Section of Civil Defence concerned with public calamities during peace-time. Service will be one year more than military service but the C.O.'s will be exempt from all recall. An amendment was discussed to make the terms of service the same but to extend the period of recall for C.O.'s to 150 days as against the 66 days for soldiers.

The decision to become a C.O. must be made at the age of 18 and the law does not seem to provide adequately for those who become C.O.'s during their period of service; this in spite of the fact that 17 of 90 C.O.'s condemned recently have declared their opposition after entry into the army.

It is worth recalling that in June 1961 a Law was introduced which exempted from military service young men who would give three years to technical assistance in developing countries. Conscientious objectors were not specifically provided for but in fact the law gave exemption for C.O.'s with professional qualifications. Senator Rolin's proposal that the two laws be linked has been accepted. Under the technical assistance law 800 young Belgians have been recognised out of the 1,000 who made applications.

The present situation had been brought before the public with added force because of the arrest of three priests who were refusing military service. On being called up they returned their uniforms and papers to the military. One was detained for 3 days by the military but then released without being given any orders which would have called for a refusal. Christian Vassart was sentenced on the 14th May to 3 months in prison and Nicolas Garray to 18 months. However, on the 17th May, after intervention by the Church authorities, the sentences were deferred and the priests released. This caused the question to be asked about why priests should be treated differently from other conscientious objectors. We hope that when the new Law comes into force the problems of conscientious objectors in Belgium will be reduced to a minimum.

INTERNATIONAL LIBERTARIAN SUMMER YOUTH CAMP 1963

The Camp, organised by the Jeunes Libertaires, Bulgarian Libertarians and Spanish Libertarian Youth, will be held at BEYNAC - VEZAC (Dordogne), 10 kilometres from Sarlat, France, throughout the month of August. Information: F.I.J.L., 159 Ledbury Road, London W.11 or Germinal Beacana, 12 rue Auguste Brutaills, Bordeaux (Gironde), France

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD
Telephone: LABurnum 3977

88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND

3rd October, 1963

NEWS RELEASE NO. 16

7.10.63

ED 748-11-34

BULGARIA

Young men are now offered the opportunity of doing national service in the Work Army instead of the military forces. Service consists of work in the mines for a period of 3 years with wages equal to those of ordinary workers.

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FINLAND

A Committee of 100 (Helsingin Sadankomitea) was founded at a meeting on the 6th August. About 50 people were present, most of them university students. An Executive Committee of 20 people was elected. The Chairman is Kalevi Suomela, Huopalahdentie 8 B 2, Helsinki, and the Secretary Pekka Peltola, Mäkelänrinne 5, Helsinki. The purpose of the Committee is to work for peace by rousing public opinion on the question of nuclear weapons; opposing military preparations and working for the abolition of military conscription; disseminating facts on atomic warfare and tests; furthering peace research; working with international peace organisations such as the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace; demanding the implementation of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights; strengthening the belief that all people as individuals should have the right to decide their own fate, especially in the issues of war and peace and by supporting unilateral disarmament. In co-operation with other national peace organisations the Committee will be organising a peace march on the 2nd December.

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FRANCE

21-year old Alain Rouzet, a conscientious objector, came before a military tribunal on the 24th September. He had refused to wear a uniform and demanded instead to be allowed to undertake civil service. His Counsel pointed out that the question of a law for conscientious objectors was shortly to come before the National Assembly. In these circumstances a prosecution seemed inappropriate. The presiding official agreed and the case was indefinitely postponed.

Action Civique Non-Violente is organising a silent march to the National Assembly on the 12th October to call for alternative civil service for conscientious objectors. At the head of the march there will be a delegation of 8 former and prospective C.O's. The March is part of a concerted campaign leading up to the vote on a law for C.O's during the coming parliamentary session. Other marches will be held and delegations organised throughout France. Letters will be sent to deputies and senators, many of whom did not seem, during previous debates, to have grasped the essential facts concerning the problem. A.C.N.V. calls for supporting demonstrations in other countries between 5th and 12th October at French Embassies and they also ask that letters and telegrams be sent from abroad to Prime Minister Georges Pompidou, Assemblée National, Paris.

A new organisation against nuclear weapons has been formed - Ligue Nationale Contre la Force de Frappe, Comité Temporaire, 15 Square de Clignancourt, Paris 18e. The Comité will be organising mass demonstrations in Paris on the 17th and 24th October. International support has been offered but not yet accepted.

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GERMANY

East -

Militarisation in the D.D.R.

Part of an open letter by the Kopernikus Secondary School to Polytechnics and Secondary Schools in the Neubrandenburg district:

"The resolution passed at the sixth meeting of the German Socialist Party about the spreading of socialism in D.D.R. bring us to a new stage in the development of our state, which belongs to workers and farmers. This new stage demands also a higher defence preparedness by all able-bodied people, especially the young in our Republic. This gives an aim to all polytechnics and secondary schools in our district for the year 1963: 'To give to all able-bodied young people, especially those aged 14-18, a pre-military training of high standard and to combine this training with patriotic education'."

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West -

In June a young W.R.I. member, Helmut Seidal, applied to the Tribunal for recognition as a Conscientious Objector. The hearing was on the 29th August and his application was refused. He is exercising his right to appeal, but this has not yet been heard. He was called up for military service on July 1st and was arrested on August 26th before his application came before the Tribunal. He was sentenced to 10 days' detention and subsequently to a further period of 21 days' detention. His present address is 587 Hemer Panzerkaserne, Ausbildungs-Kp.3/7. This is a good occasion to show solidarity by sending directly to him messages of support and by taking the matter up at the Embassies of the German Federal Republic.

French and German pacifists are organising a joint meeting and demonstration in Cologne on Sunday, 10th November. The aim will be to co-ordinate work for peace under the slogan "Friendship between the two peoples but without arms and without armies".

More information can be obtained from: Rev. Herbert Günneberg, 43 Essen, Hindenburgerstr. 50.

Two W.R.I. Sections are soon to hold their annual conferences. The Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft on the 19th/20th October in Bochum - theme "The Problem of High Treason", and the Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner on 26th/27th October at Oberhausen.

Members of the Non-Violent Civil Army in Stuttgart are planning a 24-hour fast on the 26th October in support of Danilo Dolci's Committee of 100 action in Sicily for the building of the Bruca Dam. Other groups in Germany are being asked for support and money saved through the fast will be passed on to Danilo's Centro Studi e Iniziative per la Piena Occupazione.

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Archiv

Institute for

GREAT BRITAIN

ED 712-13-35

A participant in the demonstrations against the visit of Queen Frederika of the Hellenes, George Clarke, who is an organiser for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, was recently sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for alleged incitement. Mr. Clarke is appealing against the sentence and has gained the support of many community leaders, local branches of the Labour Party and Trade Unions. The campaign of intimidation is, however, continuing and two officials of the Committee of 100, Peter Moule and Terry Chandler, are due to appear at the Old Bailey in October for their part in the same demonstrations. Supporting demonstrations are being organised and peace movements in other countries are being asked by the Committee of 100 to lend support and send messages of protest to the British Home Secretary, Mr. Brooke.

On Sunday the 29th September 500 people demonstrated outside Mr. Brooke's home to draw attention to the series of miscarriages of justice in which he has been involved.

E.F. Menon and Satish Kumar, the two young Indians who have marched through Afghanistan, Soviet Russia, Poland and Western Europe calling for total unilateral disarmament, were arrested in Paris on September 17th when trying to hold a vigil outside the residence of President de Gaulle. They spent 3 days in prison together with one German and one Danish comrade before being deported to Britain. They are now carrying on their two-man campaign in Britain with the support of local and national organisations. They hope to be able to raise sufficient money to travel to the U.S.A., for their destination is Washington.

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HOLLAND

A young airman, Dries Brunia, became a conscientious objector when he was directed to serve in New Guinea. He received a sentence of 2 years imprisonment. The W.R.I. Dutch Section, A.N.V.A., published a pamphlet giving a full account of his case in April. Agitation for his release continues and a pardon is being applied for on the grounds that he was not properly dealt with by his tribunal. The Pacifist Socialist Party is taking up the matter with the new Minister of Justice and at the same time is agitating for an improved law for Conscientious Objectors. The Minister also has to face a number of questions relating to the brutality of the police towards demonstrators at a NATO Tattoo earlier in the year. Dutch pacifists had particularly objected to the presence of a Portuguese military band.

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HUNGARY / 16.10. / VK(OM)

The Hungarian Peace Council, Budapest V., Belgrád rakpart 24, will be organising an Exhibition of Disarmament and Peace posters during October. It is appealing for exhibits from all over the world.

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ITALY

A Jehovah's Witness, Leonardo Rutigliano, served a 6 months' sentence for refusing military service and was released on the 27th January 1963. He was called up again on the 3rd March and when he again refused was condemned to 4 months with costs. He was released on the 8th July. After having been at home for little more than one

week he was again called up. On the 18th July he was sentenced to solitary confinement while awaiting a new trial. On the 19th July his wife gave birth to a son whom he has still not seen.

Many Italians must be asking themselves how long it will be before their government introduces a law for conscientious objectors. Italy and Switzerland have the worst record of any countries in Western Europe now that France seems to be on the point of providing alternative civil service for C.O's. A national Congress on Conscientious Objection is being called by members of various pacifist organisations in Florence on the 10th November.

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SOUTH AFRICA

The Rev. Arthur Blaxall, Chairman of the South African F.o.R., is awaiting trial under the Suppression of Communism Act. Meanwhile on the 31st August another W.R.I. member, 68-year old Theodore Kloppenburg, came before the Durban Regional Court again under the Suppression of Communism Act. His offence had been to begin a fast in silent protest against restrictions imposed upon him by the Government. He was due to appear in Court again on September 14th. Both these men need support. Letters should be sent to the Minister of Justice.

Theodor Kloppenburg: "As members of the W.R.I. we abhor violence in all its forms. While we walk silent among disputes, we do not reject the disputers. We walk free the whole world over until we make our mark so that men and women of all races may become brethren. We do what we can to prevent violence in all its forms, even if that violence should destroy us."

... ..

SWITZERLAND

The Society of Friends sent a resolution to the Federal Council in June asking for the recognition of conscientious objection and of the right to refuse military taxes in favour of taxes for constructive purposes. The reply came not from the Federal Council but from an official in the Military Dept. The only advice he could give was that as military service was required by the Constitution those who opposed it should campaign through the constitutional machinery in the Cantons. Some Swiss Quakers are now refusing to pay taxes for the military and national defence.

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WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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26.10.63

NEWS RELEASE NO. 17 I

ITALY

Letter from Danilo Dolci

For thirty years the people of the Belice valleys have been waiting for the dam on the Bruca River. Projects and allotments had been set up and the most authoritative promises had been proclaimed (15,000 hectares were to be irrigated, thus tripling the labour necessary for cultivation and also the yield). But not one single stone has been moved as of yet: on the contrary, it has recently been affirmed in official circles that the allotted funds have been secretly diverted, to the very last lira.

It is not enough that now, at the last minute, after we have already begun to express publicly our denunciation, there should come reassuring words, generalized promises, partial solutions.

We want precise guarantees, we want to see the dam growing. Even taking into account the technical difficulties and the amount of time required to resolve them, it is clear to us that for the good of all it is necessary to break the long chain of mockeries, of promises not fulfilled, of decisions taken without respect for the just aspirations of entire peoples and in opposition to their true necessities: if we do not wish to be drawn down once again into the vortex of disorder in which only the powerful thrive, we must all vindicate our right to be precisely and open-mindedly informed about matters of public interest, and to be able to participate in the decisions which affect our lives.

The waters which still flow to the sea across so much arid land, while men are constrained to seek work far from their women, and children to grow up in the absence of their fathers are - beyond the bitter reality of continuous waste, disorder, non-valorization - a sign of inversion: just as in these very days the State has found it necessary once more to intervene in this area with drastic police action against the Mafia, above all because it has not known how to guarantee the possibility of employment, of new structures, of a new society.

It is not true that life in these lands will remain this way for ever: it will change, as is necessary, as we wish it, if we wish it. Above all, what we need is to gain experience of how, through working together opportunely and precisely, it is possible to put into motion the sane development of our valleys. It is for this that we ask your solidarity in this protest, in the task before us, in the demonstrations which will take place from October 26th to November 4th, and which will reach their climax on November 3rd

with a public hunger strike promoted by the Committee of 100 of Roccamena and with a march - in which representatives from various countries throughout the world will participate as well - to the site where the dam is to be built: we ask in order that, moving together with strength and purity, the people of the Belice valleys may be successful, for themselves and for all; in order that, drawing strength from this liberating experience, the front may be renewed and enlarged.

Friends of Italy,

Suffice it that each intelligent and honest Italian move one finger, and the dam on the Bruca will be built. Millions of men will be able to see in this a new direction, and in the light of such, will be able to consider as justified the investment of their own dedication and energy.

In these days a new government will be formed. By now it is clear that up to the present our governments have erred in their policies towards the South, and that this has weighed negatively upon the whole of Italy. We cannot proceed by striking and by fasting for every new road, for every dam, for every industry. We desire that it be determined in a clear, organic manner, as it is in every family of good sense, which investments are the most necessary, have the most priority.

We shall not permit without protest that a few privileged groups continue to trample underfoot the good sense and the most rational possibilities of development of the Italian people. Public opinion, supporting the action of the people of Western Sicily, will exert its influence, so that the next government may be in a position to draw up programmes which are dedicated to the interest of all, and to realize in a coherent manner these programmes.

Friends of the whole world,

The conditions have been realized in which the whole world can, and must, recognise its substantial unity: the new world is coming to life, with its new possibilities of production, its new economy, its new culture, its new morality.

In this epoch, in which the dogmatic fanaticisms are disintegrating, in which we have no longer any eternal tablets of morality on which to lean, we may find the greatest moral directives in conscientious objection in the broad sense, in the open, autonomous group, and in that planning which involves everyone and which respects the exigencies of both the individual and the whole. But action prompted by conscience, self-sustaining groups, and humanistic planning are not only the sources of the most exact choices: they are also the fundamental tools, which we must multiply and correlate, with which to create the new world.

Every authentic conquest becomes part of the patrimony of all mankind. Everywhere there is a task, a construction, a non-violent struggle to create self-sustaining organisms: these are part of the new life that is being constructed. The struggle for the Bruca dam in Sicily, like other similar non-violent movements being carried forward in diverse forms all over the world, requests of the men of the new world their dedicated support: for the success of one movement will mean a success for all, a substantial contribution to the new world.

The above project has received wide international support. Harold Bing, M.A., Chairman of the W.R.I., will be attending the demonstration on the 3rd November. Peter Moule, Secretary of the Committee of 100 (Great Britain) will participate in the fast.

A full documentation in Italian, "Per la diga al Brucia", has been prepared by Danilo Dolci's Centro studi e iniziative per la piena occupazione as a special number of "Appunti per gli Amici" and in German by the Non-Violent Civil Army publication "Konsequent" (7 Stuttgart W, Bebelstrasse 106, Germany).

FRANCE

About 1,200 people took part in a demonstration for the right of conscientious objection on Saturday, 12th October. It was in the form of a silent march and was successful in spite of the fact that the police at the last moment changed the assembly point and thus confused late-comers. The reason was to avoid a clash with an ex-servicemen's demonstration which was taking place at the same time. The organisers were from the Action Civique Non-Violente and they were supported by other groups, including the Union Pacifiste de France, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, trade union groups and some individuals, including Louis Lecoq and Mme. Camille Drevet.

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New regulations which will come into force on the 1st January 1964 are similar to the proposed Emergency Laws in West Germany. Now, in addition to the obligations of a male French citizen to submit to military training up to the age of 35, all citizens will be obliged to take part in the Defence Service, if required. Action Civique Non-Violente states: "This represents the permanent mobilisation of all French citizens." These measures have hardly been discussed in France, although the necessary constitutional steps have already been taken. An order was made on 7th January, 1959. It became law on 21st July, 1962. A decree was issued on 23rd November, 1963, and an official instruction on 10th July, 1963. The consequences of this new threat to democracy for Western Europe are discussed at length in the October edition of the Action Civique Non-Violente journal, obtainable from 106, rue Sadi-Carnot, Vanves, Seine, France.

GERMANY

The Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer is preparing a programme of agitation for the recognition of conscientious objection in countries which have conscription but no C.O. law. It is suggested that demonstrations should take place in Germany on Friday, 29th November. Letters should be sent to Embassies and Consulates, the local press should be informed and information about all actions should be collected and published. A list of addresses of Embassies and Consulates in Germany has been distributed to local V.K. groups.

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The Overseas Teaching Aid Development Service, the "Peace Corps" of the Federal Republic of Germany, was inaugurated on 24th June. It aims to build up a force of 1,000 volunteers and 500 applications have been received so far.

FINLAND

The Vancouver-Berlin Marchers arrived in Finland on Sunday, 13th October. They will be staying for about a month as guests of the Finnish Committee of I.O.O. They will go first to Moscow and through Poland to Berlin, where they will attempt to set up a center for information and reconciliation. The March received the full support of the W.R.I. at its 11th Triennial Conference in Norway last July.

SWEDEN

The Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (SUL) is organising boycotts of cargoes from South Africa. When the boat Vingaren came in Stockholm harbour recently, however, it was not ready to take immediate action. Some of the goods were bound for Finland but, as none of the Finnish ports would accept them, they were sent to Finland by train. Gothenburg is the one port in Sweden where the boycott has been totally successful. Shipowners have given up trying to unload cargo there.

U.S.A.

The March from Quebec to Guantanamo Base in Cuba continues. The Committee for Non-Violent Action is issuing first-class day-to-day bulletins. They describe not only the reactions of black and white citizens as the March moves into the segregated South but the day-to-day ideological and practical difficulties of the Marchers themselves. They convey both the tension which the Marchers are constantly subjected to and occasional glimpses of hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.

September 27th: "The Lynchburg (Virginia) paper today printed an editorial which said we were representative of '... a tiny minority of American youth which has committed itself to a way of life which is anti-law, anti-authority, anti-patriotism, anti-loyalty and anti-United States.' It is the worst editorial comment we have yet received."

September 28th: "As Yvonne walked toward the house, she was startled by a report. A woman said she thought she had seen a barrel of a weapon sticking out of a car across the street. They surmised it must have been an air gun."

September 29th: "When we sat down, the minister shouted to the people, 'When we think of white people, we think of 'Bull' McCain... But these white people are different.'"

September 30th: "A white dentist and his nurse talked with a leafleter as the walk turned round. They were quite hostile at first, but were more suspicious of our Cuban venture than of our support for integration. The nurse pointed at the SNCC pin of white and black hands shaking and said, "I like that, but (pointing at the ND button) the other is Communist." After talking for a time they were a little less hostile and agreed to read the leaflet."

On the same day the March passed into North Carolina and received hospitality from one of the many fascinating characters that the March has so far encountered. "Mother Theresa fed us a splendid dinner, with homemade doughnuts for dessert. After dinner some

of the group went to a mass integration meeting, but most of us stayed back to talk. Mother Theresa, now in her 70's, has been a radical since the age of 5. She told us the history of Dan River Mills. It was started by a single family that owned the only bank and charged extremely high interest on loans to sharecroppers. The police were controlled by the mills and broke up all union meetings when they tried to organise. Mother Theresa held underground union meetings in her house, but when the pay was raised to \$1.26, most people were satisfied and quit the union."... "As we left, Mother Theresa gave us a box full of soap, toothpaste, wash cloths and towels. Another of the cars ran out of gas, as we tried to leave, but she was able to provide us with that also and cranked a couple of gallons out of a gas pump. We felt she would have been a most resourceful person to have had on the walk."

October 3rd: At a meeting near a university campus: "A gag-law had been recently passed which prohibits Communists, any person who has taken the fifth amendment, or anyone who advocates the overthrow of the United States or North Carolina constitution from speaking on state owned campuses. The University of North Carolina is fighting the gag-law by over-co-operating and applying the gag-law against all speakers suggested to speak on campus."

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The Selective Service regulations have been amended so that married men will not now be called for induction into the armed forces unless they volunteer. The "order call" in the amended regulations is now:-

- 1) Delinquents who have attained the age of 19 years in the order of their dates of birth with the oldest being selected first.
- 2) Volunteers who have not attained the age of 26 years in the sequence in which they have volunteered for induction.
- 3) Nonvolunteers who have attained the age of 19 years and have not attained the age of 26 and who do not have a wife with whom they maintain a bona fide family relationship in their homes, in the order of their dates of birth with the oldest being selected first.
- 4) Nonvolunteers who have attained the age of 19 years and have not attained the age of 26 years and who have a wife with whom they maintain a bona fide family relationship in their homes, in the order of their dates of birth with the oldest being selected first.
- 5) Nonvolunteers who have attained the age of 26 in the order of their dates of birth with the youngest being selected first.
- 6) Nonvolunteers who have attained the age of 18 years and six months and who have not attained the age of 19 years in the order of their dates of birth with the oldest being selected first.

(From "The Reporter")

TANGANYIKA

The first group of 8 Danish volunteers under the scheme arranged by the Mellemløkkeligt Samvirke has arrived in the country. They will stay in Tanganyika for two years and will be seconded to projects which are under the auspices of the Danish Ministry of Techni-

cal Assistance. Mellefolkeligt Samvirke was started by the W.R.I. Danish Section, Aldrig Mere Krig.

150 Tanganyikan volunteers are training under the recently constituted "Service Corps". The aim is to build the force up to 1,000 volunteers within six months. The training is of semi-military type which stresses physical fitness.

(From "Bulletin of the Co-ordinating Committee of International Work Camps")

DENMARK

Hagbard Jonassen, a W.R.I. Council member, has been asked to speak on Danish radio to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the death of Carl von Ossiezyk.

A Committee has been appointed by the Government to explore the possibilities of more constructive service for C.O.'s. Hagbard Jonassen and Svend Haugaard, both A.M.K. officials, are members of this Committee. The Committee will be visiting the museums where C.O.'s are working and C.O. camps this month. The number of C.O.'s is increasing.

ITALY

Leonardo Rutigliano, whose case was referred to in our last news release, was sentenced to 7 months imprisonment from 20th September. It is not known which prison he is in but letters for forwarding can be sent to: Vico Mulini 2, Trinitapoli (Foggia), Italy.

The W.R.I. Section will be organising a symposium on "Conscience and Peace in the Atomic Age" from 14th - 15th December in Milan.

South AFRICA

The Rev. Arthur Bixall of the Fellowship of Reconciliation was sentenced to a total of 28 months imprisonment under the Suppression of Communism Act on October 18th. All but six months of the sentence were suspended and it is now learnt that he has been released.

INTERNATIONAL

The Inaugural Congress of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace will be held from January 9th - 13th, 1964, at the Agape Conference Centre near Turin in North Italy.

An attempt is being made to co-ordinate the activities of dockers in many countries in boycotting South African cargoes and all arms shipments. An appeal by a London port worker Jimmy Jewers (available from the W.R.I.) is being circulated in many languages

with an invitation for dockers to attend an international meeting in Paris from 23rd - 24th November. The organising group in London (22 Nevern Road, London, S.W. 5.) is issuing a review of industrial action already taken at various ports - in Italy, Greece, Scandinavia, Australia, Holland and Britain.

☆☆☆

Please send news items marked clearly
"For Information Service" to the W.R.I.
Headquarters.

Institut für Zeitgeschichte - Archiv

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:

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88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND

20th November 1963

NEWS RELEASE NO. 17 II

27. 11. 63 U

FRANCE:

The French Government Bill for the recognition of conscientious objection was rejected by the Senate on November by 140 votes to 12. It will now have to go before the National Assembly for the third time. If passed eventually the provisions of the Bill would not compare favourably with conscientious objector laws in other countries. The term of service would be twice the length of military service.

... ..

First Demonstration against atomic weapons in the Parisian area

The series of demonstrations against the French nuclear striking force to be held between November 17th and 24th by the Temporary Committee against the striking force was inaugurated by a local initiative at the Station of Command of the French operational atomic defense - Taverny Bessancourt on November 17th.

Jean Seiler and his wife, both of Action Civique Non-Violente, living in the northern suburbs of Paris near Taverny Bessancourt, organised a silent march with the co-operation of representatives of many organisations, groups, political parties and friends from the same district and from Paris.

The March started at 10h.50 from Taverny ancient town hall with 500 participants, although the demonstration was officially forbidden by the Subprefecture and the Ministry of Defence. The rainy weather did not stop people coming by train or car, and the local police proved to be co-operative by allowing the procession with banners displayed: "NO TO THE BOMB", "LET US BUILD PEACE WITH WEAPONS OF PEACE", "LET PEOPLE LIVE..". The march proceeded slowly through the small locality, passing the strategic Station of Command and arrived an hour later in the Town hall Square of Bessancourt. The number of people had doubled and we were about 1,000 listening to the short speeches given by the organiser Jean Seiler and other representatives. A resolution was read to the crowd and adopted unanimously before being remitted to the Lord Mayor who was present together with the Commissaire of Police. The Lord Mayor promised to transmit the resolution to President De Gaulle and addressed a few words to the demonstrators. He expressed his admiration for the silence, discipline and dignity of the manifestation and was applauded by the Chief of Police.

The crowd dispersed soon after without incident. The police did not interfere and we only noticed a very few men in uniform controlling the traffic.

It is the first demonstration of this kind in the Parisian district and the first one supported spontaneously by so many organisations of different political opinions, tendencies and religious beliefs.

Yvette Naal (A.C.N.V.)

... ..

Direct actionists will be meeting for an Anti-War Conference in Paris on the 23rd-24th November which was largely initiated by the International Sub-Committee of the Committee of 100 (Britain) as was the Amsterdam Conference of November, 1962. This time support from other countries has not been so widespread but it is hoped that plans for combined international actions next year will be formulated. Several port workers from different countries will also be attending to discuss industrial action against South African and arms shipments.

*** **

GREAT BRITAIN:

George Clarke, field secretary of the C.N.D., was released from prison on the 18th November after his sentence of 18 months in connection with the Greek royal visit to Britain had been quashed by the Lord Chief Justice. The case aroused interest in the press. The judgment made legal history and has re-established the right to demonstrate. Peter Moule and Terry Chandler, Secretaries of the Committee of 100, are to appear in Court on November 25th on charges arising out of the same demonstration.

*** **

HOLLAND:

The Dutch C.O., Dries Brunia, previously sentenced to two years imprisonment, was released on October 15th and granted a free pardon. The granting of the pardon has aroused opposition in Parliament and the Minister concerned has been accused of promoting conscientious objection.

(In South Africa the Rev. Arthur Blaxall was released immediately after his trial and in Germany Helmut Seidel was successful in his appeal after his application to become a C.O. had been refused.)

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INDIA:

The Friendship Marchers, having been refused permission to enter Pakistan, Burma and China in the course of their trip to Peking, are now resting at Maitri Ashram, North Lakhimpur in north-east India while considering their future course of action. The alternatives appear to be: (a) to proceed through the NEFA route to the Chinese-Tibetan border. (The route is hard but passable. However, there may be objections from the Indian Government); (b) to go to Hongkong to try and enter into negotiations with the Chinese Peace Committee. (Permission has been refused by the British Government); (c) various more unlikely moves including trying to establish contact from Japan; going by boat to the Chinese mainland; calling off the march or working with Chinese and Tibetan refugees if Chinese visas are still withheld.

... ..

E.P. Menon and Satish Kumar, the Indian peace marchers, are now on their way by boat to the U.S.A. from Britain.

*** **

ISRAEL:

Madame Dina Wert, Commander-in-Chief of the womens' section of the Israeli army, visited West Africa recently, primarily to help the authorities of the Ivory Coast establish womens units in the army. It is also understood that the Congo (Leopoldville) and Ghana have appealed to Israel to help mobilise women and that Col. Wert will be visiting these two countries to review the scheme. A group of women from the Congo will soon be going to Israel for a period of training in womens units there.

*** **

ITALY:

Following a seminar in August on the techniques of non-violence, a Non-Violent Direct Action group was established. The group went into action for the first time in Milan on Sunday, November 4th, where it demonstrated in favour of the recognition of conscientious objection. The demonstration was prohibited by the police but it went ahead all the same. Within an hour seven participants were arrested, including the Chairman of the W.R.I. group, Aldo Putelli, and were charged with "contravening an official order". The action was well publicised in all papers, both right and left, and had a special significance because it contrasted with official celebrations of National Armed Forces Day. Another demonstration was organised for Sunday, November 17th in Bologna, again in support of conscientious objection. There will be a further action on Prisoners for Peace Day, December 1st., in Florence.

... ..

The Court of Appeal in Florence condemned Father Balducci and the journalist Leonardo Pinzauti to 8 and 6 months' imprisonment respectively for defending the criminal act of desertion and military disobedience. Father Balducci criticised in a Florentin newspaper, edited by Leonardo Pinzauti, the sentence passed on a C.O. GIUSEPPE GOZZINI by a military tribunal in January 1963. 13 people sent copies of this paper to the Public Prosecutor. Legal processes have been long and involved, culminating in the conviction of Father Balducci and L. Pinzauti at Florence on 14th October. They are proceeding to the Court of Criminal Appeal.

A Member of Parliament, M. Pistelli, has addressed a note to the Government questioning whether the Italian judicial system is not manifestly out-of-date in view of the sort of problems facing the community to-day. Another M.P. M. Paolicchi, has addressed a statement to the President of the Council and to several Ministers, to the effect that the imprisonment of Father Balducci and L. Pinzauti showed that the Italian judicial system is patently undemocratic in two important respects: (a) it does not allow for freedom of opinion and (b) it does not allow for freedom of conscience in relation to the problem of war.

There have been protests from many quarters. A group of young Florentin Catholics have had posters put up declaring their solidarity with Father Balducci who is highly respected and loved by the people of Florence and declaring they will mobilise forces to bring in the right of Conscientious Objection.

Professor La Pira, Mayor of Florence, has been denounced to the Public Prosecutor by three citizens who object to his Latin verse commemorating the Trial of Father Balducci and Leonardo Pinzauti: "They left the Tribunal happy because they were deemed worthy to suffer in the name of Jesus".

"L'Incontro", October

... ..

The Committee of 100 of Roccamena and Danilo Dolci, together with the Centre Studi, while thanking the people of the valley, all the collaborators, the friends, the local, national and international groups and organisations which with unforgettable generosity have participated in the non-violent struggle of these days to put into motion the organic and programmed development of this zone, and in particular Peter Moule, secretary of the British Committee of 100, and taking note of:

- the clarifications of the representatives of the Superior Council of the Ministry of Public Works, according to which one can presume that within one year the contracts can be assigned for the construction, if particular difficulties of a technical nature do not arise;
- the responsible and public declarations of the Hon. Mario Fasino, Assessor of Sicilian Agriculture, according to which the Regional Government has decided that the matter of realizing the Brucca project should be concluded as rapidly as possible, also inviting the representatives of the Committee of 100 of Roccamena and of the Centro Studi to control all the necessary documentation and the coming phase of technical verification, insofar as it is uncertain or incomplete (pledging, however, that in whatsoever eventuality, the funds already allotted for the Brucca will not be diverted away from the zone):
 - (1) decide to follow attentively and to control every phase of the coming work for the definition of the Brucca project, and to publish a periodic communication which will inform democratically the people of the valley and public opinion: they request the dutiful collaboration of all the competent institutions to this end.
 - (2) They invite the population of the entire valley to organise itself closely and functionally, in order that all possible improvements may be identified and realised, and in particular so that the Consorzio of the Alto and Medio Belice, at present paralysed by Mafia control, should be made actively democratic.
 - (3) They decide that, if at any time further obstacles or unjustified delays should arise, they will take up once again the struggle begun here in these past days, but with deeper and greater intensity.

Roccamena. November 4th, 1963

*** **

MALAYSIA:

In Kuala Lumpur the Minister of the Interior has announced the first moves towards introducing conscription. All males between 21 and 28 must register for national service in anticipation of call-up.

*** **

POLAND:

The World Council of Peace is holding its extended meeting in Warsaw from the 28th November - 2nd December and has invited the W.R.I. to send a representative. The agenda sent by the Conference organisers includes amongst other subjects "Perspectives for further activities of world peace movement, for closer co-operation and joint action with all peace forces."

In view of the discussions held in Stavanger with some Peace Committee representatives, the W.R.I. decided to participate in the Conference and make clear its approach to peace and mutual co-operation. Devi Prasad will be the W.R.I. representative.

*** **

U.S.A.:

A week before Christmas the Committee for Non-Violent Action - West is sponsoring a walk across the desert from Las Vegas to the Atomic Energy Commission test site at Mercury Flats, Nevada with three camels. There will be a brief vigil at A.E.C. Headquarters in Las Vegas and an extended vigil at the testing site.

Georgia police attack peace marchers

"Griffin, GA: White and negro members of the Quebec-Washington-Guantanamo Peace Marchers were tortured on November 9th."

This is how a News Release published by the Committee for Non Violent Action dated 16th November begins. The following account account is condensed from that release.

The 23 walkers include 3 negro men, 14 white men and 6 white women. The purpose of this walk is to help ease tension between Cuba and the U.S.A. presenting a non-violent alternative to the continuing Cuban crisis. The walkers are appealing both for reconciliation with Cuba and, as they walk through the South, for racial integration.

Difficulties with the police in Griffin reached a climax when the walkers attempted to distribute leaflets to negroes in a park on November 8th. Police ordered the negroes to leave the area. Brad Lyttle, the co-ordinator of the Walk called off activities for the day and informed the police that the action would continue on the next day. On November 9th, apparently fearing the walkers were going to enter the negro district near the park, the police attempted to stop the group by arresting Lyttle. Neither he nor Jack Shapiro would co-operate when told they were under arrest. An electric prod, a device capable of giving a powerful electric shock which produces localised sensations of extreme pain, burning and involuntary muscle spasms and is normally reserved for cattle, was brought into action. Agents of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation applied the prod to the first two arrested and then to one of the girl walkers. The same procedure was used for all the other walkers who refused to co-operate. The prod was applied all over their bodies and to their faces. One student from San Francisco, John Stevens, was burned on the head and back and had an 8" burn mark left on his stomach. This treatment continued at the police station and was accompanied by very rough handling. Two policemen were apparently in tears but they did or said nothing. One walker who was already suffering from a heart complaint suffered from shock and was taken to hospital later in the day when the walkers were released. Eventually the Sheriff gave a permit for the walkers to carry on all the activities they had planned. The majority of them went back to the point at which the walk had been suspended and then continued to the outer limits of Griffin without further incident.

*** **

INTERNATIONAL

The W.R.I. calls upon all peace movements and all those concerned with civil liberties to show solidarity with captive war resisters on Prisoners for Peace Day, December 1st, 1963. Many W.R.I. Sections and local groups will be organising demonstrations at the Embassies and Consulates of France, Italy and Switzerland and the sending of greetings to prisoners. (A list of names and addresses has been issued by the W.R.I. Secretariat). In Yugoslavia alone 5 conscientious objectors are serving a total sentence of 39 years.

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WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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3rd December, 1963

7.12.63

NEWS RELEASE NO. 18.

ED 7-18-18-183

ALGERIA AND FRANCE

On November 19th the French and Algerian Governments signed an agreement under which French conscripts will be encouraged to volunteer for service in Algeria. There are plans to reduce the armed forces and devote some of the excess manpower to aid developing countries. Most of the conscripts will have medical, engineering or teaching qualifications. After 4 months of basic training they will be able to spend the rest of their service wearing civilian clothes and living on subsistence allowances.

Meanwhile no further progress has been made in obtaining a law for conscientious objectors. The current parliamentary session ends on 20th December. There may be an attempt by the Government to bury the C.O. problem in the Reform of the Army Bill which will come before the National Assembly next April. A joint commission of Deputies and Senators had been set up to produce a revised text but this was voted down in the Lower House.

SCOTLAND

As a result of a visit by a Scottish dance group to the Esperanto Congress in Bulgaria this year a Scottish branch of the British Society for Friendship with Bulgaria has been founded. The visit was organised by the International Bureau for Cultural Exchange, which assists the cause of world friendships by arranging two-way exchanges, mainly between artists of East and West. Enquiries: I.B.C.E., 240 Hope Street, Glasgow.

DENMARK

The number of C.O.'s is growing. The Ministry of Interior has issued the following figures: spring 1961 - 74, spring 1962 - 123, spring 1963 - 157.

EIRE

The Irish C.N.D. and the Irish Pacifist Movement joined together on November 22nd to protest against the decision by the French Government not to sign the limited Test Ban Treaty. The action was somewhat inhibited by the news of President Kennedy's murder. Nevertheless a delegation saw the French Ambassador and the following letter was handed to him:-

.....To the Irish people, the very name of France has, for historic reasons, somewhat the magic of a slogan of freedom.

In recent years the patriotic zeal of the French people to re-discover and reassert their full stature as a great Nation has been understood and applauded in Ireland.

Any act that would lessen France's proud position among the nations would therefore be a matter for sincere concern to the Irish people.

In refusing to adhere to the Test Ban Treaty, negotiated in Moscow by representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States of America and Great Britain, France bewilders her friends, who see in that refusal a departure from French tradition.

We would wish to be considered among the most sincere friends of France who appeal to the French Government to reconsider its stand on the Test Ban.

We ask you to bring this to the notice of your Government.....

INDIA

The Friendship Marchers are now resting at Maitri Ashram in North Lakhimpur while awaiting a decision from the Chinese Government on whether they will be allowed to proceed to Peking. They are engaged in helping nearby Gramdam villages, discussing the future policy of the March and studying the history of China and the Chinese language.

Shri Charu Chowdhury, Director of a Gandhian Ashram and Chief Organiser of Vinoba Bhave's walk in East Pakistan in 1962, has been arrested and detained under the Security Act.

BRITAIN

Peter Moule, former Secretary of the Committee of 100, was sentenced at the Old Bailey on 2nd December to 4 months imprisonment on charges of incitement and obstruction during the Greek Royal visit to London earlier this year. Messages of support are being called for by the Committee of 100. Peter Moule's address is: H.M. Prison, Jebb Avenue, Brixton, London, S.W. 2.

Terry Chandler, Field Secretary of the Committee, appeared before the Court with Peter Moule last week. All charges against him were quashed owing to a decision in a Magistrate's Court not to allow him to cross-examine police witnesses. The same day, however, he was re-indicted on the same charges. In order to draw attention to his case he decided not to present himself to the Court immediately and the police now have a warrant for his arrest.

GERMANY

The VERBAND DER KRIEGSDIENSTVERWEIGERER (V.K.) commemorated Prisoners for Peace Day this year by demonstrating in front of the Embassies of those countries without conscientious objection laws on November 29th. Herbert Stubenrauch, the Chairman of the V.K., and 20 other leading members were planning to present a petition to the Peoples' Chamber of the German Democratic Republic in East Berlin. The petition demanded the establishment of the right of conscientious objection in East Germany. Before the petition was to be handed in, the group would hold a poster parade. The slogans on the posters were the same for all these actions.

INTERNATIONALE DER KRIEGSDIENSTGEGNER-members held demonstrations against the Federal Republic's Emergency Laws on November 30th.

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15th January, 1964

18.1.64 Edn.

NEWS RELEASE NO. 19.

NEW DELHI-PEKING FRIENDSHIP MARCH

The March, which started on March 1st, 1963, to carry the message of friendship to the peoples of India and China and which had hoped to proceed eventually to Peking, is now going to be terminated on 30th January 1964. All efforts to get the March into China have failed. Representatives of the March and the World Peace Brigade went to Hong Kong and Tokyo for the purpose of making contacts with Chinese authorities. Siddharaj Dhadha wrote in a letter: "Unfortunately there has been no positive response and, given the present situation, the March cannot expect permission to enter China. George Willoughby, who went to Tokyo with Siddharaj, wrote in his letter to A.J. Muste, Co-Chairman of the World Peace Brigade, "We see no indication of a change in the attitude of our Chinese friends likely in the months ahead. Only a miracle of the last moment can help."

The Marchers are holding a Conference from 16th-20th January at Maitri Ashram, Assam, India, to review their ten months' work and to discuss how non-violent alternatives for the Sino-Indian conflict can be found. In addition to the Marchers nearly 50 people will be participating in this Conference.

The actual termination of the March may probably take place at the Gandhi Memorial, New Delhi, where it was started.

AID TO CUBA AND THE AMERICAN NEGRO STRUGGLE

Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer, Germany, has started a Solidarity Fund for the Freedom of Negroes and has so far collected 1,400 DM, which has been sent to Bayard Rustin, a W.R.I. Council member and organiser of the great Washington March in which more than 200,000 people took part.

2. The Essen-Werden Group of Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner, Germany, has collected 13,000 DM to buy medicines, clothing and baby food to be sent to Cuba. The collection will continue until 10th February 1964.

It is hoped these two examples will inspire other groups to take similar actions.

DOCUMENTATION OF STUDY AND RESEARCH

A Study Group in Non-Violence led by Eberhard Grosser and Brian Dawes (1 Berlin Schlachtensee, Studentendorf H. 17.21. 212) has formed an Information and Documentation Group. The Group has

already started reporting and documentation on various subjects and is interested in making contacts with similar groups in other countries.

EMERGENCY LAWS, GERMANY

It is understood the proposed bill about Emergency Laws in Germany has been shelved for the time being but the campaign against it continues with great vigour. A demonstration was again organised on 10th-11th January 1964 in Essen. News bulletin KONTAKTE, published by the Frankfurt Group of Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer reports that there will be a programme on the German television about the proposed Emergency Laws on 23rd January at 20.15.

I.D.K.'S OFFER OF HELP TO WARSAW PACT AND NATO POWERS

At its A.G.M. the Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner in October 1963 declared that it is ready and willing to give its full support and help to any control or inspection authority within the territory of the German Federal Republic in connection with disarmament. It is highly important that if disarmament is to be effective, it must have the fullest possible participation on the part of the people. People have to be vigilant and see that control becomes a reality. The I.d.K. appeals to movements all over the world to support it in its action and to take similar actions in their own countries. A copy of the letter which the I.d.K. has sent to the member nations of the Warsaw Pact and NATO is enclosed.*

VOLUNTEERS WANTED IN SENEGAL

The following advertisement appeared in the INFORMATION BULLETIN ON LONG TERM VOLUNTARY SERVICES:

"Volunteers are needed for a period of one year in Senegal. Applicants should be French-speaking in order to give evening classes in reading and writing, and to be qualified either as a stone-mason or carpenter, have a knowledge of market gardening, or be a specialist in rural work. Furthermore, volunteers should be at least aged 21 and in good health - they would be working in African villages in difficult but hygienic conditions. Volunteers work in groups of 2 or 3. Apply giving full details to Pierre Martin (W.R.I. Council member). Address: B.P. 2208, Dakar, Senegal."

VISIT OF SOVIET PEACE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO U.S.A.

The following is a press release from the Committee for Non-Violent Action, dated 4th January:

Seven representatives of the Soviet Peace Committee have been refused visas to enter the United States, the State Department yesterday informed the Committee for Nonviolent Action, prospective hosts to the Russian visitors. The intended speaking tour, from January 22nd to February 6th, was in the nature of a return visit following the San Francisco to Moscow Walk for Peace which ended in Red Square in October, 1961.

Frank G. Siscoe, Director of Soviet and East European Ex-

*Already sent to W.R.I. Council and Sections

changes, while denying visas, cited provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, "in which aliens who are members of Communist-affiliated organisations are declared ineligible" as the reason for the ban on the Russian visitors. The only exception is after "approval by the Attorney General of a recommendation for a waiver by the Secretary of State on the ground that the visits would be in the national interest."

Siscoe's letter continued with mention of negotiations to begin in Moscow on January 7th for a new U.S.-U.S.S.R. Exchanges Agreement. "In view of the clear propaganda use by Soviet authorities over the years of the issue of 'peace', it is considered necessary that the motivations of the Soviet side in this field should be thoroughly explored and discussed. At least until such time as these discussions have been held, it is believed that the entry into the U.S. of a Soviet Group representing the official Soviet organisation, Soviet Peace Committee, cannot be considered to be in national interest."

A.J. Muste, National Chairman of the Committee for Nonviolent Action, stated that the Russians have specifically requested to visit San Francisco as well as East Coast cities, indicating the deep impression made on the Russians by the San Francisco to Moscow Peace March. The March, sponsored by CNVA, took 10 months and covered almost 6,000 miles across the United States, through England, Belgium, West Germany, Poland and Russia. Mr. Muste pointed out that the peace walkers were in the Soviet Union at the time of resumption of nuclear testing by that country, and that the pacifist group protested publicly and vigorously to Russian citizens and government officials.

In an announcement to-day, Mr. Muste said: "We are going to protest against this action by the State Department as vigorously as possible. CNVA's clear record of opposition to all military preparations by all nations stands as evidence of our intentions in inviting these representatives of the Soviet Peace Committee here to publicly debate the issues of peace and disarmament."

REPORT FROM QUEBEC-WASHINGTON-GUANTANAMO WALKERS FOR PEACE

Nine members of the Quebec-Washington-Guantanamo Walk for Peace were sentenced, on January 8th in Albany, 25 days or \$102 for violating the city's parade ordinance. As they have already been in jail since December 23rd, Judge Durden announced that they would serve seven days more. The five who refused to walk to trial, for reasons of conscience, were again cited for contempt and given seven more days too. Attorney C.B. King announced that his two defendants would appeal. The other defendants, who pleaded their own cases, will not appeal in court. They are appealing instead to the conscience of the city. Of the 12 who remain in jail 11 of them are fasting and are on their 17th day without food. A group of supporters - some newly arrived in the city - have started a vigil and fast in solidarity with them, on the steps of the City Hall. They will stand there, they say, from morning till evening, each day until their friends are given the freedom the court should have granted them.

The friends of the walkers began their supporting vigil on January 8th in the pouring rain. Two members of the newly formed Albany Student Movement joined them for a while, all of them singing freedom songs loudly enough to be heard by those in the jail.

THE IRISH PACIFIST MOVEMENT AND THE I.C.D.P.

At a recent meeting of the Irish Pacifist Movement it was decided to apply for direct affiliation with the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace.

It was hoped to work in closer co-operation with the Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. They have recently co-operated in an interview with the French Ambassador in connection with the Test Ban Treaty, and the German Ambassador on the subject of German militarisation.

The Irish Pacifist Movement hopes to have, if possible, such exchanges with other peace organisations outside its membership or the membership of the Confederation.

Preparations are being made by the Movement in connection with the sixth North-South Conference, to be held near Dublin in April.

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WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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24th February, 1964
27.2.64

NEWS RELEASE NO. 20 SUPPLEMENT (limited circulation)

The Quebec/Guantanamo marchers were released from Albany jail on Saturday, 22nd February according to a message from Dayard Rustin received by Peace News in London on Monday 24th February. They were given probation and five will be permitted to walk through the town along the route of their choice to-day starting 9 a.m. All the marchers will be allowed to leaflet along the route suggested by the police. On Saturday 100 negroes with 5 of the marchers demonstrated for 2 hours outside the City Hall on the question of voters' registration. There were no arrests. C.N.V.A. sent an appreciation for the support given to the marchers by Hugh Brock, Editor of Peace News, and Fenner Brockway, M.P. The marchers fasted because they maintain they have a constitutional right to leaflet through the main streets and business sector of Albany. Compromises on both sides have apparently been made. The marchers have gained recognition for the principle they were advocating. No further action would seem to be required unless the marchers encounter more difficulties as they travel through the Southern states. John Papworth, an English sympathiser, comes up for trial to-day on charges of refusing to obey a police order and loitering.

Would recipients of this release convey information to other concerned organisations.

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

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ENGLAND

21st February 1964.

24.2.64 Rdn.

NEWS RELEASE NO. 20

EMERGENCY U.S.A.

LIVES OF PACIFIST MARCHERS ARE AT STAKE

Call for Immediate Action

PD+RS
M2-64

Background.- "Quebec-Cuba marchers, whose aim is to reach the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo in Cuba and who are trying to bring about peaceful co-operation between the U.S. and Cuba, have been taking part in the Civil Rights struggle in Albany since December 23rd last year. On that day they first attempted to march through Albany's main streets and were arrested and jailed until January 16th. 25 marchers and supporters were again in jail by February 5th for attempting a second march through Albany and some for leafleting outside a nearby U.S. air force base." -PEACE NEWS.

Before reaching Albany the march had encountered opposition in other Southern towns and, as reported in New Release No. 17, were tortured with electric cattle prodders at Griffin, Georgia. We have just received the following report from New York, which was sent at the request of A.J. Muste and W.R.I. Council member Bayard Rustin, who are in Albany conducting negotiations between the marchers and the city authorities.

"We had been hoping for some compromise situation to develop but yesterday afternoon the city officials rejected the latest compromise they had been working on, so now the situation has become even more urgent. Now there is a very real chance that one of the marchers will die as a result of his fast. 8 marchers have fasted all but 10 days since their arrival and jail conditions are bad. A common cold could kill several of them. The Albany city officials are completely unwilling to negotiate and do not appear to realise the urgency of the situation. There are quite a number of white moderates, especially ministers, in the community, so pressure from outside will probably help. The City Commission is prevented from reversing its decision by only one vote. W.R.I. member and PEACE NEWS Correspondent, John Papworth, is in jail with some Canadian supporters for refusing to leave the Police Station until the marchers were released. He has been physically assaulted twice, once by the Chief of Police and once by a prisoner, and enquiries are being made through the British Consulate as to his condition. A picket line has been maintained in Montreal, Canada, for the last two weeks and a message to the State Department was accepted."

The American Embassy in London is receiving enquiries sympathetically.

Suggestions for action by all Sections, individuals, local groups and other concerned organisations:-

- (1) Cable or write protests to Mayor Pro Tem Burford Collins, City Hall, Albany, Georgia, U.S.A.
- (2) Send messages of solidarity to CNVA, 2nd Floor, 514 Mercer, Albany, Georgia.
- (3) Hold demonstrations or send delegations to U.S. Consulates and Embassies everywhere.
- (4) Draw the attention of the Press to the situation.
- (5) For Britain only. Enquire about John Papworth's condition from M.P.'s and the Foreign Office. He is an active member of the British movement and your responsibility. Support any demonstrations organised within the next week. Send letters or telephone the Brunswick Corporation, which has a plant in Albany and is moving in another one. The Company could be asked to make enquiries to Albany city officials. The address of the London office is 75 Grosvenor Street, W.1. Telephone No: Hyde Park 8375.

Please act now. The situation could not be more serious. The march is one of the most significant international actions which has taken place for some time and deserves every support within and outside North America.

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SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. T. Kloppenburg, a citizen of South Africa, is 69 years old. He is a member of W.R.I. and F.O.R. and is a convinced believer in non-violence, and is just as firmly convinced that violence and coercion create consequences more serious than those they are meant to cure. When any person was condemned to death, he wrote to the presiding judge, asking for some lesser punishment.

In 1960 four issues of PEACE NEWS were banned, and he wrote to the Minister, telling him that he had those issues and would keep them. He was charged, found guilty, cautioned and discharged.

His ban came as a shock to all his friends, especially as it was done under the Suppression of Communism Act. He instructed his Attorney to ask for the reasons. The Minister of Justice replied that he was banned because he was engaged in activities furthering, or calculated to further, some of the aims of Communism. The Minister also stated, as he invariably does, "the information upon which the Hon. Minister acted can, in his opinion, not be disclosed without detriment to public policy". To all of Mr. K.'s friends this seemed to be arrant nonsense. Mr. K. then went to a seat in the City Gardens of Durban and displayed two posters, one of which read, "Public 50-hour fast, protest against banning", and the other read "Non-violence, banned by order". Forty-five minutes later he was arrested and charged for taking part in an act of publication which was expressly forbidden by his ban.

Meanwhile Mr. K. proceeded further against the Minister, and

a decision in his favour was reached by the Durban Division of the Supreme Court. The Court ordered the Minister to give his reasons, and the Minister replied, as was expected, that he could not divulge his reasons in the interests of public policy.

Mr. K. has now appealed to the Supreme Court in Maritzburg with the full Bench sitting. He will plead that it is bad in law for a Minister to refuse to give reasons, and the case has been set down for May 21 of this year. If the appeal is lost, earnest consideration will be given to the question as to whether a final appeal should be made to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court sitting in Bloemfontein.

This is a test case. With widespread help from outside there is some hope that Mr. Kloppenburg's appeal will be successful. He needs support and especially funds to meet legal costs. Contributions from Britain can be sent to: the Christian Action Defence and Aid Fund, c/o Canon L. John Collins, 2 Amen Court, London E.C.4. Contributions from other countries should either be sent direct to the W.R.I. or to W.R.I. financial agents with a notification directly to the W.R.I. Secretariat. All contributions should be clearly marked for Theodore Kloppenburg.

The World Campaign for the Release of South African Political Prisoners has set up committees in many countries to coordinate action. The countries include Austria, Japan, Kenya, U.S.A., France, India and Italy. In London the Anti-Apartheid Movement is organising regular pickets by trade union officials, Church leaders, journalists, actors etc. On February 28th a mass rally "Free Apartheid's Prisoners Torture in South Africa" will take place at London's Central Hall, where there will be a dramatised presentation of the plight of Apartheid's political prisoners.

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DENMARK

The following statement was issued by the W.R.I. Section, Aldrig Mere Krig:

"With pleasure we have noted the improvement of the relations between East and West and call on the Government to support all efforts which can carry this development further.

"We are convinced that attempts to interfere in the crisis in Cyprus by sending NATO forces to the island in a serious way will damage the efforts for an East-West understanding. We therefore request the Government to work for a solution of the crisis through U.N."

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BELGIUM

The Anti-Atomic March of Belgian Youth will take place on the 15th March in Brussels. The slogans will be:

No atomic arms or equipment in Belgium and for the Belgian army.

- The reduction and reconversion of military expenditure for social and cultural needs and for aid to under-developed countries
- An end to all nuclear tests, including underground
- Non-aggression pact between NATO and the Warsaw Pact
- No dissemination of nuclear arms
- Destruction of all nuclear arms
- For total simultaneous and controlled disarmament

These slogans represent a compromise between those who support Soviet foreign policy on the one hand and, on the other, moderate supporters of NATO who are opposed to atomic arms for the Belgian army. This year the Young Catholic Workers' Movement has joined the organising committee. — in consequence, the Young Socialists, who are the only group on the committee who support unilateral disarmament and withdrawal from NATO, are even more in the minority.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of the trade union leader from Liège, André Renard, who led the General Strike in 1960 and who has constantly supported a radical policy of unilateral disarmament and withdrawal from NATO.

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SWITZERLAND

The new Swiss W.R.I. issued the first edition of its new bulletin in French and German at the beginning of February. Copies can be obtained from the Editor, Marcel Schweizer, Case Postale 70, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland.

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ITALY

The International Conference of Youth and Students for Disarmament, Peace and National Independence will take place in Florence from 26th February to the 1st March. It has the support of many youth movements East and West.

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INDIA - Shanti Seniks in Calcutta Riots

Communal riots broke out in East Pakistan at the news in January of the theft of a hari, a relic of Prophet Mohammed, from a shrine in Shrinagar, Kashmir. When Hindu refugees rushed in panic into Calcutta and spread the news from Pakistan, rioting and looting directed at Muslims also started there. The police failed to control the situation. The killing stopped only when the military took control over the city

Members of Shanti Sena also reached Calcutta and, instead of scattering their forces through the whole city, concentrated on two localities. Soon they gained the people's confidence, especially when it was made clear that they did not belong to any party. Local citizens joined the Shanti Seniks in restoring confidence and peace.

The Shanti Sena launched an ambitious development plan in the New Year. 5,000 local centres for Shanti Seniks in India will be established. This will mean that an effective peace army will be available both to ease group tensions and to deal with violent situations such as the Calcutta riots.

21.2.64

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:

NOFRONTIER ENFIELD

Telephone: LABurnum 3977

88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND

2nd March, 1964

NEWS RELEASE NO.21

9.3.64

ED 710-11-460

SENEGAL

While there are many outbreaks of violence throughout Africa more reassuring news has been sent to us from Dakar.

Several demonstrations aimed at spreading information about non-violence have taken place over the last few weeks and have achieved a success which surpassed the expectations of the organisers. Intensive preparations had been undertaken by the African Group for Non-Violent Study and Action which was initiated by Pierre Martin, W.R.I. Council Member.

At the end of December, in spite of some opposition from the French base, Emmanuel Roubles' play "Monserat", which poses the principle of respect for life with great force, was staged with such success that all theatrical box office records in Dakar were broken.

Danilo Dolci, Vice-Chairman of the W.R.I., arrived on the 3rd January. Sponsored by the Minister of Planning, he spent one week in Senegalise villages with Pierre Martin studying how non-violent planning, to which the country has committed itself at this level, operates.

The national and regional radio systems and the press followed the journey with sympathetic coverage. Many Senegalise were already acquainted with Danilo Dolci's activities and a small number, including one woman, had fasted in Dakar in solidarity with him last November during his action for the construction of the Belice Dam in Sicily.

On the 16th January Lanza del Vasto, an old colleague of Gandhi, came to give two lectures - "The definition of Non-Violence" and "The Negro and non-violence" - in the two largest conference halls of Dakar. The success of the lectures was so great that those who had heard the first returned three evenings running to put their questions to del Vasto. In addition, in spite of the special provisions made, the total stock of books about non-violence and gandhism in the book-shops of Dakar was exhausted.

The Radio devoted a programme of forty minutes to the work of Gandhi and Lanza del Vasto and official support was equally encouraging. Dolci and del Vasto were given long interviews with the President of the Republic, Léopold Senghor.

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NORWAY

"The Nordic countries - an atom-free zone" is the main slogan of the Easter March in Oslo, the only march at Easter in Scandinavia this year. It will take three days starting from Eidsvoll where the Norwegian constitution was signed 150 years ago. By linking the March with this place historically associated with the beginnings of a free Norway it is intended to underline the need for an independent Norwegian defence policy which rejects the plans for atomic weapons on Norwegian soil.

Pacifists Start Publishing House

A group of Norwegian pacifists have recently started a publishing house called PAX forlag, the former part of the name having been adopted from the pacifist monthly published by the Norwegian Section of the W.R.I.

Pax forlag is privately owned, but has an advisory board of well-known members of the peace movement. Director and co-owner is Tor Bjerkmann, editor of PAX magazine. PAX forlag will publish quality paperbacks, relying mainly on translations from English, but a number of Norwegian titles are also planned.

Publishing will start in August. Among the authors of the first six books are George Orwell, Colin Legum and Professor Vilhelm Aubert.

The F.M.K. will shortly begin publication of an internal bulletin.

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Demonstrations

Demonstrations for conscientious objection to military service have recently been initiated by Norwegian pacifists. At the camps where prospective military conscripts are first assembled for examination, interviews, etc., demonstrators are distributing leaflets about the legal right of conscientious objection. While the posters notifying conscripts of the call-up now contain a paragraph on alternative service, the other information literature does not. The ignorance of young people with regard to conscientious objection is astounding.

While a demonstration like this one seems a fairly obvious thing for a pacifist organisation, it has never been tried in Norway. This is partly due to the fact that while conscientious objection is legal, agitating for it is not, according to the police. At the back of this ruling is probably the conception of alternative service as a concession to "the sick minority". This ruling, though legally and certainly politically dubious, has never been challenged. The decision to do so now, may imply civil disobedience. On the other hand, the first demonstrations have taken place in a peaceful atmosphere, without any interference from police or military commanders.

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NEW ZEALAND

The Christian Pacifist Society will be holding its annual Study Conference and Annual General Meeting in Wellington for three days in June. 60 members attended last year and there was a special section for children.

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The C.N.D. and supporting organisations are now faced with the difficulty of maintaining the level of public support for a nuclear-free zone in the Southern Hemisphere. Last year a successful petition was presented with the support of the Labour Opposition to Parliament. After an afternoon's debate it was accorded a unanimous vote for favourable consideration. Nothing has been done since, however, and a spokesman has been sent from the U.S.A. to throw cold water on the idea.

Mr. Holyoake, the Prime Minister, said last year that if a petition against French tests was started, he would be the first to sign it and would take it himself to the U.N. The C.N.D. is now trying to hold him to his promise.

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SWEDEN

Committees have been formed in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden to prepare the conference on the theme "the Nordic Countries - an Atom-free Zone", which is to take place at Medborgarhuset (the Citizens Hall) in Stockholm on 14th and 15th March.

It is felt that the present atmosphere of detente in the world should be encouraged and the Nordic countries could play a useful part in this development. They have not got atomic weapons and it is desirable that this state of affairs should remain unchanged.

The purpose of the conference is to give emphasis to the proposal that the Nordic countries should constitute an atom-free zone, and to the peace strivings of the Nordic peoples and to their feeling of co-responsibility for developments in the world.

The principal speakers are: Veikko Svinhufvud, a member of the Finnish parliament, who will speak on the political aspects of the problem of the Nordic countries as an atom-free zone, Dr. Torkel Opsahl of Norway, who will speak on the legal aspects, Capt. Göte Jacobsson, a Swedish army officer, on the military aspects and Viggo Knudsen, editor of Holbaek in Denmark, known in connection with its peace march, who will speak on the moral aspect of the problem. The chairman of the Swedish organising committee is Bertil Svahnström.

A number of international peace organisations have been invited to send observers to the conference, which is the first larger manifestation devoted entirely to the problem of atom-free zones.

- Freden 22.2.64.

The W.R.I. will send an observer

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On Sunday, 19th April, there will be three peace marches in Sweden in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. They will be of one day's duration.

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GERMANY

The W.R.I.'s Study Conference 1964 will be held in Germany from 9th - 15th August. The Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer will be responsible for the organisation in Germany. The subject will be: "The Non-Violent Solution of Conflict - with special reference to the German Problem"

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The Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft is organising a "European Week for Mutual Understanding" from Saturday 27th June to Sunday 5th July. W.R.I. Chairman Harold Bing and Linus Pauling have agreed to take part. Peaceworkers from all over Europe, including the East, will demonstrate at or visit Dusseldorf, Köln, Linz-am-Rhein, München, Hamburg, Bonn, Essen and Frankfurt. On the 28th June there will be a boat trip down the Rhine.

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BELGIUM

The Union Pacifiste de France is calling a Conference for European Pacifists in Brussels during Whitsun, May 17/18.

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During the Brussels Anti-Nuclear March on the 15th March there will be a Belgian-German meeting organised by Arno Hamers of the Liège Committee for Non-Violent Action.

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U.S.A.

The Emergency to which we drew your attention in the last News Release is now over. A supplement to Release No.20 was issued to W.R.I. Sections only. Here is the text:

"The Quebec/Guantanamo marchers were released from Albany jail on Saturday, 22nd February according to a message from Bayard Rustin received by Peace News in London on Monday, 24th February. They were given probation and five will be permitted to walk through the town along the route of their choice to-day starting 9 a.m. All the marchers will be allowed to leaflet along the route suggested by the police. On Saturday 100 negroes with 5 of the marchers demonstrated for 2 hours outside the City Hall on the question of voters' registration. There were no arrests. C.N.V.A. sent an appreciation for the support given to the marchers by Hugh Brock, Editor of Peace News, and Fenner Brockway, M.P. The marchers fasted because they maintain they have a constitutional right to leaflet through the main streets and business sector of Albany. Compromises on both sides have apparently been made. The marchers have gained recognition for the principle they were advocating. No further action would seem to be required unless the marchers encounter more difficulties as they travel through the Southern states.

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FRANCE

After his success in campaigning for legal rights for conscientious objectors Louis Lecoin has now initiated another action for democracy in Spain. The Comité pour l'Espagne Libre has its first public rally on the 13th March in Paris. 15,000 posters describing the iniquities of the régime and depicting in a photograph Franco's close association with Hitler, will appear all over France. Members of the Comité include Vincent Auriol, Claude Autant-Lara, Claude Bourdet, André Breton, Alfred Kastler, Morvan Lebesque, and André Philip.

Five Spanish refugees in France, members of the C.N.T.- F.A.I., have been in prison since September. They are now on hunger strike in protest against the authorities' reluctance to bring them to trial and in solidarity with another comrade who is on hunger strike in Brussels.

Issued by War Resisters' International
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NOFRONTIER ENFIELD

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NEWS RELEASE NO.22

28.3.64

SYRIA

A correspondent reports that Abraham Leib Dascal, a former inmate of a Nazi concentration camp, has been in a Syrian prison, probably Tadmur, since 1952. He has been subjected to all manner of physical and psychological ill-treatment. With him are ten Israeli citizens. Dascal's parents were killed in Auschwitz. The family originated from Rumania. After the liberation he was taken to school in Sweden under the auspices of the Red Cross. He went to Israel in 1951 as a trained sailor on a Finnish boat. As he was of military service age he was inducted into the Army in spite of the fact that he wanted to continue his career as a merchant sailor. After six months he deserted and stowed away on board the Finnish ship Suomi on which he had served previously. Although he held a Finnish seaman's card he was put ashore at the first port which happened to be Lathakiye in Syria. Nothing was heard of him until 1961 when his remaining relatives received a letter from Turkey: "I have been in prison for more than nine years. I have written to my brother but as yet have received no reply. Go to the Israeli authorities and ask for me. I request the government to obtain my release through the United Nations. I have no patience or strength any more". It is not clear how the letter was sent but perhaps it was posted by a released prisoner. The relatives appealed for help to Israel, the U.N., the Red Cross and the American Council for Judaism (one of the brothers is an American citizen). The case was referred to Arlo Tatum of the C.C.C.O. (Board for Conscientious Objectors) although it is not certain what Dascal's motives for desertion were.

The conditions of captivity are known through a recent exchange of prisoners between Israel and Syria engineered by the U.N. Truce Supervision Committee in Palestine. They included some who had been in prison from eight to ten years in extremely bad mental and physical condition, a group of Belgians who had been arrested on Syrian territory after having strayed over the border on the Sea of Galilee's north-eastern shore, and three influential Israelis, on whose behalf the deal is thought to have been made.

Who is now going to help Dascal? The Israeli government states that it is doing all it can. But the Finnish government should bear some of the responsibility, and Rumania too. Pressure should be brought on these and on the Syrian government.

While drawing attention to one case the other victims of arbitrary imprisonment without trial in Israel and the surrounding Arab countries should be remembered. Many of them are suffering appalling hardship.

The Egyptian journalist, Ahmed O'thman, now in Ramla prison, Israel, is one example. He is due for release soon but the authorities are reputed to be planning a further term of detention for him. Reuben Libes, one of the Israelis released recently by Syria, is writing a book on prison conditions there. It should be interesting - and

shocking.

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ISRAEL

The period of military service has been reduced from 2-1/2 years to 2, the level before Israel's attack on Egypt in 1956. The official reason is the birth rate since World War II. Perhaps an unofficial reason would be the improvement in weapons. The reduction does not mean an "abatement of security preparedness". In January the Ministry of Defence offered an exchange of military service for a four-year period on Israel's undermanned cargo ships where 40% of the crews are foreign. Only those with a maximum of 8 years' schooling will be invited to apply, however. The Army wants to keep the 'brains' for itself. If it is like most armies, it probably needs them. Last year a similar magnanimous offer was made to those willing to work in the run-down mines at Timna in the South Negev. As the economists had warned, the action of the volunteers could not save the mines with their low-quality, low-yield copper.

A different kind of 'Easter March' started on the road for Jerusalem on March 16th travelling at the rate of 35 kilometres a day for four days. 6,000 completed the course, including 2,500 soldiers, in pouring rain. The purpose was to strengthen moral and patriotic feeling. On the third day 12,000 young people from the youth movement organised by the Israeli Army joined in but were not allowed to continue on the last day. A small group of pacifists used the occasion to announce their own proposals for an International Easter-Passover March which will start in a former Arab township, now populated by new immigrants, and will end in Jerusalem on Easter Monday with a walk from Mount Herzl to the Mandelbaum Gate - the point of entry into Jordanian territory. There will be an attempt to cross the border with a message of peace to the people of Jordan and Palestine refugees. Bertrand Russell's call to the leaders of Arab States and Israel will be distributed in Arabic, English and Hebrew. If the attempt fails, the march will proceed to Mount Zion and the Martyrs Cellar in memory of the Jewish victims of World War II. Last year one man marched alone. He was Shalom Zamir from the vegetarian village of Amirim in Galilee.

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JAPAN

A-Bomb Survivors to start World Peace Study Tour

Thirty survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will arrive in the United States in April, on a global mission of good will and peace education exchange. The project, called the World Peace Study Mission, is being coordinated by Barbara Reynolds of Hiroshima.

The chairman of the project, Dr. Tomin Harada of the Harada Hospital in Hiroshima, states that the aim of the Mission is to present to the peoples of the nuclear and potential nuclear nations the survivors' knowledge and experience of atomic war and its physical and social aftermath; and to exchange information and ideas in an

effort to help the world find practical ways to achieve disarmament.

Mayor Shinzo Hamai of Hiroshima and Mayor Tsutomu Tagawa of Nagasaki are the honorary Japanese co-chairmen of the project.

The delegation includes a nuclear physicist, three doctors, several educators, religious leaders, a housewife, an engineer, a clerical worker and a labour representative.

The members of the Mission were selected by the Executive Board of the World Peace Study Mission, which represents the various political and civic bodies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The delegates themselves, however, are not associated with any political groupings. They were chosen for their dedication to peace and their ability to communicate, for their humanitarian interests and their professional qualifications.

Among those coming is Tokie Kawamoto, who with her husband Ichiro Kawamoto founded the Folded Crane Clubs--groups of children of high-school age or younger who visit hospitalised hibakusha (A-bomb survivors), aid destitute survivors' families, and help with the upkeep of the Hiroshima Peace Park and their own Children's Memorial grounds. The folded paper crane, long a symbol of longevity in Japan, became a symbol of peace through the story of Sadako Sasaki, who was two years old when the bomb fell on Hiroshima in 1945. She was over a mile from the centre of the explosion, and her health seemed unimpaired until she was 12. Then she fell ill with leukemia. Because of the legend that he who folds a thousand paper cranes lives a long time, Sadako in her hospital bed tried to fold a thousand cranes. She made 964, and died. A statue of Sadako Sasaki stands on top of the Children's Monument in the Peace Park, holding in upstretched arms a gold crane.

During her tour with the World Peace Study Mission, Mrs. Kawamoto wants especially to speak with children, young people, mothers and teachers. It has been suggested that children in many cities might greet her with folded cranes.

The World Peace Study Mission will be six-and-a-half weeks in the United States, arriving in Honolulu (sister city of Hiroshima) on April 21. They will arrive on the mainland of the U.S.A. on April 24. A televised welcoming meeting in Hollywood is planned for April 26.

From Los Angeles, for better coverage of American cities and centres, the group will divide into teams. The entire group will be together in Washington, where audiences with government leaders are being sought. The Mission will go on to Philadelphia, and then to New York, where briefing sessions at the United Nations are planned.

The World Peace Study Mission will leave the United States on June 7, and will make a three-day stop in England, June 8 through June 11; then go to Paris, June 11 through June 15. The group then hopes to continue to both West and East Berlin, the U.S.S.R. and mainland China.

The possibility is being explored that the World Peace Study Mission serve as a pilot project for International Cooperation Year, set for the year 1965 by the United Nations.

- From World Peace Study Mission
U.S. Office.

HOLLAND

In a circular letter the General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church has said that nuclear war is incompatible with the Christian faith. The Dutch Minister of Defence stated that this opinion was tantamount to incitement to military disaffection. Clergymen are exempt from conscription but they can volunteer as army chaplains. Some chaplains have taken this matter seriously, in particular a captain in the southern provinces whose job is to instruct new chaplains. Now he has been forbidden to discuss the matter by his superior, who is a colonel. Paradoxically, the General Synod maintains its right to be responsible for the instruction of army chaplains and refuses to recognise the authority of either the Minister or the Head Chaplain. The Minister has announced that he will not be recalling those chaplains in the Reserve who take the standpoint of the Synod. However, very few young clergymen of the Dutch Reformed Church volunteer for military duties. The other churches, except for the traditional pacifist churches, have not followed the example of the General Synod.

The second most important Protestant Church (Gereformeerden) is inclined towards militarist and nationalistic attitudes, although here too there is some opposition. The Humanist Union, which has finally been recognised by the military and is allowed to appoint spiritual counsellors for the soldiers, refused to take a stand on nuclear weapons at its last congress.

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FRANCE

The Mouvement Contre l'Armement Atomique is organising an international meeting on the 19th April at Menton with the Consulta della Pace. Also on the 19th April there will be an inter-regional Conference at St. Priest la Prujne, Loire. The Mouvement Contre La Force De Frappe plans a demonstration in Paris on the 26th April.

Action Civique Non-Violente is hoping to co-operate with organisations in Britain and Germany in a two months' summer project aimed at the NATO Headquarters in Paris. A.C.N.V. has moved its headquarters from Paris to Lyon. The address is: Chemin de Montellier, St. Didier-au-Mont-d'Or, Rhône.

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SENEGAL

The First African Conference on World Co-operation at Town-to-Town Level will be held in Dakar on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd April 1964. It is being organised by the United Towns Organisation and sponsored by Doudou Thiam, M.P., Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and deputy of the President of Senegal. The President of the Republic, Léopold Sedar Senghor, said "If Senegal has joined the United Towns Organisation, it is precisely because the principles of that Organisation hold that twinning should be carried out among all the towns of the world without any discrimination of any sort - political, religious or racial". - UTO African Information Office, 31 Rue Carnot, P.O. Box 20.51, Dakar. UTO Secretariat: 13, Rue Racine, Paris 6e (France). W.R.I. Council member Pierre Martin will attend as an observer.

☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆

SWEDEN

A new national organisation, Vapenvägrarnas Riks Organisation, has been set up and is issuing a duplicated publication VAPENVAGRAREN. The aims of the organisation are:

1. To uphold C.O.'s interests in questions dealing with call-up and service.
2. To seek to arouse interest in peace work among C.O.'s and spread information about it.

The organisation will be neutral on religious and party-political questions.

All C.O. alternative service groups have been asked to select a contact man to act as a link between the group and the new organisation.

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BELGIUM

17,000 young people took part in the march against nuclear weapons on the 15th March.

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BRITAIN

A Conference will be held on April 17th to discuss plans for the participation of voluntary organisations in International Co-operation Year 1965.

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EASTER MARCHES

THE WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL, ITS SECTIONS AND SECRETARIAT, SEND GREETINGS TO ALL THOSE WHO WILL BE DEMONSTRATING AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AGAINST ALL MILITARY PACTS AND ALLIANCES, PARTICULARLY NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT, AND AGAINST WAR THIS EASTER. WE HOPE THAT ALL PEACE GROUPS WILL CO-OPERATE IN MAKING THIS EASTER THE BIGGEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL PEACE DEMONSTRATION EVER.

Issued by War Resisters' International
88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
England

26.3.64

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD
Telephone: LABurnum 3977

88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND

6th May, 1964

11.5.64

NEWS RELEASE NO.24

ED 718-18-51

ITALY

Two members of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, on. Pistelli (Christian democratic) and on. Paolicchi (Socialist) have recently succeeded in initiating discussions in the Chamber on the legal recognition of conscientious objection.

The Under-Secretary for Justice, Minasi, said in reply that the whole matter was under consideration and it was hoped that a fair solution would be reached.

Referring to the sentence imposed on the priest, Ernesto Balducci, and the journalist Pinzauti, for an article favouring conscientious objection, on. Pistelli maintained that the conduct of this case showed how badly the Italian legal system is lagging behind public opinion. There have been demonstrations up and down the country in recent months which serve to indicate the readiness of the country to accept progressive legislation on the recognition of conscientious objection.

Minasi pointed out that the Government was aware of the problem and was seeking a solution that would meet the requirements of a more highly developed social conscience.

On. Pistelli said that now the Centre-Left had a considerable majority he hoped that the Government would initiate the necessary legislation within twelve months.

On. Arbarello, in the Senate, also called on Minasi to do all he could to hurry through the required legislation.

The Italian branch of the Service Civil Internationale is planning to build an aqueduct in one of the most backward and isolated parts of Southern Italy this summer. It states that this is one of the most difficult and challenging tasks ever attempted by the organisation. A great deal of equipment is needed, including tons of cement, piping, iron and tents for the volunteers. Guido Graziani, the National President, appeals for help and volunteers internationally. His address is: S.C.I. H.Q., Via Tacito 23, Rome, Italy.

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FRANCE

In the current edition of "Liberté" Louis Leccin warns against the possibility that conscientious objectors doing alternative service may be required to help in the construction of a military camp and an anti-atomic defence installation. He says "We have hardly been able to believe it. It would be too much of a ridiculous blunder. The law for conscientious objection would be abominably perverted. No, it cannot be true. But, if it were, we could not remain indifferent. We would take up the struggle this time to impose the application of the law."

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On the 26th April at the Parc de Sceaux, nr. Paris, one of the largest peace demonstrations ever held in France took place. About 120,000 participated. It was supported by all the major peace movements, including the Committee against the Force de Frappe and the Movement against Atomic Armaments. The demonstration had been banned in the centre of Paris.

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SWEDEN

Members of the two largest pacifist organisations in Norway, Folkereising mot krig (WRI) and Kristent Fredslag (IFoR) demonstrated outside the Swedish embassy in Oslo as a protest against the imprisonment of conscientious objectors in Sweden.

The reason why Swedish objectors are put in prison is that they refuse to do service within the framework of the so-called total defence. In Sweden C.O's are under the ministry of defence, and the Supreme Commander of the Swedish armed forces on several occasions declared that the work of the C.O's had to be of use to the total defence.

In connection with the demonstration a letter to the Swedish government was handed in, urging it to transfer the Swedish C.O's from the ministry of defence to the jurisdiction of the ministry of justice as is the case in Norway, and to give them tasks that do not run counter to their convictions. In Norway the proceeds of the alternative service go to the UNICEF, and more and more C.O's can do their service at social institutions such as children's homes and prisons or with peace organisations such as the United Nations Association or the Friends' service organisation.

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"Freden"

DENMARK

There will be an International Summer School and work community at Heshbjerg College, Denmark from July 19th-August 23rd. Subject is "Peace Research and the Resolution of Conflict". The course will include study, work and recreation. The basic text books used will be "Alternatives to War and Violence (ed. T. Dunn); "Towards a Science of Peace" (T.F.Lentz); "World Questions" (J.L.Henderson). There will be no fee and it is hoped that the work done by the participants will cover the cost of residence. The languages used will be Danish and English and application forms are available from: J.L.Laursen Vig, Heshbjerg pr. Holmstrup, Fyn, Denmark.

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BRITAIN

When Signor Moro, the Italian Prime Minister visited London at the end of April the W.R.I. Secretariat asked him to receive a delegation to discuss the problem of conscientious objection in Italy. The delegation was to have included Fenner Brockway M.P.; Frank Allaun M.P.; Peter Benenson, Secretary of Amnesty International; Rev. Philip Eastman, Secretary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation; Kenneth Lee, Chairman of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace and Secretary of the Friends Peace Committee and Bernard Withers, Secretary of the Peace Pledge Union. No reply was received from the Prime Minister. A copy of our letter has therefore been sent to him in Italy.

In a covering letter the W.R.I. Secretaries pointed out that owing to its treatment of the objectors Italy was one of the most backward countries in Western Europe. However, it was known that steps were being taken to introduce a law for C.O.'s with the approval of the left-centre Government. The W.R.I. asked that the process should be speeded up in order to save those C.O.'s now in Italian prisons any more hardship. The Italian pacifist movement is asking for alternative civil service as has recently been granted in France and Belgium.

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BELGIUM

This is the text of a leaflet issued by the Belgian branches of the W.R.I. and the I.F.o.R.:

"Do you know that since the law of the 21st June 1961 more than 1,000 young Belgians have been exempted from military service? This has been replaced for them by civil service in the form of technical assistance for 3 years in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. But this law is reserved until now for teachers, doctors, social workers, engineers, dentists, technicians, etc. We must struggle to extend the field of application and enable manual workers and non-specialists to be able to take part in service abroad, for example in the work camps of the S.C.I., which has a remarkable record of service for peace and the disinherited.

"In addition a law particularly for conscientious objectors, which envisages 2 years of civil service in Belgium in the place of military service, was passed by the Senate on the 12th June 1963 by 105 votes to 21, with 2 abstentions. This law for objectors has still to be approved by the Chamber of Deputies. The vote will put an end to the scandal of the repression exercised against young people who refuse military service and apprenticeship for murder (nuclear or conventional).

"Do you know that since 1950 about 600 objectors have been sentenced in Belgium and that they have served in all nearly 1,000 years imprisonment? It is essential that they should, from now on, serve the community as civilians and witness for peace and non-violence against a militarised world which is leading us towards universal suicide.

"Do not remain indifferent before this grave problem. Agitate in the Churches, the political parties, the trade unions and the schools. Help the movements which support these young people and propagate their ideas. Believers and free thinkers must agree and must mobilise against war. Get into contact with us.

"It is essential to abolish the civilisation of the militarists and to work for peaceful tasks. The I.F.o.R., the W.R.I. and the Work Camps of the S.C.I. group thousands of people throughout the world. Help their action. Bring your own personal contribution to this labour of real co-existence."

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MALTA

A report from Peter Moule, former secretary of the British Committee of 100 and Pat Pottle describing their visit and subsequent deportation from Malta

We arrived in Malta at 8 a.m. on Thursday 28th April. We passed through the Immigration and Customs without difficulty, although they had our names in a 'black book' and obviously knew of our going there, and made our way to one of the addresses which we had. We quickly secured our accommodation and then made our way to the offices of the Malta News. We had a lengthy interview here and subsequent reports, outlining the purpose of our visit, appeared in the Maltese and English papers the following day. Our arrival was also reported on the radio and T.V. We spent the rest of the day in informal talks with a number of people.

On Wednesday we had a lengthy meeting with Dom Mintoff and other members of the Maltese Labour Party, where we discussed the purpose of our visit and of the present situation in Malta and possible developments for the future.

On Thursday we had hoped to start meeting members of the Labour League of Youth, but at 8.30 a.m. we were visited by a plain-clothes member of the Maltese police force who requested us to go with him to see a Supt. Coppler for a "discussion". We were taken by Land-Rover to the Maltese equivalent of New Scotland Yard where we were first seen separately by the Supt. He asked us about our records in England, although he had full detailed reports in his possession; read the reports that had appeared in the Maltese papers, asking us to confirm if these were true as "newspapers are liable to distort things"; and also asked us to make statements, which we refused. We were then asked to wait for a few minutes no reason being given however when we asked for an explanation of why we were there. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. we asked on a number of occasions if we could make phone calls and otherwise communicate with people outside, but this we were not allowed to do. By 12 noon we had started saying that unless given a clear understanding of why we were there, and why we were being detained, we would walk out. We eventually gave a final ultimatum but on taking the first steps towards the door were told that the Supt. would now see us. He apologised for the delay and invited us to lunch with him (it being 1.45), but we declined and left. We eventually returned to our flat and at 4 started to prepare a long delayed meal. At 4.5 a pounding on the door heralded the return of the police and we were again requested to see the Supt. Within minutes of arriving at the Station we were served with an application from Crown Counsel Victor Frendo, for our deportation.

We were then taken to the Court but had been allowed to send a message to someone who would act as Counsel for us. The Court had been specially convened and we soon found ourselves before the Magistrate. Our Counsel was given no time in which to prepare his brief. Present were the Magistrate, his three assistants, Counsel for the Crown, our Defence Counsel, the Supt., a senior police Inspector and two Maltese journalists. It then materialised that the order for our deportation had come from the Prime Minister, Dr. Borge Olivier. Then a letter from the Prime Minister to the Chief Immigration Officer was read: "I am now satisfied that the said persons should be deemed to be undesirable visitors to the Island, and to be likely to conduct themselves so as to be dangerous to peace and good order in the Island".

As the Order had come from the Prime Minister it was quickly established that (a) no reasons needed to be given for the deportation; (b) there was no possibility of being allowed time or granted any form of adjournment; (c) there was no defence possible. The Magistrate informed us, quite apologetically, that there was nothing he could do and agreed that the Court was there merely to rubber-stamp the Order; Council for the Crown agreed, when it was put to him, that the law was bad! Once all this had been established proceedings were conducted in an almost jocular manner, the whole atmosphere being very relaxed and informal for those more used to the staidness and impersonalness of the English court. Within an hour it was all over and with a shrug of his shoulders the Magistrate signed the Order for our immediate deportation and that we be detained in custody until this could be affected. We were given until 7 p.m. to decide whether or not we should appeal, and we eventually decided to waive any rights of appeal. We were each served with our deportation order.

The deportation was for obvious political reasons, the urgency to ensure that we would not be able to speak at any of the meetings being held on May Day, and to ensure that we were not present during the referendum. Of the rare deportations in recent years those being deported had been allowed at least 24 hours.

We returned to the Police Station, and then under escort went to our flat to collect our belongings. We then returned to the Station and were each assigned a cell, which contained a bed, mattress, pillow, blankets, table and chair, in addition the doors were left unlocked all night. We were also given a good meal. We were aroused at 4.30 a.m. on Friday morning, and at 5.45 a.m. our plane left for London, our fare being paid for by the Maltese Government, although they said legal action would be taken to obtain a refund from us.

The deportation made headline news in the Maltese papers. The press met us at London airport, but other than short notices in the Times, Herald and Express nothing appeared in the British press; one wonders why.

We were in Malta long enough to fulfil part of our purpose in going there and we are convinced that there is considerable potential there, the whole situation being very viable. We will now be discussing ways and means of continuing the project.

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GERMANY

European Week for Understanding

"All European countries which took part in the two world wars, directly or indirectly, are invited". With these words Gottfried Wandersleb, Chairman of the Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft, a German Section of the W.R.I., invites people from everywhere to participate in a peace voyage on the River Rhine from the 21st - 28th June 1964.

The Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft is organising a full week of activities with representatives from many countries. Meetings will be held in Dortmund and Duisberg on the 25th and 26th June. A forum is being organised for the 27th June at 5 p.m. in which, among other speakers, Martin Niemöller, Harold Bing, Pierre Bloch

and representatives from Poland and Czechoslovakia will participate. At meetings in Linz and Cologne Prof. Linus Pauling will be the main speaker. Themes of the meetings will be "Reduction of Tension in Europe through Mutual Understanding", "Nuclear-free Europe" and "Reduction of Armaments". A boat with accommodation for 1,600 people has been booked. A good response has been received from West Germany, and Gottfried Wandersleb reports that many people from other countries have also expressed their wish to participate. The D.F.G. will look after the accommodation and catering for international contingents. Participants will have to pay for the fare on the boat.

If this project is to be made into an event which would make an impact, many participants from outside Germany should join. For further information contact Gottfried Wandersleb, 469 Herne, Bismarckstr. 98a, Germany

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NEWS RELEASE NO.23

BRITAIN AND DENMARK:

W.R.I. SECTIONS MEET

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Peace Pledge Union will take place on the 18th and 19th April in London. It will discuss Pacifism and party politics, methods of Propaganda and the relationship between Pacifism and Non-Violence. The meeting comes at a time when Britain is threatened with the re-introduction of conscription by the Government which comes into power after the General Elections in October. Already many peace organisations are mobilising to prevent this development which will be, no doubt, a recurrent theme during the P.P.U. debates.

The retirement of the Secretary, Stuart Morris, who has been active in the P.P.U. since its inception in 1934, adds an element of sadness and nostalgia to the occasion. As W.R.I. Chairman, Harold Bing, says in his appreciation of Stuart Morris's service in the current edition of WAR RESISTANCE "His wisdom and experience will be greatly missed both in the British and International movements."

Bernard Withers, formerly secretary of the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors, will take his place.

Copies of this News Release will be made available to all the delegates as an example of just one of the important services being provided by the W.R.I. International Secretariat.



The Annual General Meeting of the Aldrig mere Krig will also take place this weekend. Carl Scharnberg, a leading figure in the Danish C.N.D. will introduce a debate entitled "Instead of Weapons". There will also be a discussion on "Ways and Means in Peace Work."



SENEGAL

The first African Conference on World Co-operation at Town to Town Level took place from the 1st to 6th April in Dakar, Senegal.

It merits the attention of pacifists as much for its originality as for the new possibilities it revealed.

It was organised by the United Towns Organisation, which has consultative status with UNESCO. The W.R.I. sent a representative who participated in the work of the commissions. 41 countries had sent delegates from their local councils. Africans were clearly in the majority; the United States was only represented by the little town of Wood Bridge, Connecticut, and Britain by Stafford, while the Soviet Union sent mayors from its four largest towns. At the small

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town level few had been able to pay their travel to Dakar, which was why from Asia only a few Laotian towns had sent delegates and the representation at Dakar did not correspond entirely to the distribution of members of the U.T.O. throughout the world. However, a good indication of its neutrality and a point of interest for the peace movement is the fact that this was one of the rare platforms for meetings between Germans from both East and West Germany.

Until now the U.T.O. had devoted the major part of its activity in establishing its apolitical nature, the governments of France, Britain and West Germany having refused to allow twinning with communist countries. But as the centre of gravity of the U.T.O. has been transferred to Africa (the President is Mr. Doudou Thiam, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal and Mayor of M'Backé) these quarrels between the ideological blocs have been transcended.

The same factor has contributed to the consolidation of the U.T.O.'s work: while very often in Europe town twinning goes hardly farther than folk cultural get-togethers and sermons on friendship, the Africans made it clear that in under-developed countries that was not enough. In this way there has been a progression to another stage of "cooperational twinning".

"The U.T.O.," declared President Bourgiba, "represents the diplomacy of peoples side by side with the official diplomacy of States." But technical assistance, even the most generous examples, are often only an instrument of the diplomacy of States. That is why the U.T.O. concentrates on removing the political element from (and de-bureaucratising) technical assistance, bringing it to the popular level from town to town. Here are some of the most successful examples: a French town with 10,000 inhabitants, Villefranche de Rouergue, which is twinned with the town of M'Backé (9,000 inhabitants) has adopted 25 young people from this town to enable them to undergo a one-year probationary period in the municipal and social services, farms and factories, in order to introduce them to modern methods. Le Locle, a Swiss town twinned with Kaolack, has taken on trial in its technical school a few young Senegalese to train them to become instructors at a school of mechanics in Kaolack which is to be paid for by the inhabitants of Le Locle. Zwickau, East Germany, is going to instal a physics laboratory in its twinned town in Africa. African towns are not passive in this co-operation. Tananorive (Madagascar) has just sent to its sister town, Nice, a collection of rare stones required by the mineralogy section of the Faculty of Sciences in Nice.

The Conference in Dakar rounded off the cooperational twinning concept by setting up a Volunteer Peace Corps of Twinned Towns: Volunteers for Co-operation.

The majority of members of the U.T.O. shared the pacifist spirit (the Mayor of Constantine, Algeria, made a vigorous intervention to ask that a repudiation of all recourse to violence should be put in the resolutions) but it is undeniable that certain delegates represented at least as much their government as their town authorities, with all the ambivalence which that implies.

The next Conference of the U.T.O. will take place in Warsaw in September. One could hope for more popular participation, for at this stage the U.T.O. could be reproached for its bourgeois approach - the use of de luxe hotels which eliminates from the start all ordinary participation at these international meetings. Without doubt the mass entry of young people in the Town-Twinning Committees could balance the association.

ED 7/18-18-55

Here are some major points from the final resolution:

"The Conference is delighted to see the signs of easing of tension which have appeared in various forms throughout the world, from the Papal encyclical *Pacem in Terris* to the treaty on the banning of nuclear tests; it condemns the policy of segregation and force which tends to keep certain African peoples in servitude, poverty and ignorance; it approves any attempt to conclude international agreement on renouncing the use of force as a means of settling territorial and frontier problems and proclaims that the new forms of energy must be put to the service of peace and the bettering of human life."

"It suggests that the NOBEL Prize for Peace should crown the concerted efforts of the member towns of 46 states to bring about world-wide understanding."

"A stay in a foreign country should be considered a normal part of technical education and especially of teacher-training."

"Co-operational twinning establishes positive, reciprocal interaid between equal partners. Amongst other things it aims at the creation of technical training at the technician level and at the level of the specialised workman; it seeks to give women professional and domestic training."

Anxious to be effective, the Conference recommends towns to draw up a programme of exchanges and to carry it out either through courses held in developed countries, or in their own.

Another form of co-operational twinning, inter-African, will enable towns to exchange their experiences within the framework of the World Council of Municipalities to which each town is asked to send for re-distribution to applicants all available information concerning a given activity, or any selected specialisation."

"The Conference invites the U.T.O. to continue its efforts to develop the work of the "Volunteers for Co-operation" within the framework of twinning and of intermunicipal groups. These volunteers may be called upon to carry out, during a substantial period in an emergent country, unusual and specialised tasks requiring preliminary selection and training."

"The creation of a World Fund for Inter-Municipal Co-operation, under the joint control of the Great Organisations and of the U.T.O., to be allocated to the financing of the work programmes of these municipalities which have set up co-operational twinings and which have subscribed to the principles of toleration, non-discrimination, political impartiality and non-interference of the Charter of the Twin Towns which moreover are close to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

"Through a world network of towns local energy and loyalty can be enlisted in the service of co-operation and this factor will reduce the overall cost of helping under-developed countries and of bringing them together."

EIRE

Members of the Irish Pacifist Movement fasted for one day

over the Easter week-end "as an act of penance for the colossal and world-wide wastage of money on armaments".

The I.P.M. joined the F.o.R. in sponsoring the 6th North-South Conference on "new values in a changing world". Harold Bing, W.R.I. Chairman, who was on a short visit to Dublin as the guest of the I.P.M., spoke on lessons to be learnt from history. 53 people attended what proved to be a very successful occasion. The North-South Conferences were first started as an effort at reconciliation between citizens of the Irish Republic and those of Northern Ireland.

BRITAIN

International experts meet in London to discuss economic sanctions against South Africa

Delegates from all over the world, including the Soviet Union and China, are attending. At the 1st Plenary Session on April 14th it was emphasised that this was not a Conference to discuss the desirability of economic sanctions as all present considered them the only peaceful weapon which could be used against Apartheid. The immediate task was to discover how sanctions could be imposed. The experts would discuss legal, political and other aspects of the question. Speakers pointed out that there were those who in public supported the call for imposing sanctions but at the same time were investing more in South Africa. This should come to an end. In his message to the Conference Harold Wilson, Labour leader with a good chance of becoming the next British Prime Minister, declared that his party "has never supported the unilateral application of sanctions and has emphasised the danger of adopting measures which might not have the required effect in South Africa."

In spite of this and a general lack of interest in official quarters, the Conference could make a powerful impact in Britain, especially in the pre-Election period. If it could emphasise the necessity of developing peaceful methods for the solution of the problem and if it can keep free from political feuds such as those between the Russians and the Chinese or the Communists and anti-Communists, there is no doubt that it will prove to be a very timely event and will provide a detailed plan for methods of sanction.

WEST GERMANY

A mobile exhibition "Life of the World" will be opened in Hamburg-Bergedorf, the Lichtwarkhaus, from the 19th to 26th April. Afterwards it will go to other parts of Germany. It is being arranged by members of the I.D.K. (W.R.I.) and is sponsored by Bertrand Russell, Linus Pauling, Prof. Ude, Prof. Fritz Baade, Martin Niemöller, Heinrich Kloppenburg and Princess Olga zur Lippe. The exhibition will be divided into different sections, headed: "The World Wars"; "Once Again" - this covers militarism in East and West Germany, Civil Defence, the Emergency Laws etc.; "Against Atomic Death" - conscription, the anti-nuclear campaign etc.; "For Peace" - a review of some of the valuable work being carried out by individuals and institutions; "A World Without War". Messages of support, especially in time for the opening would be appreciated. The organiser is: Hans-Dieter Alex, Hamburg-Bergedorf 1, Marnitzstrasse 29.

SWITZERLAND

Two members of the new Swiss Section of the W.R.I., Alfredo

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Corradetti and François Roulet, have written to the Authorities stating their intention to cease co-operation with the military system. Corradetti is refusing to be recalled for a reserve training session from the 6th to 25th April and Roulet will not pay his military taxes. They both demand alternative civil service to military conscription and an alternative tax which would be used for civil service and aid to international institutions. They say that alternative service is essential for the moral defence of Switzerland. - "L'Essor".

SWEDEN

A Council Meeting of the W.R.I. Section, S.V.F.M., at the beginning of April discussed the contacting and education of C.O.s in alternative service camps and the setting up of the new "Trade Union for C.O.s" (Vapenvågrarnas Riksorganisation). It was thought that co-operation between the two organisations would not be possible because:

- (a) the S.V.F.M. already served C.O.s in the way suggested;
- (b) initiatives planned by the new organisation were already being taken by the S.V.F.M. e.g. Parliament has responded to pressure to set up a special Committee to investigate C.O. conditions;
- (c) an organisation just for C.O.s would be a too limited basis as the act of conscientious objection must be integrated with work for peace and disarmament;
- (d) there are not many C.O.s in Sweden and it would not be economic to have more than one organisation.

It was agreed that at the next annual meeting the S.V.F.M. should appoint a full-time organising secretary.

RS [All the Scandinavian Sections will co-operate in preparing a summer camp which will be taking place at Jönköping at the beginning of June.

Stiv Jakobsson, the Section's Chairman, toured Finland in February at the invitation of the Finnish W.R.I. group.

The Section's A.G.M. will take place in Uppsala on the 25th and 26th July. All the main Swedish peace movements will be asked to co-operate in the organisation of supporting public meetings.

Representations have been made to the Defence Minister, Mr. Sven Andersson, for C.O.s to be trained for service in developing countries. The concept that the C.O. is working within the context of total defence is not acceptable to pacifists. An investigation of the situation of absolutist C.O.s who are in prison was called for with reference to the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

RS [The biggest military exhibition so far held in Sweden will take place in Malmö from the 5th to 14th June. Members of peace organisations in Skåne and particularly of the Malmö Fredsförening (Malmö Peace Society) are making their plans. These include an exhibition opposing the military system, explaining nonviolence and exposing Civil Defence. The organisers are appealing for international help. They want photographs, plans, maps, diagrams, statistics, etc. about Civil Defence. They also want to prepare a presentation of the international peace movement and require photographs, pamphlets, leaflets, posters and literature etc. from all

countries. This will help to demonstrate the links the Swedish peace movement retains with movements all over the world. Items should be sent to Joachim Lentz, Stålvägen 15, Åkarp.

Another large military exhibition was opened in Lund on the 13th October 1963. It was backed by Lund's Officers' Academic Association, the war industries, many voluntary defence organisations, the University, the Students' Union and the Town Council. The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sandblom, shared a tank with high-ranking officers. 16 students sat in front of the procession and two were arrested and charged. The demonstration served to provoke opposition to militarism and forced many to think about the issues involved. The court case involving the two demonstrators who were arrested, Krister Svård and Bengt Höglund, is still going on. In January they were fined 100 kronor each for causing a public nuisance. They do not accept this and are appealing. A fund entitled "Stop the Tanks 63" has been set up to help them with their legal costs, possibly fines and other expenses.

Nordal Åkerman, Chairman of the Social Democratic Students Club in Lund is undergoing a two months' prison sentence for refusing to join the army. This is his second sentence.

DENMARK

The Columbus Fund was started by a wealthy individual to help peace initiatives. The Fund is now hoping to start an institution to be called the "Danish Peace Centre". It will collect information about peace organisations and international contacts. It will help peace research and the dissemination of its results to a wider public. About one million Danish kroner are needed to start the Centre and the fund is donating 50,000 kroner. Further information can be obtained from: Columbusfonden, Skivevej, Hobro, Denmark.

ICELAND

The Campaign Against Military Bases in Iceland (Samtök Hernamsandstaedinga) writes in a letter to FREDEN (Sweden):

"The Campaign Against Military Bases in Iceland is of the opinion that Iceland should be included when nuclear-free Scandinavia is being discussed. It must be borne in mind that foreign troops have been stationed in Iceland since 1951. These troops have aeroplanes which can be fitted with atom bombs and it is known that the U.S.A. is interested in building bases for Polaris submarines in our country. We wish to avoid the increased danger under which the Icelandic people will be put if nuclear weapons are to be stockpiled here and we are of the opinion that nuclear-free Iceland would diminish international tension."

FRANCE

50 ex-officers and privates on the Reserve have issued a statement asking for exemption from further service under the new C.O. law. They say that their attitude is founded:

"-On our belonging to a democratic nation, We want to take up our rôle as free citizens who are responsible for the future of the country."

"-On our religious and philosophic convictions which affirm the primacy of spiritual power over brute force, of truth over falsehood, of liberty over irresponsibility and respect for the individual in the State."

They have taken this action because they question the assumptions of a national defence based on massive destruction. "We want to recall that peace cannot be built on terror but only with peaceful means and that it becomes urgent for the survival of humanity to start along the road to disarmament. We want to confirm that it is possible to attain a permanent revolution for peace founded on truth and justice and at the same time politically realistic. We are aware, however, that the opportunities for struggle against atomic weapons are limited. This is why some of us, wishing to give a positive character to our refusal to participate in the existing defence system, are volunteering to support the foundation of an organisation and training centre for non-violent methods. Others express their commitment to peace differently. We hope that initiatives in this direction will multiply and that everyone will regard it as a duty to make up for refusal of arms or the 'force de frappe' with a constructive effort designed to resolve conflict by means other than violence". - LIBERTÉ

U.S.A.

A War Tax Protest Committee was formed on February 15th to organise conscientious objectors to War Taxes on the West Coast. The first action, which included an all-day picket of the Tax Office in San Francisco, was on April 15th.

Through John Papworth, "Peace News" Correspondent, the Committee for Non-Violent Action is appealing for international support for the Quebec-Guantanamo March, especially at the time of entry into Cuba. Public opinion must be prepared for this by making available information about existing tensions between Cuba and the U.S.A.

SWEDEN

The Kampanjen Mot Atomvapen is appealing for international support for its one-day March in Stockholm on May 24th. The main theme will be an atom-free zone for Scandinavia. The contact address for international participants is: Birgitta Bjurman, K.M.A., Box 5138, Stockholm 5.

GREECE

The Greek Youth League for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace "Bertrand Russell" also appeals for international support for this year's Marathon to Athens March on May 17th. Last year Gregoris Lambrakis was the only demonstrator able to complete the course because of his parliamentary immunity. Later in the year he was murdered.

CYPRUS

An English schoolteacher with many years' experience working in Cyprus has been sent to study the situation there by the Peace in Cyprus Committee, London. He is Christopher Lake, a member of the P.P.U., the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Council Member of the British C.N.D. and Vice-President of the League for Democracy in Greece.

Issued by War Resisters' International
88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
England.

17.4.64

Institut für Zeitgeschichte - Archiv

7/64

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD
Telephone: LABurnum 3977

88, Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND
3rd June, 1964.

NEWS RELEASE NO.25

9. 6. 64

ED743-19-58

NORWAY

At this years' Conference of the International Peace Bureau Gene Sharp will speak on "The political equivalent of war: civilian defence"; Marjorie Sykes on "Nonviolent peace brigades"; Eduard Zellweger on "The United Nations and its rôle of peacemaking"; Jens Evensen on "Alternatives to violence, a general survey" and Björn Egge on "Some aspects of maintaining order without violence".

There will be a reception by the Mayor of Oslo at the Town Hall and a Public Meeting at the Nobel Institute introduced by Gunnar Jahn, President of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

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ITALY

The Pacifists of Milan and Piacenza have recently distributed a leaflet on the theme: "A Bill for Conscientious Objectors". The leaflet draws attention to the Government's announcement that it is studying proposals for a law permitting conscientious objection and providing opportunities for alternative civilian service. After welcoming this recognition of the view that it is not less useful to work for one's country in a civilian capacity than it is to serve in the armed forces, the leaflet states that this recognition paves the way for a really civilised advance: the transformation of the fighting forces into Peace Corps. It then calls for public support for the campaign to extend the law so as to allow everyone the right to a free choice between civilian and military service. Finally it demands that those now in prison should be provisionally released pending the enactment of the proposed legislation.

The leaflet is issued by GAN (the Nonviolent Action Group), W.R.I., I.F.o.R., Study and Work Camps and Club 45 (a Milanese group of young Jews).

Enrico Piras of Cagliari, Sardinia, 20 years old and an electrical welder, refused to put on uniform when called up to the 84th Infantry Regiment stationed at Lamarmora Barracks, near Siena. Piras is now in prison waiting to go before the military tribunal. He is a Jehovah's Witness.

L'on Paolicchi, who recently introduced discussions in the Chamber of Deputies in support of the legal recognition of Conscientious Objection, has held two important conferences, one in Pisa and the other in Portoferraio (Livorno). He said that the Pacifists' struggle has been eased by the changed attitude of the Catholic Church, which no longer disputes the individual's right to freedom of conscience in this sphere. The problem now amounts to choosing between legislation which merely improves the rights of Conscientious Objectors and legislation which carries the right to exemption from military service.

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"L'Incontro"

CANADA

Canadian peace actionists are planning a major, dual-purpose demonstration to take place on June 24 (St. John the Baptist Day), and invite the participation and support of U.S. citizens. The demonstration, which will include civil disobedience, will take place at La Macaza, a missile base 120 miles from Montreal.

The purposes of the project are:

To demonstrate opposition to Canada's involvement in the nuclear arms club (Bomarc missiles with nuclear warheads supplied by the U.S. are based at La Macaza).

To demonstrate to Quebec nationalist/separatist forces agreement with their opposition to La Macaza, but show that the way to overcome the injustices they oppose is not through violence. The organisers hope to challenge French-Canadians to seek badly needed social changes through nonviolence.

The French-Canadians have long resisted many policies of the Canadian government, and have been discriminated against in a number of ways. There is substantial support for a movement to separate Quebec Province from the rest of Canada. Last year, Quebec nationalists conducted a campaign of terrorism that included several bombings. Recently, a Montreal armory was robbed, reportedly by members of the Quebec Revolutionary Committee, with enough arms and ammunition taken to equip an infantry company. The weapons have not been recovered, and it is possible that they will reappear in a military assault on the base at La Macaza. Removal of this base is one of the prime objectives of the Q.R.C.

The project is being organized by Dan Daniels, Andre Cardinal, and Dimitrios Roussopoulos. They are seeking 50 volunteers for the civil disobedience aspect of the demonstration, to be composed as follows: 10 from the U.S.; 10 English-speaking Canadians from outside Quebec Province; 10 English-speaking peace workers from Quebec Province; and 20 French-Canadians.

Persons interested in participating in the demonstration should write immediately to the organizers. Financial support is desperately needed, and contributions will be welcomed. The address:

OPERATION ST. JEAN BAPTISTE
3510 Rue Ste. Famille
Montreal 18, Quebec, Canada.

- CNVA Bulletin

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NEW ZEALAND

Protests against French nuclear tests in the Pacific continue. Strong resolutions have been passed by the Federation of Farmers, Trade Unions and Women's Organisations. Some of these are establishing contact with their opposite numbers in France. The C.N.D. has prepared an open letter to President De Gaulle which it is asking the Presidents and Secretaries of organisations throughout the country to sign. Photostat copies will be sent to the New Zealand Prime Minister and U Thant and the text released to the Press.

"There is a feeling that we would like more moral support from overseas." An American, Robert Stowell, is investigating the possibility of sailing into the testing area. He would appreciate advice on the technical aspects, financial help and international volunteers. Address: R. Stowell, County Delivery, Kaitaia, Northland, N.Z.

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ED 748-18-52

CYPRUS

On May 27th the Government published the text of a Bill to create a National Guard through compulsory military service for six months. All male Cypriots aged 18 to 50 will be liable for service. Some observers see this as a measure to bring the security forces under more rigorous control. Others believe that it is a provocation which can serve only to perpetuate the enmity between the Turkish and Greek communities. Apparently provision for conscientious objection will be made. The W.R.I. has sent a protest to Archbishop Makarios.

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Christopher Lake, the volunteer sent to study the situation in Cyprus by the London Peace in Cyprus Committee, is now returning home.

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The W.R.I. Section in Denmark, A.m.K., passed a resolution at its Annual Meeting in April endorsing the plan to send 1,000 volunteers for the United Nations force in Cyprus and expressed the hope that these would be given training in nonviolence. The Finnish Committee of 100 issued a statement pointing out that as the idea of an international police force was a new one it required more study. There was a tendency to think of United Nations forces in only military terms:

"The tasks of U.N. troops are those of policemen, not soldiers. The spirit created in national armies is not suitable for a U.N. police force. The whole thing is a question of training. The choice of U.N. volunteers should not be left to army officers alone. U.N. experts and psychologists should help with the selection."

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BELGIUM

After a struggle which lasted for 14 years a law for conscientious objectors was finally passed in the Chamber of Deputies on May 5th. The same motion had been passed by the Senate on the 12th June 1963. A Royal Commission has been set up to allot tasks of public utility to the C.O.s. It has been made quite clear by the sponsors of the Bill that C.O. service must not be adapted for military purposes. There are now two courses open to the C.O. He can take advantage of the law of the 21st June 1961, which permits young people who complete 3 years of technical assistance in developing countries to be exempted from military service. The new law, which is specifically for C.O.s, enables them to carry out 2 years' alternative service in Belgium, or one year non-combatant service. They must make their request to the Minister of the Interior on or immediately after the 1st January in the year during which they attain the age of 18. They can, however, apply for deferment and do not lose any of their

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ordinary rights as citizens. Those who already have military obligations of some kind, or who are on active service, must make clear their conscientious objection to the Minister of the Interior within 30 days of the publication of the Bill. There will be an amnesty for deserters and C.O.s who are already serving sentences providing they send their applications to the Clerk of the Military Court within 30 days.

(Adapted from an article by Jean van Lierde in LA GAUCHE 16th May)

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DENMARK

The C.N.D. is making preparations for a large campaign in connection with the General Elections this autumn. Conditions in Denmark are considered favourable for this action, partly because of the election laws and partly because of Denmark's special position in NATO. A course for 100 C.N.D. supporters has been organised, and the writer, Carl Scharnberg, who is a prominent figure in the C.N.D., will be travelling throughout the country to prepare the campaign. An election handbook will be distributed to all campaigners. On the Saturday before the Election marches will be organised in Copenhagen, Arhus and elsewhere. Recently 3 small leaflets were published in a series called "Election 1964". They deal with the arms race, nuclear-free zones and nuclear disarmament, and they have been distributed to all the 1,300 parliamentary candidates. A special effort will be made to send reading material to all the 400,000 young people who will be voting for the first time. Carl Scharnberg recently in FRIT DANMARK wrote:

"We have always said that our work must have political consequences. The test ban treaty has created new possibilities. We have now time for re-thinking and creative politics."

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SWEDEN

The Swedish paper FREDEN and Norway's PAX will publish a series of leaflets entitled "Scandinavian Peace Debate". They will appear every month alternatively in Norwegian and Swedish. Two trial leaflets are being prepared at the moment. The Swedish edition carries the story of an army officer's dramatic conversion to peace activity and the Norwegian edition has been written by W.R.I. Council member Johan Galtung.

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The Swedish Riksdag has fixed the defence budget for next year at 4,100 million kronor. This represents an increase of 150 million compared to this year's budget. The "revolt" of the 31 social democratic members of the Riksdag concerning a review of the four-year defence agreement in view of the detente in the field of international politics, was crushed with large majority in both chambers. Nevertheless the group obtained 58 votes, an increase of 27 votes, which indicates that there are a number of members who are beginning to oppose the constantly rising expenditure on military requirements.

- FREDEN

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GREECE

Report from Max Maxwell:

"I arrived from Istanbul the day before the Marathon March. I met Joanne Lyberis, the International Secretary of the Bertrand Russell Committee. The Marathon Committee has been set up to deal with the March and will be dissolved afterwards, to be re-convened next year. On the 17th May I walked 39 kilometres with 200,000 Greeks - I have never seen so many people - happy people - joined together in a peace and freedom demonstration. After 12 hours' marching they performed traditional Greek dances in the streets and sang songs by Mikis Theodorakis, who was a political prisoner for several years. Slogans were chanted, especially "O Lambraki zi!" (Lambrakis lives). The marchers included prisoners who had just been released after 25 years, an old lady of 70 whose son was shot in 1950 for collecting signatures for a peace petition, the oldest marcher - 79 years, men on crutches, but mostly young people. The March was so long that by the time the end reached the Acropolis the speeches were nearly finished.

On the following evening there was a meeting, at which some of the foreign delegates spoke, including Pat Pottle (Britain), Herbert Stubenrauch (V.K. Germany) and Madame Blum (Belgium).

Prime Minister Papandreou gave no support to the March, saying that it was useless. It was generally branded Communist. Next day the Government-line Press and radio said it had been a failure, disorganised and badly attended etc. In fact, considering the vast number of people, it was a very peaceful and orderly demonstration. I saw no violence at all, nor did anybody else I spoke to. Some leftist papers printed pictures of the March entering Athens which disproved the claim that there were few people. We saw scarcely any police throughout - a big contrast to what occurred last year.

There seemed to me to be far more personal motivation and sentiment than, for example, at Aldermaston. A meeting was held at a point on the route where the Nazis had hanged several local people. The brutality of Karamanlis' regime and a strong dislike of the police were in everyone's mind. The memory of Lambrakis was very strong. There was a great deal of national, but not nationalistic, feeling. I was greeted everywhere with the clasped-hands 'victory' sign. Even a man in a sidewalk kiosk congratulated me when he saw my C.N.D. badge. People who watched from their gardens or the sidewalks joined in the slogans and singing. The faces of personnel in a U.S. air base along the route were full of astonishment and fear. Comparing this March with Aldermaston is like comparing a marriage with a funeral. In fact a marriage was held along the route in an Orthodox Church and some children were christened - all as part of the demonstration in affirmation of life. One of the banners was surmounted by a C.N.D. symbol made of bread. Contingents arriving for the demonstration marched from the station with banners and slogans to the organisers' office. Slogans of the March were quite general - it was the sense of freedom and unity within the people themselves which made it great."

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U.S.A.

The Committee for Non-Violent Action, War Resisters' League, Students' Peace Union and the Catholic Worker were planning a

major demonstration to oppose the draft law (conscription) on May 17th. Several participants were committed to burning their draft cards or other selective service documents in open defiance of the Universal Military Training and Service Act.

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"Part of the U.S. plan to keep the people in Vietnam fighting each other is wholesale conscription of young men. The new draft law is designed to put many more men into those units which have to bear most of the attacks from the Vietcong.

'Volunteers have all but dried up', the NEW YORK TIMES says. 'And the manpower shortage has been compounded by an increasing wave of desertions.'

The U.S. will give \$50 million a year in order to keep a force of 50,000 conscripted men in South Vietnam, McNamara recently said."

- THE PEACEMAKER

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The C.N.V.A. is launching a new campaign for freedom to travel for United States citizens:

"C.N.V.A. believes that any restriction on the right to travel is not only an invasion of civil liberty, but a threat to world peace. The erection of travel barriers contributes substantially to international tension and the prospect of nuclear war. Misconceptions about other countries and peoples are greatly reduced when citizens can freely visit the homelands of their 'enemies'."

Peace workers have found three main difficulties when applying for passports. All applicants are required to sign a declaration that for the 12 months preceding the application they have not been members of any communist organisation. Many feel that this is not the business of the Government. They are also required to sign an oath of allegiance to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. The U.S. Supreme Court has interpreted such statements as not being intended to exclude people who refuse to bear arms. Once a passport has been obtained the citizen can find that he is not entitled to travel to certain communist countries. C.N.V.A. recommends several alternative ways of dealing with the application:

(1) To follow the example of David Dellinger, editor of LIBERATION, who placed asterisks before controversial sections and declared:-

"I am a pacifist and as such oppose all use of violence either to defend or overthrow the government of the U.S. or any other country. I think that all people have an inalienable right to freedom of travel, regardless of their political beliefs. I affirm an allegiance to the people of the U.S. and the whole world."

(2) To make alternative statements for objectionable sections.

(3) To sign the application as it stands and accompany it with a letter protesting against political limitations on the issue of passports.

(4) To apply for permission to travel to Cuba and other proscribed countries, as it is felt that the State Department should be confronted with as many such requests as possible.

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Twenty peace marchers arrived in Miami on the 29th May, one year

and 3 days after leaving Quebec, 2,800 miles to the North. The next stop, theoretically, is Havana, after which the group plans to walk another 700 miles to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo. The U.S. section of the Walk for Peace will conclude at the Torch of Friendship in Bayshore Park, a memorial to peaceful relations amongst nations of the Western hemisphere. Temporary headquarters have been set up at 4875 N.W. 22nd Avenue, Miami, while efforts are made to acquire passports and permission to travel to Cuba from the U.S. State Department. The team is committed to reach Cuba even if Government permission is not given. However, they want to carry through the project legally if possible and are encouraging Americans to write letters to President Johnson and other Government officials, urging that restrictions be removed. The March arrived in Miami 5 months late because of repeated arrests which arose out of the group's determined call for racial integration in the South. The C.N.V.A. urges the U.S. Government to: "Renounce any intention to invade or support an invasion of Cuba;" "Withdraw from proximity to Cuba all naval and other military forces;" "Cease reconnaissance flights over Cuba;" "Rescind all commerce and travel restrictions;" and "Close the Guantanamo Naval Base." In Cuba the marchers will call on the Cuban people to "Renounce any intention of military enterprise against the U.S. or any other nation;" "Request all military personnel of foreign countries to leave Cuba;" "Discontinue anti-U.S. propaganda;" and "Abandon military power as a means of defence."

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CUBA

The first conscripts drafted under the new law reported on March 30th. There were 15,000. Their ages ranged from 17 to 21 and they will receive about 7 dollars monthly. Until then a volunteer system had operated, the recruits receiving the same pay as they had received in their civilian jobs. The only exemptions other than medical are for men who are the sole supporters of a family. All men from 17 to 45 are subject to conscription. Women 17 to 35 may volunteer for two years' service.

- THE PEACEMAKER

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BRITAIN

The first news bulletin of the Conflict Research Society was published in May. It can be obtained from the Organising Secretary, Conflict Research Society, Department of Pharmacology, University College London, Gower Street, London, W.C.1. The bulletin contains news of coming conferences and seminars on peace research and of Foundation support for conflict research at major Universities. UNESCO support for peace research and the new international organisation, Conferences on Research on International Peace and Security, is noted.

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The Peace in Cyprus Committee has announced a "Stop the Bloodshed" demonstration outside the Greek and Turkish Embassies, the Cyprus High Commission and the British Foreign Office in London on June 28th, providing sufficient support can be obtained from both the Turkish and Greek communities.

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DENMARK

A small team of pacifists will start walking from Arhus on the 1st July to Warsaw. They are opposing NATO and the Warsaw Pact and are calling for Danish withdrawal from NATO and nonviolent action. The project is running parallel to that being organised by Action Civique Non-Violente with the help of the Peace Action Centre (Britain) against the NATO Headquarters in Paris.

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SCOTLAND

Rowen Engineering Co. Ltd. (the Factory for Peace) requires sales agents in other countries. Registered Office: 78 Middlesex Street, Glasgow S.1.

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HOLLAND

The Government has announced that the new law for Conscientious Objectors of the 27th September 1963 will come into force as from October this year.

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SOUTH AFRICA

Has your organisation yet sent a message to the South African Government calling for an end to apartheid and the release of all political prisoners, in particular the nine, including Nelson Mandela, awaiting judgment after the Rivonia trial?

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W.R.I.

The W.R.I. is continuing its international news service in co-operation with the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace and the International Peace Bureau. Releases go to some 3 or 4 hundred organisations, publications and individual contacts. Until now there has been no fixed subscription rate. However, the cost of the service is weighing so heavily on the W.R.I.'s slender financial resources that subscriptions must be introduced. Approximately 26 issues will be published each year. They will cost £1 (\$2.80) or by air mail £2.15.0 (\$7.70).

Contributions of another kind are also required. If you have news items which you wish to place before the world peace movement, please send them to the W.R.I. marked for the International News Service.

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WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD
Telephone: LA Burnum 3977

88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND

3rd July, 1964

6. 7. 64

NEWS RELEASE NO. 26

U.S.A.

Faces five year sentence for draft refusal

We, the undersigned, who are opposed to all institutions of military power, nuclear threat, and violent conflict

- being subject to the provisions of the Universal Military Training and Service Act

- having noted that the purpose of the Act is to "increase the strength of the armed forces of the United States"

- believing that the voice of conscience must be followed even when in conflict with the law

who have therefore declared individually our independence of the requirements of the Universal Military Training and Service Act

- seeing our friends imprisoned for their principled refusal to follow the dictates of Selective Service

- knowing that we may soon be prosecuted at the convenience of the Government

- wishing to be responsible to one another for our shared convictions

and who do now commit ourselves to honorable, open and nonviolent resistance to the enforcement of the Universal Military Training and Service Act

H E R E B Y R E S O L V E

THAT THE ARREST OF ANY ONE OF THE UNDERSIGNED FOR VIOLATION OF ONE OR MORE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING AND SERVICE ACT WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ARREST OF ALL, AND THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THIS PACT WILL PUBLICLY ASSERT EQUAL LIABILITY AND WILL TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO SECURE EQUAL TREATMENT - EITHER IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE FIRST ARRESTED OR PROSECUTION OF ALL.

Signed:

Barry Bassin Russ Goddard Gene Keyes

May 18, 1964

Witnesses:
A.J. Muste
Arlo Tatum

A young father has announced that on July 6th he will tell a federal district judge that he is sticking by his refusal to obey the Selective Service law despite the judge's promise of a five year prison term. "Threats of harsh punishment must not deter one from acting on principle", said the youthful pacifist. In addition, two of his pacifist friends have announced that they will attempt to appear before the court at the same time to demand equal treatment for themselves.

Russ Goddard, 21, of Overland, Missouri, appeared in U.S. District Court in St. Louis on June 22nd on charges of refusing to report for induction into the armed forces. He is married and the father of a 19 month old daughter. Federal Judge Roy W. Harper said he would impose a five year sentence - the maximum under the law - unless Goddard agreed to do two years of civilian work under the draft. Judge Harper released Goddard on his own recognizance to consider the matter for two weeks.

Meanwhile Barry Bassin and Gene Keyes, two friends of Goddard, had flown to St. Louis to declare solidarity with him. They said they had also violated the Selective Service law and were therefore demanding that Goddard be released or that they all be prosecuted equally. They say that they have informed local FBI agents in detail of their anti-draft activities.

They summed up their position by saying, "We believe that war is wrong and killing is wrong. The draft has no other purpose than to train men for war and killing. We are resisting the entire draft law. We've pledged that if they arrested one of us, they must arrest us all."

Bassin and Keyes indicated that their next step would be to contact U.S. Attorney Richard D. FitzGibbon, Jr. "We will ask him if in conscience he believes Russ should be sentenced to five years for refusing to be part of a system of organized violence. We will ask him to drop the indictment, or to resign. If he chooses not to, then we will emphasize our own open defiance of the draft law, and suggest he see that we are brought before Judge Harper at the same time Russ is. If Attorney FitzGibbon ignores our violations, then we will accompany Russ to court, and personally ask Judge Harper to suspend the sentence, or give us the same. We are going to persist until equal treatment is obtained."

They also noted, "The FBI may arrest us even before we go to court with Russ. It's all the same. We came to St. Louis to declare solidarity with Russ, and that they can't take him and ignore us."

Gene Keyes added, "We are not asking to be put in prison. We are asking that Russ be released. If the authorities choose to imprison us all instead, that is their responsibility, not ours. Russ and Barry will probably cooperate with arresting authorities, but I will go limp if they arrest me."

Goddard's wife, Joan, stated her disagreement with Judge Harper's contention that a five year sentence is the equivalent of a draftee's two year service. "Even with good time and parole - which is hard to get - this may be at least a three year penalty. It is also contradictory for the judge to say that one is free to express his conviction that no one should be forced to kill, yet persecute Russ for acting on that conviction. I feel compelled to let the judge know that I support Russ and hope I would be able to follow my convictions

as he has if women were told to register and submit to the system of procuring soldiers to defend this country with violence and threats of violence. I can only hope that our daughter Julie will come to understand that this is not a black mark against Russ, but evidence of his willingness to defend freedom with nonviolence."

Further information from Arlo Tatum, 2006 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa., USA

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IRELAND

ED 711-18-63

Action Itinerant

From a letter received from Dublin:

For six months a group of 40 families have been leading a campaign to get better conditions for Ireland's 7,000 travelling people, or gypsies, as some call us.

The authorities have treated us very heavy-handedly. A school and six shacks we built as a community effort to teach illiterate children and adults and house families with no other shelter, were destroyed by Dublin Corporation.

A dozen times we have been forcefully removed from camping sites by police and eviction squads. We have attempted passive resistance and have been dragged about and threatened.

Again we are gathered together on the outskirts of the city and continuing to put our demands to the Government and local authorities. We want caravan sites, social welfare assistance and education - all recommended by a Commission on Itinerancy set up four years ago.

But the struggle is now so unequal that we are asking sympathisers in other countries to sign a petition backing our first demand. Already we have received support from Bertrand Russell and the World Romany Community, which is organised in 19 countries.

Further information from Grattan Puxon, James Street PO, Dublin 8, Ireland

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GREAT BRITAIN

Anglo-French Summer Project

The programme for the Anglo-French Summer Project has now been finalised: The 14 French participants, members of various French peace movements, arrive in London on Saturday, July 11th. On Sunday, July 12th, an informal meeting will be held at Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1., at 7.00 p.m. to enable our French friends to meet British peace workers and to exchange views, etc.

The Group will depart for the Peace Action Centre, Frodsham, on Monday, July 14th. Here a work camp will take place from July 15th to August 8th. A week-end conference about the project will be held from August 1-3rd. Those on the project will also participate in

the Hiroshima Fast.

The whole team will return to London on August 9th and cross over to France on August 10th. In France they will participate in a work camp from August 11th to September 1st. An International Conference will be held in Paris from September 2nd - 5th. The project will end with an international demonstration, possibly involving civil disobedience at the NATO Headquarters just outside Paris.

Further information from: Barnaby Martin, Peace Action Centre,
Carriage Drive, 'Borrowdale', Frodsham,
via Warrington, England

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CANADA

Operation St. Jean Baptiste is only the first part of Project LaMacaza, which is meant to be a growing campaign against militarism in Quebec. August 6th may be the date of the second attempt to enter or immobilize the nuclear Bomarc base here.

The Bomarc base was successfully blocked for 16 hours, from 2:30 Sunday afternoon until 7:00 Monday morning, by 17 pacifists from various points in Quebec and Ontario, who sat in the roadway at the entrance. They had taken their positions when guards on duty at the entrance had refused them permission to enter. Their stated purpose was to occupy the base and reclaim it for peaceful purposes.

At 7:00 Monday morning orders were given for normal base traffic to be resumed. For two and half hours the demonstrators were dragged off the road into the ditch to allow for passage of vehicles. 31 times the demonstrators were removed and 30 times they re-grouped on the roadway. Many had clothing ripped and a few were treated roughly but none was seriously hurt.

About 10:30 a.m. the guards lined up along the side of the road outside the barrier and confined the demonstrators to the ditch area. At this point discipline on both sides broke down and individual airmen and demonstrators engaged in animated conversations for over half an hour, spreading out all over the roadway.

At noon the demonstrators formed a silent vigil line down each side of the road. At 1:00 about 30 airmen joined with the demonstrators in a brief service of worship at the base entrance, led by Rev. E. Frericks, a young United Church minister from Montreal. At the end of the service the pacifists sang their theme song "We shall overcome". Many of the airmen shook hands through the fence with the demonstrators before they left.

The project at La Macaza, known as Operation St. Jean Baptiste, began on June 13th with an 24 hour round-the clock- silent vigil at the base entrance. Vigiliers stood in two hour shifts with signs protesting the presence of nuclear weapons on Canadian soil and calling for a replacement of militarism with non-violent resistance. Some of the signs read: "If your conscience demands it, refuse to work for the Bomarc base", "Extend and defend freedom with non-violent resistance", "If your conscience demands it, refuse to pay taxes for war" and "Canada must remain a non-nuclear power ... Pearson, 1961". During the week the vigil was maintained for 10 hours a day.

Sunday afternoon the number of vigilers had swelled to more than 100, including several people from the local area, many from other points in Quebec and Ontario and some from the U.S.A, including Robert Core of the Congress of Racial Equality.

Just before the civil disobedience action began, the manifesto of Operation St. Jean Baptiste was read to the vigilers and observers, first in French by André Cardinal, 24, of Montreal and then in English by Dan Daniels, 42, also of Montreal, both members of the project committee.

Dan Daniels, after being refused official permission to enter the base, informed the officer in charge that the demonstrators intended to try to enter the base non-violently in order to reclaim it for peaceful purposes. Those planning to commit civil disobedience began the trek towards the barrier, accompanied by rain and singing "We shall overcome". The last 50 feet was walked in silence. Then, by ones and twos, they approached the barrier, manned by some ten or twelve R.C.A.F. men, and asked for permission to enter. Such permission denied, they sat down.

Included in this group was a blind lady and a newly ordained minister from Montreal. Two demonstrators who managed to pass underneath the barrier were placed under arrest, but a mistake must have been made, as the arrests were never carried out.

The pacifists spent the night on the road-way, many in sleeping bags, some sleeping, but most talking with the men guarding the base, singing songs and discussing with themselves and the military personnel the significance of civil disobedience and implications of non-violence.

This human contact with the members of the armed forces did much to make the action more readily understood and prepared both sides for the events to follow the next day when the demonstrators were forcibly removed.

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NORWAY

Publication of Journal of Peace Research was recently announced by Universitetsforlaget in Norway. It will be edited at the Peace Research Institute in Oslo by Johan Galtung and Einar Østgaard. It is an endeavour supported by scientists from many different countries. Subscription \$ 4 per year (or the equivalent in other currencies), to be sent to Universitetsforlaget, University of Oslo, P.O. Box 307, Blindern, Oslo 3, Norway.

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SWEDEN

Scandinavian Summer School for Peace will be held at Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhighschool from 6th - 12th July 1964. The theme of the Conference will be Non-Violent Defence. There will be reduced rates for students and young people. Further information from our Swedish Section SVENSKA VÄRLDFREDSMISSIONEN, Box 60, Bergkvara or from SVENSKA FREDSS- OCH SKILJEDOMSFÖRENINGEN, Jungfrugatan 30, Stockholm.

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Peace Conference in Uppsala

from 25th - 26th July 1964 in connection with the 800th anniversary of the Uppsala diocese. There will be a procession and a rally on on July 25th. Bertil Svahnström and Martin Niemöller will be among speakers. The Conference is being organised by the W.R.I. Swedish Section, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Swedish Association for Peace and Arbitration, the Swedish Mission for World Peace and the Youth Peace Alliance. Further information from Stiv Jakobsson, Västerleden 34 B, Uppsala 10, Sweden.

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GREAT BRITAIN

3-day fast on Hiroshima. Day: August 6th - 8th

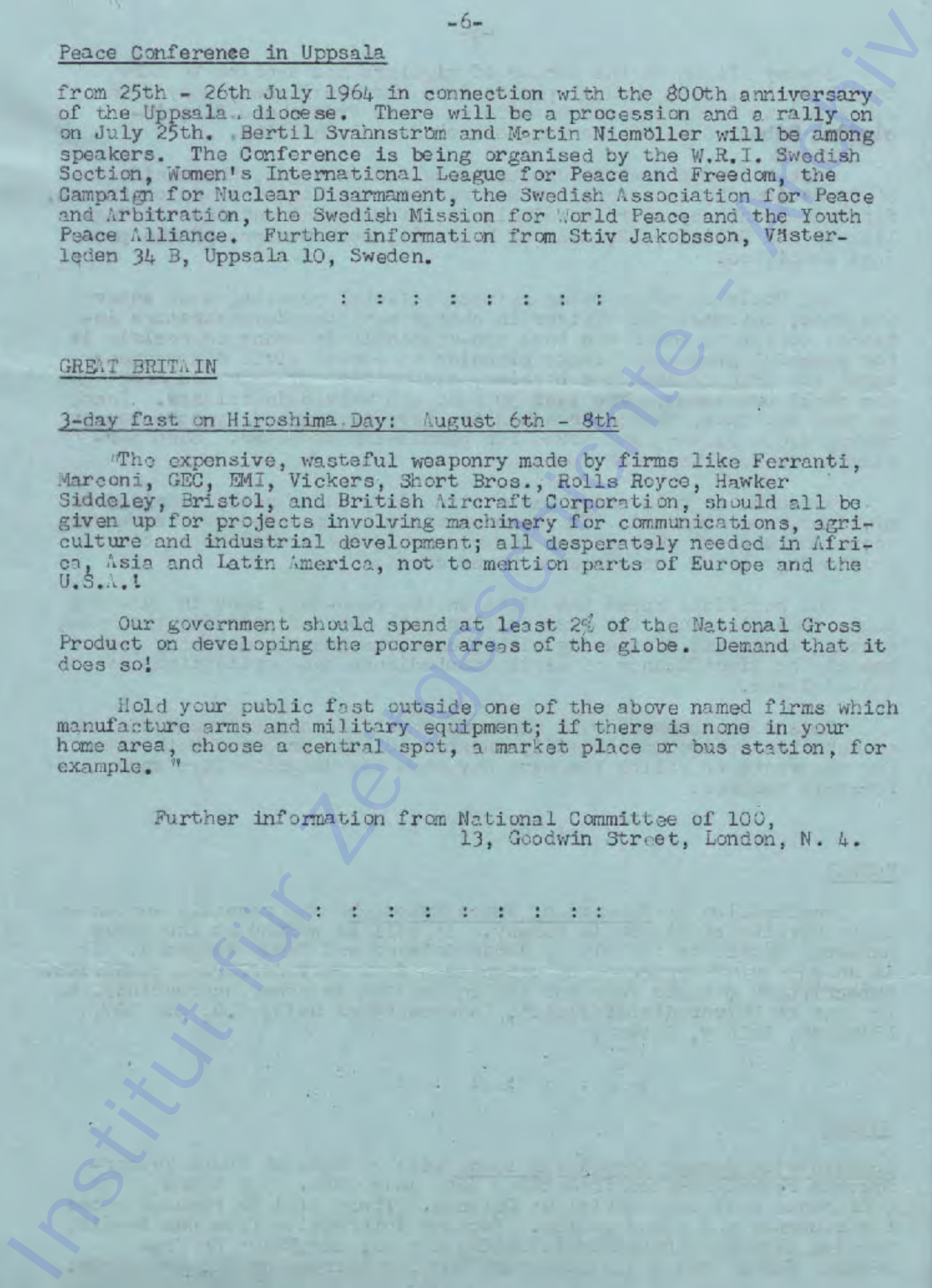
The expensive, wasteful weaponry made by firms like Ferranti, Marconi, GEC, EMI, Vickers, Short Bros., Rolls Royce, Hawker Siddeley, Bristol, and British Aircraft Corporation, should all be given up for projects involving machinery for communications, agriculture and industrial development; all desperately needed in Africa, Asia and Latin America, not to mention parts of Europe and the U.S.A.!

Our government should spend at least 2% of the National Gross Product on developing the poorer areas of the globe. Demand that it does so!

Hold your public fast outside one of the above named firms which manufacture arms and military equipment; if there is none in your home area, choose a central spot, a market place or bus station, for example. "

Further information from National Committee of 100,
13, Goodwin Street, London, N. 4.

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45/64

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

17. 8. 64

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD
Telephone: LABurnum 3977

88 Park Avenue,
Enfield, Middlesex,
ENGLAND.

WR1

10th August, 1964.

NEWS RELEASE NO. 27

ED 718-18-65

W.R.I. PRESS STATEMENT 1ST AUGUST 1964

The Council of the W.R.I. has held its annual meeting at Mainz-Kastel 28th July-1st August. There were present twelve members from eight different countries, including Danilo Dolci, the Italian social reformer; Pierre Martin Dumeste, a French economist engaged in community development work in West Africa; the Norwegian Niels Mathiesen, at present working in Geneva as secretary of the International Peace Bureau; Jean van Lierde, the Belgian expert on African problems; Hagarbard Jonassen, of Copenhagen University, organiser of relief work in Germany after the war and now in the developing countries; Hugh Brock, organiser of the first Aldermaston march and late editor of the international weekly review "Peace News" (London); Michael Randle, former secretary of the Committee of 100 and leader of the British civil disobedience movement, who organised for Earl Russell the sit-down by 4,000 people outside the Defence Ministry in London in February 1960; Devi Prasad (joint secretary), a former co-worker with Gandhi in India; and Harold Bing (chairman), tutor at the Co-operative College in England, who is professionally concerned with the training of students from the developing countries in the theory and practice of Co-operation. At the close of its meeting the Council issued the attached statement to the press.

The Council of the W.R.I. has taken note of the increase in international tension arising from the mobilisation of civilian populations which has already begun in some countries and is about to be introduced in others. In particular, it has noted the difficulties faced by its German Sections in view of the proposed Emergency Laws. It believes these proposals involve a serious diminution of the rights of German citizens as well as being a form of militarisation and psychological preparation for war which greatly increases the war danger in Europe. It therefore encourages its German Sections and the German people generally to oppose this development by all possible peaceful means and urges its Sections elsewhere to give any help possible.

Considering the problems of the developing countries, especially in Africa, the Council was distressed to be shown a well-produced illustrated booklet, published by the Press and Information Service of the Bonn Government, glorifying the Bundeswehr, which is being distributed in African countries, presumably to encourage them to buy arms from Germany. This not only contributes to the militarisation of Africa and the increase of tension but also means that the meagre resources of these countries, so much needed for social and economic development, are being diverted to the useless and dangerous purposes of war preparation. It was recognised that the need in Africa is not only for direct financial aid but also for trained men and women to work with the African people themselves. As a first small contribution to this, the Council decided to finance the sending of such a volunteer as soon as possible.

The W.R.I. is categorically opposed to all armaments and all preparation for war. However it feels compelled also to act against particular strategic developments which present an immediate threat to

world peace. The Council considers the establishment of the NATO multilateral force has created a grave situation which can lead only to an intensification of the cold war in Europe and inevitably encourage the spread of nuclear arms. It resolved to support plans for an intense campaign against the multilateral force under the slogan "Multilateral Force for Peace". The campaign is to culminate in mass demonstrations on three consecutive days in London, Rome and Bonn, international contingents being transported from one capital to another by charter plane. The preparatory work is in the hands of the C.N.D. in Britain and Germany and the Consulta della Pace in Italy. The Council calls upon W.R.I. Sections, especially those in NATO countries, to consider what action they can take to make the campaign a decisive success.

All those concerned about the development of peaceful and creative human relations cannot but be alarmed at the latent and overt violence which have become so deeply rooted in contemporary society. In social relations and organisations, in educational and political institutions, there are visible signs of growing tension and the isolation of individuals and groups. The Council believes that it is the task of every society to uncover the root causes of these developments. New social and political institutions must be created on peaceful, sane principles. Non-violent solutions to problems confronting mankind on every level must be sought. As its contribution the Council is planning, at Danilo Dolci's suggestion, a World Conference on Non-Violence, to be held in 1966. Social scientists, political thinkers, educationalists, planners and other experts are being asked to contribute their knowledge and experience to this attempt to explore the conditions upon which a future full of hope and free from war can be based.

For some years the Sections and members of the W.R.I. throughout the world have observed December 1st as "Prisoners for Peace Day", when the hundreds of conscientious objectors in prison for refusal of military service in many countries have been remembered and Christmas greetings sent to them. This year it is proposed that this remembrance shall be supported by demonstrations or representations at the Embassies of all governments which still make no legal provision for conscientious objectors to compulsory military service and are keeping such men in prison, sometimes for many years.

† † ☆

After the Council Meeting on the 1st August Harold Bing, Danilo Dolci, Dr. Heinz Kloppenburg (F.o.R.) and Herbert Stubenrauch (W.K.) addressed an audience of over 400 in Frankfurt.

STUDY WORK CAMP ORGANISED BY THE SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL AND THE W.R.I. AT HOSPENTAL, CANTON OF URI, SWITZERLAND.

Press Statement

21 young people, members of the S.C.I. and the W.R.I. (5 Italians, 4 British, 2 Germans, 1 Belgian, 3 French, 10 Swiss and 1 Norwegian) came together at Hospental, Uri, to take part in a combined study/work camp. For five hours a day they work on the construction of a local road for the farmers of the valley whose living conditions are very difficult. Three hours are given over to the study of peace problems and, in particular, conscientious objection. The camp began

on the 20th July and will finish on the 1st August.

The camp leader, Arthur Villard.

N.B. The camp is part of a renewed campaign to inform public opinion in Switzerland on the problem of conscientious objection and to bring pressure on the Government to introduce a law which would permit exemption from military service on conscientious grounds. C.O.'s are, at the present time, liable to a series of prison sentences of two or three months.

W.R.I.

24th July, 1964.

Report received from Dennis Gould, a British participant, dated Wednesday, 5th August, 1964

International Action in Zurich by C.O.'s and Radical Pacifists

After the camp, 7 volunteers decided to go ahead with a public demonstration to advertise the Press Conference to be given on the evening of Monday, 3rd August. The security police turned down our application to stand in Bellvue Platz with banners. René Bovard, Vice-President of the Swiss branch of the W.R.I. and study leader during the camp, delivered a second letter explaining our position. We were determined to exercise our right in going ahead because it was necessary for us to have the opportunity to invite the public to the Press Conference. We had to explain who we were and why there was a need for a law recognising C.O.'s in countries like Switzerland and Italy.

At 12 noon on Monday, the first team of four reached Bellvue Platz, brought out their banners from underneath their jackets and held them up, standing on the lakeside promenade. This first team was comprised of Theo Hurter, a retired roadworker and C.O. during the First World War; Fritz Müller of Zurich; Michel Casanovas, who was recently released from prison; and myself, Secretary of the Committee of 100. Two plain clothes men came up and asked us if we knew that such action was illegal. I was threatened with deportation, but they seemed disturbed when we didn't move. After a few more minutes, a police jeep arrived and after sitting down we were arrested. Later we were individually questioned.

At 1.30 p.m. the second team of three appeared in the same place, held up their banners and were arrested after two minutes. They were Pietro Pinna from Italy, Secretary to Professor Capitini and the first C.O. in Italy to attract public attention; Arthur Villard, ex-Secretary of the Swiss C.N.D. and Chairman of the Swiss W.R.I.; and Marcel Schweizer, Secretary of the Swiss W.R.I. Both Pinna and I were fined 49 francs, which were taken from us at the police headquarters. The Swiss participants intend to refuse to pay.

At 3 o'clock we were free, and at 6 the Press Conference was held, as planned, with a good attendance and a great deal of interest. The action has received good press coverage, photographs and articles explaining the C.O. position appearing in the "Tages Anzeiger" (Zurich), "La Tribune" (Geneva), "Volksrecht"

(Zurich) and "La Suisse" (Geneva).

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Reports of the Study Camp will appear in the next edition of WAR RESISTANCE.

U.S.A.

New York, N.Y., Friday, August 7, 1964 - The Committee for Nonviolent Action announced to-day that it would proceed with plans to send a group of peace marchers to Cuba, despite the State Department's refusal to issue passports validated for Cuban travel to the group.

The peace marchers' application had been under consideration by the State Department since May 19th. After repeated delays, the government finally announced on August 3rd that "a decision has been reached to deny the requests since the purpose of your proposed trip is not within the criteria established by the Secretary of State governing exceptions to the general restriction on travel of United States citizens to Cuba."

The Rev. A.J. Muste, National Chairman of CNVA, stated in a letter to the State Department on Aug. 5: "We can understand that the Secretary of State may regard the travel ban as 'necessary' to the conduct of U.S. foreign relations as at present formulated and applied. However, in the first place, we still regard such travel bans as not in the true interest of our own people, as a violation of fundamental human rights and a form of warfare, and not a means to understanding and peace.

"Secondly," the letter continues, "as we have also stated in earlier communications, we are fundamentally opposed to the present foreign policy of the United States which seeks to isolate countries like Cuba for the purpose of undermining their regimes and which is ultimately based on the threat or use of nuclear military force which is, in our view, politically suicidal and morally outrageous. The resort to military force in the past couple of days against North Vietnam in the course of U.S. intervention in the affairs of Southeast Asia is to us another illustration of the mistaken and evil character of our present foreign policy and strengthens our determination to oppose that policy by all nonviolent means in our power. We trust the State Department and our fellow-citizens generally will reflect on what their reactions would be if war vessels of foreign and unfriendly powers were cruising in American waters thousands of miles away from their own home base.

"We repeat, therefore, the notice given in our letter to the Secretary of State Dean Rusk, of July 28, 1964, that the Committee for Nonviolent Action and Peace Walkers will activate the programme which has all along been envisaged for such a contingency as this and to which frequent reference has been made in our written and oral pronouncements."

In Miami, the peace marchers are daily picketing the New Federal Building, which houses a passport office of the State Department. Two members of the group are conducting a sit-in at the passport office. One of them began a fast of indefinite duration on Aug. 3. Other

members of the group are preparing a small motor boat, which they plan to use to take 6 of the peace marchers to Cuba within a few weeks.

In Cuba, the Peace Walkers plan to complete the 700 mile journey to Guantanamo in two to three months. Plans call for a non-violent demonstration outside the huge base demanding that it be dismantled. The group will call on the Cuba people to renounce any intention of military enterprise against the U.S. or any other nation", and to "Request all military personnel of foreign countries to leave Cuba."

In its recommendations for U.S. policy toward Cuba, the CNVA urges the government to "Renounce any intention to invade or support an invasion of Cuba or any other nation;" "Withdraw from proximity to Cuba all naval and other military forces;" "Cease reconnaissance flights over Cuba;" "Rescind all commerce and travel restrictions;" and "Close the Guantanamo Naval Base" among other points.

FRANCE

The Union Pacifiste de France has launched a campaign for progressive disarmament. Thousands of leaflets will be distributed all over France. These draw attention to the successive failures to reach any agreement at Geneva and the U.N. In 1963 30% of the French budget, 57% of the American and 16% of the Russian was devoted to military expenditure. As long as this waste continues the amelioration of living standards will remain difficult and no economic or social problem will find a lasting solution. The life of humanity itself is in danger because of the expense of atomic weapons. It is for the people to take action. "Join us in appealing for progressive disarmament, even unilateral, spread out over a period of 10 years with 10% annual reduction on the military budget. Work in your trade union or political party or other organisation. Such a reduction would permit a gradual reconversion from war industry to peace industry and would avoid unemployment amongst the workers who are now employed in making armaments and military equipment. Call for a referendum on this problem." Information: Comité d'Action pour le Désarmement Progressif, 34 rue Malatiré, à Rouen (Seine-Maritime).

L. T. ☆

Louis Lecoin reports in his paper LIBERTÉ that he is planning a large demonstration in one of the Paris meeting halls. This will be during October and it is hoped there will be 10,000 participants. This is the next move in the new campaign in France for a free Spain. It may be that anti-Fascist forces in other countries may wish to coordinate their activities with Lecoin's action.

BRITAIN

The Anglo-French anti-NATO project continues. A team of about 20 English and French volunteers worked at the Peace Action Centre in Cheshire building a childrens playground, clearing flood damage etc. On the 6th August they participated in Hiroshima Day fasts in London, Leamington, Frodsham and Watford. The team has now left for France. They will go to work camps at Gigny-sur Saône and Cluny. At Gigny they will convert a barn into a home for a family with 11

children now living in two small rooms. On the 2nd and 3rd September they will meet near Paris to decide on the details of a non-violent demonstration at the NATO Headquarters. There will follow the National Conference of Action Civique Non-Violente. On the 4th September there will be a discussion on action against the French tests in the Pacific. The final demonstration will be on the 7th September.

SWEDEN

The Annual Conference of the W.R.I.'s Swedish Section, Svenska Världsfredsmmissionen, took place on the 25th and 26th July. It was held in connection with the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the See of Uppsala in co-operation with the WILPF, the CND and other peace organisations. It was decided to appoint a full-time Secretary from the 1st August; to write to all the political parties in Sweden to urge them to work more wholeheartedly for disarmament and not to agree to expenditure for building up the Swedish defence system; to help Conscientious Objectors to build libraries of peace literature at their service camps; to ask radio and television for programmes on war and defence, disarmament and pacifism, conscientious objection and alternative service; to ask the University of Uppsala to establish a peace research institute linked with the Dag Hammarskjöld library; to urge more action on peace and disarmament from the Churches; and to suggest to the Swedish Post Office a peace stamp to celebrate the 150-year period during which Sweden has not been involved in a war. Letters were also sent to President Tito, calling for the release of Nazarene C.O.'s; to Prime Minister Moro of Italy, appealing for a C.O. Statute; to the Swiss Embassy, drawing attention to the International Camp for C.O.'s in Switzerland and the need for a Statute; to Prime Minister Verwoerd of South Africa and to Archbishop Makarios.

DENMARK

The Danish CND writes: "The General Election is to take place on September 22nd. In May one of the leaders of the Danish CND, Carl Scharnberg, made a tour of most of the local groups to prepare the General Election work. In the same month the CND published 4 booklets as the official introduction to the preparations for the General Election. The 3 first booklets deal with the problems in connection with the arms race, nuclear-free zones, the NATO multilateral force etc. - whereas the fourth one, the one that has got most publicity, is an investigation as to how much the Parliament has dealt with foreign policy and disarmament negotiations. The first part of the booklet is a kind of statistical investigation of how much foreign policy has been discussed in Parliament since the last General Election (November 1960), and the interesting conclusion is that foreign policy has been discussed less and less since 1960. Now (Spring 1964) foreign policy discussions amount only a little more than 4% of the total deliberations in the Danish Parliament. - The second part of the booklet is the result of an inquiry among the Members of Parliament about their point of view concerning a wide range of disarmament problems of current interest. The number of replies were few, but that also shows something about the M.P.'s interest in and knowledge of foreign policy."

Published by War Resisters' International

10.8.64.

67/64

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:
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ENGLAND

Telephone: LABurnum 3977

23rd September 1964

NEWS RELEASE NO. 29

28.9.64

SWEDEN:

ED 713-18-68

Government proposal for peace research

On the occasion of the celebration arranged by the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society to commemorate the 150th anniversary of peace, the Swedish Prime Minister Tage Erlander announced an important government plan for peace research, a field so far neglected in Sweden.

The speech was delivered in Morokulien, the little "Peace Territory" on the border between Sweden and Norway, jointly owned by the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society and the Norwegian Peace Society.

Sweden has been fortunate enough to live in peace for 150 years, Mr. Erlander said. This long period of peace has brought exceptional advantages to our country. But we also believe that it has helped to limit conflicts and risks of conflict in our part of the world. The task of maintaining a policy of peace makes it natural to consider how international conflicts arise, how to avoid them and how to settle them in a peaceful way. Today this is a problem for all the peoples of the world. The construction of nuclear weapons has brought the problem to a head and, through improved communications and growing inter-dependence, local military conflicts tend more noticeably to concern us all. The responsibility for keeping peace in the world lies primarily with the Great Powers which possess the most destructive weapons but every country has its share of the responsibility. Those who have political responsibility have here one of their most important tasks. But one can question whether it should not be possible for scientists to contribute to the solution of the international problems by increasing our knowledge of the background to the problems, about possible ways of reducing tension, of removing sources of trouble and effectively making use of the U.N. peace-keeping machinery. Not only research is needed to solve the problems which become evident in the course of the U.N. special peace operations and negotiations for disarmament.

This question has been taken up in several countries and efforts to commence peace and conflict research have been made in several parts of the world. In our country a start has been made in this direction with a symposium on security policy at the Institute of Foreign Affairs.

Now is the time to take up the question of the possibilities for making a more substantial effort in this field.

An international institute for peace and conflict research is a matter which deserves to be thoroughly gone into. A reason why Sweden should take particular responsibility in the realisation of an international peace research project is not only the 150 years of peace. Also for other reasons Sweden could be a suitable environment for peace research. It is the intention of the Government to set up a committee with the task of surveying the problems connected with such an institute. The committee will naturally keep in touch with those who are working for the same aims within the Nordic Council and in the other Nordic countries. When the work of the committee has been carried out, we shall be in a position to adopt a more definite attitude to the project.

The Prime Minister ended his speech by saying: It is my hope that in this field we will be able to make a contribution in line with our long traditions of peace and with our growing consciousness of the co-responsibility of the smaller nations for keeping peace in the world.

NORWAY

Folkereising Mot Krig, the Norwegian Section of the W.R.I., held its Annual General Meeting in Molde, a small Eastern town, on 8th and 9th August.

25 year old Tor Bjerkmann, director of the newly started PAX publishing house, was elected Chairman in succession to Prof. Gutorm Gjessing who had declined re-election. With his Executive of average age below 25 Mr. Bjerkmann plans to revitalise local groups and take an initiative in founding new peace centres to serve the whole peace movement.

The F.M.K., representing 2 000 members all over the whole country, deplored the recent American attack on bases in North Vietnam and called on the Norwegian government to exert its influence in NATO and the U.N. to end hostilities in Vietnam.

Conference further confirmed the decision of the Executive and Council to withdraw from the National Peace Council, the Norwegian section of the International Peace Bureau. F.M.K., already a member of the I.C.D.P. as well as of the W.R.I., decided to apply for membership of the I.P.B. directly. The application was accepted by the General Meeting of the I.P.B. in Oslo on August 28th.

Conference debated a motion to establish a Bertha von Suttner peace prize as a Nobel type prize for the peace movement. While no recommendation was decided on, the proposal was passed on to the international bodies for consideration.

Nils Petter Gleditsch and Theo Koritzinsky were elected co-editors of PAX, the F.M.K. monthly, which has reached a circulation of 4 000 and is widely read both in and outside the peace movement. PAX was also one of the organisers of the seminar on peace periodicals which took place on August 29th and 30th at Sørmarka, near Oslo.

ISRAEL

ED 748-12-69

"W.R.I. member, Oriel Davis is established in the Arab village of Deer el Asad trying to develop a non-violent direct action campaign. 5441 dunams (1 dunam = 1,000 sq. metres) of land were confiscated 2 years ago by the Israeli government from this village and two others, all in the Galilee region. The villagers lost growing fields of crops, olive groves and other plantations. The official excuse was "development" - a new town for immigrants.

Galilee is the main Arab region in Israel. It was not included in the Jewish state after the U.N. division of Palestine in 1947. After the armistice agreement in 1949 the Government tried to populate the area with new immigrants. The scheme failed because most of the newcomers did not have an agricultural background and those who came from Arab countries in North Africa felt that discrimination against them was being continued. They began to refuse to go to the development areas and sometimes had to be taken there by force.

Oriel Davis believes that the Arab villagers who are the victims of development should take non-violent direct action by picking their own olives and ploughing the confiscated fields. He is running considerable risk because the area is under military rule and he could be imprisoned without trial.

On the other side the Arabs are reluctant to respond because some of them believe that he has been sent by "Shin-Beith" the Israeli Intelligence Service. If he succeeds in gaining the confidence of the villagers without incurring arrest he will eventually try to lead the villagers into the olive fields together with some 50 Jewish volunteers. The foreign press will be encouraged to attend. Whether the volunteers will be arrested on the spot or later the incident should help to expose the policies of discrimination being applied to the Arab minority."

Report from Jesajahu-Toma Sjk

INDIA

Sushil Hilton, a young Christian student writes to ARUNODAYAM, the organ of the Indian F.o.R.:

"In '63 I joined Lucknow Christian College. After finishing the B.A. my aim was to go to Leonard Theological College, Jabulpur for a B.D. But unfortunately it could not be fulfilled, because National Cadet Corps Service is compulsory throughout India and every degree student has to do it. But I utterly refused to join it, because I feel it is against my Christian conviction. I was the only boy who was a conscientious objector in the whole college. I tried my best for exemption but I could not get it so I had to leave the college. I did not appear in the exams."

BRITAIN

In connection with Howard Cheyney's campaign against war taxes for nuclear armaments the Campaign Caravan Workshop is organising a national petition during the period of the General Election. Signatures will be collected until the 31st December and then the petition will be prepared for presentation to Parliament when next

year's defence estimates are debated.

1. The defence policy of Her Majesty's Government is one of reliance on nuclear weapons and other weapons of indiscriminate destruction and this involves expenditure on and the use in some circumstances of such weapons.

2. Your petitioners respectfully submit that the defence policy of Her Majesty's Government violates the spirit of the rule of law which binds the member nations of the United Nations and in particular, the reliance upon nuclear weapons and weapons of indiscriminate destruction constitutes a constant threat to world peace and harmony between the nations. Furthermore, each citizen of the United Kingdom who contributes to its revenues by paying its taxes ipso facto accepts moral responsibility for such policy.

3. Your petitioners respectfully submit that each citizen should be afforded the opportunity of disclaiming such responsibility if his conscience so moves him.

NOW THEREFORE YOUR PETITIONERS pray that legislation be introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the Budget proposals 1965 which would enable a citizen to decline to contribute to national expenditure for armaments on grounds of conscience and in place thereof to contribute to a special fund for social improvements or overseas aid for under-developed countries of the world.

SWEDEN

Number of out-and-out pacifists goes up

Swedish military authorities have devised a convenient way to deal with the so-called "total C.O.'s" who refuse to do any alternative work. They send them to the Malma University Forest where the forestry authorities see to the rest. C.O.'s are given an axe and told to fell a tree. If they refuse to do this in the presence of the forester and two witnesses, documents are signed accordingly and sent to the military authorities.

So far some 150-160 out-and-out pacifists have turned up yearly in the Malma Forest but this year the number has gone up: so far 190 have refused to obey the order to fell a tree. Among the latest group of young people was Herman Schmid. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. On the two previous occasions he received one month and two months.

W.R.I.

The W.R.I. is continuing its international news service in cooperation with the I.C.D.P. and the I.P.B. Releases go to some 300/400 organisations, publications and individual contacts. Approximately 26 issues will be published each year. They cost £1 (2.80) or by air mail £2.15.0. (+7.70).

Contributions of another kind are also required. If you have news items which you wish to place before the world peace movement, please send them to the W.R.I.,

88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex,
England

marked "FOR THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE".

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

90/64

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD
Telephone: LABurnum 3977

88 Park Avenue,
Enfield, Middlesex,
ENGLAND

10th November, 1964

13.11.64

NEWS RELEASE NO. 31.

W.R.I.

ED 71A-18-70

Prisoners for Peace Day

Apart from sending greetings to Prisoners of Conscience, peace movements in many countries are planning demonstrations and deputations to Embassies of those countries which have not yet recognised conscientious objection and have therefore no provision for alternative service. According to news just received from Germany local groups are planning to send letters and telegrams to all such Embassies in Germany. In a letter to all W.R.I. Sections and other movements the Secretary of the W.R.I. wrote:

"It is only by making such efforts that we shall succeed in drawing the attention of a large number of people to the importance of opposing conscription. It is due to such efforts that we have achieved results in so many countries... The German Democratic Republic has also passed a law recognising conscientious objection. However inadequate the Statute might be from W.R.I. point of view, we think it is the first encouraging step... taken by an East European country. If that trend is to be maintained, more intensive efforts on our part are necessary. Let us use 1st December in the best possible way."

"There is another important point: There are countries where the idea of conscientious objection to military service is not known. Recently, in connection with the revision of our records of Military Service Regulations, we received a reply from an Embassy saying that they did not know what conscientious objection was. Is it therefore not an occasion to ask the Governments of those countries to give thought to new ideas and see the evil of militarism?"

On hearing recently that a young Nazarene conscientious objector in Yugoslavia had been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, the W.R.I. took the matter up with the Yugoslav Ambassador in London. A joint deputation is going to meet the Yugoslav Ambassador in London on Prisoners for Peace Day.

Chinese Test

The W.R.I. Executive Committee meeting, held on October 19th, 1964, sent the following message to the Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Government in London:

"Our members have vigorously protested at the American, Soviet, British and French tests of nuclear weapons. We must now make public our regret that the actions of these Governments have led the Government of China to follow this deplorable example and to become the fifth Government to squander national resources in this way, in-

crease international tension and increase the hazards of radio-activity."

"We have pressed for the admission of China to the U.N. Today we would urge the Chinese Government, despite the unwillingness of many Governments to grant admission to U.N., to adhere to the test ban treaty and to take whatever steps it can to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to other nations."

ITALY

International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace is organising an International Conference in Rome from 5th - 6th December. The theme is "Against Proliferation of Nuclear Arms and for a Nuclear-free Zone in Central Europe." The local organising body of the Conference is Consulta per la Pace. The Conference is part of a large campaign against M.L.F. It will include demonstrations in Bonn and London and a follow-up action in Paris at the time of the meeting of the NATO Council due in mid-December.

ARGENTINA

It was reported in Peace News on 23rd October that a 24-year old Argentinian diplomacy student Guillermo Giacosa has been accepted as a conscientious objector by the Ministry of Defence. The struggle took two years, as Argentina has no provisions for conscientious objectors. According to Guillermo Giacosa, he is the first successful conscientious objector in Argentina.

GERMANY

W.R.I. Section holds its A.G.M.

Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner held its A.G.M. on 10th/11th October in Schweinfurt. The meeting was welcomed by the Mayor of Schweinfurt who, according to Th. Michaltscheff, the General Secretary of I.d.K., proved to be very sympathetic "to our cause and an opponent of rearmament and militarism." During the discussions special emphasis was given to disarmament and the German Emergency Laws. In the evening there was a torch-march from the meeting place across the town to the townhall, where an anti-war exhibition was inaugurated. The new Chairman of the I.d.K. is Helmut M. Vogel from München.

Support Opposition to German Emergency Laws

Most countries have provisions in their Constitutions for special laws in emergency situations. Normally such laws are enforced only in real emergencies, such as war; but just imagine what the fate of democracy would be if a government started taking war-time measures even when there was no immediate threat of war. The Federal German Republic has been trying to introduce a change in the basic Constitution which would give the Government greatly increased powers and almost a dictatorial character.

Due to some opposition and perhaps also for other reasons the Bill was shelved last year. It was a shrewd act on the part of the Government. They chose different methods of enforcing these laws. Instead of trying to put the whole set of laws into operation, they decided to pass them quietly one by one. For instance some months ago the Federal Government was given the power to tap telephones and

censor mail.

ED 718-18-71

Peace movements in West Germany are concerned about this matter. During the past two years they have demonstrated against the introduction of Emergency Laws. Now the problem seems to have become more and more acute. The Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner, a W.R.I. Section in Germany, is therefore planning a big demonstration to co-incide with the reading of the Bill in the Lower House some time in November-December. In a communication to all War Resistance readers the I.d.K. says:

"Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner will organise a demonstration in Bonn against Emergency Laws and MLF at the end of November or early December 1964. We ask all our friends abroad to help us by organising similar protests in their countries!"

We feel that no support could be too much.

ISRAEL

All American young men are expected to register themselves for Selective Service when they reach their 18th birthday. Richard Krech, a U.S.A. citizen, was in Israel on his 18th birthday. He went to stand in front of the American Embassy in Tel-Aviv with posters saying "Draft is slavery" and "Thou shalt not kill" and distributed leaflets entitled "Draft is slavery". The leaflets said that slavery was abolished in the States over 100 years ago and therefore the Selective Service Act was incompatible. Within 15 minutes the Israeli police arrived and asked Richard to get into the police van. After a short discussion and after realising that Richard was an American citizen, the police consulted their Headquarters by telephone. According to Israeli law protecting foreign Embassies no such action was allowed within 50 meters of foreign representatives' buildings. Therefore it was the "duty" of the police to remove him. But, instead of moving away from the entrance of the American Embassy, Richard went into the building. This annoyed the Embassy officials who asked the police to take the posters away from Richard. It is reported that some officials read the leaflets with great interest. One of them even refused to take them from Richard's hands.

If Richard Krech is not arrested on his return to U.S.A. for refusing military service, he hopes to work for the Freedom Now movement. His address is: 1496, Evelid Avenue, Berkeley, California 94708, U.S.A.

Report from Jesajahu-Toma-Sjk.

SOUTH AFRICA

Theodore Kloppenburg, a W.R.I. member in South Africa, has after all lost his appeal against the sentence he was given in August 1963 in connection with the Suppression of Communism Act. His sentence was, however, reduced recently by 10 months. This means he will be serving a two-month sentence.

In a letter to the W.R.I., written a day before he went to prison, Theodore Kloppenburg says: "What to do next is a question that I cannot at the moment answer. I have been tempted to leave the country. If I do, I shall get travel documents for one way only. I have been here nearly 28 years. The longest I have stayed in any one country was 20 years - in my home-country. One does not like to become once again an emigrant... But I like this country, with its

sunshine, big open spaces. Even if I am prohibited from leaving this town, I know them. I like my few Indian and African friends who are now too frightened to visit me. The impossibility to converse with any of the other 1,000 restricted and banned persons. Should one accept, live like an old cabbage that has become useless?"

"I know you don't know the answers either. I am only writing to get rid of some pent up feelings that make one despondent, makes one wonder if anything an individual does can be pitched against the misrepresentations of the press, the fallacious ideas of the so-called educated people."

After hearing his reduced sentence Theodore Kloppenburg wrote to the Judge President:

"It is presumed on my part that you seldom receive a letter from a "criminal" who is in prison and whose sentence you have reduced. I do not know what my Counsel said on my behalf, or the full judgment, apart from what appeared in the press. What the press omitted was the fact that I was not connected with communist activities here or elsewhere in the world. It does not greatly matter for my person. It does, however, matter for pacifist and peace-making activities."

"Even educated persons, it seems, have no clear distinction between pacifism and communism... Any indication that pacifism and communism are related is a handicap for those who labour for peace and understanding between persons, peoples and nations."

"You were quoted as saying that a sentence of 10 months hanging over my head would be likely to operate as a "complete adequate" deterrent. Allow me to remind you that many who openly and undauntedly opposed the German Reich and its Führer knew that death penalty could, and often did, follow. They refused to idol-worship the state which demanded complete obedience."

"Allow me to point to a letter written by myself and published in The Natal Mercury during June 1963 under the heading "Teachers and Truth". The letter was written with reference to a sub-editorial in which you were quoted as saying 'Justice cannot be done without truth ...'. In this published letter the penultimate paragraph reads in part: 'The Judge in turn cannot apply factual truth that one's conscience is of more importance than the Judicial rules...Therefore 'factual truth' cannot always be ministered by a Judge."

"I have been summarily restricted for reasons unknown to me. Should I have accepted my restrictions without protest, I would have damaged my integrity as a free human being, harmed my conscience and lowered my self-esteem. I would have silently conceded that nationalism in South Africa and legally enforced segregation is acceptable to a Christian. Nationalism and Christianity are opposing poles. By denying this one denies and debases truth."

"This letter should make it clear that I have no ill-feelings towards the Minister or you personally. Nevertheless, I am serving an unjust sentence which could not have come to pass but under the sway of nationalism where ever it comes in power."

"I do not desire any justification from any living person. The justification for my protest lies within my personality. Ten years' gaol hanging over my head would probably cow me. I am not a hero. Yet, I know of one of our young members who in France refused to obey the state for conscience's sake. He languished in total nine years in

prison. Another, a German, who was hanged on the 20th of July, 1944, said to the President Judge: "If I am hanged, Herr President, then you will be the one who is afraid, not I."

"Both these men had an easy conscience. I forgive Minister Vorster and all the Judges who have been called upon, in the Civil and Criminal case, the injustice done to me. The imposed restrictions were uncalled for, the prison sentence unjust."

NEW ZEALAND

C.N.O.'s letter to President de Gaulle

An Open Letter has been sent to President de Gaulle from New Zealand. It has been signed, among others, by 41 branches of Women's Div.Fed. Farmers, 7 Trade Councils, 3 branches of Intellectually Handicapped Children's Association, 5 University Students' Associations, 3 branches of Federation of University Women, 25 District Trade Unions, 27 Parent-Teacher Associations, 4 branches of Catholic Women's League and several church and play centre groups.

The letter reads as follows:

"In January 1964 your Defence Minister, M. Messmer, stated in Tahiti that 'to his knowledge there had not really been any protests about the French plans to test nuclear weapons in South Pacific from the Australian or New Zealand Governments.' But the fact is that our New Zealand Government formally protested in May 1963 and a formal acknowledgement was received in July 1963. Throughout the country the indignation of New Zealanders is intense, far beyond any formal protest."

"The right to conduct these tests in the name of national independence, strength and prestige, if claimed by every nation on earth can lead only to the destruction of all. On the other hand the most important finding from the tests held already is that the world dare not countenance any more of them."

"The partial test-ban treaty gave us hope that the spread of nuclear weapons would be checked and the arms race slowed down. We appeal to France, so often a friend and ally in this country, not to destroy this hope. France will gain increased respect everywhere if she will sign the treaty."

"We are concerned for the wellbeing of our Island neighbours, some of whom are under our direct protection. Mothers fear for the health of their children. Farmers wish to protect their produce from contamination by possible fall-out."

"The organisations who have signed this letter have a variety of aims, but the letter has only one aim. We beg France to turn away from the dangerous policy followed in testing nuclear weapons, to withdraw this threat from the Pacific Ocean and to exercise with us the duty of civilised nations to protect the Island peoples and the health of future generations."

U.S.A.

Quebec-Guantanamo Peace Walk Boat Confiscated

The United States of America v. the Spirit of Freedom is the title officially assigned to an action

filed by the U.S. Attorney in Miami on 1st November, 1965. Its object is to legally complete the confiscation of the boat "Spirit of Freedom" which was seized by the Coast Guard on Oct. 27th when 5 pacifists, sponsored by the Committee for Nonviolent Action, sailed for Havana in violation of the ban on travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba. Had they reached Cuba, the peace marchers planned to walk from Havana to Guantanamo, to complete a marathon peace walk which began in Quebec city, Canada, in May last year. During 2800 miles of walking, the peace march, with an average of 30 participants, has called on the people and government of each country to renounce reliance on military defence and to adopt the use of nonviolent resistance to defend freedom. The principal purpose of the Quebec-Washington-Guantanamo Walk for Peace has been to ease tension between the U.S. and Cuba and to contribute to ending the conflict which precipitated the nuclear missile crisis of October 1962.

Commander Paul W. Welker, the commanding officer of the base, and his executive officer, Lt. Commander Howard Istock, went aboard the "Spirit of Freedom", shook hands and then formally read two statements: "Your craft is under seizure and under the custody of the United States Attorney General." Then, after a pause, "Your presence here is interfering with the operation of the base. I ask you to leave." The crew refused to leave their ship. Another Coast Guard officer, Lt. Johnson, came aboard with a crew who carefully inventoried, packaged and labelled all the boat's equipment. Finally they padlocked the cabin and even sealed the door with masking tape.

Phil Leahy, a member of the 1961 San Francisco to Moscow Walk for Peace, who happened to be in the Miami area, had heard the news reports that the crew had been deprived of its food. He decided to attempt to relieve the siege by bringing food to the crew members, even though he was completely without funds. His luck was good. He hitched a ride with a Goldwater supporter who agreed that the travel ban was arbitrary and unreasonable. He took Phil to a grocery store and gave him money to buy food.

At about 1:30 Phil presented himself at the entrance to the C.G. base on his "errand of mercy". He was refused admittance and told that nothing could be delivered to the crew of "Spirit of Freedom". Phil departed and told a newsman that he planned to swim to the boat with the food. When he was refused permission to deliver the food for the second time, he returned to the bridge, removed his shoes and jumped into the water with his bundle of groceries.

Phil's progress toward the boat was slow and painful because a strong current was against him. The crew of the "Spirit of Freedom" responded with great excitement when they saw the head bobbing in the water; the response of the Coast Guardsmen was even more excited. A huge cutter, "Cape Trinity" moved in close to the sea wall to prevent the swimmer's proceeding to the arrested boat. Some fruitless efforts to catch Phil with a hook were made, but the CG40595 was successful in placing itself between Phil and his goal. Phil's response was to lob the groceries from the water over the intervening cutter. Most of the apples got through and were caught by the crew, but a head of lettuce was intercepted. Phil finally reached the "Spirit of Freedom" shortly before he was totally exhausted. The picket line was ended when Phil climbed aboard. The whole episode had taken place during a lashing downpour.

The five crew members of the "Spirit of Freedom" plan to continue their "discussion" with the U.S. Attorney and his assistants, inde-

initely, unless the boat is returned and they are allowed to sail to Cuba and complete their walk for peace. CNVA believes that the travel ban is an integral part of the hostile U.S. policy toward Cuba which led to the nuclear missile crisis of 1962 and that restoration of freedom of travel will contribute significantly to changing that policy. CNVA is calling on people across the United States and throughout the world to demonstrate their concern for peace and civil liberties through actions supporting the crew of the "Spirit of Freedom". Demonstrations were already planned for New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Boston on Friday, November 6th.

NETHERLANDS

The Dutch Section of the Fellowship of Reconciliation celebrated its 40th anniversary on October 17th. National papers gave a good coverage to the event. The General Synod of the Reformed Church and some other ecclesiastical bodies sent congratulations. This was a very welcome change in the attitudes of churches towards Kerk en Vrede (F.o.R), as such recognition had never before come from that source.

Chinese Test

The Pacifist Socialist Party sent a letter of protest to the Chinese Embassy in Netherlands against their atom bomb test.

Ban for reporting on Conscientious Objection

A protestant Christian family weekly De Spiegel was banned by a military commander because it had devoted some pages of an issue to objective reporting on C.O. legislation. Questions about this were asked in the Parliament but no answer is as yet available.

Declared obsolete

The Ijssel defence-line running from Arnhem to the former Zuidersee, started in 1952, has been declared obsolete. The inundation gates, dams and other structures are being demolished. The cost of building the defence line was £15 millions. It will take some £7 - £8 millions to demolish it.

Protest against South Africa

When Harlem's Town Organist Piet Kee recently proposed to visit South Africa, this met with a storm of protest from the people of the town.

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Advertisements for Outspan oranges (from South Africa) were banned from municipal hoardings in Amsterdam some time ago. Now questions have been asked in the Amsterdam Town Council about the origin of Outspan oranges available in the canteen, but the Burgomeister could not give a satisfactory answer.

STOP PRESS

☆☆ ☆☆

Australia has introduced conscription for military service overseas. It will be selective in character and two years in duration. At the age of 20 years all men will be liable for call-up. When this was reported in the B.B.C. news today, it was said that Australia took this step because of the danger it faces from Indonesia.

☆☆ ☆☆☆

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD

88 Park Avenue,
Enfield,
Middlesex,
ENGLAND

Telephone: LABurnum 3977

23rd November, 1964

28.11.64

NEWS RELEASE No. 32

GERMANY

Demonstration against Emergency Laws

In continuation to information given on the subject in news release No. 31, it is being reported that the Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner is holding a large-scale demonstration against the Emergency Laws and MLF on 5th December, 1964, at 11.00 a.m. in Poppelsdorfer Allee, Bonn.

In a letter Alois Stoff says: "We ask our foreign friends most earnestly to help us. They should demonstrate on 5th December, 1964, in front of German Embassies in their countries and give statements of protest against the MLF and German Emergency Laws."

When Mr. Gordon Walker, the British Foreign Secretary, recently visited Dr. Schröder, the Foreign Minister of the Federal German Republic, the following telegram was sent to him by the I.d.K.:

MANY PEOPLE HERE THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF HER MAJESTY FOR THE ATTACK AGAINST THE MLF AND WISH GREATEST SUCCESS.

NOTE:

A document on German Emergency Laws (in English) is available from the WRI Headquarters. Price 2/6 post free.

Freundschaftsheim, Bückeberg,

organises a Christmas and a New Year Gathering every year. Year after year these gatherings have proved a happy, valuable and memorable experience for the people taking part. Usually those people join the gatherings who come to Europe for a fairly short time and have therefore no chance of spending Christmas in a family. The Heim invites people to participate in the programme which will include celebrations and festivities, visits and outings, music, talks and discussions. It is hoped also to arrange for guests to be entertained in local German homes.

Further information available from Freundschaftsheim, Bückeberg, Germany, or from Aubrey Brocklehurst, 124 Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 7.

AFRICA:

W.R.I. Council Member Pierre Martin reports:

Senegal

The number of refugees from Portuguese Guinea is gradually increasing. In Senegal there are already 50,000. For a small country like Senegal it is too much of a burden to cope with such vast numbers. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees visited recently Casamance, the South Port of Senegal, to survey the situation. Plans are being made to give whatever help is possible. Already help has arrived from the USA Catholics in the form of food. The British Government gave 5 Land-Rovers and OXFAM 500 pounds. The need is great, especially of social workers to do rehabilitation work among the refugees.

West Africa

Jehovah's Witnesses are increasing in number, especially in Liberia, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

☆☆☆☆☆

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Telegraphic address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD

88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND

ED 7/18-18-75

4th December, 1964.

11.12.64

NEWS RELEASE NO. 23

Dear Friend,

The Vietnam situation is deteriorating every day. It is not surprising that people who live far away from Vietnam, or those who are not directly connected with it, do not react strongly to the problem. For European movements the question of Cyprus seems more real than Vietnam, but in to-day's world there is not much difference whether the crisis spot is right in front of your house or several thousand miles away.

To the American movement war in South Vietnam is of first concern. I would quote here a letter from A.J. Muste, dated November 27th:

"Will you do everything in your power to see to it that the Call for Action on December 19, 1964, to End the War in South Vietnam, is brought to the attention of peace, labor, church, civic and other groups in your respective countries?"

"The people of South Vietnam have suffered much too long already. Successive U.S. administrations have supported South Vietnamese governments which have no claim to being democratic. U.S. forces, theoretically acting as "advisors" to such regimes, have in fact waged atrocious war against the people of South Vietnam.

"There is great danger that the war will soon be extended by the Johnson administration rather than stopped. We desperately need your help as we seek to awaken the conscience and the good sense of our people and our government."

That should suffice to create sufficient concern in us regarding Vietnam. I hope your movement will act and also involve others in your country.

The War Resisters' League has asked for help from WRI Sections. David McReynolds wrote in a recent letter:

"What we need, most urgently, from the WRI is a strong note or appeal to all sections that AT SOME POINT BETWEEN DECEMBER 13TH AND 20TH THEY MAKE SOME ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL REPRESENTATION OR MANIFESTATION TO U.S. EMBASSIES, CONSULATES, MISSIONS, ETC., IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRY. THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIONS MAKE A STRONG APPEAL FOR U.S. WITHDRAWAL AND IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE."

Attached is the call from the War Resisters' League. Please act.

Yours sincerely,

Devi Prasad

CALL FOR DECEMBER 19 PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

The present war in South Vietnam has involved the United States in a most shameful way in a war of atrocities being waged by the government in Saigon against the people of South Vietnam, only a minority of whom support that U.S.-backed government, and none of whom have ever had a chance even to vote for or against it.

In addition, every day the war continues there is the increasing danger of the war being carried into North Vietnam, or into China, or even escalating into a nuclear war involving the Soviet Union and the rest of the world.

As Americans we are profoundly ashamed of the role our government has played and the actions it has initiated or condoned in South Vietnam. We call upon President Johnson to declare an immediate cease fire on the part of American forces in South Vietnam, followed by their earliest possible withdrawal.

We urge the immediate convening of a conference of those nations concerned with the situation in South Vietnam, including both mainland China and the United States, and that such a conference seek:

- (1) To secure cooperative action in a program of relief and rehabilitation, carried on through neutral auspices, and directed toward bringing swift and compassionate economic and medical aid to the terribly ravaged people of South Vietnam.
- (2) To secure an independent and neutral government in South Vietnam through free elections in which democratic, trade union, and religious forces can all have an effective voice.
- (3) To insure that the associated states of what was formerly French Indochina (Laos, Cambodia, and North and South Vietnam) will be free from military intervention from the United States, China, the Soviet Union, or any other nation.

The horrors we now inflict upon the people of South Vietnam, as well as the dangers attendant upon continuing or extending the war there, require of us a new sense of political realism. And, morally, we cannot longer be silent in the face of actions we consider so wrong and so dangerous.

We have therefore taken the extraordinary step of calling upon all democratic forces in the world to join us in protesting against the present actions of the United States government in South Vietnam. As we joined others in vigorously condemning Soviet actions in Hungary and French actions in Algeria, so we now call upon others to join with us, and to help us kindle the conscience of the U.S. Administration.

In calling for action in our own nation we urge visits to Congressmen, letters to the President, meetings with community leaders and those who shape opinion. But we make a special appeal to all those who agree with our position as we have spelled it out above to make that position visible on Saturday, December 19th. Let our own communities, the men and women in the streets of our towns and cities, see that opposition to this war does exist.

There are many ways in which the community can be reached, and our position given "public visibility". Leaflets can be distributed by

the thousands and the tens of thousands; poster walks can be organized; vigils can be set up. We ask that on December 19th we speak to the people around us, and not simply to one another. We ask that, throughout this nation, there be concerted public action on that day -- action that is peaceful, and responsible, but also action that is public.

On that same day we expect that American Embassies, Consulates and Missions abroad will receive delegations from peace organizations, church groups, trade unions, students, and democratic labor and socialist parties; delegations that will join with us in this country as we make an appeal to the conscience and good sense of our government.

Why have we chosen December 19th? It is not a special day - it is simply the earliest date at which such a coordinated public action could be undertaken. Acting out of a sense of moral urgency we have not waited for a "logical" day, feeling instead that the earliest possible date was the logical date, and was the necessary date.

In the meantime the meaning of this Call and of your preparations for December 19th will not be lost upon President Johnson and those who share with him the responsibility to make fateful decisions regarding the situation in Vietnam.

Join us, in your own way, in your own community, in giving a public voice to the conscience of America on Saturday, December 19th, 1964.

The following organizations have materials on the situation in Vietnam which may prove helpful in working out a leaflet for use in your own area. Some of these groups also have special leaflets ready for use on December 19th.

Committee for Nonviolent Action, 325 Lafayette Street, New York 12, N.Y.
Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, New York.
Socialist Party, 1182 Broadway, New York City.
Students for a Democratic Society, 119 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, N.Y.
Student Peace Union, 5 Beekman Street, New York 38, N.Y.
War Resisters League, 5 Beekman Street, New York 38, N.Y.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Committee of 100 is planning a picket at the American Embassy on the 19th in connection with the above appeal.

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD
TEL: LAB 4223

88 Park Avenue,
Enfield, Middlesex,
ENGLAND

29th December, 1964

NEWS RELEASE NO. 34

ED 7 11 - 18 - 77

IMPORTANT NOTICE

After the publication of this issue of News Releases there will be some change, about which we wish to notify here all those individuals and organisations which have been receiving W.R.I. News Releases. For the past year they will have noticed from several issues that these News Releases were being published partly as service to the International Peace Bureau and the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace. The service developed considerably and widened its scope. Our mailing list grew larger and larger. Many a time the W.R.I. felt and also expressed the view that a wider distribution of these News Releases should ultimately be done by the I.P.B. or the I.C.D.P. We are happy to say that the I.C.D.P. is starting a News Release service at the beginning of the coming New Year. We have now decided that W.R.I. news will be distributed to a wider circle in the fortnightly news bulletins of the I.C.D.P. This means that our News Release mailing list will be cut down to W.R.I. Sections, Associate Organisations and Publications and a limited number of other contacts. The next issue of the W.R.I. News will therefore be slightly different and will only be sent, apart from those mentioned above, to those who wish to receive it.

The I.C.D.P. will send the first issue of their fortnightly bulletin free to all those who are on the W.R.I. News Release mailing list. They will be asked if they would like to subscribe to it. The I.C.D.P. has decided that only those who subscribe will receive it thereafter.

SUBSCRIBERS WHO HAVE PAID FOR THE W.R.I. NEWS RELEASES WILL GO ON RECEIVING THE I.C.D.P. NEWS BULLETIN DURING THE PERIOD SUBSCRIBED FOR.

PRISONERS FOR PEACE DAY: DECEMBER 1ST:

Reports of demonstrations and other actions in connection with the Prisoners for Peace Day have started coming in:

United Nations:

War Resisters League organised a deputation on behalf of the International to the United Nations. A.J. Muste handed over a letter addressed to the Secretary General, U-Thant, asking that the Division of Human Rights explore the possibility of further study and action in the field of the right of conscientious objection and exemption from military service of conscientious objectors. It urged that the right of conscientious objection to war and military service be included in the Declaration of Human Rights.

At 10 a.m. a delegation, including Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, A.J. Muste, leading U.S. pacifist and George Willoughby, Chairman

of the Committee for Nonviolent Action, conferred with John Humphrey, Director of the U.N.'s Human Rights Division. Specifically, they urged that recognition of conscientious objection be incorporated into the U.N. Charter of Human Rights.

London

The War Resisters' International organised a deputation which included Fenner Brockway, ex-M.P. and now member of the House of Lords, Peter Benenson, Chairman of the Amnesty International Executive, Kenneth Lee, Secretary of Friends Peace Committee and Chairman of International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace, Bernard Withers, General Secretary of Peace Pledge Union and Devi Parasad, to meet the Yugoslav Ambassador to ask for the release of six Nazarene C.O.'s imprisoned for long term sentences of up to 10 years and also to stress the need to have legal recognition of conscientious objection in Yugoslavia. The deputation pointed out that, in view of the experiments in people's democracy taking place in Yugoslavia, it was important that recognition of the liberty of conscience should be recognised at the fundamental level. Without recognising this freedom it was not possible to build the kind of fundamental democracy the Yugoslavs wanted. The Ambassador reacted very sympathetically and assured the deputation that he would meet the concerned parties, including the Yugoslav Defence Minister, when he was in Yugoslavia for the New Year. He was certain that positive steps would be taken soon in regard to the imprisoned C.O.'s.

United States

The War Resisters League organised pickets in front of the New York City Headquarters and urged freedom for draft objectors presently imprisoned and abolition of conscription. "In the recent political campaign, both President Johnson and Senator Goldwater virtually promised to end draft", said the leaflets which were distributed. "Now is the time for that promise to be met."

Italy

Marco Pannella writes:

Milan

"The President of the local Consulta della Pace (to which all pacifist organisations are affiliated), Prof. Margaria, led a delegation to the Prefetto, the representative of the Government, to ask him to forward an open letter to Prime Minister Moro, demanding an initiative of the Government for a law on conscientious objection. Leaflets with the same demand were distributed in front of the University. Prof. A. Rendi spoke on pacifism and conscientious objection at the Circolo Turati.

Rome

Leaflets demanding that conscientious objection be recognised and announcing a public fast of 24 hours on Christmas at the Military Prison of Gaeta were distributed in the streets with the signatures of 19 pacifist and religious organisations.

Germany

Demonstrations and deputations were organised in several towns. Peace groups sent letters and telegrams to all the Embassies and Consulates of those countries which have not yet recognised con-

scientific objection. Detailed news is awaited.

Ireland

ED 742-48-78
The Irish Pacifist Movement organised a campaign which was joined by representatives of Amnesty International. Brenda Yasin, Secretary of the I.P.M., reports:-

"We drove slowly once round town to display our posters saying "Prisoners for Peace Day" and "Remember Prisoners for Peace". We then called on as many Consulates and Embassies as we could in the evening. These included Turkey, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Argentina and Switzerland. We were most successful with the Spanish Ambassador, as he invited the delegation which called on him to come in and tell him more about the aims and work of the Pacifist Movement in Ireland. This gave us a good opportunity to explain what we stand for and what we are doing. He was both interested and sympathetic. He detained us for twenty minutes and when we left assured us that he would take up the matter of provision for conscientious objectors with his Government."

"We had a small delegation of the Garda Siochana who drove beside us for the entire evening and called on both Betty and me for further explanations on what we were doing. Again we were pleased for the opportunity to explain ourselves and to get a sympathetic hearing in new quarters."

CAMPAIGN AGAINST GERMAN EMERGENCY LAWS AND THE M.L.F.

Germany

On Saturday, 5th December 1964, about 2,000 demonstrators took part in a Protest March in Bonn against Multilateral Force and Emergency Laws.

The Federal Chairman of the Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner, Helmut Vogel, and Frank Werkmeister from the Easter March Committee spoke at the meeting held after the demonstration. Dismissal of the Minister of Interior, Mr. Höcherl, was one of the things demanded.

Participants agreed to a declaration addressed to Embassies of NATO countries and delegations took this to respective Embassies. At the Danish, French and Luxembourg Embassies the delegations saw an Embassy official; the Icelandic Ambassador received the declaration personally.

Several letters of solidarity were received, both from Germany and from abroad.

Great Britain

The Committee of 100 organised a one-hour picket outside the German Embassy in London and asked the German Government to withdraw the proposed bill which introduces in peace time such legislation which one could expect only during a war. The pickets also asked Germany to reject M.L.F.

The Peace Pledge Union sent strong letters to the German Embassy asking Germany to withdraw the Emergency Law proposal.

Denmark

Aldrig Mere Krig (W.R.I.'s Danish Section) organised a demonstration in front of the German Embassy in Copenhagen against the German Emergency Laws and the M.L.F. They handed over to the German Ambassador a petition.

Rome

The Working Conference M.L.F., which was postponed, will now be held on February 12th-13th 1965 in Rome. It will be organised by the I.C.D.P. and attended by a number of selected people connected with the campaign against M.L.F.

France

The I.C.D.P., in co-operation with Mouvement Contre l'Armement Atomique, had planned a silent demonstration in front of the NATO Headquarters in Paris for 15th December. Although the French Ministry of Defence had no objection to holding the demonstration, the police did not allow it to take place. The demonstration was therefore given up and the demonstrators formed themselves into groups of 10-15 and started walking towards the NATO building with letters to be handed to the Council. The German group had C.N.D. banners and, as soon as they were unrolled, the police arrested several of the demonstrators.

A press conference was also held and Ann Kerr, M.P., and Fenner Brockway, former M.P. and now member of the House of Lords, both from Britain, were present. A public meeting, organised jointly by the I.C.D.P. and the World Council of Peace, was also held and was well attended. There were 12 speakers, half of them representing the I.C.D.P. and the other half the W.C.P. One of the speakers was Jean Rostand, a well-known biologist and Nobel Prize winner, who is also the Honorary President of the M.C.A.A.

VIETNAM CRISIS

Great Britain

A deputation met the First Secretary of the American Embassy in London on the 18th December. Representatives of the C.N.D., Movement for Colonial Freedom, Friends Peace Committee, Peace Pledge Union, W.R.I. and I.C.D.P. took part. The deputation explained to the First Secretary that it was highly desirable, both politically and morally, for U.S.A. to withdraw its military intervention from Vietnam. As she had the necessary power and resources, she should try to bring all countries directly concerned to a round-table conference. Efforts should be made to let the Vietnamese have a democratically elected government which should not be under the influence of either power bloc or any foreign country.

Germany

Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner organised a big demonstration on the 19th December in front of the American Embassy in Bad Godesberg/Bonn in response to an appeal from the War Resisters League, USA. Other demonstrations have been planned for those German towns which have American Consulates. No further information has yet reached Lansbury House.

Ireland

The Irish Pacifist Movement has asked the Irish Minister for External Affairs to raise the question of Vietnam at the United Nations' Geneva Assembly. The Secretary of the I.P.M. hopes that Mr. Aiken will find an opportunity to move this matter within the current session. In the letter to Mr. Aiken the I.P.M. says: "We bring to your attention... the war in South Vietnam. You will no doubt agree that the people of South Vietnam have suffered much too long. Prima facie the successive US administrations have supported S.V. governments which have no claim to being democratic. U.S. Forces theoretically acting as 'advisors' to such régimes have in fact waged a direct or indirect war with Communist China, for whom we hold no brief, and in which the people of South Vietnam have been main victims."

"We therefore request you to intervene... in the name of humanity by calling all parties, whether members of the U.N. or not, to attend to the urgent necessity of ending the suffering of all the people of Vietnam."

The I.P.M. also sent a deputation to the American Embassy in Dublin.

U.S.A.

David McReynolds of the War Resisters League has reported that protests and pickets were being planned in Tokyo and Montreal.

OTHER NEWS:

Israel

Jesajahu-Tona Sjk reports:

"900 Dunams of villagers in the Sachnin village in the Gallile were confiscated recently for the purpose of building a military camp. In a journalists' tour in the Gallile Mr. Joseph Weitz, Head of the co-operative body between the Israeli Government and the Zionist Congress for the settlements in Israel said that in 1964 four settlements were completed within the campaign of "Judaëising the Gallile".

"The Nachal (agricultural soldiers or military villagers) members will be settled in these places during 1965. This will complete the first stage of the campaign. Meanwhile the High Commander of the Nachal unit issued a regulation according to which those young people who will volunteer to the Nachal will have to serve 30 months instead of 24, the usual period of Israel compulsory service."

Uri Davis, who is working for the understanding between Arabs and Israelis in Israel, started a two-week fast on the 3rd November and gave it up on the 6th, after he was promised that a group of "Ichud" professors would visit the confiscated lands for the building of Carmi'el. Uri Davis is still waiting for the visit but Dr. Shere-shewsky of the proposed team told reporters that the team has no time to do so, "particularly because they want to make a deep research into the problem."

Uri Davis is meanwhile busy in social work in the village of Deer el Assad.

Great Britain

Holiday Camp for Mentally Handicapped Children

The Friends Work Camps Committee is planning, in co-operation with the South East Region of the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, to run a holiday camp for two groups of twenty mentally handicapped children (July 28th-September 4th).

There will be two camp periods, each three weeks in length. For each camp period it is hoped to have eight work camp volunteers and four mental health students and a supervisor. Volunteers should be aged 19 and over; no special skills are required but a real interest in children is essential. The work camp volunteers will be asked to pay towards their maintenance in the normal way - 35/- per week - but of course bursary help will be available. It is hoped that the volunteers will be able to stay for the full three weeks. Anyone able to offer for both camp periods will be especially welcome.

Applications should be made to: Friends Work Camps Committee, Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

Friends Work Camps Committee is also planning a programme of International Work Camps in Britain. Further information can be obtained from the Committee, address as above.

Australia

Conscription for overseas service was announced by the Government on November 10th. All males reaching 20 years must register (even physically and mentally handicapped persons) and a ballot will determine those to serve for years with the Military Forces, including overseas service, if required.

The Federal Pacifist Council of Australia at its meeting on the 14th November decided that, "while we are and always have been opposed to conscription for military training or service... we are totally opposed to the reliance on war or military involvement as an instrument of policy, and are therefore compelled to oppose the Government's policies. We believe that such policies can only arouse hostility among those it is aimed at, and engender support for military preparedness and action on their part, while a policy of genuine and wholehearted friendship and assistance, as opposed to the token assistance being given at present, might pave the way for a more receptive attitude towards any criticism Australia may feel entitled to offer any sovereign state in regard to any of its policies!"

The Aus Quaker Peace Committee is distributing leaflets explaining why conscription is wrong. It is hoped that pacifists in Australia will start a campaign against conscription.

W.R.I. Study Conference

The next Study Conference of the War Resisters' International will be held in Italy. The venue of the Conference will most likely be Perugia. The International is concerned about the question of training in non-violence, and there are groups in different countries

either working in this direction or keen on starting work on training. The W.R.I. is contacting active persons in the field of non-violence. It is hoped that this Conference will discuss the problem of training in non-violence on different levels, regionally and internationally. The final dates of the Conference have not yet been fixed, but July/August are suggested. The International is also planning to organise a C.O. Work Study Camp in Italy. The proposal is that both the Study Conference and the C.O. Work Study Camp be organised in such a way that at least some participants might be able to attend both.

W.R.L. Calendar

The War Resisters League publishes a calendar diary every year. Like the Housman's Peace Diary, the W.R.L. Calendar is also becoming well-known. It is available from the W.R.L., Room 1025, 5 Beekman Street, New York 38, N.Y., USA, price \$1.50.

India

Sarvodaya movement and the atom bomb

Addressing hundreds of Sarvodaya workers at their half-yearly Working Convention at Vegai in Madurai District towards the end of November, Jayprakash Narayan strongly condemned buying of weapons by India. He asked, "Can we settle our quarrels with neighbours by the use of weapons?". He made a strong plea to those governments, which supply arms to India, to help to bring parties concerned to a round table to settle problems peacefully, instead of supplying arms, which adds only to tensions and mistrust.

The Sarva Seva Sangh passed among other resolutions the following on nuclear weapons:

"Today violence has developed into extreme violence and atomic energy has been exploited to produce such destructive weapons as to annihilate the entire mankind. The two major atomic powers are USA and USSR, followed by UK and France. With its recent test-explosion of the atomic bomb, China has also joined the nuclear club!"

"The new Chinese venture has created a strange nervousness in our country and it is being urged in several quarters that India must also make a bomb. This meeting of the Sarva Seva Sangh strongly disapproves this and believes that the best answer to the Chinese bomb is a courageous renunciation of all our arms."

"Encouraged by the Chinese attempt, many nations have begun to think on the lines of having their own bombs. This proliferation of the bomb is a very dangerous trend, since it might then be used on ordinary pretext and lead to large-scale destruction, thus dashing all hopes of world peace and tranquillity. The Sarva Seva Sangh, therefore, expresses its unreserved opposition to the atomic bomb and also heartily endorses the views of the Prime Minister, as expressed at the Guntur meeting of the A.I.C.C., rejecting the call for an atom bomb and reiterating India's policy of peace and non-alignment. The Sangh is definitely convinced that India's participation in the atomic race will be both immoral and suicidal. It would lead her to economic and political slavery and would also be a denial of all those values and sanctions which we have cherished for ages past. This meeting appeals to the people to remain un-

moved by the bomb, to continue their cool and dispassionate thinking, and to generate the vital power of non-violence, in the development of which lies the salvation of India and the world."

L A T E S T :

PRISONERS FOR PEACE DAY:

Germany: Members of our German Section V.K. sent this year some 13,500 greetings to C.O.'s in prison and alternative service camps all over the world. Of these, 2,000 cards were sent by the V.K. Westharz Group alone.

Italy: The W.R.I. Section in Italy organised a 12-hour vigil - although forbidden by the police - on 6th December in Milan to ask the Italian Parliament to recognise the right of conscientious objection to military service. Ten of the demonstrators were arrested for a few hours. When the demonstrators staged a sit-down, the police behaved brutally when arresting them. They were dragged and kicked. In spite of this thousands of leaflets were distributed. Among those co-operating were Gruppo Azione diretta Nonviolenta, Centro Studi per il Terzo Mondo, Associazione per la Libertà Religiosa in Italia, Iniziativa e Collaborazione Culturale e Sociale and Campi di Lavarò e Studio.

VIETNAM CRISIS:

Germany: Details have just reached us of the German demonstration organised by our Section I.d.K. and the Social Democratic Students' Union in front of the USA Embassy. They handed in several letters addressed to the Ambassador and President Johnson. Demonstrators carried posters saying: Stop the dirty war in Vietnam; Make peace with Vietnam; Order the withdrawal of American troops, etc. Eight television and news reel cameras witnessed the demonstration and the handing over of letters addressed to President Johnson.

Tanzania: From The Nationalist of 21st December we understand that the 2nd Vice President Rashidi Kawawa sent a cable to A.J. Muste in support of the American campaign asking the U.S. Government to withdraw from South Vietnam and call a conference to solve the Vietnamese problem peacefully in consultation with all concerned countries, including Mainland China.

U.S.A.: The Nationalist of the same date also reported: "Demonstrations against U.S. participation in the war in Vietnam took place in eight American cities on Saturday."

"The demonstrations were organised to start simultaneously in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Seattle."

"In New York about 1,000 people heard the American Socialist Party leader Norman Thomas call on the U.S. Government to end the war by political negotiations. No other arrangement was valid, he said."

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD
Telephone No. LABurnum 3977

DP/MW

Lansbury House
88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex,
ENGLAND.

W.R.I. NEWS LETTER NO. 35

4th February, 1965

8.2.65

WAR IN VIETNAM

U.S.A.

ED 715-12-81

News reports from Vietnam continue daily to emphasise senseless death, torture and the dictatorial nature of the U.S.-backed Saigon government. Every day the war continues there is an increasing threat to world peace.

The response to the appeal from War Resisters League (U.S.) was most encouraging. The CNVA Bulletin reports that in America alone Americans in more than 30 cities joined in a protest against U.S. involvement in the civil war in Vietnam. In New York City about 1500 people stood in sub-freezing weather to hear A.J. Muste, Norman Thomas and A. Philip Randolph call for an immediate end to the war in Vietnam. More than 30,000 leaflets were distributed throughout the city - some by the 300 persons who joined walks converging on the rally; the balance by individuals who took bundles of leaflets to distribute in their home communities.

In San Francisco, Joan Baez led 800 people on a peace walk and 1500 attended a rally in Union Square. In Minneapolis 75 persons braved a blizzard to picket the Federal Building; while in Miami 60 stood on a vigil for hours in the hot sun. In Austin, Texas, a dozen pickets walked down the main street. In Sacramento, California, some 35 persons picketed the State Capitol, and in Philadelphia 150 pickets marched at City Hall. Vigils were held in Boston and Cleveland.

In Chicago and Washington there was mass leafleting. People across the country distributed over 100,000 copies of a leaflet prepared by CNVA, W.R.I., and the Friends Peace Committee, along with tens of thousands of leaflets published by other groups.

Actions were taken in many other countries (W.R.I. News Release No.34)

The American movement is rightly insisting that the campaign should be continued even more vigorously.

Many distinguished Americans have put out the following Declaration of Conscience:

BECAUSE the use of the military resources of the U.S. in Vietnam and elsewhere suppresses the aspirations of the people for political independence and economic freedom;

BECAUSE inhuman torture and senseless killing are being carried out by forces armed, uniformed, trained and financed by the United States;

BECAUSE we believe that all peoples of the earth, including both Americans and non-Americans, have an inalienable right to life, liberty, and the peaceful pursuit of happiness in their own way; and

BECAUSE we think that positive steps must be taken to put an end to the threat of nuclear catastrophe and death by chemical or biological warfare, whether these result from accident or escalation --

WE HEREBY DECLARE our conscientious refusal to cooperate with the United States government in the prosecution of the war in Vietnam.

WE ENCOURAGE those who can conscientiously do so to refuse to serve in the armed forces and to ask for discharge if they are already in.

THOSE OF US who are subject to the draft ourselves declare our own intention to refuse to serve.

WE URGE OTHERS to refuse and refuse ourselves to take part in the manufacture or transportation of military equipment, or to work in the fields of military research and weapons development.

WE SHALL ENCOURAGE the development of other non-violent acts, including acts which involve civil disobedience, in order to stop the flow of American soldiers and munitions to Vietnam.

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Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) a national student educational and social action organisation, has announced that it is sponsoring a Student March on Washington to call for the end of American intervention in the Vietnamese civil war. The march, set for Saturday, April 17th, will coincide with student Easter vacations and is a traditional time for peace oriented activity.

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No taxes for war in Vietnam

12 men and women, some of them known nationally, said on January 22nd that because so much of the federal tax goes for killing and torture in Vietnam, they are not going to pay taxes on 1964 income. They have issued a statement, not to make known their intentions, but also to call upon others to consider this manner of stopping their money from going to what they do not want.

"Our ways of tax non-payment may vary," they said, "but we're united in our determination not to give money for war."

FURTHER INFORMATION: from: War Resisters' League, Room 1025, 5 Beekman Street, New York City 38, N.Y., U.S.A.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dennis and Wrenn Oliver of 1287 Holloway Street, Victoria, British Columbia wrote in a letter on 1st January 1965: "Many people are deeply concerned by the human suffering caused by the war in Vietnam. We wish to demonstrate corrective opposition to the brutalities of this war, and do not want to be silent accomplices to its atrocities. We know that the Vietnamese people are the chief victims of the war, and that it has led to almost unimaginable actions from and upon both 'sides'. There is such a great need for medical help that our primary concern is to find the means of offering it to all affected by the war. We believe that our primary relationship to the people in Vietnam should be a helping one.

A neutral 'ambulance corps' has been suggested: a group which would help all those suffering in the Vietnamese war, a direct expression of those who cannot sit idly by while governments, most certainly including the U.S., are acting inhumanely.

We hope that some group of individuals will take the responsibility for the coordination of such a project as an ambulance corps. There are many who are willing to help. If you are in any way interested, please write to us."

*** **

GERMANY

ED 748-18-82

Additional news about Prisoners for Peace Day

In connection with Prisoners for Peace Day the German Sections of the W.R.I. organised demonstrations and vigils in front of 50 embassies and consulates of 21 different countries. In Stuttgart a delegation of 6 Executive members of the Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer and the Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner visited the official representatives of Brazil, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Spain and Turkey. The most interesting feature of Stuttgart's Prisoners for Peace Day action was that a huge poster was erected in front of the main railway station and for five days peace workers stood in front of it distributing leaflets. Local papers covered the demonstrations in great detail.

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The well-known musical play "Oh! what a lovely war" was a great success in Essen. On 24th January members of the I.d.K. Essen group distributed anti-war leaflets. The English ensemble was highly pleased by this action.

("OH! WHAT A LOVELY WAR" IS AT PRESENT HAVING VERY SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCES IN THE BIG DRAMATEN-THEATRE IN STOCKHOLM (with Swedish cast))

: : : : : : : : :

Rosel Lohse-Link, who has been a source of strength to the Stuttgart group of I.d.K. and who has been its secretary for a long time has handed over the secretaryship of the group to Heinz Möller (address: 7 Stuttgart 1, Lensusstr.18) a young peace worker of Stuttgart. Rosel's services to the movement will always be a source of inspiration to the young group.

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FRANCE

"Le Monde", 21st January 1965 reports: "6,000 young men amongst those who have been conscripted for military service have volunteered for civilian service in Africa. A large contingent has just left for Algeria."

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CHINA

"Le Monde" (France) reported the following news on 21st January from Peking: M. Liou Chao-Chi, president of the Chinese Peoples Republic, on Tuesday signed a decree defining the duration of military service for junior officers and privates in the Chinese Peoples Army, announces the official Chinese news agency.

The decree, which was published following a decision of the permanent committee of the National Assembly, which met under the presidency of Marshal Chu Teh, defined the duration of military service:

1. The duration of active service for junior officers and privates in the infantry and land forces is four years and five years for troops concerned with 'special arms' and internal security forces.
2. The duration of service for junior officers and privates in the Air Force is five years.
3. The duration of active service for junior officers and sailors in the Navy is six years and five years for amphibious forces. (In 1954 the period of service in China was three years in the Army, four years in the Air Force and five years in the Navy).

☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆

UNITED KINGDOM

Colour Film of the Peace Pageant

A short film in colour of the Peace Pageant organised by the Peace Pledge Union on 14th November has been produced by David Stayt, who by arrangement will be pleased to show it, together with others he has made, in London or elsewhere within about 100 miles of Gloucester. Commencing with dramatic sound effects and war pictures, the film goes on to show the Assembly - then the procession through London until light fades completely and only the bright lights of Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly remain to be seen.

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Peace in Malaysia Committee, London

A Peace in Malaysia Committee has been formed by the International Sub-Committee of the Committee of 100. The Committee is having a meeting on Thursday February 4th. It is hoped that some Indonesians living in London will also participate. The object of the Committee is to see if there is anything people living in England can do to stop the crisis which has already claimed over a 1,000 lives.

John Edmunds, 120 Holland Road, Kensington, London W.1A

☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆

SWEDEN

Police tore down posters at Art Exhibition

A prominent young artist of Sweden, Jarl Hammarberg, recently advertised his exhibition of art by putting up posters saying "Refuse to kill", "Refuse to do military service". Police in plain clothes came to see the exhibition, tore down and took away the posters. As soon as the police had disappeared Hammarberg made another poster with a slightly different text and placed it on the glass door. This time he took the precaution of marking it "Work of Art". Hammarberg maintains that the police violated his freedom as an artist - the freedom of expression. He said "the poster was part of my exhibition". The exhibition was not about military service but even so the poster was part of the whole exhibition. Though conscientious objection was not the theme of the exhibition

it was referred to in a collage and in a poster at the end of the exhibition saying "military service - murder service". Hammarberg is himself a C.O. and did alternative service some years ago. His experience with the police has convinced him that when he is called upon again he will this time refuse even alternative service.

The incident had immediate reaction in art circles. 36 persons signed a petition to the Minister of Justice appealing to him to re-draft the relevant legal paragraph in such a way that it is not used to suppress the citizen's right of free speech. The famous Swedish poet, Sten Carlsson, wrote in a national paper an article saying that the law was out of date and must be changed. He thinks that the Hammarberg incident "will eventually wake the Swedish public out of its torpor and may get it to react to other things than higher taxes, poor television programmes, etc. This concern a vital issue, the freedom of speech in a democracy

.....

Conscientious Objection

"Freden" on 28th January 1965 reported "The number of C.O.'s who are sent to prison because of their refusal to accept any of the alternative services offered to them is rapidly growing. During last December at least four young conscripts were sentenced to one month's imprisonment each. It seems however that government and parliament are beginning to realise the seriousness of this problem. The way seems open for a more liberal C.O. law, admitting alternative service also outside the so-called total defence."

*** **

HOLLAND

MLF

A Dutch newspaper dated 9th January reported that on that day more than 5,000 people took part in a protest march in Amsterdam against the MLF, organised by an ad hoc committee. In the speeches that followed the demonstration it was urged that Netherlands should follow Denmark's and Norway's example and refuse to take part in MLF.

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AUSTRALIA

A letter dated 17th January from Lloyd Wilkie of the Committee Against Atomic Testing states:

"We are a Committee in which you have a vital concern - urgent and inescapable. Indeed 1965 may well be the last chance mankind has to prevent the uncontrolled expansion of the "Nuclear Club", which now includes the USA, USSR, Gt. Britain, China and France. CAAT and its Working Committee include persons united in their determination to support the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963. On the Working Committee are lay citizens, union officials, professional persons, a housewife, a farmer, etc. Its operating aims are:

- 1. To prevent French thermonuclear weapons' tests in the South Pacific.

2. To increase enlightened public opinion and self-interest about the dangers of renewed atomic testing, and
3. To stress that these aims are in agreement with the aims of the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 - a treaty signed by the representatives of the people of more than 100 nations.

To realise its aims, CAAT is organising a unique action as its major project - the cooperative sailing of a multi-national, unarmed fleet into the French test zone (about midway between Australia and Chile). The tests occur, apparently, about mid-1965 or later. ("Apparently" because the French government has not told CAAT its precise plans!)

The time to prevent the French tests is now and CAAT fully intends to prevent the tests.

How much can CAAT count on you?

Lloyd Wilkie, 3 Perkins Street, Rooty Hill, N.S.W., Australia.

*** **

ITALY

MLF

The Study Conference on MLF of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace will take place on 12/13 February Rome and the I.C.D.P. Executive Committee will meet immediately afterwards on February 15th.

W.R.I. Study Conference

The dates of the W.R.I. Study Conference on Training in Non-Violence are 13th-20th August. Place: Perugia.

The Conscientious Objectors International Work Study Camp will be held from 21st August - 4th September. Place: Artisan Village near Florence.

Further information from: Lansbury House, 88 Park Avenue, Enfield.

*** **

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss Section of the W.R.I. held a demonstration on December 14th in front of the Palais Federal in Berne.

They demanded:

1. Civilian service for all Swiss citizens desirous of really working for peace.
2. Freeing of Conscientious Objectors in time for Christmas and protest against continued penalties.

They protested against:

1. Military authorities sitting in judgment on other people's consciences.
2. Failure of Switzerland to halt the traffic in arms and to press for creation of a "de-atomised" zone in Europe.

They proposed:

That Switzerland be admitted to UNO and support international police force as opposed to national armies.

As the local bye-laws forbade demonstrations in front of the Palais Federal while official meetings are in session a large number of police were present during the demonstration. 30 demonstrators were arrested in a café when they were having a pre-demonstration meeting. They were detained until late in the evening. Further similar demonstrations are also being planned.

*** **

DENMARK

A 24-hour demonstration was held in Horsens, Denmark on 22nd-23rd December in an attempt to make the *aldrig mere Krig* (W.R.I. Danish Section) better known and to agitate for refusal of military service. 20 people took part. They carried posters, distributed leaflets and talked to people individually and found many sympathisers. It can now be hoped that a local AmK group may come into existence in Horsens.

*** **

GERMANY

Klaus Vack, who was the General Secretary of the V.K. has now taken up the Secretaryship of *Kampagne für Abrüstung*. Alfred Riedel is now V.K. General Secretary. Klaus Vack said his continued active support will be available to the W.R.I. He remains on the V.K. Executive.

*** **

Institut für Zeitgeschichte Archiv

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD

Telephone: LABurnum 3977

Lansbury House
88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middx.
England.

For limited circulation only

W.R.I. NEWS LETTER NO.36

25th March 1965

29.3.65

UNITED STATES

Non-Cooperator Sentenced

On February 1st a Conscientious Objector, a non-cooperator, Peter Harris, was sentenced to one year in prison in Boston. "I visited him to-day", wrote his wife, Phyllis, to the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, "and he was in excellent spirits. Even with the sadness we of course feel at separation, we really have the joy of knowing we have not broken faith with our commitment". Harris and his wife were engaged to be married at the time he was ordered to report for induction last April. Had they married before he was supposed to report - as hundreds of couples have done - the order would have been cancelled. It was a joint decision that the draft should be confronted rather than avoided. They were married a few days after Peter Harris refused to submit to induction.

War Tax Protest - Thoreau Money

The Committee for Non-Violent Action of the United States has "issued" Thoreau Money and has sent out samples along with its Bulletin. The CNVA believes that its readers will find this unique item very helpful in urging other people to consider their responsibility as citizens for U.S. military policies. The Bulletin says:

"Whether you are a conscientious tax refuser or not, we urge that you make use of this unusual peace education item. Some suggested uses are:-

Distribute Thoreau Money as a leaflet. Very few people who receive a copy are likely to ignore it. Distribution at any appropriate time and place will provide an interesting experience in communication.

Distribute Thoreau Money in front of the nearest office of the Internal Revenue Service. Any business day is appropriate.

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Size: About 30-40 in all

Chairmen: Czech and British Co-Chairmen

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Further details from, and applications by 31st March 1965 to:

Europe Dept., Friends Service Council, Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1. or

Prague Christian Peace Conference, Jungmannova 9, Prague 1

☆☆☆ ☆☆☆ ☆☆☆

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WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

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For limited circulation only

W.R.I. NEWS LETTER NO.36

25th March 1965

27.4.65

UNITED STATES

Non-Cooperator Sentenced

On February 1st a Conscientious Objector, a non-cooperator, Peter Harris, was sentenced to one year in prison in Boston. "I visited him to-day", wrote his wife, Phyllis, to the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, "and he was in excellent spirits. Even with the sadness we of course feel at separation, we really have the joy of knowing we have not broken faith with our commitment". Harris and his wife were engaged to be married at the time he was ordered to report for induction last April. Had they married before he was supposed to report - as hundreds of couples have done - the order would have been cancelled. It was a joint decision that the draft should be confronted rather than avoided. They were married a few days after Peter Harris refused to submit to induction.

War Tax Protest - Thoreau Money

The Committee for Non-Violent Action of the United States has "issued" Thoreau Money and has sent out samples along with its Bulletin. The CNVA believes that its readers will find this unique item very helpful in urging other people to consider their responsibility as citizens for U.S. military policies. The Bulletin says:

"Whether you are a conscientious tax refuser or not, we urge that you make use of this unusual peace education item. Some suggested uses are:-

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Telephone: LABurnum 3977

3rd May, 1965

W.R.I. NEWS LETTER NO. 37.

UNITED STATES

7. 5. 65

"Supreme Being" - a major issue evaded

Readers will recall the cases of Daniel Seeger, Arno Jakobson and Forest Peter, in which the United States Supreme Court gave a ruling to the effect that the test of a belief in a Supreme Being "is whether a given belief that is sincere and meaningful occupies a place in the life of its possessor parallel to that filled by the orthodox belief in God of one who clearly qualifies for the exemption". According to the Bulletin of the War Resisters' League, the definition of "Supreme Being" has been broadened but the major issue of non-religious conscientious objectors has been evaded by the Supreme Court. The Bulletin quotes from the Statement of the Court - "no party claims to be an atheist or attacks the statute on this ground. The question is not, therefore, one between theistic and atheistic beliefs. We do not deal with or intimate any decision on the situation in this case."

Bayard Rustin gets Peace Award

At its 42nd Annual Dinner the War Resisters' League awarded its 7th Annual Peace Award to Bayard Rustin. The award was presented to Bayard by the veteran pacifist A.J. Muste.

On account of his preoccupation with the Civil Rights movement Bayard Rustin has resigned from his post as Executive Secretary of the War Resisters' League. He has now been elected to its Executive Committee. Ralph DiGia, W.R.L.'s Administrative Secretary, will in future be performing the duties of Executive Secretary.

Declaration of Conscience on Vietnam

The Declaration published and distributed by the War Resisters' League has now more than 2,500 signatures. Signatories include Erich Fromm, Linus Pauling, Paul Goodman and A. Philip Randolph. The W.R.L. Bulletin reports that in Princeton a group of W.R.L.'ers bought advertising space in "Princeton Town Topics" to insert the Declaration along with their names and a blank for prospective signers. Among several readers who mailed the blank duly signed to the League, one, Axel Nielsen, wrote that he did this to celebrate his 66th birthday.

ITALY

Easter March in Rome against all War

A march was organised on Good Friday starting in the afternoon from Piazza Navona and crossing the Tiber. It reached the monument of Giacomo Matteotti, a pacifist who was murdered by the Fascists during the first years of Mussolini's Government. Aldo Capitini

of the Perugia Centre of Non-Violence reports that it was the first march for peace in Italy to take place without interference from political parties. Aldo Capitini says that this has again shown the necessity for finding non-violent substitutes for war in every form, including guerilla warfare. Local peace groups from several Italian towns, including Milan, Ferrara, Naples, Perugia, Florence and also Rome, participated in the march. At the end of the march Aldo Capitini himself, Pietro Pinna and Giacomo Rosapepe made public speeches.

The War Resisters' International Study Conference 1965

The Conference will be held in the Perugia Centre of Non-Violence from 13th - 20th August. It is hoped that people interested in training in non-violence and those who have experience in this field in different parts of the world, including India and United States, will take part in the Conference. Application forms and further information can be had from the Secretary, W.R.I., 88 Park Avenue, Enfield, Middx, England.

International Conscientious Objectors' Work/Study Camp in Signa

Pietro Pinna of Perugia Non-Violence Centre, with the assistance of War Resisters' International, is organising an International C.O. Work/Study Camp in Signa, near Florence, from 22nd August - 4th September. The camp will be in support of the campaign for the recognition of conscientious objection to military service in Italy. Young and experienced conscientious objectors from many countries are expected to attend. For information and application forms write to the W.R.I., address as above. Italians wishing to participate should write to Pietro Pinna, Casella postale 201, Perugia, Italy.

Vatican Council and Conscientious Objection

The Roman Catholic review, THE TABLET, commenting in a leading article on March 27th on the work remaining to be done by the Vatican Council when it reassembles, said: "There are some matters which the Council could tackle without any great drain on its time, decisions it could announce which come naturally and logically out of the attitude it has manifested so far. One of these is the right of conscientious objection in war."



GERMANY

The War Resisters' International's Section, Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer, holds its A.G.M. on 8th and 9th May. Apart from its business sessions, the V.K. Conference will discuss the theme 'Pacifism and Power'. Representatives of the War Resisters' International and the ICDP will also participate.

Emergency Laws

In an open letter addressed to all union leaders, 250 German intellectuals have just launched a warning against a bill submitted to Parliament which would allow the Government to adopt important emergency measures in the event of conflict or grave international tension. The intellectuals declare that the new text, even though amended, still tends to deprive Parliament of its legislative power and "leads directly, in limiting constitutional rights,

to institution of dictatorial power... The special laws - we have tried them already - are the death of democracy."

From Le Monde.

Peace Voyage on the Rhine

On Sunday, 27th June 1965, there will be a Peace Voyage on the Rhine (Cologne-Remagen-Cologne) organised by our Section Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft. Further information from: Rev. Wandersleb, Herne, Bismarckstr. 92, Germany.

Central Peace Library in Hamburg

A peace library has been set up in Hamburg to serve all those who wish to learn more about "scientifically based, independent and dogma-free work for peace."

The library is a result of active co-operation between the five peace organisations working in Hamburg - including three W.R.I. Sections. The official opening of the library took place in March of this year. In its invitation letter to the opening ceremony the D.F.G. Group referred to the work done by Karl-Heinz Stahnke from the Documentation Department of Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer. His bibliography of books published between 1945-1960 on conscientious objection, non-violence, disarmament and pacifism is available at the library. (At his home in Ahrenburg Karl-Heinz Stahnke has a collection of some 1,500 newly published books and a good collection of newspaper cuttings). The private collection of books belonging to Dr. Theodor Michaltscheff, General Secretary of Internationale der Kriegsdienstgegner and Editor of Friedensrundschau, is also available to those wishing to do serious study on the subject of peace.

C.O. Advice Centre

Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer, a W.R.I. Section, runs a number of consultation centres for C.O.'s to tell young people about conscientious objection and to advise C.O.'s about different possibilities of alternative service. The Stuttgart-Group's advice centre has now moved to new, centrally situated premises. An interesting feature of this centre is its "shop window" in which attractive posters, leaflets and other objects are displayed to give information about V.K. The office is open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Demonstration against war in Vietnam

Christa Clausen reports:

The German Easter March Movement organised a 24-hour demonstration in front of the USA Embassy in Bad Godesberg on 23rd-24th April. Altogether some 600 demonstrators took part, "bombarding" the Embassy with slogans spoken in chorus, carrying posters, listening to speeches and having a torch-light vigil during the night. Most foreign television stations represented in Bonn witnessed the demonstration with their cameras. German papers, with few exceptions, did not report the incident.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Peace Pledge Union (W.R.I. British Section) held its A.G.M. in Birmingham on 24th/25th April. The meeting expressed its concern at a statement made by the Pope to a group of Belgian military officers who visited him in Rome and passed the following resolution:

"The A.G.M. of the P.P.U. notes that the Pope is reported in The Guardian of April 22nd as saying that he was opposed to the conscientious objection of Christians to bearing arms. The A.G.M. views with deep concern and disappointment such a statement which it regards as consistent with Christian principles and practice. It expresses the hope that the Ecumenical Council will consider the matter further and uphold the right and responsibility of all men to be guided by their conscience in all matters, including those which conflict with the demands of the State."

SEATO and NATO in London - Peggy Duff writes:

The SEATO Council meets in London from May 3rd to 6th. The NATO Council also meets in London during the following week from May 11th to 13th. Both Councils will meet at Lancaster House, near Marlborough House in the Mall. As this is well within the limits of the Sessional Orders, no demonstrations are possible, but activity has been planned which will conform with this.

SEATO

1. CND Regions and Groups, individuals and other organisations, both in Britain and abroad, have been asked to send letters, post-cards or telegrams to delegates to the Council (the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, New Zealand, Australia, America and Great Britain) and to M. Achille Clarac, the French observer, at Lancaster House, S.W.1.

In the London area you are asked to deliver the letters personally either during the afternoon of Monday, May 3rd, or on the way home from work.

In the letters, three demands to SEATO should be linked:

CONDEMN AMERICAN POLICY IN VIETNAM: CALL FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS:
PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MALAYSIAN/INDONESIAN DISPUTE.

2.

In addition, a Discussion Conference on "The Alternatives in the Far East" on the evening of Wednesday, May 5th, at 7.30 p.m. at the House of Commons.

NATO

1. CND Groups and Regions, individuals and organisations are also being invited to send letters, postcards and telegrams and to deliver them at Lancaster House on Tuesday, May 11th.

They should be sent to the 6 major powers in NATO (Britain, France, Italy, West Germany, Canada and America).

Themes for the messages should be:

CONDEMN AMERICAN POLICY IN VIETNAM: REJECT ANF AND ANY SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: SUPPORT DISENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE: WORK FOR AN EAST WEST DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT: GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NOT NATO OR THE WARSAW PACT.

2. Copies of the messages will be delivered by GND to all powers in the Warsaw Pact.

A number of peace groups from abroad are coming to London on May 11th and will be delivering messages at Lancaster House between 3 and 5 p.m. A Reception Centre has been arranged by Hetty Vorhaus at the Allied Hall (opposite St. James Park Station). There will be a conference at the House of Commons concerned with "Alternatives to the Military Alliances".

W.R.I. Study Conference 1966 in Poland

It has just been heard that the Polish Peace Committee has agreed to help in organising the 1966 W.R.I. Study Conference in Poland. The theme of the Conference will be 'Education for a World without War.'

The W.R.I. Triennial Conference 1966 will discuss 'Non-Violence and Politics' and will be held in Italy at Easter-time.

34/65

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ENGLAND

W.R.I. News Letter No.38

20th May, 1965

24. 5. 65

VERY URGENT

ED 718-46-92

INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST WAR IN VIETNAM

The urgency of the very grave situation in Vietnam calls for an intensive campaign by all peace forces of the world urging for Cease-Fire and negotiations. International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace and World Council of Peace are asking to make the last week of May - 23rd-30th - THE INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION ON THE VIETNAM CRISIS. A number of national and international organisations have already begun preparations for activities during that week.

The War Resisters' International urges its Sections and fraternal organisations to participate in this world campaign. As there are no set slogans or a set pattern every organisation should make its own plans in whatever way it likes.

The call for action by the ICDP includes the following:

1. Call on the United States of America to stop the bombing of North Vietnam now;
2. Call on all belligerents for an immediate cease-fire, either by common agreement or by unilateral action;
3. Call for immediate negotiations among all parties concerned, specifically the United States, the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and Viet-Cong.

It is important that people all over the world feel concerned for the suffering of the people of Vietnam, therefore individuals and non-governmental organisations should also support and make possible the sending of practical aid, such as medical supplies, materials and workers for relief and reconstruction, through suitable organisations to all parts of Vietnam, whether controlled by Hanoi, Saigon or the National Front of Liberation.

Signature Campaign

A signature campaign is also being organised. Signatures of a number of well-known personalities of different countries should be collected in large numbers by June 15th and sent to the ICDP - The Grange, 3 Hendon Avenue, London, N.W.3.

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CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION IN ITALY
AND INTERNATIONAL C.O. WORK STUDY CAMP

As announced before the International C.O. Work Study Camp, which is to be held in the Artisan Village, Signa, near Florence, will be in support of the struggle of Italian C.O.'s for legal recognition.

The camp seemed to be now more important after reading a report on the issue of Conscientious Objection published in GUARDIAN, May 17th, 1965. The Italian Defence Minister, Signor Andreotti says, "a group of military men recently prevented him from offering Parliament a Bill which would make conscientious objection no longer a criminal offence." According to the report the Superior Council of the Italian Armed Forces has rejected the proposed changes in the law. This is due to the fear that "the Communist Party could open the floodgates, presumably by telling Italian youths what the words conscientious objection mean and rob them thereby of their manpower."

For this reason also it is important that conscientious objectors from many countries participate in the Work Camp. Firstly to demonstrate that Conscientious Objection adds to the strength of the individual and the nation which recognises the liberty of conscience. Secondly, the gathering of C.O.'s at the Work Camp is important to demonstrate the fullest support to the struggle which the C.O.'s in Italy have been carrying on for years. Signor Andreotti himself says that "the continual imprisoning of sincere objectors continues to cause him concern and displeasure. Under Italian law, a man may be tried and imprisoned repeatedly, until his 45th year, if he persists in refusing to bear arms."

The situation has become more difficult on account of Pope Paul's statement before a group of Belgian military men. He was reported to have told these men that conscientious objection was against Christian traditions. The Ecumenical Council, it is reported, is thinking of revising its policy on nuclear weapons. While in one of its last meetings the Council condemned the retention and use of nuclear arms, in its new step it "would admit that Christian nations threatened with aggression could use nuclear weapons, both tactical and otherwise, if the aggressor was also armed with nuclear weapons."

Yet another voice was raised against the "immorality of conscientious objection". Signor Salvatora Vacante, the vice-president of the group of ex-Prisoners of War, told its congress that all good ex-Prisoners of War should take a firm stand against the proposed changes in the laws of conscription "and encourage every possible means to impede its acceptance by Parliament."

The campaign for conscientious objection needs every possible support
CAN WE MAKE THIS INTERNATIONAL C.O. WORK STUDY CAMP AN EVENT

Date 22nd August - 4th September 1965

W.R.I. STUDY CONFERENCE

Place: Centre for Non-Violence, Via de Filosofi 33, Perugia, Italy

Date: 13th-20th August 1965

Cost: 28s/- per day and £1 Conference booking fee

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39/65

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

Telegraphic Address:
NOFRONTIER ENFIELD
Telephone: LABurnum 3977

Lansbury House
88 Park Avenue
Enfield, Middlesex
ENGLAND

2nd June, 1965

W.R.I. News Letter No. 39U R G E N T

Letter from Rev. Herbert Günneberg, W.R.I. Council Member,
Essen, Germany, dated 23rd May 1965:

The German problem is urgent. Please help us against the Emergency Laws. Here are some information and some proposals.

I. The present situation is highly dangerous because:

(1) Representatives of the German General Staff (Generals Trettner and de Maizière) have said the Emergency Laws are the next urgent step to build up the German military forces. They want them passed through the Bundestag very quickly.

(2) Secret negotiations have taken place between the leaders of the three political parties in the Bundestag to reach a compromise agreement for the first passing of the Emergency Laws as early as possible before the General Election on 19th Sept. They met on 11th, 18th and 21st May and will meet again on 25th May.

I am informed that the Socialist Party is going to agree with the proposals of the Christian Democratic Party concerning the Emergency Constitution Law ("Notstandverfassungsgesetz"), if the Christian Democrats guarantee to give them seats in a Coalition Government after the Election.

An unknown number of members of the Social Democratic Party, especially representatives of the Trade Unions, are not in agreement with this policy, but it is probable that in spite of this the S.P.D. leaders will continue with their plans because

(a) they do not wish to bear sole responsibility for the coming revision of German foreign policy and therefore do not wish, should they win the Election, to govern alone,

(b) they want to participate in the government (for the first time since the days of the "Weimar" Republic in which they are still said to have failed), whether they win the Election or not.

The small group of leaders of all parties who do not heed or do not care for the wishes of their party members is the very group which would operate the Emergency Laws in the event of an emergency. The people have not been consulted and will not be consulted. Everything is secret. A new dictatorship is going to arise, if the strong man is at hand - and I am sure he will

be - in a very legal, secret and surprising manner. Europe will rub her eyes and say: "I did not know that". But then it will be too late.

(3) Trade Unionists are against the Emergency Laws, because the fundamental right to strike will be abolished or at least restricted to certain wage questions. Many Trade Union Groups and Sections have decided to demonstrate. On 19th May, after a meeting with leaders of the Social Democratic Party, the first chairman of the German Trade Union Congress (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund), Ludwig Rosenberg, sent a letter to all Trade Union District Councils forbidding all demonstrations which had been decided upon in recent days or weeks. The reason he gives is that the D.G.B. (Trade Union Congress) is in continual contact with all political parties concerning the Emergency Laws and that he has asked them not to pass the Emergency Laws before the Election. There has been no public statement by the political parties indicating a willingness to act in accordance with Mr. Rosenberg's pious wish. On the contrary, I fear that inactivity on the part of the Trade Unions will facilitate a rushing through of the legislation.

(4) The meeting of the political party leaders on 21st May was attended by the Inspector-General of the Armed Forces but not by representatives of the Trade Unions.

II. What is being done here.

(1) Professor Heinz Maus, who took the initiative in the appeal of 215 University professors for action against the Emergency Laws, especially on the part of the Trade Unions, said in a press statement on 14th May: "At the present time everything is in the balance. Any strengthening of public enlightenment could turn the scale."

(2) On 23rd May there will be pickets at the meeting at Gelsenkirchen, where Willy Brandt, leader of the Social Democratic Party, is to address the district party conference. The pickets will remind the Socialist Party and its leader of their responsibility to maintain democracy in Western Germany.

(3) On 26th May at 7.30 p.m. there will be a demonstration in the Berliner Platz in Herne by the Easter March West followed by a torch-light procession.

(4) On 28th May at 4.30 p.m. the I.d.K. (German Section of the War Resisters' International) and the Easter March will organise a picket in Kettwigerstrasse, Essen.

(5) On 30th May there will be a congress of student organisations at Bonn University at 11 a.m. with a public meeting at 6.30 p.m.

III. What can be done from abroad.

- (1) Inform the public by press, radio and television about
 - (a) the character of the German Emergency Laws as originally published (Recent changes are secret),
 - (b) the political struggle in West Germany which will face Central Europe with an entirely new situation.
- (2) Demonstrations in front of German Embassies.
- (3) Delegations to German Ambassadors requesting information on the European significance of the German Emergency Laws. Such delegations should include experts able to discuss with the Ambassador and his experts. The interview should be publicly reported and discussed.
- (4) Enquiries by Labour politicians to the German Social Democratic Party about its policy on the Emergency Laws.
- (5) Support by Trade Unions for the protests of German Trade Unionists.
- (6) Letters to the Press giving information on the situation.

The German Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament will organise a national demonstration in Bonn when the laws come before Parliament.

Another letter from Herbert Günneberg, dated 26th May, says:

THE SECOND READING OF THE EMERGENCY LAWS WILL BE
ON WEDNESDAY, 16th JUNE 1965. WHEN THE FINAL
 THIRD READING WILL BE WE DO NOT KNOW.

☆☆☆☆

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

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11th June, 1965

16. 6. 65

W.R.I. News Letter No. 40

URGENT APPEALGermany

ACTION AGAINST EMERGENCY LAWS IN FEDERAL GERMAN REPUBLIC

The INTERNATIONALE DER KRIEGSDIENSTGEGNER appeals to peace movements all over the world to support their campaign against Emergency Laws. The second reading of the Bill will take place on 16th June. Please send letters and telegrams to the Federal German Government and its representatives in your country and organise demonstrations in front of German Embassies. (Please refer to WRI News Letter No. 39).

The WRI sent the following letter to Chancellor Erhard on 9th June:-

"We are alarmed and distressed by reports reaching us of the plan to enact some of the proposed Emergency Laws, even before the German Federal Elections which are due in September. We feel that in a matter of such vital importance the German people should have the opportunity of expressing their opinion."

"You may say this is an internal German matter, but the consequences of the enactment of the Emergency Laws are far from being that. There is outside Germany widespread fear that this military preparation may easily lead to a state of affairs in which a minor incident may develop into a European and then a world war which civilisation could hardly hope to survive. There is widespread belief that these Emergency Laws are not really needed for the security of the German people - which is not at the present time threatened from any visible quarter - but in order to strengthen the military elements within the Federal Republic. You may well understand the fear that this arouses among the peoples of all those countries which have suffered the effects of two World Wars in one half century, wars in which Germany played a leading part and which involved terrible suffering for the German people also."

"We therefore appeal to you and the German Government to think again before enacting laws which may have disastrous consequences for Germany and the whole world."

Ireland

Press Release from Gratton Puxon (Cherry Orchard Settlement, Ballyfermot, Dublin, Eire):-

"After 16 months, the Irish authorities have decided to place on trial, at the Central Criminal Court on June 23rd, the General Secretary of the Irish Travellers' Community (affiliated to

Communauté Mondiale Gitane), Mr. Gratton Puxon (26), of Cherry Orchard Settlement, on the outskirts of Dublin.

He was arrested by Special Branch detectives at the height of his non-violent civil rights campaign for Irish tinkers and gypsies in February, 1965, under the Special Powers Act.

An Englishman and a pacifist (member of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and the Irish Pacifist Movement), Mr. Puxon was charged with technical possession of a small quantity of explosive material which the Special Branch claim was found on land at the rear of a house at which he had been living four months previously.

At a preliminary hearing, Mr. Puxon said he was completely innocent of the charge. He was released on bail.

His arrest brought immediate protests from Lord Bertrand Russell and Canon J. Collins, Chairman of Christian Action. Protest actions, by Communauté Mondiale Gitane and pacifist groups, have taken place in seven countries, including France, West Germany, the USA and Canada.

Opposition to a scheme to establish a permanent settlement for the tinker families living at the squatters' shanty-town known as Cherry Orchard is intense in certain Irish official quarters.

Meanwhile, Mr. Puxon, who built and directs a voluntary Montessori school for a hundred children at the settlement, is preparing a series of papers on the continued plight of itinerant families for the Irish Government Advisory Committee on Itinerancy, the London-based Centre for Group Studies and a special UNESCO commission in Paris."

Scotland

International Polaris Action in Scotland on June 21st-26th

In one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland, a lethal and highly expensive installation is in the final stages of construction. Yet another addition to the "Warfare State", is rearing its £45,000,000 head in the form of a "British Polaris Base" and "Cadet Training Centre" at Faslane. It is located at Gareloch, near the town of Helensburgh, some 20 miles from Glasgow. There will be an action organised by the Scottish Committee of 100 at Faslane on the 26th June 1965. The objects of the demonstration are:

To offer an alternative peaceful purpose that Faslane can be put to;
To offer alternative employment for one Faslane worker at the Factory of Peace, Glasgow;
To prevent work taking place on the base site during Saturday, June 26th, by non-violent direct action;
To take constructive action for peace by organising a "Beach Clean Up" session at Helensburgh.

From Monday 21st - Friday 25th there will be a Fast and Vigil at the entrance to the Base.

Further details from Mark Newns, c/o Munro,
89 Elderslie St.,
Glasgow C. 3.