



24 OCT 1960

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

12th October, 1960.  
Prague.....

Address all correspondence to  
Adresser la correspondance au :  
Toda comunicacion ha de ser dirigida a  
Адресовать всю корреспонденцию :

SECRETARIAT DE LA  
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE  
- PRAGUE I - RUE JANSKA 100  
TÉLÉPHONE: 67.856 - 60.563  
ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE: FESYMOND PRAGUE

To: Affiliated National Centres and  
Trade Unions Internationals  
(Trade Departments of the  
W.F.T.U.)

Circ. No. 60/60

Re: Violation of trade union rights in the Congo  
(Brazzaville), and support for imprisoned  
trade union members and leaders.

Dear Brothers,

We are enclosing copies of the message of protest from the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. to the Youlou Government in the Congo (Brazzaville), together with the Statement by the Secretariat and our two latest complaints lodged with the I.L.O. against the violation of international conventions on trade union rights.

We are certain that you will give due attention to the various documents and to the imperative need for a broad international campaign of solidarity, demanding that the Youlou Government release the active trade union members and leaders who have been arbitrarily arrested and detained in prison, the restoration and respect of trade union rights and of democratic liberties.

Here are some addresses which might prove useful for your solidarity campaign:

1. Abbé Fulbert Youlou, Prime Minister of the Government of the Congo, Brazzaville. (Former Equatorial Africa).
2. C.G.A.T., GABON, B.P. 330, Libreville, Gabon.
3. C.G.A.T., TCHAD, B.P. 88, Fort Lamy, Tchad.
4. C.G.T.A., BANGUI, B.P. 201, Bangui, R.C.A.

With fraternal greetings,

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

Enc:



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

Prague, 13th October, 1960.

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Mr. David Morse,  
Director- General of the I.L.O.,  
G E N E V A .

Our Ref: A.E.S./CV

Subject: Violation of Trade Union Rights in  
the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)

Sir,

The World Federation of Trade Unions has the honour to draw your attention once more to the violation of trade union rights by the Government of the Congo Republic (Brazzaville) and asks you to be good enough to place this complaint before the Commission on Freedom of Association.

Since our letter of May 19 on this subject, new facts have come to light which emphasize the need for immediate action to achieve the setting-free of the arrested trade union leaders and respect for trade union rights.

On May 10, 1960, 15 active trade unionists were arrested on the orders of the Congo Government. Among them: Julien Boukambou, General Secretary of the CGAT (African General Confederation of Labour) and a member of the General Council of the WFTU; Abel Thauley Ganga, Aimé Matsika, and Douady-Ganga, members of the Confederal Office of the CGAT. We are enclosing a complete list of names of the active trade unionists who were arrested, with details of their trade union functions.

On the very day of the arrests, raids were carried out on the trade union headquarters at Brazzaville, Pointe Noire, Dolisie, Sibiti and Madiagou and property confiscated.

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These arrests and other measures followed a strike by the workers of the African Company of Public Services and those of the Colonial Electric Union, which was supported by the various trade union organisations (CATC-ICFTU, CASL-FO and CGAT-WFTU). This strike, which was voted for unanimously by all the workers, was declared after the break-down of negotiations for increased wages.

On May 6, the Government decided to order compulsory labour for a certain number of workers. The trade union organisations demanded the withdrawal of this measure. On May 7, the police arrested many workers who were released after protests. On May 9 it was made known that a trade union delegation would be received by the Ministry of Labour on the following day. In fact, it was on the following day, May 10, that the raids and arrests occurred.

After 4 months' imprisonment in Brazzaville without a trial, the active trade unionists decided to declare a hunger strike on September 12, 1960, to demand:

- either a nonsuit of the reason for their arbitrary arrest;
- or their temporary freedom, already previously refused by the examining magistrate;
- or their immediate trial before a court.

Afterwards M. Cervaert of the Court of Paris, Counsel for the Defence, received in Paris on September 17, a summons from the examining magistrate informing him that the questioning of the accused would begin that same day, (September 14) and would go on until the 23rd. This was obviously a device to exclude a defence counsel from the trial; it was of course impossible for the lawyer to be in Brazzaville at such short notice.

The trade union leaders who were arbitrarily imprisoned were therefore deprived of their legal rights to be represented by their lawyers and were deprived of the elementary guarantees of defence.

Also a series of emergency laws was passed by the National Assembly on May 11, 1960, and introduced on May 12, 1960, constituting an attack on trade union rights and democratic freedoms.

These laws mean that the existence of all associations including the trade unions is at the mercy of the Government.

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The first of these laws demands a preliminary notification of the establishment of associations and gives authority to dissolve them. It is stipulated that within 30 days existing associations must again give such notifications and also make known the composition of their fixed and liquid assets and their financial accounts.

In fact the CGAT because of the arrests of its leaders and the confiscations following the raids on its headquarters has found itself in the impossible situation of being unable to meet its legal obligations.

A second law tries to limit the freedom of the press and of expression and makes another attack on the rights of the workers and the trade unions.

A third law allows the Government to take steps for the banishment to a restricted area, the internment or exile of dangerous citizens. This is applied to active trade unionists and other democrats.

These measures can be carried out by decree independently of legal procedure.

Another law allows the authorities to forbid public meetings and so reduces the fundamental right of all trade unions to organise meetings of its members and thereby paralyses all trade union activity.

The right to order compulsory labour for workers in undertakings legalises forced labour, and this is a serious challenge to the right to strike.

The above-mentioned facts and the quoted laws are, de jure and de facto, serious violations of democratic liberties and trade union rights. The present situation is particularly serious because of the mentioned difficulties encountered by the imprisoned trade union officers and because the trade unions, especially the CGAT, find it impossible to function normally.

The WFTU asks you to take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure the immediate release of the imprisoned trade union officers and the respect of trade union and democratic rights in the Republic of Congo.

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The WFTU suggests that the Governing Body of the ILO immediately sets up an Inquiry Commission to look into the position of trade union rights in the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville).

Yours faithfully,

I. ZAKARIA,  
Secretary of the WFTU

LIST OF TRADE UNION OFFICERS IMPRISONED IN THE REPUBLIC

OF CONGO ( BRAZZAVILLE )

MATSIKA Aimé

Confederal Secretary of the CGAT

BOUKAMBOU Julien

General Secretary of the CGAT  
Member of the General Council of the W.F.T.U.

THAULEY-GANGA Abel

Secretary of the Inter-regional Trade Union of  
CGAT at Brazzaville

MOUAYA Jean-Jacques

General Secretary of the local union CGAT at  
Sibiti and neighbourhood  
Assistant Secretary of the Administrative  
Commission of the National Bureau

BOUMPOUTOU Gabriel

Member of the Administrative Commission of the  
Local trade union at Brazzaville

MAKOSSO TCHAPI R.

Member of the Confederal Executive Bureau of the  
CGAT  
National Secretary of the CGAT in the Congo  
General Secretary of the Regional Union at Kouilou (CGAT)  
General Secretary of the Building Workers' Union,  
affiliated to the CGAT

MIENANDI Fidèle

Member of the CGAT

DOUDY-GANGA Jean-Pierre

Member and Permanent Secretary of the CGAT

M'BOALA Jean-Baptiste

Member of the CGAT

MALANDA Fulgence

Member of the Administrative Commission of the  
Inter-regional Union at Brazzaville

AIDARA Mansour

President of the Administrative Commission of  
the local trade union at Brazzaville

ZYTTHA-AARON Ernest

Technical Advisor to the National Union of the  
Congo of CGAT  
Permanent Secretary of the Kouilou local trade  
union of CGAT at Pointe-Noire

N'GONO Georges

General Secretary of the IRHO Trade Union (CGAT)

BIZI Michel

Shop steward, CGAT

KAYA Pierre

Regional Secretary of the CGAT Unions at Niari  
Bouendza

x     x     x  
  x         x  
       x

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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TELEGRAM TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS, NEW YORK.

"The World Federation of Trade Unions representing more than 101 million organised workers wishes to draw the attention of the XVth session of the United Nations General Assembly to the new measures introduced by the Franco dictatorship which class all strike action meetings public demonstrations and any opinion considered injurious to the regime as military rebellion.

"By arbitrarily extending the definition of military rebellion the new decree adopted twenty years after the end of the civil war is designed to silence any opposition to the dictatorship by making it punishable by death.

"The workers and the widest sections of the Spanish people are today unanimous in their opposition to a dictatorship installed with the help of Hitler and Mussolini.

"The W.F.T.U. and all workers support them in demanding the repeal of these new repressive measures which constitute an intensification of the anti-working class and anti-democratic policy followed by the Spanish Government. These measures make it more than ever urgent that the U.N. condemn this regime for its consistent violation of basic human rights and United Nations' principles. The U.N. General Assembly would thus strengthen the courageous struggle of the Spanish people for the restoration of democratic rights and a general amnesty for all workers and democrats in prison or exiled.

"Insisting on the necessity of immediate intervention by you the W.F.T.U. requests that you be good enough to inform the commission on human rights of all violations of human rights in Spain in order to ensure the restoration and respect of trade union and democratic rights for the Spanish people."

Luigi GRASSI,  
Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

October 13, 1960.



# Message To The Workers Of The World On The Occasion Of The 15th Anniversary Of The World Federation Of Trade Unions

Men and women workers of all countries,

Fifteen years ago, in October 1945, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the powerful international class trade union centre was formed in Paris, uniting for the first time all the trade unions and workers of the capitalist, socialist and colonial countries under the flag of international workers' solidarity.

The formation of the W.F.T.U. greeted enthusiastically by the working class of the world, was the climax of years of struggle and sacrifice to crush fascism and German and Japanese militarism and to bring democracy, social progress and peace.

The 1st Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions, held in Paris, its unanimous decisions and the aims it fixed for itself in its Constitution were a clear witness of the desire of the workers and trade unions, of all countries to achieve complete unity.

- to set up stable and lasting peace,
- to exterminate the roots of every form of fascism for ever.
- to eradicate the colonial system and guarantee the national independence of the peoples.
- to win the legitimate economic and social demands of the working people and to enforce respect for their trade union rights and democratic freedoms,
- to strengthen their international solidarity.

Men and women workers,

Writing to you after 15 years of tireless struggle to fulfill these tasks and to safeguard and recreate trade union unity, the W.F.T.U., with its 101 million members in all countries and continents, is aware that it has been faithful to the principles of unity and to its Constitution.

The continual strengthening of its ranks, the growth of its activities and influence despite the attacks of the monopolies and the regrettable split brought about in 1949, confirm that it continues to respond to the deep hopes of the working class.

On its fifteenth anniversary the W.F.T.U. greets with joy and pride the inestimable contribution to the cause of peace made by the great economic, social and scientific achievements of the workers in the Soviet Union, China and the Socialist countries, who go from victory to victory in creating a prosperous, free and happy socialist society.

It greets the workers and peoples of Algeria, Japan, Cuba and the other countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America whose admirable struggle and remarkable successes during the past 15 years ring the death knell of the colonial system and undermine the position of imperialism.

It pays tribute to the powerful, united struggles which have been growing in all the capitalist countries during the last 15 years and are directed against exploitation by the monopolies, for the defence and improvement of living and working conditions, for trade union rights and democratic freedoms. It hails the persistent battle of the workers and peoples for the relaxation of international tension, national independence, disarmament, and peace.

However, it must also be stated that barely 15 years after the defeat of Hitlerism, the Western powers, and especially American imperialism, in violation of all the agreements signed at Potsdam, are refusing to sign a peace treaty with Germany and have given criminal help to the rearmament of Federal Germany and the revival of the worst revenge seekers and militarist forces, who threaten peace in Europe and throughout the world.

It must also be pointed out that barely 15 years after the end of the second world war and the criminal bombardment of Hiroshima, the policy of provocation and atomic armament by the American imperialists, their deliberate support for Japanese militarism, their aggressive acts against the Peoples' Republic of China and their attacks against the Cuban

people are a dangerous threat to peace, an obstacle to the desire for the relaxation of international tension to disarmament and peaceful coexistence of the workers and peoples.

It is important to note that the colonial powers with the support of American imperialism are carrying on a bloody war against the Algerian people and trying to destroy the independence of the Congolese people.

Throughout the capitalist world your social achievements are constantly challenged, your trade union rights often flouted, your living and working conditions and your jobs are precarious and systematically threatened.

Men and women workers,  
Trade Unions of all countries,

On this fifteenth anniversary of the W.F.T.U., on this fifteenth anniversary of your joint victory over the forces of war and reaction, in face of the obvious community of your interests and hopes, in face of the urgent need to strengthen world peace, the W.F.T.U. appeals to you to raise the banner of working class unity and international solidarity.

— Everywhere you must multiply your efforts to increase your united actions even further. Demonstrate everywhere your desire to reestablish the same international trade union unity which existed in 1945, and to eradicate the disastrous and regrettable results of the division.

— Unity and action for increased wages and the reduction of working hours, for the defence of trade union and democratic rights.

— Unity and action to strengthen peace and to impose disarmament, the banning of nuclear weapons and peaceful co-existence.

— Unity and action against the atomic armament of the Wehrmacht and German militarism, for the abrogation of the Japan-U.S. military treaty.

— Unity and action to liquidate colonialism in Algeria, in the Congo and wherever it subsists, once and for all.

— Unity and action against imperialism, for the safeguarding of the independence of the peoples.

— Unity and action in defence of the democratic achievements of the workers and people of Cuba.

LONG LIVE THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS!

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND UNITY AMONG THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD!

LONG LIVE PEACE!

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE W.F.T.U.

Prague, September 15, 1960.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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MESSAGE FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE C.T.C., CUBA

On behalf of millions of workers of every opinion and trade union affiliation who deeply sympathise with the important economic and social reforms effected by the Cuban Revolution, the W.F.T.U. enthusiastically greets the complete nationalisation of North American monopolies and banks and of the big national monopolies, which are the bitter enemies of Cuban independence and progress.

Such popular measures as the establishment of diplomatic and trade relations with all countries in the world are the most effective answer to imperialist pressure and interference. They are creating the conditions required for rapid economic development in your country, for the elimination of mass unemployment and for systematic improvement in the material and cultural standard of living of the working people.

The W.F.T.U. congratulates the C.T.C. and the whole working class of Cuba on their great sense of responsibility and on the ability they have shown to solve the difficult problems arising from the new economic situation in your country.

The W.F.T.U. wishes once more to assure the C.T.C., and the workers and people of Cuba, of its wholehearted solidarity with them in the economic blockade unleashed by the United States Government and the military aggression which is being prepared against Cuban freedom and independence.

It draws the attention of the working class and trade unions throughout the world to the gravity of the threats to Cuba, which is a free American country, and calls upon them to demonstrate their unshakable support of the Cuban people. It invites them to condemn forcefully, in every country, the provocative attitude of the United States Government by organising protests, petitions and other measures appropriate to the national situation for the attention of the U.S. diplomatic representatives.

Strengthening of friendly relations between the Cuban trade unions and those of all other countries will reinforce the solidarity we express on behalf of the 101 million members of the W.F.T.U.

Our fraternal greetings,  
Louis SAILLANT  
General Secretary

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS ADOPTED BY THE 11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Text No.

- GENERAL RESOLUTION ON THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA 1
- RESOLUTION ON THE TRADE UNIONS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST COLONIALISM 2
- DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM 3
- RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN KOREA 4
- DECLARATION CONCERNING THE EXECUTIONS AND ARRESTS OF IRANIAN WORKERS AND PATRIOTS 5
- MESSAGE TO THE WORKERS OF SPAIN 6
- DECLARATION ON THE CONTINUED VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN GREECE 7
- TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CONGO 8
- RESOLUTION ON ALGERIA 9
- RESOLUTION ON SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE 10
- RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN JAPAN 11
- STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, NICARAGUA, PARAGUAY AND HAITI 12
- STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS OF PANAMA 13
- DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE W.F.T.U. 14
- DECISION ON THE CONVOCATION OF THE 5th WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS 15

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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## 11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No.1

### GENERAL RESOLUTION

#### on the First Item on the Agenda

The General Council, which is holding its 11th session in Peking, notes that since the 4th World Trade Union Congress the forces of socialism and world peace have increased considerably and have won unprecedented successes. This progress, as well as the upsurge and the successes of the anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist struggle, and the strength of the movement for demands in the capitalist countries, create objective conditions that favour the reinforcement of the united struggle of the workers to force the imperialists to enter into serious negotiations and to accept disarmament and peaceful co-existence, so as to eliminate the menace of a world atomic war.

Hostile to this progress, the imperialists, faced with the worsening of the general crisis of their system, pay lip-service to peace, yet are multiplying their acts of provocation and continue their preparations for war. By sending a military plane over Soviet territory and later cynically boasting that this was their deliberate policy, American imperialism has given further confirmation of the fact that it is the worst enemy of peace and of the peoples. It bears full responsibility for the sabotage of the Summit Conference. Thus the hopes of the peoples were once again dashed. The W.F.T.U. General Council as well as the workers of the whole world condemn these American provocations against the Soviet Union as a grave danger to peace and to the interests of the working class and the peoples in all countries.

The workers will understand better than ever the imperative need to increase their vigilance in the face of the aggressive policy pursued, notably in West Germany and Japan, by the ruling circles of the United States and other western powers.

Thanks to the strength of the peace forces in the world, thanks to the peace policy of the socialist camp and the many steps taken by the Soviet Union, it has become recilly

possible to avoid the menace of an atomic war that would prove devastating, to impose on the imperialists disarmament and the use of the enormous resources that are at present being wasted on the arms race for the economic, social and cultural progress of all the peoples. But it is necessary to make the situation clear to the workers so that they should have no illusions about the willingness of the imperialists to accept disarmament.

All workers must be convinced that only by the untiring, ever-stronger and more united struggles of the peoples throughout the world, and by the isolation of imperialism, which is the source of war and aggression, can the imperialist war policy be thwarted.

The General Council warmly welcomes the new proposals put forward by the Soviet Union on June 2, 1960, developing and giving details of its plan for universal and complete disarmament, and thus offering further proof of its tireless efforts in the service of peace, despite the provocations by United States' leaders.

These proposals concern in particular the banning and destruction, under international control, of all means of delivering nuclear weapons to their targets, linked with the elimination of all military bases on foreign soil, as well as the banning of atomic, chemical and bacteriological weapons, the dissolution of armed forces and elimination of military budgets. The General Council recommends the trade unions to make these proposals widely known to the workers, so that the latter will actively support them.

The General Council considers that under these conditions the preservation and consolidation of peace remains among the fundamental aims of the struggle of the international trade union movement. Thus, it considers that it is essential to unmask imperialist manoeuvres and to work constantly for common action:

- for the relaxation of international tension and peaceful co-existence;
- for universal and complete disarmament;
- for the elimination of military bases on foreign soil;
- for a cessation of nuclear tests and a ban on nuclear arms;
- for national liberation and independence of the peoples;
- for democracy;

- against the rebirth of German militarism and for its liquidation by the signing of a peace treaty with the two German states; for the transformation of West Berlin into a free, demilitarized city;
- against the rebirth of Japanese militarism and for the abrogation of the Japanese-U.S. military treaty.

Conscious of the close bonds that link the struggle for the relaxation in international tension to the anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist struggle for independence, the General Council salutes and supports the heroic fight of the Algerian people for independence. It calls upon all workers and trade unions to strengthen their active solidarity in favour of the struggle of their Algerian brothers, and to demand that the French Government stop the colonial war in Algeria. It greets and warmly supports the struggle of the people of Turkey and the popular uprising in South Korea that led to the downfall of Syngman Rhee; the struggle of the Korean people, which continues, will force the withdrawal of the American armed forces and the peaceful unification of the country. The General Council gives its entire support to the powerful movement of the workers and people of Japan for the abrogation of the Japanese-U.S. treaty of military alliance, against the rebirth of militarism and for the liquidation of military bases. It expresses its warm solidarity with the workers and trade unions of Venezuela, Argentina, and Chile, and particularly with the people of Cuba, who are courageously and unitedly defending the economic and social conquests of the popular democratic revolution and the national sovereignty of their country.

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After examining the economic situation in the capitalist countries, the General Council notes that its essential characteristics are the progressive militarisation of the economy, increased monopoly concentration, and a considerable speed-up of work and automation to the sole profit of the monopolies. A certain recovery followed the crisis of 1958-59. It has proved incapable of re-absorbing unemployment, which in some countries has become chronic, and in general has remained at a high level, particularly in certain important branches of industry.

The capitalist monopolies and the governments in their service are attacking simultaneously the purchasing power of wages, trade union and democratic rights. Thousands of trade union leaders have been arrested and imprisoned. Tens of thousands of strikers have been victims of police repression and employers' sanctions in Greece, Spain, Argentina and other countries. The workers and the people in certain countries, such as the Union of South Africa, are suffering from savage racist repression.

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- 4 -

The General Council draws attention to the fact that this anti-trade union offensive is accompanied by the adoption of new laws which attempt to legalise the violation of fundamental rights, among them the right to strike, inscribed in the Charter of the Workers' Trade Union Rights, adopted by the W.F.T.U. in 1954.

x     x     x

The deepening of the general crisis in the capitalist world contrasts increasingly sharply with the unprecedented economic, social, scientific and cultural developments of all the socialist countries, where the peoples have become the masters of their own fate. These developments, which free the productive forces of society, permit a continuous and remarkable increase in purchasing power, an improvement in working conditions, social advantages and in the general living standards of the mass of the people in these countries. The workers of the world appreciate the full importance of the most recent measures of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, announcing the generalisation of the 7- and 6-hour working day and the gradual suppression between now and 1965 of income tax for workers, as well as the extension of the role and rights of the trade union organisations in the socialist countries.

The General Council sends its warm congratulations to the workers, men and women, of the socialist countries, particularly the workers of the Soviet Union and China, for their remarkable successes in the economic and social field. Thanks to their creative enthusiasm the socialist system is from year to year winning victories of far-reaching importance which are also victories for the entire working class of the world and for the cause of peace.

x     x     x

The General Council greets the millions of workers and trade unions in the capitalist countries who are carrying on exceptionally strong united struggles for wages, shorter working hours and the defence of trade union rights. The strike movement, which has reached an extent rarely known since the last world war, has been remarkable in Argentina, Japan, the United States, France, Italy, Belgium and other countries. It shows the sharpening of the class struggle in the present period, the desire for unity and the remarkable militancy of the working class. This development gives a categoric refutation to the "theories" of class collaboration which the monopolies and certain trade union leaders spread continuously among the workers trying to divert them from their struggles. The workers must denounce and reject all attempts to win over the trade union movement to positions of class collaboration, increasing their common actions for:



- the reduction of working hours without loss of pay;
- a general increase in wages;
- the right to work, the defence of employment and assistance to the unemployed;
- the creation, protection and widening of social security systems;
- the defence of trade union rights and democratic liberties;
- the limitation of the power of the monopolies.

These demands should permit fresh progress in united action.

The General Council recommends all workers and trade unions to intensify their action for trade union rights and democratic liberties, and for the liberation of all imprisoned trade unionists.

To help bring about on the international level the indispensable common front of workers and trade unions in the face of these attacks, the General Council instructs the W.F.T.U. Secretariat to examine with all organisations concerned the setting-up of an International Trade Union Commission for the defence and safeguarding of victims of repression against the trade unions.

The General Council notes that the demand for a reduction of working hours in general and the demand for a 40-hour week in highly industrialised capitalist countries have been unanimously put forward by various organisations. These demands correspond to an essential and increasingly urgent requirement of the working class. On this basis and in order to assist the bringing together of trade union and working class forces in the face of monopolist concentration, the General Council instructs the Secretariat to call a European Trade Union Conference on the 40-hour week in the first quarter of 1961. Trade union centres from other continents should be invited to this conference, so as later to generalise the experiences gained.

Taking account also of the attacks on social security systems in many capitalist countries and of the necessity to improve existing systems, the General Council resolves to call a meeting of a broad International Trade Union Commission of Action for Social Security. The purpose of this Commission will be to stimulate new developments in united action and international solidarity on this question.

- 6 -

The General Council notes with satisfaction that the upsurge of the struggle for demands has recently been accompanied by considerable progress in unity of action in the different capitalist countries. On the basis of their experience, the workers are increasingly coming to understand that their struggle is more effective to the extent that the rank-and-file is united in common action for clearly-defined common aims. Discussion with the workers themselves, at local, regional and national levels, to formulate demands which are closest to their needs in the given situation, is a necessary condition for the achievement of united action, which requires more and more initiatives by all organisations.

Unity is consolidated in action and by action on a class basis. It must be brought about in a clear manner, exposing constantly through the facts the pretexts and manoeuvres of those opposed to unity.

As a result of the progress in unity of action in different capitalist countries and in order to oppose the coalition of the monopolies, positive developments in favour of unity are appearing at the international level. In spite of the stubborn opposition of certain I.C.F.T.U. leaders, the idea is gaining ground among more and more trade union leaders, particularly in the middle ranks of trade unions not affiliated to the W.F.T.U., that meetings and discussions between national and international trade union organisations of all trends are today possible and indispensable.

In bilateral and multilateral contacts, trade union organisations are seeking the best methods of dealing in common with the main problems facing the workers in their struggle against the imperialists and the monopolies:

- the preservation of peace;
- the anti-colonial struggle;
- the main economic and social demands;
- united action against the monopolies on the national and international level;
- the struggle for trade union rights and democratic liberties

The General Council welcomes and approves in particular the activities of the Committee for Co-ordination and Action in the Common Market Countries, as well as the steps taken by the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria. The exchanges of trade union delegations between capitalist and socialist countries and also among capitalist countries, the bilateral and multilateral agreements among organisations of various affiliations advocated by the 4th World Trade Union Congress, have increased remarkably in the last few years.

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The General Council welcomes the fact that the trend toward trade union unity is growing stronger throughout entire continents, such as Africa and Latin America, in spite of the considerable obstacles raised by certain leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. It denounces the stubborn refusal of the I.C.F.T.U. leadership to reply to the many proposals made to it over a period of nearly ten years by the W.F.T.U. for joint action at the international level for the preservation of peace, to support more effectively the movement for national independence and to win satisfaction for the workers' vital economic and social demands.

The General Council calls on all workers and trade unions to continue and multiply exchanges of delegations and bilateral and multilateral contacts among individual unions, national trade unions and centres, in order to increase common action for peace, for demands, for trade union freedoms, and for the eradication of colonialism.

In this year of the W.F.T.U.'s 15th anniversary, the General Council invites them to celebrate this event by meetings and conferences recalling how, and in what conditions, the World Federation of Trade Unions was born in 1945 from the common struggle of the workers and peoples throughout the world against fascism and for a lasting peace.

The General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions is convinced that this session will help to strengthen unity in the struggle waged by the working class and trade unions in all countries.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

## 11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No. 2

### R E S O L U T I O N

#### on the Trade Unions' Contribution to the Fight against Colonialism

The 11th session of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions, meeting in Peking from June 5 to 8, 1960, approves the report submitted by the Executive Committee on "The Trade Unions' Contribution to the Fight against Colonialism".

The General Council notes with satisfaction that the national liberation movement in which the trade union movement is playing an important role, has developed and is developing at a tremendous pace since the 4th World Trade Union Congress, and that this development has clearly proved the correctness of the Congress' decision on Trade Union Task in the Fight against Colonialism.

The General Council points out that the rapid development and firm unity of the socialist camp, the growth and consolidation of the anti-colonialist forces, the forces of peace and democracy and the ever-growing strength of the working class movement throughout the world, have resulted in the shrinkage of the power of imperialism and are creating favourable conditions for the victorious struggle of the people against colonialism and for national independence.

The bitter struggle waged by the people in colonial and semi-colonial countries has brought success, and the national independence has been won in a number of countries since the 4th Congress, but millions of people, mainly in Africa, are still shackled by the chains of colonialism, and many new states in Asia, Africa and Latin America still feel the serious remnants and influence of colonialism.



The pressure of the national liberation movement has made it impossible for the colonialists to continue their domination through the traditional forms of colonial rule. That is why they are trying to introduce "constitutional" or "administrative" reforms, which are in substance nothing but a development of colonialism in new forms. The colonialists, when forced to make certain political concessions, strive to maintain and even try to extend their economic domination.

The General Council is of the opinion that the workers and patriotic forces in the colonies, while regarding such concessions on the part of the colonialists as successes in their national liberation movements, should make the situation clear to their people so that they are not deceived and satisfied with these primary successes, but go on with their struggle until they abolish all influence of colonialism in their countries especially in the economic field.

The General Council also calls upon the workers to increase their vigilance in their struggle for national independence in respect to "neo-colonialism" by the imperialists and their lackeys who seek to extend and strengthen their position in the colonies and newly-independent countries.

The workers must be particularly vigilant in regard to the activities of the American imperialists who use so-called economic aid as a means of strengthening their grip on these countries and driving them to accept military pacts. American imperialism hides itself behind the mask of anti-colonialism but is in fact the worst enemy of the people's struggle for independence. This mask must be removed from the face of American imperialism and its true nature revealed to the people and workers of the world. The workers must be vigilant also in regard to the efforts of the West German monopolies to penetrate in particular, into Africa and the countries of the Near and Middle East.

The General Council stresses that the struggle of the people against colonialism should not have the character of driving out the colonialists of one imperialist power and at the same time letting in those of another power. The struggle of these people should be directed against every form of colonialism.

The General Council notes that long years of imperialist domination and exploitation in colonial countries have resulted in a constant deterioration of the workers' working and living conditions and have brought about unbearable suffering to the whole working population in these countries.

Under difficult conditions and despite fierce persecution, the struggle against such inhuman conditions has spread throughout the colonial world. In increasing numbers, workers in colonial countries are joining the struggle for their demands. The General Council is happy to note that all these struggles have been marked by a high level of tenacity and militancy, with working class consciousness being constantly developed.

The General Council fully supports the following main demands which are being put forward in these struggles:

- general wage increases and a minimum guaranteed wage;
- the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work and elimination of racial discrimination as regards wages and family and other allowances;
- reduction in cost of living, an end to the rise in prices of daily necessities;
- free access to qualified trades and vocational training without discrimination;
- shorter working hours, legislation and enforcement of the 8-hour day, a limit on overtime, introduction and prolongation of annual paid holidays;
- improvement of safety measures against work accidents and occupational diseases;
- no dismissals and protection against unemployment;
- guarantee of reasonable working and living conditions for immigrant workers;
- abolition of forced labour in any form;
- introduction or improvement of social security systems;
- improvement of housing conditions and medical and educational facilities;
- free schooling for all children without discrimination and development of teaching methods and curricula in keeping with the culture and national aspirations of the people;
- agricultural reforms.

The General Council condemns the brutal suppression of trade union and democratic rights endorsed by the colonialists with the aim of holding back the development of struggles of workers and people and perpetuating the colonialists' rule. It once again condemns the colonialist war in Algeria as well as

the racial policy in the Union of South Africa where workers and people are massacred in bloody terror, and the anti-democratic regimes of certain Near and Middle Eastern countries. It expresses its profound sympathy with the trade union leaders and workers who have fallen in the struggle and extends its full solidarity for all those who are still imprisoned for fighting for the interests of workers and national independence. It further demands the authorities to stop without delay the persecution of trade unions, trade unionists and workers and to guarantee the free exercise of trade union rights and democratic freedoms.

The General Council firmly believes that only national independence can provide the most favourable conditions in order to satisfy the economic and social demands of the workers in colonial countries. Therefore it recommends to the workers that they should actively take part in the national liberation movement and play a leading role in forming and consolidating a united national front based on the alliance between the working class and the peasantry and including all other anti-colonialist forces.

The General Council is happy to note that, in the struggle against colonialism, the desire for working class unity and solidarity among peoples fighting colonialism is growing in all colonial countries. It welcomes the successes achieved by the African People's Conferences and the Asian-African People's Solidarity Conferences. It also supports the appeal of African trade unionists for the establishment of an All-African Trade Union Federation with the aim of uniting all trade union organisations in Africa, and hopes that this will further strengthen the people's fight against colonialism and contribute to the re-establishment of international trade union unity. It denounces the systematic acts of sabotage by the I.C.F.T.U. directed against African trade union unity. These acts testify to the determination of this organisation to perpetuate the divisions among the African workers, to the greater advantage of the imperialists.

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The General Council believes that, in order to bring success to the struggle for the defence of the immediate interests of the workers and for national independence and for the complete liquidation of colonialism, it is necessary to build a strong trade union movement, rallying as many workers as possible, irrespective of their race, religious or political beliefs, and placed on democratic class principles.

The General Council considers it necessary to point out that certain reformist leaders, with the support of the I.C.F.T.U. leadership, have placed obstacles in the way towards trade union unity. The activities of such splitting elements conforms with the attempts of the colonialists and reactionaries

to weaken the trade union movement so enabling them to exploit the mass of workers to the maximum extent.

At the same time, in certain countries, the bourgeois elements exploiting the sacrifices of trade union organisations in their struggle against colonialism, endeavour in various ways to force the trade unions to make concessions even on the slightest demands. They try to bring trade union organisations under the control of the ruling bourgeois party or take away the gains which the trade unions have obtained during the period of national unity in the liberation struggle.

Therefore, the General Council believes that it is the duty of trade union organisations, while fighting for the liberation of their country:

- to promote a really mass trade union movement by applying democratic principles and removing barriers between the rank and file and their leaders;
- to uphold the mass and class character of the trade union movement, basing its relation with the bourgeois parties on that of co-operation in the common struggle against colonialism, without at any time losing sight of the vital interests of the working class;
- to draw up a complete programme of common action during the period of the national liberation struggle and after independence, a well-studied plan based on thorough economic analyses for the building of national economy aimed at the complete liquidation of colonialism and for an independent home and foreign policy.

The General Council stresses that the international workers' solidarity plays an effective role in the development of the struggle.

It draws attention to a certain tendency fostered by the imperialists in order to isolate those fighting against colonialism from their allies in those countries which have finally got rid of the capitalist system, and from the working class movement in the imperialist countries which supports the liberation movement. Such isolation would only result in denying those fighting colonialism the indispensable unconditional assistance in their fight and in building national economy after their national independence and depriving the peace forces throughout the world of the contribution the national liberation movement can make to the struggle for world peace.

The trade union organisations, if they adopt the principle of co-operation and mutual support in their relations with the international trade union movement, are able to give

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the people of their countries valuable and practical examples of international and working class solidarity which enable the people to understand the importance of active participation in international affairs with the aim of strengthening their struggle against colonialism.

The General Council notes with satisfaction that, since the 4th World Trade Union Congress, the W.F.T.U. has increased its efforts to strengthen international solidarity and rendered an increasingly effective support to the workers and their organisations in the countries fighting colonialism, irrespective of their international affiliation. The General Council instructs the Executive Committee and the Secretariat to advance further in this direction. The W.F.T.U. is and continues to be the main organising force of the active support of the trade unions throughout the world to the struggle against colonialism and for national independence. In particular the General Council recommends all National Centres affiliated to the W.F.T.U., the Executive Committee and the Secretariat, to strengthen their support along the following lines:

1. The fight of the workers and people of the Union of South Africa against the worst type of repression and exploitation built on apartheid and racial discrimination have come to a point where individual support is no longer effective. The workers and people of that country need now more than ever before joint and common action from trade union organisations all over the world whatever their affiliation.

Those trade union organisations who have already showed their support to the fight against apartheid in South Africa and those who will join this campaign, can come to work together in one body, namely, an International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and Peoples of South Africa, and thus give the maximum effective support. The General Council asks the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. to take the necessary steps for setting up such a Committee and organising its work, and calls on all trade union organisations to join this Committee.

2. The rapid growth of the trade unions in the colonial and less-developed countries and the increasing role they play in the fight against colonialism and the new responsibilities which faces these organisations under the new conditions of the present sweeping movement of national independence makes it an urgent need for these organisations to have an ever-increasing number of trade union officials. While great efforts have been made from the part of trade union organisations who need these officials from one hand and the W.F.T.U. and its affiliated organisations from the other in the past, but still the General Council believes that more efforts should be done in this direction.

The General Council calls upon the member organisations of the W.F.T.U. to co-ordinate their efforts through the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. so as to give trade union training to the maximum number of trade union officials from the colonies and less-developed countries.

3. The member organisations of the W.F.T.U. especially in the socialist countries are recommended to give vocational training to young workers from the colonial and less-developed countries.
4. Following the experience of the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. in rendering experts in special fields like social security to the trade union organisations in colonial and less-developed countries, the General Council calls upon all member organisations to render the most help possible in this field when required.
5. Great sympathy and solidarity has been shown by the W.F.T.U. and its affiliated organisations to the trade unionists who have been persecuted or imprisoned because of their fight against colonialism. The General Council considers that an international trade union delegation should be formed to go and investigate on the spot these cases of imprisonment and to report to the trade unions of the whole world, calling on them to strengthen their struggle for the release of those imprisoned as well as to the international organisations.
6. To guarantee full publicity for news of the trade unions fighting against colonialism in Africa the General Council asks the W.F.T.U. Secretariat to examine the possibility of publishing an African trade union information bulletin to carry news of the struggles of the African trade unions against colonialism and for a better life. The General Council believes that such a bulletin will help in gaining more support in the fight against colonialism.

The General Council is confident that, with the increasingly active support of workers throughout the world, the day is not far distant when all subject peoples will be free of the yoke of colonialism.

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

Peking, June 9, 1960.

11TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No. 3

DECLARATION  
on the situation in South Vietnam

The 11th Session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U. severely condemns the intervention of the American imperialists in South Vietnam which is increasing every day, and firmly demands the withdrawal of all American military missions from South Vietnam. It calls upon the workers and trade unions of the world to further strengthen their solidarity with the people of Vietnam and to support them energetically in their valiant struggle for the peaceful re-unification of the country on the basis of independence and democracy, in accordance with the Geneva Agreements of July 1954.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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## 11TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No.4

### RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN KOREA

The 11th Session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U. expresses its active solidarity with the workers and people of South Korea, who have risen against the fascist domination of American imperialism and its agents. It acclaims the heroic struggle of the workers and people of South Korea - for liberty, democracy and the right to a livelihood - that overthrew the Syngman Rhee clique.

But the American imperialists by means of brutal repression and perfidious tactics are backing-up new puppets so as to maintain their domination over South Korea, strengthen their military bases for aggression and perpetuate the division of Korea. These actions represent grave threats to peace in Korea and the rest of the world.

The General Council of the W.F.T.U. therefore calls upon the workers of the world and their trade unions to develop their active solidarity towards the struggle of the workers and people of South Korea for the immediate withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and the peaceful unification of the country. It invites them to take all steps that will effectively support this struggle and especially as from June 25, 1960, which marks the 10th anniversary of the unleashing of the war of aggression in Korea by the American imperialists.

Peking, June 9, 1960.



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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## 11TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No.5

### DECLARATION

concerning the executions and arrests of  
Iranian workers and patriots

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Since 1953 there has been a reign of terror in Iran.

The large-scale strike of 30,000 brickworkers in Teheran last summer and the powerful student demonstrations in the Iranian capital last January were bloodily put down by the military armed forces and American imperialism.

On May 4, 1960, the Iranian Government ordered the execution in Tabriz, provincial capital of Azerbaidjan, of five Iranian patriots: Javad Farougui, Hassan Zehtab, Kosrow Ameri, Ali Azim Zadeh and Ayoub Klentri. Moreover, sentences ranging from ten years' imprisonment to forced labour for life were passed on seventeen patriots and workers, including one woman. They were condemned by a military tribunal which met behind closed doors in a hasty session which completely disregarded the principles of judicial procedure.

Frightened by the popular demonstrations in Turkey, the Iranian Government ordered a further wave of arrests of Iranian patriots of whom four, Bolourian, Youssafi, Charist and Gassemlou, have just been condemned to death.

The General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions expresses its deep solidarity with the workers and the Iranian people, and protests vigorously against the repressive measures of the Government of that country; it demands that the executions of the condemned be not carried out, that an end be put to the reign of terror and the imprisoned patriots set free.

At the same time it calls upon all the trade union organisations and upon workers of every opinion and affiliation, to strengthen their support of the workers and people of Iran in their legitimate struggle.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No. 6

## MESSAGE TO THE WORKERS OF SPAIN

The General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions sends sincere and fraternal greetings to the workers of Spain, who are conducting a heroic and difficult battle against the Franco dictatorship, for the achievement of their rights, the satisfaction of their demands, and the restoration of democracy in Spain.

In order to stifle this struggle, the Franco Government has unleashed a fresh wave of repression during the past few months. In addition, hundreds of trade union and political prisoners have been in prison for 14, 16 and even 20 years, even though 21 years have passed since the end of the civil war in Spain.

The General Council of the W.F.T.U., speaking for more than 101 million affiliated workers, lodges a strong protest with General Franco's Government and demands an end to this persecution and a general amnesty for all political and trade union prisoners and exiles.

The General Council deplores the existence of American military bases in Spain as well as the plan to establish West German bases, both of which considerably aggravate the danger of war in Europe.

The W.F.T.U., its affiliated National Centres and the workers of the whole world have always expressed their support and sympathy for the cause of the workers and people of Spain. They reiterate their solidarity with the present struggle for the liquidation of Franco's fascist regime, against the deterioration of the living conditions of the working people and against spreading unemployment.

The General Council of the W.F.T.U. is confident that the united struggle of the workers and people of Spain will, with international aid and solidarity, achieve their economic and social demands, a general amnesty for political and trade union prisoners and an end to the Franco dictatorship.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No. 7

## D E C L A R A T I O N

on the continued violation of trade union and  
democratic rights in Greece

The 11th session of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions strongly protests against the continued violation of trade union and democratic rights by the Government and the employers in Greece.

The General Council condemns the continued intervention of the police and the Civil Administration in the affairs of the trade unions and in workers' meetings, the new arrests, deportations and imprisonments of active trade unionists and patriots and the brutal attack against the peaceful May Day demonstration in Athens. It conveys warm greetings to the working class of Greece and its active trade unionists and assures them of its active solidarity.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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11TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No.8

## TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CONGO

The 11th Session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U., meeting in Peking, protests vigorously against the arbitrary arrest of Julien Boukembou, General Secretary of the General Confederation of African Workers and member of our General Council together with other trade union leaders, and against the closing down of the premises of this National Centre and the confiscation of its records.

We call upon you to order the immediate release of these trade union leaders and to restore and respect trade union rights.

The General Council of the W.F.T.U.

Peking, June 9, 1960.



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No. 9

## RESOLUTION on Algeria

The General Council of the W.F.T.U. reaffirms the consistent position of the W.F.T.U. in its support of the struggle of the workers and people of Algeria for their national independence.

By refusing to negotiate with the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, De Gaulle's Government bears the entire responsibility for the continuation of the colonial war which has already cost the Algerian people more than one million casualties.

The General Council greets the heroic struggle of the workers and people of Algeria and expresses its complete solidarity with those who have been fighting French imperialism for the past six years.

It vigorously denounces the material aid given by the American imperialists and by the militarists of West Germany, accomplices of the French Government in its criminal policy.

The General Council is convinced that the French working class movement will be able to achieve unity for an end to the colonial war in Algeria and the immediate release of all prisoners and internees, the restoration of democratic and trade union liberties and the genuine application of the Algerian people's right to self-determination.

The General Council approves the positive results already obtained by the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria, a Committee that was created at the initiative of the 4th World Trade Union Congress. It calls insistently on the national and international trade union centres to join this Committee which must reinforce and stimulate many new steps aimed at supporting the struggle of the Algerian people until their just cause is brought to success.

The General Council assures the General Union of Algerian Workers that the W.F.T.U. will take all steps to encourage the solidarity campaign and support actions by the Algerian trade unions.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No. 10

## R E S O L U T I O N

### on solidarity with the struggle of the Cuban people

The 11th session of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions sends its warm greetings to the Confederation of Cuban Workers and to the workers and people of Cuba who, alongside their revolutionary Government, are waging a valiant struggle to defend their sovereignty and economic independence as well as the wellbeing and progress of the nation.

It denounces the subversive acts and provocations perpetrated by the United States against Cuba and warns the workers of the whole world of the danger of military intervention for which American imperialism is making active preparations.

It condemns the economic offensive by the big American monopolies against the Cuban revolutionary regime. It calls upon the workers and their trade unions to be vigilant in the face of the American threat to boycott Cuban shipping.

The General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions calls upon the workers of all countries to strengthen their solidarity with the heroic struggle of the working class and people of Cuba against the American imperialists.

The W.F.T.U. will take all possible steps to stimulate the development of this international working class solidarity and to give it practical means of expression.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

No. 11

## RESOLUTION on the situation in Japan

The 11th Session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U.,  
urgently calls the attention of the workers and trade unions of all countries to the grave situation created in Japan by the American militarists who, with the help of the Kishi Government, have transformed this country into a base of military aggression and have revived its war industries for the purpose of furthering their imperialist aims against Asia, Africa and the world;

denounces the alleged "Treaty of Mutual Security" recently renewed between the puppet Kishi Government and the American imperialists, as well as the revival of military relations between the revenge-seeking regime of Chancellor Adenauer in West Germany and the Japanese militarists;

emphasizes that these aggressive alliances subordinating Japan to American imperialism and West German revanchism constitute a growing danger to peace not only in Asia but throughout the entire world;

therefore supports the militant campaign of the Japanese workers and people for the resignation of the Kishi Government, for rejection of the treaty with American imperialism, for the elimination of American military bases, and the withdrawal of American troops;

assures the Japanese workers and people of the W.F.T.U.'s sympathy and active solidarity in their efforts to preserve peace and restore Japanese independence, and

calls upon all the workers and trade unions of the world to unite their forces and efforts on the national and international level in active and concrete support of this great united struggle of the workers and people of Japan.

Peking, June 9, 1960.



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No. 12

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS  
IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, NICARAGUA,  
PARAGUAY AND HAITI

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The 11th session of the W.F.T.U. General Council strongly condemns the reactionary dictatorships which have been in power for many years in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Paraguay with the protection and complicity of North American imperialism.

In these countries, the working people are deprived of their most elementary rights of assembly, organisation and strike, and thousands of workers and democrats have been imprisoned and murdered. Persecution of trade unions and democrats is also growing in the Republic of Haiti.

The W.F.T.U. General Council expresses its fraternal solidarity with the workers of these countries who are fighting for the satisfaction of their demands and for their rights, for the establishment of a democratic regime and in defence of national sovereignty. It is convinced that the workers and trade unions of all countries will give them their most effective support.

Peking, June 9, 1960.



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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No. 13

## STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS OF PANAMA

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The 11th session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U. protests vigorously against the repression and acts of violence perpetrated against the workers and democrats of Panama, in their legitimate struggle, by the National Guard in the service of the North American monopolies and imperialists.

It expresses complete solidarity with the workers of Panama in their struggle for equal wages between the North American and Panamanian workers in the Canal zone, for application of the minimum wage law, for unemployment benefits and the respect of trade union rights.

It supports the people's patriotic movement in the struggle against American imperialism, for the sovereignty of Panama in the Canal zone and the complete independence of the country.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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11th Session of the General Council

11.14

## DECISION

After hearing the report given by the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. regarding the financial management of the World Federation of Trade Unions during the period from the 4th World Trade Union Congress (October 1957) up to date, and the Auditors' report covering the same period, the General Council approves the financial management of the W.F.T.U. from the 4th World Trade Union Congress up to its 11th Session.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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11th Session of the General Council

No.15

## DECISION

In accordance with the Constitution of the W.F.T.U. the 5th World Trade Union Congress is to take place in 1961. Therefore the 11th Session of the General Council asks the Executive Committee to take decisions at its next meeting concerning the convocation, the draft agenda, the date and the place as well as representation at the 5th World Trade Union Congress.

Peking, June 9, 1960.

"The new Labour Party and T.U.C. joint statement, far from breaking with the old reactionary and highly-dangerous policy of tying Britain to NATO, makes the position even worse. It more than ever places Britain at the mercy of the American generals and Government by proposing that the production of the hydrogen bomb be left solely in the hands of the Americans.

"Throughout the entire post-war period the British Government, whether Labour or Tory, has failed to play an independent role in international affairs. Whereas Britain, playing a key role for an independent, new and positive policy, based on the interests of Britain, the British people and people everywhere, could transform the international situation overnight, pave the way for ending the cold war and make possible a new and successful Summit Conference - and that is the battle which is now being fought out in the nation-wide discussions taking place in the trade union and labour movement of this country. But whatever the outcome of the T.U.C. and Labour Party discussions, and votes at their annual conferences, the people are the decisive force and will finally decide.

"The British people want, and will have, peace, and our efforts together with those of peoples in all lands will end the mad policies of war and preparations for war by the Western governments and ensure peaceful co-existence between the peoples of all nations and allow mankind to advance rapidly to full maturity and dignity."

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS


11th Session of the General Council  
(Peking, May 30 -- June 6, 1960)

R E P O R T

on the second item on the agenda :

"The contribution of the trade unions  
to the struggle against colonialism"

Speaker: Ibrahim ZAKARIA  
Secretary of the W.F.T.U.



Dear Brothers and Friends,

I do not think, that we, the trade unionists who come from all parts of the world have ever been happier than today now that we are discussing the question of the contribution of the trade unions in the fight against colonialism.

We are happy because we are discussing this problem at a time when it is becoming increasingly clear that colonialism is undoubtedly doomed to extinction. Happy because we are discussing this problem on the platform of the World Federation of Trade Unions which had the honour of helping to mobilise workers in the struggle against colonialism and which contributed to bringing about the present position in which colonialism finds itself. We are happy because we are discussing this in the capital of the great People's Republic of China which gives to all the oppressed peoples throughout the world true and practical examples of the victorious anti-imperialist struggle.

When we discussed this problem at the 4th World Trade Union Congress, there were in the vast continent of Africa only eight independent countries, but by the end of this year the number of independent countries in Africa will be at least 15. This great growth of the struggle against colonialism fills the heart of every sincere man with the confidence, that the day is not far distant when colonialism will finally disappear from the earth and conditions will be even more favourable to eliminate all forms of exploitation of man by man. This development encourages all fighters against colonialism to speed the coming of that day; in the first place it encourages us, the workers, to go forward on our road to be rid of our worst class enemies and to bury colonialism once and for all.

The two-and-a-half years' development of the struggle since the 4th World Trade Union Congress has proved the correctness of the Congress decision concerning the trade union tasks in the fight against colonialism. In view of the recent upsurge of anti-colonial struggles in countries still under colonialist rule, particularly in Africa, we would like to concentrate here mainly on these countries and tasks of the trade union movement in this respect.

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I. - EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND  
THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

The international situation shows that imperialism has been deprived of its former strength and this has given favourable ground for the people's struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for national independence.

This is the result of the rapid development of the socialist system and the incomparable strength and the firm unity of the socialist camp on the one hand, and on the other hand, the day-by-day shrinking of the power of world imperialism. At the same time it is also the result of the ever-growing strength of the trade union movement throughout the world and the unrelenting struggles waged by the anti-colonialist forces and the forces of peace and democracy against the imperialist powers.

The bitter struggles waged by the overwhelming majority of the peoples in former colonial and dependent countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, have succeeded in achieving national independence, while the peoples of great China, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam have won their social liberation. But millions of people are still shackled by the chains of colonialism, and many new states in Asia, Africa and Latin America still feel the serious remnants and influence of colonialism. Some parts of the newly independent countries are still under colonial domination, such as Goa in India and West Irian in Indonesia. Okinawa and Ogasawara in Japan are still under U.S. occupation.

Present-day colonialism survives principally in Africa where the colonialists are as yet still able to exploit such countries as the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Angola and the others. Africa is vital for the Western Powers because it is packed with vital raw materials and is strategically important as the last bastion of the colonialists after their having suffered considerable losses in Asia.

The national liberation movement in the colonial countries, in which the trade union movement is playing an important role, is now proceeding at a tremendous rate of development, particularly in Africa. Since the First All-African People's Conference at Accra, which ended in the first days of 1959, Africa has continuously been the scene of the upsurge of the people's struggle against colonialism.



The first upsurge which flared up after this Conference was in the Belgian Congo. Over 100 Africans were killed, hundreds more wounded, and 96 African leaders were arrested and put in prison without trial. The movement spread to neighbouring French Congo, and in November the Belgian trust territory of Ruanda-Urundi became involved in a widespread revolt. The struggle is still going on in all three territories, particularly in the Belgian Congo, and the Belgian Government has been forced to make far-reaching political concessions, though these do not go far enough to satisfy the growing African national movement.

Then followed the uprising in Nyasaland, spreading to Northern and Southern Rhodesia, and culminating in the state of emergency declared in all three territories. All the African leaders of the national movement were arrested and put in prison without trial together with over 1,000 Africans, and 53 Africans were killed. Hundreds of those arrested are still in prison and most of the emergency laws have now been embodied in permanent legislation.

Recently we have seen a great upsurge of the struggle by the African people in South Africa against the Apartheid policy and for their economic and social rights. The colonialist Government has resorted to bloody repressions. This led to the world-wide denunciation by the public opinion, particularly by the trade union movement.

Colonial war is now still going on in Algeria. And Algerian independence is not only the focal point of African solidarity, but wins also wider support from many countries in the world, particularly the newly independent countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and above all the socialist countries.

Even in the former French Cameroons which was declared independent on January 1, this year, the national struggle is still going on. Portuguese Angola, which was considered as the most passive colony in Africa, has recently been involved in a national uprising.

The people's struggle against imperialism and colonialism, for national independence, which is developing under the mighty impact of the rapid development and enormous achievement of the socialist camp and also under the influence of the successes scored by the liberated countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, is shaping the foundations of the obsolete colonial system.

Under these conditions the growing national liberation struggles have brought pressure to bear on the colonialist powers in recent years for carrying out some administrative 'reforms', especially in the African colonies. These reforms



take the form of a so-called self-government, meanwhile preserving the omnipotence of the colonial powers, or they lead to the formation of advisory bodies under the colonial administration. Such "reforms" are nothing but a development of colonialism in new conditions, with some modification of its forms.

The administrative "reforms" of the French colonies into "member states of the French Community" did not essentially change the position of the French colonies. In this case, the metropolitan country is still in charge of such basic matters as foreign policy, defence, the currency system, general economic and financial policy, use of strategic materials, control of judicial agencies, higher education, means of communication and the general organisation of internal and external communications. Only secondary affairs in the colonies come under the jurisdiction of local governments.

Under the pressure of the growing struggles of the peoples of the Cameroons and of international solidarity in favour of national independence, that part of the Cameroons under French administration was declared independent on January 1, this year. In April, what was formerly French Togoland became independent. Somalia, an Italian trust territory, will become independent in July. Nigeria is preparing for its forthcoming independence in October. Bearing in mind the fact that Nigeria is one of the biggest colonies remaining in the hands of the British imperialists, the independence of Nigeria will be of tremendous importance. It will give a powerful impetus to the struggle all over Africa. In June, this year, the Belgian Congo will also be independent.

The imperialist powers are not granting independence to their colonies out of the goodness of their hearts. The strategy of the colonial powers is to make political concessions only when forced to do so, but to strive to maintain and even extend their economic domination.

The establishment of the European Common Market, including colonial territories of its member states, and the Eurafrika project, an agreement among a number of West European countries to collectively exploit natural resources of the African countries, are designed to save the colonial empires in Africa from utter defeat, to gloss over the sharp contradictions between the older colonial powers and their newer imperialist rivals. These tendencies will put obstacles on the road towards a free choice by African countries of the direction of investments and other economic policies in favour of industrial development which would benefit the working people in their countries. They will also accentuate the single crop system and stifle newly born national industries in these countries.

Particularly in Africa, despite serious political setbacks, the European colonisers still maintain considerable economic influence. But the American imperialists by using the slogans of "anti-colonialism" exert pressure on the West European colonisers and force them into making increasingly important concessions to the U.S. monopolies, which seek to extend and strengthen their positions.

It is particularly important for the people in the African colonies to increase their vigilance in their struggle for national independence in respect of the American imperialists who have been playing up the slogan of "anti-colonialism". The U.S. imperialists by these manoeuvres aim at misleading the peoples of these countries and providing "ideological" and "psychological" conditions for U.S. expansion.

It is also necessary for the peoples in these countries to be watchful of the economic infiltration of the West German and Japanese monopolies, which have been revived with the support of the United States and who are seeking to regain the positions which were lost by their defeat in the Second World War.

Under these circumstances, the struggle of the peoples against colonialism should not have the character of driving out the colonialists of one imperialist power, and at the same time letting in those of another power. The struggle of these peoples against European colonialism has grown into a struggle against any kind of colonialism, including American and other neo-colonialism.

## II. - CONDITIONS OF WORKERS UNDER COLONIALIST EXPLOITATION

Long years of imperialist domination and exploitation in colonial countries have resulted in an ever-growing deterioration of the workers' working and living conditions, and have brought about unbearable suffering for the whole working population in these countries.

### Extremely low wages and job discrimination:

The great majority of workers in colonial countries are drawing wages far below the lowest level that would allow a worker to maintain the barest standard of living.

For example, in the Union of South Africa, the average wages of an African are by far less than required to enable the worker to maintain a family of five on the barest standard of living at the present level of prices of goods and services.

The wages are often frozen for a long time, and even when some increases are won, they are upset by the soaring prices of daily necessities, most of which are imported from metropolitan countries at arbitrarily inflated prices.

A minimum guaranteed wage does not exist in many colonial countries. Even where it does exist, it is far below the level of that in metropolitan countries. For example, in Algeria, the minimum guaranteed wage has been fixed at 121 francs an hour in industry for the first zone and at 637 francs per day in agriculture, while in France it is 160.15 francs in industry and 133.70 francs in agriculture per hour. In Tanganyika, workers may be employed for any number of hours per day as long as they are paid the minimum rate since there are no regulated working hours. As the minimum rates are dependent on age and sex, in the absence of birth certificates, employers decide the worker's age, naturally to the employer's advantage.

There are also big differences in wages between native workers and Europeans. In the Belgian Congo, a European worker earns 64 times more than native workers. In Northern Rhodesia's copper mines, the majority of African miners receive only one-twentieth the wage of the European miner working in the same territory. Sugar workers in Fiji get wages four-and-a-half to five times lower than in Australia.

Higher categories of jobs are almost entirely exclusive to the white workers, who also receive various kinds of allowances which are not given to native workers. In the public services of Algeria, 90 per cent of Algerian Moslems occupy subordinate positions and perform only auxiliary jobs. For white workers in French West Africa there are colonial allowances as well as allowances for light, gas, electricity and social security. They are given longer holidays, five times as long as those of black workers each year. White employees from France get passage paid for their holidays, while blacks from the Sudan receive nothing.

In the Union of South Africa, under the notorious "Apartheid" policy, all types of skilled employment is reserved only for "civilised" labour, e.g. the whites. More recently, this policy has been extended under the name of 'job reservation', and as a result, Africans have been sacked to give places to white workers.

Even where such restrictions do not exist, opportunities are very limited for native workers to get themselves qualified for skilled trades. Facilities for vocational training are almost non-existent in colonial countries, particularly for women workers.



Long working hours and unemployment:

Colonial workers are subject to incredibly long working hours. In many cases, there is no regulation limiting the length of working hours. In the I.L.O. Year Book 1957, there are examples of a normal working week of 75 hours for bus workers in West Nigeria; 72 hours for bakers in Mauritius; 84 and 89 hours for certain textile workers in Hong Kong. Normal working hours in Fiji are anything up to 70 hours a week.

In order to supplement a meagre income, many workers have to work overtime or on holidays. In Tanganyika, a number of workers are doing two jobs; after working eight hours during the day for one employer, they spend part of the night on another job.

These scandalous conditions of work and the lack of industrial safety measures have resulted in the frequent occurrence of industrial accidents. A clear example of this was the recent disaster in a South African colliery where 429 African miners and 6 Europeans were killed in an explosion in an unsafe pit.

Many of the colonial countries fail to have proper regulations concerning the prevention of and compensation for industrial accidents. Even where these regulations do exist full compensation is often not paid for accidents where the victims are native workers.

A great number of workers are suffering from the scourge of unemployment and under-employment and living under cruel conditions.

For example, during 1958 in the Bahamas, the so-called Caribbean "island of paradise", only 39 per cent of the working population was fully employed all the year. In Jamaica, it was 17.7 per cent and in Barbados it was 32 per cent. In Puerto Rico, a labour force survey showed 40 per cent of male workers in agriculture and 14 per cent of those in non-agricultural occupations to be under-employed. The Belgian newspaper "Le Ballonnie" admitted that half the population of the Belgian Congo is out of work.

Due to the poverty of the colonial countries and particularly the non-existence of other industries where the unemployed could find new jobs, unemployed workers and landless peasants are forced to seek work in other countries. The employers make use of this immigrant labour in order to cut down wage levels, undermine other conditions of work and cause bad feelings among workers. This is the case with the influx of Algerian workers into France, to some extent that of Jamaicans into Great Britain, and more so with the employment



of Puerto Ricans in the U.S.A. One of the aims of setting up the Central African Federation against the will of the African population is to obtain cheap labour from Nyasaland to work for mines and farms in Rhodesia.

#### Forced Labour:

Various forms of forced labour are still to be found in some colonial territories. In the African territories administered by Portugal, there are certain restrictions and exceptions in the legislation which permit the use of forced or compulsory labour.

In South Africa, the restrictions on the freedom of movement of Africans have ensured a larger supply of labour, than there otherwise would be to farmers who pay low wages. The organised recruiting system developed by the South African gold mines ensures that the different mines do not compete against each other for African labour.

The widespread use of convict labour is found in some colonial territories. In South Africa, a great number of Africans who were arrested for violating the Pass-Laws, were handed over to white farmers to work almost as slave labour.

#### Social Security and other Social Conditions:

In many colonial countries, workers are not covered by the social security system. For example, in Tanganyika, no sick benefits and maternity leaves are provided for African workers. Old-age pension and unemployment benefits are also unheard of. In Algeria the agricultural workers, 98 per cent of whom are Moslems are excluded from the benefits of social legislation.

Even where a rather inadequate social security system exists, there is considerable discrimination between European and coloured workers as to the benefits they receive.

The acute shortage of medical facilities is a common feature to all colonial countries. For example, there is one doctor for each 11,770 inhabitants in Madagascar. In Ruanda-Urundi, there are only 4 dentists for the total population of 5 million.

As a result, people are suffering from epidemics and diseases which have already become almost extinct in developed countries. For example, in Algeria, 90 per cent of children have trachome. The Belgian Congo has still 280,000 lepers.

Housing conditions are also horrible for native workers, whose families have to live herded together in mud huts and ramshackle hovels, while the best living quarters are exclusive to European residents. In plantations, workers' houses are often tied to the job and if a worker goes on strike he is liable to eviction.

Poor diet, overcrowding and lack of medical services are undermining the health of the whole population and killing many children. Infant mortality is several times higher than in developed countries; for example, in British Guiana it is three times the U.S. rate. The life expectancy of an African is 36.4 years in South Africa as against 68 years for Europeans in the same territory.

The position as regards education is alarming. Because of the lack of schools, only 25 per cent of children in Senegal receive any education. In Ruanda-Urundi, less than one-third of the children of school age are being provided with education and the majority of these attend school for only two years. In Northern Rhodesia, three in every 100 African children get secondary education. In Southern Rhodesia it is only 1 in 100, in Nyasaland 1 in 1,000. The European administration in Tanganyika spends about \$233 a year on the education of each European child, but only \$8 on each African child. School fees are usually too high for most African parents.

As a result, the rate of illiteracy is still very high. In Tanganyika, it is estimated at 95 per cent of the population. Jamaica has 60 per cent illiteracy. In Algeria, it amounts to 87 per cent.

Conditions of other sections of population:

Besides workers, the peasants, comprising the great majority of the colonial population, are subjected to a not less ruthless exploitation on the part of the foreign monopolies and those colonialists owning vast plantations. The Europeans have the most fertile and best-watered land, while, in many cases, native peasants have arid land often infested with pests and plant diseases. While many millions of acres reserved for the whites are unused, thousands of Africans are being made landless. In Kenya, one-fourth of the total cultivated land is reserved for European settlers who constitute only one per cent of the total population. In Southern Rhodesia, according to the 'Land Apportionment Act', half the land is set aside for the exclusive use of that tenth of the population which is European, and out of 40 million acres of land reserved for Europeans, only one million acres are cultivated.

The peasants also suffer from the disproportion between the prices of domestic products and imported ones. For example, a few years ago, by selling one mile of groundnuts, the Congol

peasant could buy one metre of muslin. He now needs to sell four kilos of nuts in order to buy the same length of muslin.

Some sections of the national bourgeoisie in colonial countries although at a different level from that of the workers, also find themselves in difficult circumstances due to various restrictions and heavy taxation, while in many cases foreign monopolies enjoy privileges such as tax free periods and import duty exemption. In Central Africa, the Africans pay a poll tax of £2 regardless of their poverty, while the Europeans, refuse to pay this, and a European man with a wife and children does not pay income tax until he earns £1,400 a year.

In pursuance of their policy of keeping their colonies as supply bases for raw materials and a monopolised market for their manufactured goods, the imperialist powers have retarded the development of a national industry. Capital investments have been made by foreign monopolies with a sole aim of further extracting fabulous profits at the expense of the native population.

The economic recession 1957-58 which was marked particularly by the sharp decline in the prices of primary products, aggravated the economic difficulties of colonial countries, the economies of which were dependent on the export of raw materials, while the colonialist powers benefitted from the lower prices of imported raw materials and at the same time, maintained most prices of their manufactured goods at comparatively high level. The imperialists thereby succeeded in placing the main burden of the economic crisis upon the shoulders of the colonial peoples. The economic recovery in colonial countries was delayed although production in the metropolitan countries passed the pre-recession peak.

### Suppression of trade union and democratic rights

Whenever the workers and peoples in colonial countries try to put an end to the inhuman conditions they bear, and seek to realise their rights and determine their own future, the imperialists and colonialists have not hesitated to resort to the most cruel and savage measures in order to strangle the workers' struggles and the national liberation movement.

Throughout the colonial world, the free exercise of trade union and democratic rights is denied to the colonial workers, and active trade union and democratic leaders who adopt a working class or national standpoint are subjected to severe persecutions and deprived of the most fundamental human rights.

This is particularly the case in Algeria, where trade unions representing the genuine interests of the workers have been banned and all the trade union leaders on a national level are imprisoned, detained or expelled from the country. Aissat Dair, General Secretary of the U.G.T.A., was tortured to death





while under arrest by colonialist police and the notorious parachutists, and this after he had been acquitted by the military court. Lakhdar Kaidi, former General Secretary of the ex-U.G.S.A., and member of the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U., has been imprisoned since 1956, although he was acquitted by a military court in Algiers. These are only a few examples of many persecutions by the French colonial authorities.

During the seven years since the State of Emergency was declared in Kenya, over 10,000 Africans have been massacred with thousands more jailed and put into concentration camps such as the notorious Hola Camp where many Africans were beaten to death.

In South Africa, well over 40 trade union leaders, like Mrs. Elisabeth Mufeking, President of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, have been banished and banned from trade union work. The registration of trade unions has been made dependant on whether they conform to the Apartheid Laws of the colonialist government. Some of the Apartheid laws refuse the right of African workers to meet, make it difficult to find a meeting place and in various ways discriminates against them so that they are unable to organize and improve their conditions of work and their wages. Strike action by Africans is also prohibited by law. The recent shooting in Sharpeville in which more than 60 Africans were killed and hundreds wounded is a clear example of the fascist-like bloody terror taken by the colonialist Government. Under the State of Emergency, many people including leaders of the South African Congress of Trade Unions were arrested without warrant.

Freedom of speech, press and association is permanently trampled upon in many colonial countries under the excuse of security and other reasons. The right to vote is also denied or restricted as it concerns the colonial workers. Voting qualifications are dependent upon property, income and education standards which often prevents the overwhelming majority of the native population from voting.

To take one example. In the Central African Federation, out of 7,140,000 Africans, only 58,000 are qualified to vote in the Federal Elections and even that is for an Assembly of 59 members in which only 12 are Africans. Even in a country where the people have obtained universal suffrage, as in British Guiana, the colonialist authorities have the power to dismiss any or all members of both the elected Legislative Council and the Executive Council.

In these and many other ways, the imperialists are trying to perpetuate their domination over their colonies.



### III. -- UPSURGE OF WORKERS' STRUGGLES AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COLONIALISM

Since the 4th World Trade Union Congress in October 1957, we have seen a rapid development in the struggles of colonial workers for their demands. Under very difficult conditions and despite fierce persecutions by colonialists, the struggles have spread through the colonial world, from the Fiji Islands in the Pacific Ocean to the Bahamas in the Caribbean Sea. Several general strikes of all trades went over Cyprus, Malta and Aden against repressions and colonialist rule.

The African continent, which is considered as the last stronghold of the colonialist empire, has also been the scene of this growing workers' movement. To take a few examples of the struggles waged by colonial workers in Africa in the past year; an 8-day general strike of 20,000 transport workers in the Belgian Congo; a strike of 24,000 railwaymen in Kenya in protest against racial discrimination; a strike of 6,000 workers at the Kariba Dam, Southern Rhodesia, for wage increases; a strike of 15,000 railway workers in Tanganyika for wage increases and better conditions; a strike of civil servants in Senegal in protest against dismissals and repressive measures.

All these struggles have been marked by a higher level of tenacity and militancy than before, with the working class consciousness being increasingly raised.

In increasing numbers, the workers in colonial countries are coming into action for their demands. In Tanganyika, the annual average of the sisal plantation workers involved in industrial disputes jumped up from 4,230 between 1951 and 1956 to 29,470 in 1957 and 51,314 in 1958. In Kenya, the number of man-days lost in strikes doubled in 1958 compared with the previous year. In Southern Rhodesia, the figure also doubled and in Northern Rhodesia, increased 5 times during the same period.

The main demands which are being put forward in these struggles are as follows:

- general wage increases and a minimum guaranteed wage;
- the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work and elimination of racial discrimination as regards wages, family and other allowances;
- reduction in living costs, against raising of prices of daily necessities;
- free access to qualified trades and vocational training without discrimination;

- shorter working hours, legislation and enforcement of the 8-hour day, a limit on overtime; introduction or prolongation of annual paid holidays;
- improvement in safety measures against work accidents and occupational diseases;
- against dismissals and unemployment;
- guarantee of reasonable working and living conditions for emigrant workers;
- abolition of forced labour in any form;
- introduction and improvement of a social security system;
- improvement of housing conditions and medical and educational facilities;
- agricultural reforms;
- right to determine the economic and social policy in favour of industrial development and for the benefit of the working people;
- free exercise of trade union rights and full respect of fundamental democratic rights.

In fighting for these economic and social demands, workers in colonial countries are becoming increasingly aware that, only the national independence of their country can provide the most favourable conditions for further struggle to satisfy their economic and social demands. The workers' struggles for economic and social demands are, in many cases, because of the foreign monopolies and colonialists overwhelming domination over industry and government, directly opposed to this domination. That is why workers are actively taking part in the national liberation movement in their respective countries side by side with other sections of the population.

The upsurge of the national liberation movement in the period covered by this report has been almost in all cases accompanied by the workers' struggle for their demands. The movement for national independence - which remains the main objective - and the struggle for economic and social demands are inseparably interlinked with each other in the colonial countries.



Forms of the national liberation struggle vary according to conditions existing in each country. In a country like Algeria, the colonialist terror has forced the workers and people to take up arms. In other countries where there are the possibilities of waging the fight in other ways, various other forms of struggle are used.

Accordingly, the forms of workers' participation in the national liberation struggles are also different. However, in all cases, the mobilisation of the masses on the broadest scale constitutes one of the most effective factors for advancing the national liberation movement and forcing the imperialists to make concessions in the interest of the colonial people. The trade union movement in colonial countries has been one of the most important channels through which the working masses are mobilised in the struggle for national independence.

One of the remarkable common features of the national liberation movement at the present stage is the broadness of the participation of different strata of the population. It comprises not only the workers and peasants but also the national bourgeoisie and ~~emancipated tribal chiefs~~. But the national bourgeoisie is comparatively weak especially in those colonial countries where their development has been hampered by colonial domination and the existence of white settlers.

On the other hand, the workers have a longer experience of fighting colonialism and take a more consistent stand against it, and, in general, have been better organised, compared with the national bourgeoisie. This is proved by the success achieved in the struggle for national independence in Guinea where the trade union movement has played a decisive role.

It is also becoming increasingly clear that the achievement of political sovereignty provides favourable ground for the national liberation movement as a vital step towards the complete liquidation of colonialist domination. Whenever the colonialist powers are forced to make certain concessions under the pressure of the people's struggle for national independence, the patriotic forces in the colonies can employ with success such concessions on the part of the colonialists in order to weaken the colonialists' grip and at a suitable moment discard their yoke. This happens, as the example of the Republic of Guinea shows, when the patriotic forces regard such manoeuvres and "reforms" as an opportunity for organising a further attack on the colonial system, as a step in the direction which leads to a still wider mass struggle for the complete liberation of their country from colonial oppression. This explains the reason why the trade union movement representing the genuine interests of workers in colonial countries has taken a consistent stand for national sovereignty and independence.

Once the people are given the right to decide their own future, they will no longer remain satisfied with their countries being controlled by foreign colonialists in the political, economic and cultural fields. No force in the world can stop the peoples advance towards complete independence.

Political independence is not only important at the domestic level but also on an international level in the sense that it will further promote the national liberation movement in the countries still under colonialism and will influence the international relation of forces in favour of peace. This is the case with Guinea and Ghana both of which are playing a positive role in the fight to put an end to colonialism in the African continent. The holding of the Conference of Independent African States in April 1958 and its decisions were another proof of this.

Another important feature in the struggle against colonialism is that the desire for working class unity and solidarity among peoples fighting colonialism is growing in all colonial countries.

Formerly, the different national liberation movements were kept within the bounds imposed by imperialism. Now any particular struggle has become the cause of the whole continent. The two African People's Solidarity Conferences reflected the growth of such solidarity. The armed struggle in Algeria, the demand to unite the Cameroons, the demand for the release of Jomo Kenyatta and Dr. Banda, the great upsurge of the Belgian Congo and the struggle against Apartheid in South Africa - all have now become the cause of 200 million people throughout the whole of Africa. The recent release of Dr. Banda is one of the results obtained by this solidarity campaign.

The Asian-African solidarity campaign, which made its start at the Asian-African People's Solidarity Conference in Cairo in December 1957, has contributed to the growth of such united feeling.

Alongside with the growth of these feelings of solidarity, the desire for trade union unity in the struggle against colonialism has also been strengthened.

#### The contribution of trade union organisations in other countries in the fight against colonialism

If the trade union organisations in the colonies are playing an important role in the fight against colonialism, the contribution of their sister organisations in the other countries in this fight in a direct or indirect way is by no means less important.



When the British, Italian, French, Portuguese, Belgian or other workers struggle against the monopolies in their own countries, this means that they are weakening the same circles which colonise and exploit other peoples in other countries. Together with this the growing opposition among the workers of these countries to the measures taken by their governments in the colonies had contributed to a big extent in compelling the colonialists to retreat from their former positions and the traditional forms of colonialism unacceptable to the peoples of the metropolitan countries.

This is from one hand. From the other hand the first final victory of workers which took place 42 years ago when the first workers' and peasants' state was set up, have never stopped to make tremendous progress. All of this is happening on the account of weakening colonialism and imperialism as an international system. When the trade union organisations in the socialist countries mobilise the workers to fulfil their development plans, they do not do this only to construct socialism and communism in their countries and guarantee the highest standard of living the world ever knew but also to enable their countries to provide generous help to the newly independent countries.

The last year had noticed the elaboration of the Seven-Year Plan in the Soviet Union. Thanks to this plan and the heroic role played by the workers to fulfil it, the Soviet Union is not only able to transform itself to the most advanced country in the world, but to be in a position to fully satisfy the needs of the newly independent countries which want to rid themselves from all sorts of imperialist penetration especially in the economic field. The recent agreement between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Guinea is a living example of this. The workers of the Chinese People's Republic are setting daily examples to those fighting against colonialism and imperialism of a persevering struggle against American imperialism which today is the greatest enemy of the working class of all countries.

These are a few examples to show how the trade union organisations in the socialist and other countries other than those directly involved in the fight against colonialism contribute in this fight.

#### IV. -- FOR STEADY-WASHING UNITY AND SOLIDARITY

##### Trade Union Unity on National Level

The mobilisation of the working masses in the struggle against colonialism and the achievement of their unity are primarily necessary and essential in order to bring about successes in the fight for national independence. One of the main

means of mobilising the workers is to unite them in a mass organisation based on class principles, irrespective of their political opinions, race and religious beliefs. This kind of organisation is the trade union, which is a mass organisation. The trade union gives the greatest possibility for widely mobilising rank-and-file workers to meet their immediate interests and carry their struggle against colonialism to a final victory.

In their drive for maximum profits, the Monopolies and colonialists are making every effort to weaken the trade unions. They try to split the trade unions by dismissals of trade union militants, by creating reformist or rival trade union organisations through their agents or through bribery.

Therefore, in order to bring success to the struggle for the defence of the immediate interests of the workers and for the complete liquidation of colonialism and for national independence, it is necessary to organise strong trade unions, supported by firmly united masses of workers on a broad scale. Every effort should be made in order to recruit as many new members as possible, irrespective of their race, religious or political beliefs.

To establish one national centre in one country if conditions permit, or to create possibilities for common action between different trade union organisations on a national level, is a good basis for widely mobilising the working masses in united actions raising the fighting ability of the workers, strengthening national unity and ensuring successful results for the struggle against colonialism.

There is nothing more dangerous for the colonialists than the presence of a militant trade union movement which sincerely struggles for the social and economic demands of its members and which is strongly united on this basis and which co-operates with other sections of the community and national organisations in the struggle against colonialism and for national independence.

We note with great satisfaction the advances made in trade union unity on a national level in colonial countries. Since the 4th World Trade Union Congress, several trade union organisations have become united and several other National Centres came into existence. Moreover, common actions between trade unions on a regional, national and international level increased and began to bear fruit, but nevertheless this development did not go very far for certain reasons and obstacles.

Today, we see an example of this obstruction operating in Nigeria. After strenuous efforts made by supporters of unity the Nigerian trade union movement became finally united in April of last year. Less than one year after the achievement of this unity which was very fruitful for Nigerian workers, the splitters



began their attempts to once again divide the trade union movement. While the Nigerian T.U.C. was engaged in a difficult and protracted struggle to raise the standard of living of its members, and while it was stepping up its campaigns against the colonialists, we find that splitting elements backed by the leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. putting forward the question of affiliation of the Nigerian T.U.C. to the I.C.F.T.U. This created an internal struggle and so distracted the attention of the trade unions from facing the new developments which had arisen in their country. The leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. in their efforts to win over some trade unions or individuals in a particular country are never disturbed at the consequences which result from their work. The majority of workers in Nigeria are opposed to the affiliation of their T.U.C. to the I.C.F.T.U., which is not at all urgent or a decisive problem for them as is the case with conditions and life of the workers and the future of their country. Nevertheless the leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. never lose an opportunity of stirring up this controversial problem of affiliation.

Here is another example. While the supporters of trade union unity in the Union of South Africa are striving to bring together all unions under one centre composed of all workers irrespective of their colour, we find that the leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. are not only obstructing these efforts but are endeavouring to establish new trade union organisations on a racial basis thereby adding to the tension and division of the trade unions and obstructing the possibility of the unity of the whole trade union movement. They do this, despite their declarations that they are against racial discrimination and segregation.

A third example. At a time when the African trade unions are trying to unite on national and continental levels and at a time when they met in Accra to examine best ways to realise this unity, the I.C.F.T.U. organised in Lagos what it called a regional conference for African trade unions, disregarding the feelings of African workers and their trade union organisations.

The activities of such splitting elements conforms with the attempts of the colonialists and the reactionaries to weaken the trade union movement so enabling them to exploit the mass of workers to the maximum extent.

The unity of the trade union movement on a national level is of vital importance for raising the standard of living of the workers, improving their working conditions and safeguarding their liberties and trade union rights. At the same time it forms the backbone of national unity in the fight against colonialism, safeguarding national independence and eradicating all colonialist influences, particularly these in economic fields.

The colonialists exploit all forms of backwardness, such as tribal and religious differences, in order to split the national organisations or weaken them. They are not so successful in this among the workers who are able to unite themselves on the basis of their economic demands and their political and national slogans. Thus workers' unity is of vital importance for all movements struggling against colonialism, it inspires them to organise and come together in the struggle against colonialism and for national independence. It is noteworthy that in certain countries that bourgeois elements, prompted by their narrow, selfish interests, exploit the sacrifices of the trade union organisations in the struggle against colonialism. After independence they endeavour in various ways to force the trade unions to make concessions on even their simplest demands. In some cases, the bourgeois elements either persuade the trade union leaders to bring the trade union organisations under the control of the ruling party or by attacking them, restrict their activities and take away the hard won gains which the unions had obtained during the national united struggle against colonialism. A clear example of this can be given of what happened in the Sudan, where only three years after independence the trade unions have been deprived of all the rights they gained during the hard fight against colonialism, and its leaders, including Shafie Ahmed El Shiekh, the General Secretary of the Sudanese Federation of Trade Unions and Vice-President of the W.F.T.U., were put in prison. In such cases this results in the weakening of the keenest defenders of the national interests and thereby weakens the whole fight against colonialism, the safeguarding of national independence, and the achieving of economic independence of the nation.

It is the duty of the trade union organisations, while fighting for the liberation of their countries from colonialism, to prepare themselves for this period after independence by:

1. Transforming the trade union movement into a real mass movement by removing the barriers between its leaders and the rank-and-file, and directing the trade unions on democratic principles thus enabling them to maintain their unity. On the other hand they have to avoid isolation from the popular masses and participate together with them in the daily struggle against backwardness and poverty.

2. Maintaining the mass and class character of the trade union movement and basing its relations with the bourgeois parties on that of co-operation in the common struggle.

3. Drawing up a complete programme of action during the period of the national struggle and after independence paying particular attention to economic independence, drawing up a well studied plan for national reconstruction for home and foreign policy of the nation in the period after independence.



These programmes should be adequately explained to the masses of workers and the people in order to obtain their support for them. On the basis of these conditions and others the trade union movement can maintain its integral character after independence and so continue its activities on the national level and for the economic demands of the workers. This also enables the trade union movement to play an active role in the national liberation movement.

### International workers' solidarity with the workers fighting against colonialism

The young trade union movement in the colonies while striving to organise itself and to win the fight for raising the standard of living and against colonialism, has always found in the international workers' solidarity a great support in its struggle. International workers' solidarity plays a significant role in the development of the struggle against colonialism by continuously encouraging and supporting it until victory is assured.

The workers in all parts of the world have a common interest in raising their standards of living, of ending colonial exploitation, and the need for peace.

These are desires shared by the workers in Peking, and in San Francisco; the workers in London and in Moscow, and those in Sydney or Havana and all the others. So it is understandable why workers from imperialist countries are co-operating with their brothers in the colonies - they both have a common enemy.

The monopolists who lead the French Government today are the same people who own the capital invested in the colonies, they alone maintain the right of colonial domination. In the face of such a situation it is not strange that the French workers who are fighting against the class that exploits them are co-operating with the workers in the colonies who are striving to free their countries from these same circles and build their future homeland.

The same interests shared by the workers from the colonies in being rid of colonialism and weakening it internationally, are also shared by those workers who have finally thrown off exploitation and have started to develop their economic and social conditions. These workers have a sincere desire to live in peace in order to accomplish that which they have started to create, they face continuous threats of world war and aggressive actions. Is it strange that these workers should unite against the common enemy with their brothers in the colonial countries?

Some people do not understand this simple and clear reason and try to raise the question of international workers' solidarity as a terrifying monster with which to frighten the trade union organisations in the colonialist countries. Their purpose in doing this is that they hope to isolate these trade unions from the powerful force of the international workers, and thereby expose them to further exploitation. Let us see the truth behind these things. Let us examine the question of international workers' solidarity against imperialism as it is shown in practice.

It is not possible for any honest trade union leader in West Africa, for example, to forget the role which was played and is still being played by the French working class under the leadership of the C.G.T., not only against the French imperialist monopolies inside France but also in the help given in organising and mobilizing the trade union movement in the colonies. This movement now stands at the head of the struggle of the people against colonialism and for the safeguarding of national independence in those countries where it has been achieved. If we examine the names of those militant trade union leaders present today from that region we find that their trade union history is closely connected with the history of the C.G.T.

Is it possible for anyone to forget the heroic role played by the C.G.T. during the Vietnamese War of Liberation? Is it possible for anyone to neglect the courageous part played by this organisation in its support of the struggle of the Algerian workers and people fighting for their national independence? Those who ignore such a role are only those who would minimize the value of international workers' solidarity and who thus stand with the colonialists and reactionaries on the same platform which is aimed at isolating the trade union movement in the colonies from the international trade union movement.

It is true that some of the trade union organisations in the colonialist countries which are the victims of incorrect policies adopted by their reformist leaders set a bad example for the working class in the colonial countries. These organisations not only weaken the fraternal bonds between themselves and their brother movements in the colonies but in most cases, they act like a cold shower on the liberation movements in the colonies in which the trade unions are playing an increasingly important role. Fortunately, this example is on a very limited scale and should not be considered typical of what the working masses in the colonial countries feel and is not common to all other countries.

If we examine the situation in the socialist countries we realise how deep is the meaning of international workers' solidarity based on generous and brotherly assistance. The



workers in these countries who themselves experienced similar conditions in the past understand and feel the terrible exploitation to which their brothers in the capitalist and colonial countries are exposed. Having decisively achieved the destruction of all forms of exploitation they find themselves in the position which enables them to assist their brothers in other countries morally and materially, and they never hesitate a moment to render such assistance.

If we put aside the great role played by the workers of these countries in changing the balance of forces in the world in favour of the peoples and in favour of world peace, which presents invaluable assistance in the fight against imperialism, and which has been elaborately explained by Brother Scillant in his report, if we put aside all this, we find in the sphere of workers' fraternal solidarity they have set a living example of this principle which binds together the workers of all countries.

Delegations of African, Asian and Latin American trade unionists who have visited the socialist countries in recent years either in attending conferences or congresses, May 1st celebrations or some other celebrations, bear witness to the contribution made by the workers in the socialist countries in the exchange and strengthening of relations between different trade union organisations. At these gatherings trade union leaders from many countries are able to meet. In the past they were unable or rarely able to do so due to financial or political reasons, but now in this way they come closer to each other and their fraternal friendship is strengthened.

In the field of organisation and publicity the trade unions of the socialist countries have greatly contributed towards the strengthening of the trade union centres in other countries by rendering brotherly assistance. One example to show the extent of progress in this respect. In the field of training trade union cadres, the Trade Union School, founded in Berlin for union leaders from Arab countries is a fine example of the efforts extended by trade union organisations in the socialist countries in assisting the trade union organisations in the under-developed and colonial countries in the field of trade union education.

The recent trip of Brother Clarke, the President of the F.D.C.B. and Vice-President of the W.F.T.U., at the head of an F.D.C.B. delegation to several countries of Africa to study on the spot how that organisation could render more assistance to the trade union organisations in those countries and to strengthen the fraternal relations with them, is another good example to show how keen and sympathetic the trade union organisations in the socialist countries are in their fraternal solidarity in the fight against colonialism.

This international workers' solidarity is well demonstrated by the efforts undertaken by the World Federation of Trade Unions in this direction.

The international workers' solidarity campaigns which have been organised by the W.F.T.U. to support the struggle of the workers in the colonial countries have achieved many successes. The W.F.T.U. in supporting and assisting the trade unions in their struggle against colonialism and for improving the workers' standard of living does not differentiate between one organisation and another. All organisations regardless of their international affiliation are treated equally.

The W.F.T.U. supports the struggle of the workers of Nyasaland although their organisation is affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U., equally as it supports the struggle of the workers in Sudan, whose organisation is affiliated to the W.F.T.U. In rendering such solidarity the W.F.T.U. does not lay down any conditions. The W.F.T.U. differs radically in this field from other organisations.

The Nigerian trade unionist N.N. Ajaaro who put the question in the "West African Pilot", March 21, 1960, writing: "If the I.C.F.T.U. is out only to help us organise on so-called democratic lines, why must it insist that we affiliate with it?", can see clearly the difference between two international organisations. One of them attaches conditions to its "support" and "assistance" and the other assists and supports because it is an integral part of its principles.

If we add to this the difference in the kind of solidarity and support shown by the two organisations, we will understand the reason why the influence of the W.F.T.U. is growing particularly in the countries which are still fighting against colonialism.

The affiliation of the U.G.T.A. to the I.C.F.T.U. did not prevent the W.F.T.U. from putting the Algerian case in the forefront of its activities. After the elaborate explanation of the Algerian problem at the biggest international workers' gathering known until now in Leipzig 1957, the Secretariat and Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. have continued to implement the resolutions of that Congress which brought into existence the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Algerian Workers and People. All Algerians today feel the great assistance rendered through this Committee to the cause of the Algerian workers and people. Nor did the affiliation of this organisation to the I.C.F.T.U. prevent the W.F.T.U. International Solidarity Fund from rendering £20,000 in the past three years for the U.G.T.A. to function as an organisation.



The fact that the U.G.T.A.W. is an independent trade union organisation does not prevent the W.F.T.U. from co-operating with and assisting it in realising the biggest workers project known to Africa up till now - the establishment of a Trade Union School in Conakry.

The fact that several other trade union organisations were either independent or affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U. did not prevent the W.F.T.U. from organising trade union courses for a number of trade unionists from Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

These few examples show how the W.F.T.U., while adhering to its principle to fight against imperialism, is not influenced by the international affiliation or independence of these organisations, not only this, but provocations and attacks by some trade union organisations on the W.F.T.U. or against some of its member-organisations does not change its unhesitating support of these bodies, or the assistance rendered to them as long as they need this support in their fight against colonialism.

The W.F.T.U. which respects the integrity of the trade union organisations in all parts of the world, co-operates with them on this basis. The policy of the W.F.T.U. in this connection is not merely liberal. It is based on its class character and its principle of fighting against colonialism and imperialism. That is why it daily gains new friends among trade union organisations and in this way the solidarity of the international working class against imperialism and for national independence multiplies.

If the fight against colonialism demands the unity of the workers in a certain country and their co-operation with other national forces, then international solidarity is an important factor for the success of that struggle. Of course, world solidarity could be more effective if it were not for the obstructions placed in its way by some agents of the imperialists inside the world trade union movement who split its forces and weaken its fraternal solidarity.

Brother Scillant has told you about the restrictions imposed by the leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. on their members in contacting the W.F.T.U. and those organisations affiliated to it. Whatever may be the outcome of these restrictions we do not think that anyone will differ with us in the fact that if all trade union organisations in the world will co-operate in supporting a certain cause it would undoubtedly be successful. Let us imagine that the I.C.F.T.U. and all its member-organisations were present in the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria and the AFL-CIO adopted the same position as the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions and that the Force Ouvriere adopted the same position as

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the C.G.T. and that the Secretariat of the I.C.F.T.U. took the same stand as the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U., would it have been possible for the war in Algeria to have continued up to now? What can be said about the Algerian problem applies also to other problems; the problem of South Africa; the problem of the Federation of Central Africa; the Belgian Congo; etc. If the agents of imperialism inside the world trade union movement have up till now succeeded in placing obstacles in the way of co-operation between the top leaderships of the world trade union organisations nevertheless we are pleased to note that co-operation between the trade union organisations on the lower level is strengthening day by day and is registering its effect in the fight against imperialism.

We believe that this co-operation can increase rapidly if the autonomous trade union organisations which claim to have built their organisations on unified basis because there is a split in the international trade union movement, if these organisations play an active role in bringing together trade union organisations of different affiliations for common action, while at the same time exposing the attitude of the splitting elements and the agents of imperialism inside the international trade union movement. It is true that there is a split in the international trade union movement, but any honest trade unionist should not fail to explain the causes for this split, unmask its creators and thus participate in bringing about an atmosphere for genuine international trade union unity, the dream of every worker throughout the world.

## CONCLUSIONS

The present level achieved in the fight against imperialism promises great results. However, in order to close the door against the imperialists and not to split or divert the liberation movement from its true aims, it is the duty of the trade union organisations to be aware of and to draw the attention of the peoples to the dangers surrounding their liberation movements and for them to be rid of all its weaker aspects. The imperialists, particularly the American imperialists who are trying to take the place of the other imperialist powers who are being driven out of the colonies, are sponsoring a harmful trend which has now appeared when the question of the liberation movement in Africa is discussed as a whole. This trend seeks the isolation of those fighting against imperialism from their natural allies in those countries which have finally got rid of the capitalist system, and from the working class movement in the imperialist countries which supports the liberation struggle. This attempt to isolate the national liberation movement has two main aims. Firstly, to deprive the newly independent countries of the possibilities of getting the generous unconditional assistance in building their national economies which can be received from the countries of the socialist camp thereby developing their own national economies. With this aim the imperialists hope to find the way free for them to export their



capital to these countries which means more exploitation of its peoples and the countries natural resources. The second aim is to deprive the world peace forces of the contribution the liberation movement in the colonies can make in the struggle for world peace.

The trade union organisations, if they adopt the principles of co-operation and mutual respect in their relations with the world trade union movement, are able to give the people of their countries valuable and practical examples which enable the people to understand the importance of active participation in international affairs with an aim of influencing and at the same time making use of such international associations.

Another tendency which is encouraged by the imperialists is to use the natural feelings towards unity by the people who are fighting against imperialism and impose unity even when the masses are not yet fully convinced of the need for it. This always results in creating friction and internal conflicts which weakens the struggle against imperialism.

Trade union organisations which are themselves united on a democratic basis should apply this same democracy and principles for unity to other countries and other organisations. In this way there will be a sufficient guarantee for such unity which would then be established on a firm basis in the fight against colonialism and for the development of the countries.

We are fully confident that the working class in the colonies and the under-developed countries, through its close co-operation with the international working class, can soon be rid of all weaknesses in the struggle against colonialism and so advance this struggle until it achieves its final aims.

The international situation continues to develop in the direction favourable to peace and thereby creates better conditions for widening the road towards the complete victory of the people's struggle against colonialism. However, this does not mean that the colonial powers will voluntarily hand over independence to the peoples in their colonies. They will try to maintain their hold as long as possible and wherever possible expand their domination.

It is, therefore, the task of the working class, the trade unions and the anti-colonial forces in the colonial countries to further intensify their anti-colonial fight, marching forward towards the complete liberation of their nations and bringing about prosperity to the people.



At the same time, in order to gain greater successes in the anti-colonial struggle, in forging unity, improving living standards and expanding trade union rights and democratic liberties, the workers in the countries still fighting colonialism need active support from the trade unions of the whole world.

In which direction should this support be organised? Drawing lessons from the experience in the last three years since the 4th World Trade Union Congress, these experiences which shows that the W.F.T.U. and its affiliated organisations had correctly and most effectively carried out the decisions and directives of that Congress in relation with the fight against colonialism and imperialism, and without going into many details we would like to express some ideas on how the trade union organisation throughout the world can support the workers' fight against colonialism.

From the past we have good experience on how any question can be served if there is a united action from the part of different trade union organisations for it. The International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria, which includes trade union organisations of different affiliations, has proved to be an effective body through which support and assistance could be given to the heroic fight of the Algerian workers and people. If we left aside the hundreds of tons of foodstuffs, clothing, etc. which was sent to the Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco from the member organisations of the Committee, especially from National Centres affiliated to the W.F.T.U., it is enough to show how this Committee assisted the struggle in Algeria, to mention that the Algerian question had been explained and made known to millions of workers throughout the world and thus their solidarity with their brothers and sisters in Algeria had considerably increased. This tremendous solidarity, while encouraging the workers and people of Algeria to go on with their fight till final victory gains every day more enemies to their horrible enemy and thus weakens its position on an international level, the thing which will make it easier for the Algerians to win their battles.

From the other side the experience of the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria, show that the traditional differences between trade union organisations cannot prevent these organisations from coming together and work together when there is a question upon which all of them agree.

Are there today such questions which need common action between trade union organisations on international level? Are there some workers fighting against colonialism and imperialism or any other form of regression who really need the active support from the international trade union movement? The answer is definitely yes.

In its New Year message to the African workers, trade unions and peoples in January this year, the W.F.T.U. stressed clearly this fact. It showed that the African workers and peoples, while fighting against colonialism and for the safeguarding of their independence after winning it and for the raising of their living standards need the active support of the international trade union movement and that the W.F.T.U. will be the main organiser of this support.

The W.F.T.U., as it always did, has kept this pledge and never failed to organise world-wide campaigns of support for the struggle against colonialism.

Today, the colonial rule expresses itself most cruelly in the Union of South Africa where, basing themselves on the shameful policy of discrimination, the European colonialists are subjecting the majority of the population to the most horrible type of exploitation. Killing Africans and torturing them has become a very normal state of affairs from the part of the white settlers.

Do the workers and people of that country need the support of the international trade union movement? Yes they need it today more than ever before. Can we, drawing lessons from the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria, set up such a Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of South Africa? Can all the trade union organisations who showed, in one way or another, in the past few months their solidarity with the workers and people of South Africa, come together in an international body so as to unite their action and make of their solidarity and support an effective element in the victory against racial discrimination? We truly believe that this can be done, not only because it is possible but above all because it is necessary.

In what other ways can the international trade union movement, the W.F.T.U. and the trade union organisations in the advanced countries, especially in the socialist countries, help the workers' and trade union organisations' struggle against colonialism? Allow us to state here some ideas.

The trade union leaders, while striving to mobilise the workers and trade union members in the fight against colonialism and to safeguard the national independence and for better living and working conditions are always subjected to



all kinds of repression. If we take Africa as an example, we will find that today, apart from those in Algeria and the Union of South Africa, many trade union leaders are in prison for long terms and their only crime is that they were and still are the greatest fighters against colonialism. The international trade union movement has always showed sympathy and support to these trade unionists and the W.F.T.U. never stopped organising campaigns or seeking ways and means to release them. We feel now the day has come for more effective interference.

The idea is to form an international trade union delegation to go and investigate on the spot the cases of these imprisoned trade union leaders. This we believe will bring about two results. It will help in releasing some of these imprisoned leaders either through personal contacts with the different governments or through raising well-elaborated complaints to the I.L.O., which at that time, will find it difficult not to interfere effectively in favour of the imprisoned trade union leaders. On the other hand the sending of such a delegation will help in encouraging both those imprisoned and their trade union organisations and make them feel that their sacrifices are not only being appreciated by the trade union organisations all over the world but these organisations consider that it is their responsibility to stand beside them and support their struggle.

Another question.

The experience since the 4th World Trade Union Congress showed that the trade union training is one of the most essential problems facing the young trade union movement in the colonies and under-developed countries. The W.F.T.U. and its member organisations, especially in the socialist countries, had tried to solve this problem by rendering substantial assistance to the trade union organisations in the colonies and under-developed countries in the field of trade union training. As we stated before many trade union courses were organised by the W.F.T.U. for trade union leaders from Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. A special department for trade union education was set up at the headquarters of the W.F.T.U. which had already planned a big programme for further courses. By the help of the W.F.T.U. and the F.D.C.B. together with a planned assistance from the trade union organisations in the socialist countries, the UGTAN had started a permanent trade union school now in Conakry. The school of the F.D.C.B. in the G.D.R. for trade unionists from the Middle East and North Africa has been functioning now for more than two years.

But still we feel that all these and other efforts could not satisfy the desire of our brothers in the colonies and under-developed countries for trade union training. We believe that further planned and co-ordinated efforts from the part of the trade union organisations especially in the socialist countries in this field is needed.



In the same way as with trade union training, the trade union organisations in these countries need the help of their sister organisations in the advanced countries in other fields.

They need assistance on organisation problems, problems of elaborating social security schemes, problems of education, on juridical and other questions, etc. In this connection we would like to mention the fact that the U.F.T.U. had put at the disposal of the U.T.M. two experts on social security which enabled that organisation to convene an African Trade Union Conference on Social Security, the results of which made a good advance in the work of the trade union organisations in West Africa in this field.

Can the trade union organisations, members of the U.F.T.U. in economically developed countries, follow such an example and offer experts to help trade union organisations who wish such help? Yes they can and they must do it in co-operation with the U.F.T.U. and in the spirit of international working class solidarity.

The trade union organisations in their fight against colonialism have always, as we mentioned before, to put for their future national governments a complete and elaborated programme of how the country can develop its own economies away from any imperialist influence. To gain the support of their people for these programmes and to close the door in front of any pretext under which the imperialists and reactionaries can maintain and extend the imperialist economic penetration, the trade union organisations in such countries are sometimes obliged to offer experts in fields of engineering, science, finance, etc. to replace the so-called imperialist experts whose only knowledge is how to maintain corrupted and weak regimes.

Is it not possible for trade union organisations in the socialist countries to offer scholarships to young workers from colonial and newly independent countries for vocational training in the mentioned and other fields? We think that the big possibilities of these organisations can allow them to render such invaluable assistance. In fact some of them already made a big progress in this field. We are sure that the tens of young workers from the Middle East and North Africa who are having their vocational training in the U.D.R. today and who went there through the F.D.G.B., will give a big contribution in building the economy of their countries when they go back. The same thing could be said about those who will come next year to the Soviet Union through the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, to join the "People's Friendship University".

In the field of publication.

The W.F.T.U. and its affiliated organisations are trying their best to give the widest publicity to the news of the struggles of the workers and trade union organisations fighting against colonialism so as to gain more supporters to this fight. But still more can be done in this direction.

We all know what sort of discrimination the western press and news agencies, who are monopolising this business in Africa for example, apply to the news they give. The workers throughout the world need to know exactly how the workers are living under the colonial yoke, how they are struggling, what are the perspectives and what kind of help they really need. This could be done only through trade union journalists who can go and investigate on the spot and supply their papers and news agencies with the real facts.

From the other side don't the African brothers who are present with us here think it useful if the W.F.T.U. could give special editions to the trade union and workers' questions in Africa? Would not that help in putting their case in a more clear way in front of the international trade union movement? It is up to you, African brothers who are present here, to examine if this idea could be of some use to your movement.

We think that these proposals and others which can be added to them from the attendance of this session and, when realised, bring about a very effective international trade union solidarity in the fight against colonialism and will increase to a big extent the contribution of the trade union organisations in that fight.

Once again we would like to repeat from this platform that the W.F.T.U. is and will continue to be the main organiser of this support.

Despite the difficulties which the peoples may meet in the progress of this struggle, we are confident that the day is not far distant when all subject peoples will be free of the yoke of colonialism.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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## 11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

(Peking, June 5 - 9, 1960)

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### GENERAL RESOLUTION

#### on the First Item on the Agenda

1. The General Council, which is holding its 11th session in Peking, notes that since the 4th Congress the forces of socialism and world peace have increased considerably and have won unprecedented successes. This progress, as well as the upsurge and the successes of the anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist struggle, and the strength of the movement for demands in the capitalist countries, create objective conditions that favour the reinforcement of the united struggle of the workers to force the imperialists to enter into serious negotiations and to accept disarmament and peaceful co-existence, so as to eliminate the menace of a world atomic war.
  
2. Hostile to this progress, the imperialists, faced with the worsening of the general crisis of their system, pay lip-service to peace, yet are multiplying their acts of provocation and continue their preparations for war. By sending a military plane over Soviet territory and later cynically boasting that this was their deliberate policy, American imperialism has given further confirmation of the fact that it is the worst enemy of peace and of the peoples. It bears full responsibility for the sabotage of the Summit Conference. Thus the hopes of the peoples were once again dashed. The W.F.T.U. General Council as well as the workers of the whole world condemn these American provocations against the Soviet Union as a grave danger to peace and to the interests of the working class and the peoples in all countries.



3. The workers will understand better than ever the imperative need to increase their vigilance in the face of the aggressive policy of the ruling circles of the United States and other western powers, notably in West Germany and Japan. Thanks to the strength of the peace forces in the world, thanks to the peace policy of the socialist camp and the many steps taken by the Soviet Union, it has become really possible to avoid the menace of an atomic war that would prove devastating, to impose on the imperialists disarmament and the use of the enormous resources that are at present being wasted on the arms race for the economic, social and cultural progress of all the people. But it is necessary to make the situation clear to the workers so that they should have no illusions about the willingness of the imperialists to accept disarmament.

4. All workers must be convinced, that only by the untiring, ever-stronger and more united struggles of the peoples throughout the world, and by the isolation of imperialism, which is the source of war and aggression, can the imperialist war policy be thwarted.

5. The General Council warmly welcomes the new-proposals put forward by the Soviet Union on June 2, 1960, developing and giving details of its plan for universal and complete disarmament, and thus offering further proof of its tireless efforts in the service of peace, despite the provocations by United States' leaders.

6. These proposals concern in particular the banning and destruction, under international control, of all means of delivering nuclear weapons to their targets, linked with the elimination of all military bases on foreign soil, the banning of atomic, chemical and bacteriological weapons, the dissolution of armed forces and elimination of military budgets. The General Council recommends to the trade unions to make these proposals widely known to the workers, so that the latter will actively support them.

7. The General Council considers that under these conditions the preservation and consolidation of peace remains among the fundamental aims of the struggle of the international trade union movement. Thus, it considers that it is essential to unmask imperialist manoeuvres and to work constantly for common actions:

- for the relaxation of international tension and peaceful co-existence;
- for universal and complete disarmament;
- for the elimination of military bases on foreign soil;
- for a cessation of nuclear tests and a ban on nuclear arms;
- for national liberation and independence of the peoples;
- for democracy;
- against the rebirth of German militarism and for its liquidation by the signing of a Peace Treaty with the two German states; for the transformation of West Berlin into a free, demilitarized city;
- against the rebirth of Japanese militarism and for the abrogation of the Japanese-U.S. military treaty.

3. Conscious of the close bonds that link the struggle for the relaxation in international tension to the anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist struggle for independence, the General Council salutes and supports the heroic fight of the Algerian people for independence. It calls upon all workers and trade unions to strengthen their active solidarity in favour of the struggle of their Algerian brothers, and to demand that the French Government stop the colonial war in Algeria. It greets and warmly supports the struggle of the people of Turkey and the popular uprising in South Korea that led to the downfall of Syngman Rhee. The struggle of the Korean people, which continues, will force the withdrawal of the American armed forces and the peaceful unification of the country. It gives

its entire support to the powerful movement of the workers and people of Japan for the abrogation of the Japanese-U.S. treaty of military alliance, against the rebirth of militarism and for the liquidation of military bases. It expresses its warm solidarity with the workers and trade unions of Venezuela, Argentina, Chile and above all with the people of Cuba who are courageously and unitedly defending the economic and social conquests of the popular and democratic revolution and the national sovereignty of their country.

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9. After having examined the economic situation in the capitalist countries, the General Council notes that its essential characteristics are the progressive militarisation of the economy, increased monopoly concentration and a considerable increase in productivity due to speed-up and automation to the sole profit of the monopolies. A certain recovery followed the crisis of 1958-59. It proved incapable of re-absorbing unemployment which in some countries became chronic and in general remained at a high level, particularly in certain important branches of industry.
10. The capitalist monopolies and the governments in their service are attacking the purchasing power of wages, trade union and democratic rights. Thousands of trade union leaders have been arrested and imprisoned. Tens of thousands of strikers have been victims of police repression and employers' sanctions in Greece, Spain, Argentina and other countries. The workers and the people in certain countries, such as the Union of South Africa, are suffering from savage racist repression.
11. The General Council draws attention to the fact that this anti-trade union offensive is accompanied by the adoption of new laws which attempt to legalise the violation of fundamental rights, among them the right to strike, inscribed in the Charter of the Workers' Trade Union Rights, adopted by the W.F.T.U. in 1954.



12. The deepening of the general crisis in the capitalist world contrasts increasingly sharply with the unprecedented economic, social, scientific and cultural developments of all the socialist countries where the people have become the masters of their own country. These developments, which free the productive forces of society, permit a continuous and remarkable increase in purchasing power, an improvement in working conditions, social advantages and in the general living standards of the mass of the people in these countries. The workers of the world appreciate the full importance of the most recent measures of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, announcing the generalisation of the 7- and 6-hour working day and the gradual suppression over six years of income tax for workers, as well as the extension of the role and rights of the trade union organisations in the socialist countries.

13. The General Council sends its warm congratulations to the workers, men and women, of the socialist countries, particularly the workers of the Soviet Union and China, for their remarkable successes in the economic and social field. Thanks to their creative enthusiasm this social system is yearly winning victories of far-reaching importance which are also victories for the entire working class of the world and for the cause of peace.

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14. It greets the millions of workers and trade unions in the capitalist countries who are carrying on exceptionally strong united struggles for wages, shorter working hours and the defence of trade union rights. The strike movement which reached an extent rarely known since the last world war was remarkable in Argentina, Japan, the United States, France, Italy, Belgium and other countries. It showed the sharpening of the class struggle in the present period, the desire for unity, and the remarkable militancy of the working class. This development gives a categoric refutation to the "theories"

of class collaboration which the monopolies and certain trade union leaders spread continuously among the workers, trying to divert them from their struggles. The workers must denounce and reject all attempts to win over the trade union movement to positions of class collaboration, increasing their common actions for:

- the reduction of working hours without loss of pay;
- a general increase in wages;
- the right to work, the defence of employment and assistance to the unemployed;
- the creation, protection and widening of social security systems;
- the defence of trade union rights and liberties;
- the limitation of the power of the monopolies.

These demands should permit fresh progress in united action.

15. The General Council recommends all workers and trade unions to intensify their action for trade union rights and democratic liberties, and for the liberation of all imprisoned trade unionists.
16. To help bring about on the international level the indispensable common front of workers and trade unions in the face of these attacks, the General Council instructs the W.F.T.U. Secretariat to examine with all organisations concerned the setting-up of an International Trade Union Commission for the defence and safeguarding of victims of repression against the trade unions.
17. The General Council notes that the demand for a reduction of working hours in general and the demand for a 40-hour week in highly industrialised capitalist countries have been unanimously put forward by various organisations. These demands

correspond to an essential and increasingly urgent requirement of the working class. On this basis and in order to assist the bringing together of trade union and working class forces in the face of monopolist concentration in the Common Market, the General Council instructs the Secretariat to call a European trade union conference on the 40-hour week in the first quarter of 1961. Trade union centres from other continents should be invited to this conference, so as later to generalise the experiences gained.

18. Taking account also of the attacks on social security systems in many capitalist countries and of the necessity to improve existing systems, the General Council resolves to call a meeting of a broad International Trade Union Commission of Action for Social Security. The purpose of this Commission will be to stimulate new developments in united action and international solidarity on this question.

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19. The General Council notes with satisfaction that the upsurge of the struggle for demands has recently been accompanied by considerable progress in unity of action in the different capitalist countries. On the basis of their experience, the workers are increasingly coming to understand that their struggle is more effective to the extent that the rank-and-file is united in common action for clearly-defined common aims. Discussion with the workers themselves at local, regional and national levels, and the formulation of demands which are closest to their needs in the given situation, is a necessary condition for the achievement of united action, which requires more and more initiatives by all organisations.

20. Unity is consolidated in action and by action on a class basis. It must be brought about in a clear manner, exposing constantly through the facts the pretexts and manoeuvres of those opposed to unity.



As a result of the progress in unity of action in different capitalist countries and in order to oppose the coalition of the monopolies, positive developments in favour of unity are appearing at the international level.

21. In spite of the stubborn opposition of certain I.C.F.T.U. leaders, the idea is gaining ground among more and more trade union leaders, particularly in the middle ranks of trade unions not affiliated to the W.F.T.U., that meetings and discussions between national and international trade union organisations of all trends are today possible and indispensable.

22. In bilateral and multilateral contacts, trade union organisations are seeking the best methods of dealing in common with the main problems facing the workers in their struggle against the imperialists and the monopolies:

- the preservation of peace;
- the anti-colonial struggle;
- the main economic and social demands;
- united action against the monopolies on the national and international level;
- the struggle for trade union rights and democratic liberties.

23. The General Council welcomes and approves in particular the activities of the Committee for Co-ordination and Action in the Common Market Countries, as well as the steps taken by the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria. The exchanges of trade union delegations between capitalist and socialist countries and also among capitalist countries, the bilateral and multilateral agreements among organisations of various affiliations advocated by the 4th World Trade Union Congress, have increased remarkably in the last few years.

24. The General Council welcomes the fact that the trend toward trade union unity is growing stronger throughout entire continents such as Africa and Latin America, in spite of the considerable obstacles raised by certain leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. It denounces the stubborn refusal of the I.C.F.T.U. leadership to reply to the many proposals made to it over a period of nearly ten years by the W.F.T.U. for joint action at the international level for the preservation of peace, to support more effectively the movement for national independence and to win satisfaction for the workers' vital economic and social demands.
25. The General Council calls on all workers and trade unions to pursue and intensify exchanges of delegations and bilateral and multilateral contacts among individual unions, national trade unions and centres, in order to increase common action for peace, for demands, for trade union freedoms, and for the eradication of colonialism.
26. In this year of the W.F.T.U.'s 15th anniversary, the General Council invites them to celebrate this event by meetings and conferences recalling how, and in what conditions, the World Federation of Trade Unions was born in 1945 from the common struggle of the workers and people throughout the world against fascism and for a lasting peace.
27. The General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions is convinced that this session will help to strengthen unity in the struggle waged by the working class and trade unions in all countries.

20 JUL

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~~WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS~~

~~SOLIDARITY WITH CONGOLESE PEOPLE~~

~~STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CONGO REPUBLIC~~

The Secretariat of the World Federation of Trade Unions issued the following statement on July 15:

"Imperialism is attempting to commit a new crime. The Belgian colonialists who have not given up threatening the independence of the Congo Republic are carrying out a real and well thought-out plan of provocation and aggression aimed at stifling this newly sovereign state.

"Immediately after the proclamation of the independence of the Congo, the imperialist forces are trying to create a difficult situation so that they can secure for themselves the wealth of the Congo Republic. To achieve this they are doing everything possible to separate the rich province of Katanga, a land of copper, uranium and other precious ores from the newly independent state and so weaken the Congo. They also want to hinder the inevitable movement of liberation which is stirring the whole continent of Africa.

"They will not succeed. No force in the world can create an obstacle to the victorious march of the African peoples towards complete freedom and independence.

"The riches of Africa belong to the people of Africa. The riches of the Congo belong to the people of the Congo.

"In the face of these events the workers, the trade unions and the people of the Congo Republic, with the support of the other African countries and the workers of the whole world are strengthening their unity which is an essential factor for safeguarding the independence of the Congo.

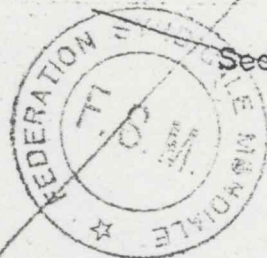
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" The World Federation of Trade Unions, which has welcomed the independence of the Congo as a new victory for the national liberation movement, strongly condemns these acts of aggression and demands the immediate withdrawal of Belgian troops from the Congo as well as full respect for the Congo's sovereignty and its territorial integrity.

" The W.F.T.U. appeals to all the workers and the trade unions of Africa and the whole world to demonstrate in every way their solidarity and their complete support for the workers and people of the Congo Republic.

" The united action of the workers and the people of the Congo and the active solidarity of the international working class will bring an end to the criminal manoeuvres of the colonialists and imperialists and will guarantee the final victory of the independence of the Congo."



Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.

15 juillet 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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July 25, 1960

## STATEMENT BY THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS ON THE NEW MASS ARRESTS IN SPAIN

Once more the measures of mass repression, arbitrarily taken by Franco's fascist government, are arousing the indignation of workers throughout the world. During the past few days, several thousands of workers and democrats have been arrested by the "Brigada Política Social", a police department well known for its criminal methods. At CORDOBA alone, 3,000 agricultural, metal, building and other workers have been arrested and cruelly tortured.

By means of this brutal repression, Franco wants to suppress the growing struggles of the Spanish workers against poverty, unemployment, new dismissals, decreases in wages and against the absence of democratic freedom.

The standard of living of the mass of the Spanish workers, already the lowest in Europe, has been further worsened as a result of the application of the so-called "Economic Stabilisation Plan". The workers are struggling bravely in their factories and in their places of work against the increase in dismissals and unemployment and against the starvation wages. The workers' demonstrations during recent months have grown in number and size, not only in the towns and industrial centres but also in the country.

This brutal repression will not prevent the Spanish workers and people from continuing and strengthening their heroic

struggle until they defeat the Franco dictatorship. The workers of the whole world will continue to give firm support to their Spanish brothers in a spirit of international working class solidarity.

Recent world events have shown that, one after the other, the oppressed people are succeeding in overthrowing the dictatorships by their struggles. Franco's fascist regime backed by Spanish and foreign monopolies, can only be maintained in power with the help of the imperialists and especially of American imperialism which has set up military bases in Spain. This regime is also doomed.

The World Federation of Trade Unions which includes among its numerous fundamental tasks the struggle against fascism in all its forms, expresses once more its confidence in the success of a struggle jointly led by all the forces in Spain who oppose Franco.

Conveying the indignation felt by all the workers it raises an energetic protest against this new outbreak of arbitrary arrests and asks all the trade unions to join in this protest.

The World Federation of Trade Unions renews its appeal to all workers and trade unions to express their active and effective solidarity with the democratic forces in Spain in their fight against tyranny, and to take part in the vast international movement for the release of all imprisoned workers and all who oppose Franco and for a general amnesty for all Spanish patriots and democrats.

The W.F.T.U. Secretariat



W 5 SEP 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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## STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY FROM THE W.F.T.U. WITH CUBA AFTER THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT SAN JOSE.

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The W.F.T.U. Secretariat has issued the following statement:

The World Federation of Trade Unions in the name of its 101 million affiliated workers renews its unshakeable solidarity with the workers and people of Cuba. It sends its warmest greetings to the working class and trade unions of the Confederation of Cuban Workers in their courageous struggle to defend the sovereignty of their country, the democratic regime and the great social and economic victories of the Revolution. It welcomes the "Havana Statement" approved by the Cuban people at a large meeting on September 2, and which in reply to the Statement of the Pan American Conference at San José, condemns the criminal interference of American imperialism in Latin America which has been going on for a century.

Ever since the Cuban people, having freed themselves from the dictatorship of Batista, have set up a regime of democratic freedoms and have firmly launched their plan of agrarian reform, nationalisation of foreign firms, the industrialisation of the country and the raising of the workers' standard of living, American imperialism has not ceased its attacks against Cuba.

It organises acts of aggression such as aerial bombardments of Cuban territory, it suspended oil supplies to Cuba and reduced the amount of sugar it imports, in order to stifle the country's economy.

The World Federation of Trade Unions warn the workers and trade unions of the world about the serious threat to Cuba constituted by the recent agreement of the Foreign Ministers' Conference of the Organisation of American States (OAS), held at San José, Costa Rica.

The Conference statement passed under the pressure of the State Department, represents the continuance and worsening of this aggressive policy. This statement, which speaks cynically of the disinterested aid from the Soviet Union and from the other countries in the Socialist Camp to the people of Cuba, as a threat to the "peace and security of the American hemisphere" is aimed at justifying and legalising American military intervention in Cuba.

Already in 1954, the agreement passed by the OAS in Caracas, as in the Conference in San José, preceded armed aggression against Guatemala.

With the help, of the representatives of the reactionary governments of Latin America at the OAS, and relying on the crumbling Monroe doctrine, the Government of the United States is trying to force Cuba and all the people of Latin America into an isolation which would hold up their patriotic struggle against the pillage by the foreign monopolies and for the complete independence of their country.

Because of the international effects which would result from foreign intervention against Cuba the decisions of the OAS Conference are also a grave threat to world peace.

The World Federation of Trade Unions sends its fraternal greetings to the workers and people of Latin America who in all their countries are showing their militant solidarity with the Cuban people, condemning the submission of their governments to the dictates of the State Department.

Convinced that solidarity with Cuba is now more necessary than ever, the W.F.T.U. again appeals to the working class and its trade union organisations in all countries, whatever their affiliations, to condemn strongly the aggressive policy of American imperialism and to demonstrate their strong support for the cause of the Cuban people.

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

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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21<sup>st</sup> October 1960

STATEMENT BY THE W.F.T.U.

## ON THE TRADE UNIONS' STRUGGLE TO END COLONIALISM

The victorious struggle against colonialism, the shame and scourge of our era, acute form of capitalist exploitation and plunder, has entered a new phase.

The W.F.T.U., which since its establishment has made the ending of colonialism one of its basic aims, is deeply glad of this. It sends warm greetings to those trade union organisations that are contributing to the success of the anti-colonialist struggle.

In fifteen years, hundreds of millions of men and women have freed themselves from the bondage of colonialism. Many new politically independent states have risen from the ruins of 19th century empires to undermine the foundations of imperialism and are making a positive contribution each day to the consolidation of world peace.

But millions of human beings are still under the colonial yoke. Thanks to the victories and sacrifices of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, thanks to the shining example and peace policy of the socialist camp, thanks to the solidarity shown by workers and trade unions in all countries, today it is possible and necessary to put an end to colonialist oppression. It is possible and necessary to finish with the rule of despotism and hunger, of forced labour and racial oppression, of darkness and economic plunder, which still holds sway from Algeria to Angola, from West Irian to Mozambique and Puerto Rico.

The final and complete eradication of the colonial system is today one of the paramount tasks of the peoples, of all progressive and peaceful forces in the world. In accordance with the Soviet Union's proposal, therefore, all representatives attending the XVth General Assembly of the United Nations have unanimously agreed to include this question on the Assembly's agenda.

The W.F.T.U. considers this decision, which it supports, as an important event. It emphasises, however, that the decisive factor in doing away with the hateful colonial regime all over the world is the



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united struggle of the working people, above all of the peoples who are still oppressed. That is the way to frustrate the manoeuvres of the imperialists, who were obliged to vote in favour of this decision. Experience shows that American imperialism will stop at nothing to use the UN against the peoples' movement for national independence, in violation of the United Nations Charter itself.

In addition, as the XIth Session of the W.F.T.U. General Council pointed out, workers and trade unions must remain vigilant and active, not only to eliminate the colonial system and all its economic and social vestiges, but also to fight against neo-colonialism, which is being used by the American imperialists and their allies in their attempts to extend and strengthen their power in the colonies and newly independent countries.

The World Federation of Trade Unions is determined to work as effectively as possible for the final and complete end of colonialism and considers that all national, regional and international trade union organisations can and should meet and consult with each other on the best means of combining all their forces in a powerful united campaign to this end.

It believes that, as an immediate step, all trade union organisations should request the United Nations Organisation to declare itself unequivocally in favour of :

- complete and immediate independence for colonial and trust territories, by recognizing and guaranteeing their peoples the right to decide their own future and to choose freely their own form of government;
- the eradication of all forms of domination and economic plunder by foreign powers;
- respect for the sovereignty and integrity of all independent states, and non-interference in their internal affairs.

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

STATEMENT BY THE W.F.T.U. ON THE SITUATION EXISTING IN ALGERIA

A new situation has arisen in Algeria following the Algerian people's expression, in stronger terms than ever before, of their will to independence during the powerful and courageous mass demonstrations which have just occurred.

The continual attempts made by the French Government to foster uncertainty as regards the Algerian people's deep desire for national independence, the fascist-type demonstrations by the 'ultras', the oppression and massacres have not prevented the Algerian people and workers from expressing their determination to live in peace in a free and independent Algeria.

The workers of the world understand their brothers and sisters in Algeria. They understand the significance of their demonstrations. During General De Gaulle's visit to propagandise his referendum, the Algerian people have shown world opinion that that is not the road to peace or to true self-determination and independence for Algeria. The referendum is thus considered as an ultimate manoeuvre to maintain French colonialist domination in Algeria.

It is perfectly clear to workers throughout the world that, by obstinately refusing to negotiate with the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, the French Government bears the entire responsibility for the continuation of a war in which the Algerians have already lost hundreds of thousands of their people. The prolongation of this colonial war likewise imposes heavy sacrifices on the people and workers of France.

The World Federation of Trade Unions pays tribute to the Algerian people for the extraordinary example they have just given of their courage and their determination to achieve independence. There is no doubt that this example will strengthen the warm feelings of international solidarity already shared by the world working class.

The W.F.T.U. strongly condemns the recent massacres and pays homage to those new victims of colonialist oppression. The W.F.T.U. and all workers in the world are aware that, in these circumstances, they must make greater efforts to support the struggle waged by the courageous Algerian people.

The W.F.T.U. therefore calls upon its 101 million members and upon all workers in the world to strengthen still further their demonstrations of solidarity with their Algerian brothers and sisters. It once more states its willingness to co-operate with all trade union organisations in organising joint action on behalf of the rightful cause of the Algerian people.

To this end, the W.F.T.U. proposes that a conference should be convened at the earliest possible date in a neutral country; and that it should be attended by representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions and by delegates from the General Union of Algerian Workers and from the three national trade union centres of France (C.G.T., C.F.T.C. and C.G.T. - F.O.)

To meet the demands of the new situation which has arisen, it is suggested that the conference discuss the means by which joint action of solidarity can be developed among the workers and trade unions of all countries, with a view to putting an end to the massacres, to the executions, and to the colonialist war in Algeria by the immediate implementation, accompanied by all necessary guarantees, of the Algerian people's right to self-determination and independence.

The widespread solidarity now being shown by the international working class is an invaluable aid to the cause of the workers and people of Algeria.

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE W.F.T.U.



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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## STATEMENT BY THE WFTU ON THE EXPLOSION OF A THIRD ATOM BOMB IN THE SAHARA

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The explosion, ordered by General de Gaulle, of a third bomb in the Sahara, despite the protest and indignation aroused in Africa and many countries on other continents by the two previous explosions on African territory, constitutes a fresh provocation and a setback to efforts to arrive at a disarmament agreement.

This third atomic explosion is a veritable affront to world opinion and to the resolution adopted by the XVth Session of the United Nations condemning any further atomic or thermo-nuclear weapon tests.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, expressing the emotion and disapproval felt by workers all over the world, strongly condemns this new act of aggression by the French Government, which is also directed against the struggle waged by the workers and people of Africa for national independence. The WFTU reaffirms its solidarity with that struggle.

The WFTU calls upon trade unions and workers throughout the world to demonstrate wholeheartedly their opposition to this policy of an armaments race, which is contrary to the interests of the working people. It asks them to redouble their efforts to achieve universal disarmament and an end to nuclear weapon tests everywhere and to ensure that atomic energy is used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Secretariat of the WFTU

~~WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS~~

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

September 20, 1960.

The W.F.T.U. Secretariat has issued the following statement on September 20, 1960.

DECLARATION  
ON THE SITUATION IN THE CONGO.

The W.F.T.U., which from the outset of the imperialist aggression against the young Republic of Congo, has demonstrated its complete solidarity with the workers and people of the Congo in their struggle for the safeguarding of their national independence and territorial integrity, obtained at the cost of heavy sacrifices, once more draws the attention of the workers and trade unions to the worsening of the situation in the Congo.

The radio and press of the big monopolies and capitalist governments have unleashed against the people of the Congo and the legitimate Government of Mr Lumumba a scandalous campaign of denigration and lies and it is regrettable that an international trade union organisation - the ICFTU - echoed this campaign by defending Belgian colonialism in the columns of its Review.

Under the circumstances the W.F.T.U. appeals to workers and trade unions to oppose this brutal campaign and to denounce to international public opinion the plans of the Belgian colonialists and of American imperialism to replace the old colonial system with new forms of domination and exploitation.

The truth is that the Republic of Congo, until yesterday the preserve of the Belgian colonialist monopolies, wishes to guarantee itself complete economic and political independence, but sees the forces of imperialism unleashed in league against it. The imperialists under the leadership of the United States Government, overcoming the contradictions of their interests, have banded together to keep their privileges and to attain the same objective: to break the new African state by creating divisions, so as to prevent at all costs the people of the Congo from becoming masters of the enormous wealth of their own country and thus to deliver a hard blow to the freedom movement of the whole of Africa.

Anything goes if it might to help them achieve their aims; encouragement and organisation of the secession of Katanga, organisation and support of coups d'etats and military putsches, paralysis of the legitimate Government and Parliament of the Congo, and - the supreme hypocrisy - the use of the United Nations troops to serve the interests



of the imperialist monopolies and to intervene ruthlessly against the legitimate Government and Parliament of the country.

This open aggression under the leadership of American imperialism against the sovereignty of the Congolese people, is a serious warning to the other African leaders and countries, and a threat to the independence of other countries and to world peace.

Without a real army, its gold reserves stolen by the colonialists, weakened by the internal struggles that have been stirred up by the imperialist powers, the people and Government of the Congo have courageously defended the integrity of their country and their future against this aggression, with the active support of the African peoples and of all forces of peace and progress throughout the world.

The W.F.T.U. appeals to all workers and trade unions to take every possible step to demonstrate their active solidarity with the workers and people of the Congo, to condemn resolutely the aggression of the colonialists and of American imperialism, and to prevent these forces from setting Congolese against Congolese and Africans against Africans to serve their own interests.

The W.F.T.U. in the name of its 101 million members, renews its determined support for the workers and brave people of the Congo. It is quite convinced that to the extent that the workers and peoples of the Congo, of Africa and of the whole world unite to wage a strong struggle against the imperialist block headed by American imperialism, they will be able to thwart the plans of aggression and domination against the Congo and Africa, and to guarantee final victory to the people of the Congo and to the other African peoples in their struggle for complete independence.

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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December 8, 1960.

DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE  
WAGED BY SOBSI FOR THE RESTORATION OF WEST  
IRIAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

The World Federation of Trade Unions reaffirms its complete solidarity with the people and workers of Indonesia and with SOBSI, <sup>trade union</sup> their great/centre, in the determined struggle they are waging for the complete liberation of their country, for the removal of Dutch colonialist occupation forces in West Irian and for the return of that territory to the Indonesian Republic.

In the vain hope of maintaining their domination over this part of Indonesian territory by terror, the Dutch colonialists have recently intensified their brutal repression of the West Irian people, who are fighting to be reunited with the Republic of Indonesia. At the same time, and with the complicity of American imperialists, they are increasing their intrigues to have this integral part of Indonesia "internationalised" or placed under U.N. trusteeship.

The World Federation of Trade Unions condemns this brutal oppression and the clumsy manoeuvres of Dutch colonialists and American imperialism. It fully supports the stand taken by SOBSI which, on behalf of workers throughout Indonesia, demands that West Irian be reunited with the Indonesian Republic and that Dutch monopolist undertakings be nationalised.

The W.F.T.U. welcomes the gestures of international working class solidarity which have been shown, and is confident that workers and trade unions all over the world will strengthen their active solidarity with the anti-colonialist struggle of their Indonesian brothers.

Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.

(21/11/60)

WFTU SEMINAR AT WARSAW

A Seminar on International Trade Union problems was held in Warsaw from 3rd to 23rd November, 1960 by the WFTU in collaboration with the ILO. This is the first occasion when ILO is co-operating with WFTU in the Workers' Education Scheme. problems discussed were:

- 1) Labour Legislations;
- 2) Wage;
- 3) Hours of Work;
- 4) Employment;
- 5) Freedom of Association.

Com. George Croese of the C.G.T., France was the director of the Seminar assisted by a co-director Mr. J.J. Favere of the I.L.O. Twenty six comrades who are active Trade Unionists in their respective countries attended the Seminar. The twelve countries represented the different economic systems namely capitalist, Socialist and underdeveloped. Those countries were France, Italy, Soviet Union, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, India, Indonesia, Ghana, Morocco, Mexico and Chilli. The Central Council of P Unions played the host for the seminar. The participants divided into three groups each consisting of comrades from three different economic systems. Each paper was prepared by a representative of WFTU and it was supplemented by a representative of the ILO on the international labour norms. The paper on Labour Legislation was presented by Prof. L. Bargonnet, the paper on War was presented by Com. Bargonnet, the paper on Employment was presented by Com. Maciwais, the paper on Freedom of association was presented by Com. George Croese of the WFTU and the paper on Hours of Work was presented by Marsinhon of the ILO.

The group discussion was a lively part of the seminar. The participants exchanged experiences and opinions on the given topics from their own countries. It was really helpful to talk to the Socialist countries.

the plenary session where the discussion of each group was reported by one of the participants and one or two supplimented the report the WFTU director summed up the discussion and concluded the paper on the WFTU view on the problem. In course of the three weeks the participants were taken to a Steel Plant at Warsaw and a Textile Mill in Lodz in Poland apart from other entertainments. There was a fraternal atmosphere on the international trade union level all through. It was note worthy that all the participants coined interest in hearing the trade unions problems confronting the Indian trade union movement and at problems like the hours of work and the wages. Coms. K.M. Sundaram and Com. Sadan Mukherjee participated in the Seminar from India on behalf of the ~~XXXX~~ A.I.T.U.C.

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~~MEMORIAL~~ LOUIS SAILLANT IS 50 YEARS OLD

7  
having Thirty-four years of trade union activity in the service of the working class, and 15 years as General Secretary of the WFTU, ~~which has~~ more than 100 million members and of which he is one of the founders - such is the admirable record that our ~~Brother~~ Louis SAILLANT can present to his class on his 50th birthday!

Our readers and the workers generally have read so many articles and speeches by Louis SAILLANT; they have heard mention so many times of his name and his activities, which are inseparable from the struggles now being waged by the international working-class movement, that naturally they would like to know more about this trade union leader who has done so much on their behalf.

We therefore give a brief summary of his life so far, which all those who work and fight with him hope will be long, full of health and enriched still more by his personal contribution to the struggle which workers throughout the world are waging so that the cause of true freedom, true social justice and brotherhood among all peoples may prevail. — Editor .)

~~MEMORIAL~~ Louis SAILLANT was born on 27 November 1910 in Valence, in the south-east of France. Of working-class origin, he began earning his livelihood as soon as he finished elementary school, and became an apprenticed wood-carver in the furniture industry.

The first trade union weapons

Very soon, at the age of 16, he took part in the trade union movement. At 19, he became secretary of his trade union branch. By the time he was 21, he was secretary of the Federation of Woodworkers' Unions in the Drôme Department.

His dynamism and gifts as an organiser were such that in 1937, members of his Federation asked him to leave the old Union headquarters in Valence and to take up the post of Federal Secretary in Paris.

And so, 1938, he was elected member of the CGT Administrative Committee, at the age of 28. He was also a member of the Administrative Committee of the International Federation of Workers of the Building and Wood Industries.

#### Resistance Fighter

As soon as the IIInd World War broke out, Louis SAILLANT was called up. When the armistice was signed in 1940, he returned to civilian life and for 4 years fought underground against the nazi occupiers.

In August 1940, after getting in touch again with the CGT, he entered the underground movement to reorganize the trade union forces and became part of the clandestine Federal Headquarters of the CGT.

After 3 years in the French people's struggle against nazism, he was appointed CGT representative on the National Resistance Council on 27 May 1943, and in September of that year he became a member of the Permanent Secretariat of that body.

On 11 September 1944, after Paris had been liberated and while the war against Hitler continued, Louis SAILLANT was unanimously chosen President of the National Resistance Council.

#### French trade union delegate to the World Trade Union Conference, London.

After the collapse of Hitler's Army under the attacks of the Red Army, the Allied Forces and the people's Resistance Movements, the French trade unions were firmly convinced of the need for unity among labour forces throughout the world, to ensure a lasting peace and to protect the interests of the working class.

The C.G.T. nominated Louis SAILLANT its fraternal delegate to the British Trade Union Congress in October 1944. In the last few months of that year, many useful discussions were held between the British, French and Soviet trade unions in preparation for a World Trade Union Conference. Along with ~~Brother~~ Benoit Frachon, Louis SAILLANT was a member of the C.G.T. delegation which attended the first session of the Franco-Soviet Trade Union Committee from 9 to 19 January. On 6 February 1945, in presence of the most eminent trade union leaders from every country, the World Trade Union Conference opened in London with Louis SAILLANT as Vice-Chairman.

Louis SAILLANT took a most active part in the debates, particularly those concerning the admission of trade unions from Italy, Bulgaria, Roumania and Finland and on the future of Germany.

#### General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions

As Secretary of the 13-member Committee appointed by the Conference to draft the Constitution of the future World Federation of Trade Unions, Louis SAILLANT travelled with the Committee to San Francisco.

He submitted the Committee's conclusions to the Congress Conference held on 25 September 1945 at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris. With the adoption of the Constitution, which governs the W.F.T.U. activities today, the World Federation of Trade Unions was born and world unity in the trade union movement at last became a reality.

The young Secretary of the C.G.T. was unanimously elected General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. by acclamation. Since that time, Louis SAILLANT's entire activity has been identified with that of the W.F.T.U.

Once the programme and Constitution had been approved unanimously, his loyalty to them became a sacred principle. For that reason, he opposed the divisionists in 1949 and refused to set the W.F.T.U. on the road to class collaboration and submission to imperialist monopoly interests.



Because of the way he held to his principles and his dynamic conception of the post of General Secretary, he was unanimously re-elected at the ~~1st~~<sup>2nd</sup>, ~~2nd~~<sup>3rd</sup> and ~~3rd~~<sup>4th</sup> World Trade Union Congresses held in July 1949, October 1953 and October 1957.

In recognition of his untiring activity on behalf of peace and for the defence, and later the restoration, of international trade union unity, he was awarded the International LENIN PEACE PRIZE in November 1958.

All those who have worked and fought with him join in congratulating Louis SAILLANT on his 50th birthday and on his 34 years of tireless activity on behalf of the working class and of peace; they wish him long life and good health at the head of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Long life to ~~Brother~~<sup>Louis</sup> SAILLANT, and good health so that he may continue his work for many years to come at the head of our W.F.T.U.!

.....oOo.....

H I S   S T R U G G L E   . . .

"... If we want to lead the world towards a civilization where humanity and justice shall be supreme, let us forge the powerful tool of social security and peace which the W.F.T.U. will be. Let us do this because those who sent us here expect nothing else from us..."

(Extract from a discussion during the Conference Congress, September 25 - October 8, 1945, Paris).

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"... The W.F.T.U. has always protested against the resort to force as a way of solving differences between States. We have affirmed our preference and our support for every policy of peaceful negotiation between governments, with the sovereign rights of each people respected. We have stressed that the struggle against war, as well as resistance to aggressive policies, are inseparable from a correct understanding of the causes of war. The idea of the inevitability of war has been fought against by the W.F.T.U. It has called on all the workers of the world to take part in the Front of Defenders of Peace... Permanent action for a just and lasting peace is one of the "raison d'être" of the W.F.T.U...."

"... This Congress must certainly proclaim forcefully the incompatibility on the one hand of social and human progress and the possibilities of satisfying the working population's normal aspirations for a better life, and on the other, large military budgets, the upkeep of costly armies, programmes for accelerating arms production, and the plans for a third world war. After affirming this incompatibility, this Congress, inspired by the international trade union experience of the past 45 months, must call upon all workers to unity closely

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and to act to check this policy of ruin and of threatening war. This policy must make way for one of Peace, continued social progress and well-being for the workers and their families, which will allow the trade union organisations to develop their activities and make them even more fruitful..."

(Extracts from Report of the Proceedings  
of the IIInd World Trade Union Congress,  
June 29 - July 9, 1949, Milan)

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"... This new stage in the history of the international working class movement confirmed an unchanging principle, namely, that everywhere, under all circumstances of social life, the united action of the workers and their trade unions always precedes organic trade union unity..."

"... Organic trade union unity did not come about in 1945 as if by magic. It was the result of an ardent struggle waged for decades to remove all the obstacles placed in the way of international working class solidarity, fraternal understanding and mutual aid between the workers of all countries, by the enemies of this solidarity, understanding and mutual aid..."

"... The workers of the whole world will overcome every obstacle which tries to prevent them from uniting and proclaiming their community of interests.

Because they belong to the same class they take part in the same battles in constantly rising numbers.

In the capitalist, colonial and semi-colonial countries these class brothers and sisters will further improve the work of their unions for bread, peace, liberty, national independence and democracy.

They will link their hands even more with the strong hands of their brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union, People's China and the People's Democracies.

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Let us march boldly forward, brothers, to fresh victories. Let us have faith in our future success, and watchfulness in our daily struggles.

Together we created the World Federation of Trade Unions eight years ago, to put a fresh weapon into the hands of the workers of every country, to make possible new successes for them and to forge new victories..."

(Extracts from the Report of Activity presented to the IIIrd World Trade Union Congress, October 10 - 21, 1953, Vienna)

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"... The struggle against colonialism is a historical necessity for the world trade union movement because it is in keeping with the vital interests of workers in all countries.

Ever since its foundation, the W.F.T.U. has headed the workers and peoples in colonial and semi-colonial countries with a view to helping them to the best of its abilities to defend their democratic and social rights, and win their main everyday demands.

It has supported the national independence movement of peoples under foreign domination, and has stood by the side of the workers who are forging the vast liberation movement which is sweeping the world clean of colonialism.

The W.F.T.U. repeats its call to the workers and trade unions in dependent and colonial countries and territories to bind their trade union movement closely to the national liberation movements in which an alliance is being established between the workers and other sections of the population, and in particular the peasantry who are fighting for national aims common to all.

In this phase of the history of the trade union movement and of its development in the less-developed and

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colonial countries, events have gone to show the workers of these countries that, while conserving the fundamental and decisive nature of the fight against imperialism, it is essential that in the economic and social field each trade union should base its actions on a programme which genuinely represents the working class, which is drawn up by the working class and sets out their demands.

The W.F.T.U. draws the attention of trade union organisations in the under-developed countries and colonial territories to the new forms of capitalist exploitation which are adopted when the methods employed in the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century can no longer be used by the colonialists..."

"... The need for unity is rooted in the experiences of the working class and in the nature and content of their struggles for basic everyday demands. In realising the fact that division among the trade unions serves to increase their exploitation, the workers themselves are creating the conditions for uniting their efforts. They are reaching a stage when they are able to show the need for trade union unity wherever it fails to exist.

Experience of the workers' struggles shows that unity encourages recruitment into the trade unions and helps to establish new unions where none existed previously..."

"... Unity is not an abstract matter. The fight for unity cannot become a mere subject for sentimental oratory.

Unity is a fight for something: for the demands and interests of working men and women.

The necessity for unity does not lead to the abandonment of principled struggle for the sake of achieving it at any price or under any conditions.

The workers do not need unity of that kind. It would involve implications alien to their real needs and to their real demands..."

(Extracts from the Report submitted to the  
IVth World Trade Union Congress,  
October 4 - 15, 1957, Leipzig)

212-H  
June 18, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

TELEGRAM FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE JAPANESE TRADE UNIONS

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to SOHYO:

"The workers of the world have learned with enthusiasm of the magnificent success won by the workers and people of Japan in their powerful and courageous struggle against the U.S.-Japanese Treaty and American military bases by compelling the reactionaries to give way and cancel Eisenhower's visit to Japan.

"On behalf of 101 million members, the World Federation of Trade Unions most sincerely congratulates the workers and people of Japan and SOHYO, which inspired the struggle, on this success with its valuable lessons for the workers and forces of peace in all countries. It reassures them of its full fraternal solidarity and wishes them complete victory.

"The World Federation of Trade Unions greets the courageous democrats and fighters for peace and pays homage to the victims of police terror and fascist provocations. It expresses deep sympathy with the families of those who have lost their lives in this struggle for peace and freedom.

"The workers of all countries encouraged by this success of the Japanese people; by their unity and militancy, will increase their joint struggle for their common objectives, for disarmament, the banning of nuclear weapons, the removal of military bases and for democratic liberties".

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

No: 156



24 JUN 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

212-A

June 20, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### TELEGRAM FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS OF MALI

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.  
has sent the following telegram  
to the National Confederation of  
Trade Unions of Mali:

"On the occasion of the declaration of the independence of the Federation of Mali on June 20, the World Federation of Trade Unions sends you its warmest greetings and asks you to convey its heartiest congratulations to the working class and people of Mali. This important step towards complete political and economic independence for your country is the result of the consistent struggle by the united workers and people supported by the national liberation movement of the oppressed peoples which is characteristic of our age, and by active international solidarity from all the workers. We express our sincere desire that your unity and actions will be further strengthened so that you may go forward towards new and important successes for the complete independence of your country, for the protection and extension of trade union rights and democratic liberties and for the application of economic and social programmes guaranteeing an improvement of living standards and working conditions for workers in town and country. In the name of its 101 million members the W.F.T.U. promises its staunch support for the unity of the working class of your country and of all Africa in the common fight against colonialism and imperialism, for independence, complete sovereignty, a better life and for peace."

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

No. 157

June 23, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.150

BRITISH TRADE UNIONIST (I.C.F.T.U.) GIVES  
VIEWS ON SUMMIT COLLAPSE

Jack LAW, Convenor at Sherdlow's, a large engineering factory at Sheffield, England, told the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent:

"As trade unionists, the Stewards' Committee of which I am Convenor and the members inside the factory we represent, have side by side with other trade unionists played a prominent part in the growing movement against nuclear weapons and for a peaceful solution to world problems.

"The active participation of many trade union members and their willingness to make some contribution to the cause of peace, shows a genuine desire on their part to see an end to the nuclear arms race and a genuine settlement between the Great Powers for peace and friendship.

"Only last week our Shop Stewards' Committee associated themselves with a Peace March from Rotherham to Sheffield. Shop Stewards carried our Stewards' Committee banner and in addition gave financial support.

"Naturally when the Summit Meeting, which we had campaigned for and supported over a long period did not take place, this caused widespread dismay and disappointment. However, when we consider the developments leading to the cancellation of the talks, then the blame should be placed squarely on the shoulders of those responsible for this position. The U.S. spy plane incident was flagrant provocation on the eve of the Summit talks, and it is well known that the Western Powers were never seen on a Summit Conference anyway.

"It has been said that Mr. Macmillan did his best to patch up the quarrel between Eisenhower and Khrushchov created by the spy plane incident. In my opinion if Macmillan had really wanted to be helpful he would have condemned this provocative action by the American Government. It is my opinion that the campaign for the ending of the nuclear arms race and international agreement on disarmament should be raised to a higher level still and pressure should be brought to bear on the British Government to officially support an early meeting of the Great Powers with the clear understanding that provocative action by any government similar to the U-2 plane will be condemned by our Government. Only by such independent action by the British Government can we hope to achieve international agreement and disarmament and an end to nuclear weapons.

"I feel confident that in the future British trade unionists will be even more active to achieve this end."



27 JUN 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

212-A

June 28, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No. 151

Pierre GENSOUS, Secretary of the Metalworkers' Union of France today stated in an interview about the National Day of action for the satisfaction of the metalworkers' demands:

"A National Day of action for the satisfaction of workers' claims had been launched by our Union. In view of the success our slogans have met with among the metalworkers, the Socialist Force Ouvriere and the French Confederation of Christian Workers (CFTC) also had to launch a week of action from June 5 to 11 for the satisfaction of claims.

"In the factories, towns and districts, work stoppages have often been organised at the joint appeal of the local organisations of the SGT, CFTC and FO: a very large number of metalworkers took part in this movement.

"In many meetings the demonstrators were waving their posters and chanting slogans demanding an end to the war in Algeria, for while the metalworkers are struggling against the effects of the policy of De Gaulle's Government, they have not forgotten one of the most important causes of their impoverishment: the Algerian war.

"The metalworkers are claiming a substantial increase in their wages. Wages differ considerably in the metal industry. They vary from one factory to another, from one region to another and often the differences between them are very great. But they have two things in common:

- everywhere they are insufficient;
- their purchasing power has dropped by 12% since July 1957, according to government statistics.

"The increase that ~~the metalworkers~~ are demanding varies according to factory and region; in general, they are asking up to between 20 and 50 francs an hour.

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"The second demand is for shorter working hours without loss of pay, and an ultimate return to the 40-hour week.

"The third important demand is for paid national holidays.

"The fourth demand is for four weeks paid holidays.

"And lastly the metalworkers are demanding that the retiring age should be 60 and 55 for those doing hard jobs.

"These demands can be satisfied by taking something off the enormous profits of capitalist companies. I would like to give simply one example: the Usinor company made a profit in 1959 of 13 thousand million, that is to say, one million per worker. There is enough there to meet the demands of the Usinor metalworkers.

"I would like to make it clear that the action for the satisfaction of demands did not begin on June 9. We can say that the metalworkers started this action several weeks ago. The forms of struggle are different, and they have multiplied in the enterprises, workshops, departments and offices, and then spread to the whole factory, and from there to all the establishments of one firm, and sometimes to all the factories of an industrial centre.

"It is a movement that never flags, and it is strong because it has its roots in the enterprises and it will continue under the multiple forms as it has begun until such a time as the employers will listen to reason.

"Already a few of them have been forced to consent to a few wage increases. The metalworkers consider that these are insufficient and that is why we can foresee that the struggle will continue to grow in the days to come."

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22  
4 JUL 1950

(Press Release)

GYMNASTIC FESTIVAL "SPARTAKIADÉ" OPENED IN PRAGUE

700,000 participants out of a  
population of 13.5 million.

Prague, June 23 (By Cable).

The biggest mass display of gymnastics in the world, the "Spartakiade", held every five years, was opened in Prague today with more than 700,000 participants out of a total population of 13.5 million. Twice as many had been practising every week for two years the exercises they are now performing together on the big stadium overlooking Prague. On the first day of the Spartakiade, which is to last until the 3rd of July; 96,171 girls and boys performed - 16,000 at each display. This number will go up to 30,000 when adults will fill the vast ground of the stadium at the last days of the Spartakiade. From the stands, 140,000 spectators were cheering at the exercises carried out with the utmost precision and grace. Especially cheered were the youngest group of participants, children under 8 years of age, who performed their "Fairy Tale" with remarkable harmony, grace and ease. Elder children, youths and members of the army performed "Joyful Spring", "Red Playballs", "Be Prepared", "Through Courage to Discipline, Skill and Endurance" and "Youth, Beauty and Strength".

The displays were watched by members of the Czechoslovak Government, diplomats, thousands of visitors from abroad and many journalists from 30 countries, including India.



29 JUN 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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June 24, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.152

## WAR WOULD MEAN SUICIDE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND ANNIHILATION OF MANKIND, SAY BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS

Joan MAYNARD, Secretary of the Yorkshire County Committee of the National Union of Agricultural Workers of Great Britain (I.C.F.T.U), expressed her personal views on recent world events in a discussion with the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent. Excerpts from this extensive conversation are reproduced below:

"I think that the failure of the Summit Conference was engineered by the U.S.A. I think that they took the drastic step of sending a spy plane over Russia because they understood how strong the forces for peace are today and they felt that a really drastic step had to be taken in order to make sure of wrecking the Summit," began Joan Maynard. Later she spoke about the trade unions and NATO.

"From a political point of view I think it is a tragedy that the right-wing of the Labour Party supports NATO. I think this because, as a Socialist, I see our support for NATO as fatal not only to the Labour movement but to Britain. To me, NATO is a capitalist-military alliance against the workers' states in Eastern Europe, and as a Socialist I could never take any part in an alliance of that kind. These important and vital issues will be decided at the T.U.C. and Labour Party Conferences this autumn."

"The President of my own Union, Edwin Gooch, M.P., speaking at our Conference last week, said: 'In February I put my name to a motion on the order paper of the House of Commons which deplored the decision to increase arms expenditure involving further waste of resources which should be devoted to human need, and rejected the nuclear arms policy which threatened the suicide of Great Britain and the annihilation of mankind while providing no defence, and calling upon the Government to give a positive lead for peace and total disarmament by renouncing the testing and production of nuclear weapons and the use of our soil for nuclear bases.' He said: 'I hope Conference endorses my action.' I endorse his action wholeheartedly and the Conference showed their support for it by their applause. I hope and think that this policy will become the policy of the Labour and trade union movements before the end of this year."

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29 JUN 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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June 25, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.153

LI ZON SOU, Vice-President of the Central Council of the Korean Trade Union Federation today granted the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent an extensive interview, part of which is reproduced below:

"Today, the working class and people of Korea, burning with vehement wrath and anger at the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique, are observing the 10th anniversary of the provocation of the Korean war by the American imperialists and Syngman Rheeites.

"A gigantic struggle has been unfolded by the Korean people for making the U.S. aggressive troops to quit South Korea immediately, putting an end to the fascist terrorist rule in South Korea, and unifying peacefully the country.

"On March 15, the day of "Presidential elections", the South Korean people rose up in an uprising against the American imperialists and Syngman Rhee puppet clique throughout the length and breadth of South Korea. The popular uprising has driven Syngman Rhee out of "Presidency" and shaken the U.S. colonial rule to its very foundation.

"The heroic popular uprising is the outburst of anger and wrath which have been brewing in the hearts of the South Korean people headed by the working class for the past 15 years of the fascist terrorist rule of U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites.

"Upon liberation from the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism by the Soviet Army on August 15, 1945, the working class and people in the northern part of Korea uprooted once and for all what they suffered in the past.

"The northern part of our country has been converted into a prosperous socialist industrial-agricultural country where the working class is the master of the country and a solid material foundation has been laid for solving peacefully the Korean question by Koreans themselves. If the U.S. imperialists had withdrawn from South Korea and the reactionary rule of Syngman Rhee had been abolished, our fatherland would have been unified long ago, the national economy would have been developed in South Korea, the South Korean people would not have suffered from poverty and non-rights as they are suffering today. Instead they would have long been enjoying a happy life together with us," began LI ZON SOU, he then went on:

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"We have made consistent, sincere efforts to turn armistice into a lasting peace and unify peacefully the country, and advanced time and again the most practical and concrete programmes for the realization of the country's peaceful unification.

"We proposed to realize at least free travel and postal exchange between North and South Korea. We offered to send relief goods to the South Korean unemployed and victims of natural calamities.

"The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea proposed on many occasions for establishing mutual contacts between the working people of North and South Korea, and exchanging delegations of workers, sports and cultural delegations and vacationers.

"But, U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites turned down these sincere proposals." In conclusion LI BON SOU stated:

"As long as the U.S. imperialists occupy South Korea and the puppet rule is maintained, there can be neither peace in Korea nor freedom and happiness for the South Korean workers and people.

"The experience of the Korean war showed both the Korean people and the progressive mankind throughout the world that aggravated tension in Korea is a great menace to peace in Korea, the Far East, and the rest of the world.

"U.S. imperialists threatening peace in Asia and the world must get out of South Korea at once, with all their weapons including atomic weapons and guided missiles that they brought into South Korea.

"Today, the international climate is turning in favour of the struggle of the Korean working class and people who are fighting for their national rights, for shaping their destiny by themselves, and for unifying peacefully their country.

"Due to unremitting efforts of the powerful socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and the peace-loving people the world over, the idea of peace is continuing triumphant march, whereas the machinations of imperialists headed by U.S. imperialism to start a new war are met with powerful rejections in all parts of the world and are smashed.

"Should U.S. imperialists remain in South Korea and attempt to achieve their wild dream of aggression, it will bring only their own destruction.

"With the powerful support and encouragement from the working class and honest-minded, peace-loving people all over the world the Korean working class and people will certainly make the U.S. troops withdraw from South Korea, abolish the puppet ruling apparatus, and unify peacefully the country.

"On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war, I, in the name of the whole working class of Korea, give our sincere thanks to the working class and trade unions throughout the world for their active support and encouragement to the just struggle of the Korean working class and people. And at the same time, I express our firm confidence that you will send more positive support and encouragement to us in our just struggle for making our common enemy U.S. imperialists quit South Korea and unifying peacefully our country."



29 JUN 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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June 25, 1960.

212-A

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### THE W.F.T.U. GREETES THE PROCLAMATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF MADAGASCAR

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The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to the Madagascar Trade Union Federation:

On the occasion of the proclamation of independence of your country, the W.F.T.U. sends to you and to the workers and people of Madagascar its warmest congratulations. This success is the result of the united action of the workers and people of Madagascar and of the powerful liberation movement of oppressed peoples supported by the active solidarity of the workers of the world. It opens the way to new victories for your complete political and economic independence. It represents progress not only for the people of Madagascar but it is also a help and encouragement for all peoples who are struggling against colonialism. Together with all the workers of the world the World Federation of Trade Unions which has always supported you in your fight for national independence will remain at your side in the struggle for the strengthening of your national independence, for the improvement of your living and working conditions, for trade union freedoms and democratic rights, for the preservation of peace and for disarmament. Long live the independence of Madagascar, long live the unity of the workers and people of Madagascar and long live international working class solidarity.

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

No. 158

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

June 27, 1960.

## PRESS RELEASE No. 154

Yoshio MINAMI, Standing Director of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (independent) was interviewed by the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent on the recent developments in Japan.

The Japanese people have waged 18 waves of nationwide united action against the revision of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty with the People's Congress Against the Revision of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty acting as the core," said Yoshio Minami in the interview, parts of which are reproduced here:

On June 4, the movement reached a peak with 5.6 million workers participated in it. Led by the National Railway Workers' Union and other unions of the transportation industry, the June 4th powerful action was most orderly.

The salient feature of the recent Japanese people's anti-Treaty ratification struggle is in the fact that the movement is supported by and participated in by a great number of people.

"The Kishi Cabinet and the Liberal-Democratic Party took undescribably hideous, provocative action. However, to their regret, the majority of the people turned out more and more furious over the terroristic measures taken by the Government, and over the ratification of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. They have risen courageously demanding the immediate dissolution of the Diet.

"In the upsurge of the nation's anger, the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (Sohyo) carried out a powerful strike on June 15 against the visit of U.S. President Eisenhower, which was slated for June 19, and against the U.S. Government which planned President Eisenhower's visit to Japan.

"The people stood up fiercely in opposition to the Kishi Cabinet and financial circles and the Liberal-Democratic Party which planned the President's visit to Japan.

"The June 15 strike was powerfully supported by the majority of the people and the people's movement headed by the working class made a dynamic advance.

"The Sohyo took the view that the visit of U.S. President Eisenhower had been planned with the aims that he would encourage the Governments of Southeast Asian countries by visiting such countries as the Philippines, Taiwan, Okinawa, Korea and Japan where U.S. military bases are built, and to further intensify the ties between the U.S. and these countries to consolidate U.S. military buildup in Asia.

"On the basis of this conception, Sohyo was determined to do everything it could to ban his visit.

"The Councillor's meeting of Sohyo which met June 16 discussed the situation since June 15, when the Government used the armed police and hundreds of gangsters and took the most terroristic provocative action towards the demonstrators including the students, unionists and citizens.

"Sohyo was furious over the fact that the policemen stood with their eyes closed and arms folded while the gangsters were assaulting at the demonstrators with nailed clubs, stones, long bamboo sticks, etc.

"When the students uniting with the National Federation of Students' Autonomous Associations (Sengokuren) lodged a fierce and just protest to the police in this connection, the police took further provocative action to the demonstrators by wilfully drawing them into the Diet compound where they were stationing and attacked the students, and other demonstrators at random with iron clubs.

"These acts of violence resulted in a death of a girl student of Tokyo University, Miss Nambu. Fury and outrage of the majority of the people forced the Kishi Cabinet to reluctantly give up its plan to invite President Eisenhower to Japan at this moment.

"The visit of Eisenhower being cancelled, Kishi having resigned, we still have several targets toward which we must go on fighting. We must entirely ban the ratification of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, force the Diet to dissolve.

"Needless to say, all the people of Japan and Sohyo could never approve the revised Treaty.

"Our struggle continues until the current Diet disbands and a new democratic cabinet is formed.

"Our movement will continue to fight for a really democratic cabinet."

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

June 28, 1960

## PRESS RELEASE No.155

Gustl ZICKLER, shop steward of the Siemens-Schuckert firm at Vienna (Federation of Austrian Trade Unions - ICEFU), spoke with the WFTU radio correspondent on the forthcoming visit of the Soviet Prime Minister to Austria. The workers of this enterprise have invited, by the intermediary of the Shop Stewards' Committee, Nikita Khrushchov to visit their factory. Shop steward Zickler said about this:

"This invitation was preceded by a discussion of the Shop Stewards' Committee. It is thanks to the initiative of the Trade Union Unity Fraction that this invitation was sent. But the decision to invite the Prime Minister was taken unanimously and in our opinion the reasons for it were very simple: it is good for a neutral country to be on good terms with the whole world, particularly with neighbouring countries. But, we also have good economic relations with the Soviet Union. Our firm was for a time under Soviet administration and we are very interested not only in maintaining these relations but in widening them if possible. Further - and now this is becoming clearer - it is very advantageous for Austria to be a neutral State. Now that the Summit Conference has failed and once again it has been possible to state that the world could be plunged into a serious war, it would seem useful to us to establish good friendly relations with the representative of the biggest country in Europe, the Soviet Union.

"The speeches given by Premier Khrushchov, after Paris, have clearly shown the whole-hearted desire of the Soviet Union for peaceful co-existence, and I am certain that here, on the soil of neutral Austria, the Premier will say many interesting and important things concerning future development, and I think that, to take an analogy, like at the time of the conclusion of the State Treaty, Austria here could also play an important role."

To the question:

"Do you consider that, like at the time of the State Treaty in 1955 when steps were taken by the Soviet Union towards relaxation of international tension, Austria could be placed at the centre, let us say from the point of view of world history?"

Shop steward ZICKLER replied:

"I think that this is not impossible and naturally I would welcome such a phenomenon."

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4 JUL

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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June 29, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.156

During his stay in Austria, Premier Khrushchov will visit the Austro-Fiat Works in Vienna on Friday of this week. When asked by the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent why the Shop Stewards' Committee had decided to invite Khrushchov, two of its members, KNAPIL and LEHENDORFER, Austrian Trade Union Federation - IOFTU - replied:

"One of the main reasons for our invitation is that we are very anxious to welcome Premier Khrushchov in our factory. Secondly, our invitation was also sent because we are producing the goods which go to the U.S.S.R. as reparations and they account for approximately 30 to 40 per cent of the total output of our factories.

"Our deliveries will be completed in 1960-61, but we are anxious to continue working for the Soviet Union on a regular basis even after that.

"Khrushchov's visit will help, most of all, to strengthen personal contacts between our workers and the Soviet Union. Some time ago we had the pleasure of receiving a delegation of workers from the Likhachov works in Moscow and a delegation from our Shop Stewards' Committee visited their factory.

"This has done much towards establishing personal relations and our workers are very keen to maintain and increase them. We all believe that good relations with the Soviet Union are and always will be extremely useful for co-existence. We would also be very glad if steps were to be taken throughout the world towards disarmament.

"It is very regrettable that as a result of sabotage by the Americans, the Summit Conference was wrecked, but in spite of this we want to see co-existence maintained because we want to live and work in peace."

7 JUL 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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212A

June 29, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.157

Ernst SULZBACHER, member of the Executive of the Lower Austria Province of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions (IOFTU) today talked to the W.F.T.U. correspondent on the forthcoming visit of Premier Khrushchov to Austria, which begins tomorrow:

"In all factories the workers are having lively discussions about Khrushchov's coming visit and the trade unions are looking forward to this visit with keen interest. In these broad discussions various problems are being raised - not only economic problems such as the settlement of reparations, but also political problems. So there is a great deal of talk about our neutrality. We know only too well that neutrality cannot ward off the effects of atomic weapons and missiles. Neutrality can only be guaranteed by the development of the international situation and Austria's neutrality depends, above all, on peaceful co-existence.

"The Austrian workers know from their own experience that it is necessary to fight for neutrality. In Austria there were many people who were against neutrality. If today there is so much talk about co-existence and if this problem has become so topical in recent days, I think this is because the workers themselves have also come to understand that it is not sufficient to be merely for co-existence, but that it is essential to fight for it and that they must oppose all those who are against co-existence. The workers are particularly anxious that Khrushchov's first visit to a capitalist country after the torpedoing of the Summit Conference by the Americans will give rise to a fresh spirit of co-existence."

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7 JUL 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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June 30, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

THE W.F.T.U. GREETS THE PROCLAMATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE OF THE "BELGIAN" CONGO

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to the trade unions of the Congo:

"On the occasion of the proclamation of independence of your country, the W.F.T.U. sends its warmest congratulations to you and to the workers and the people of the Congo. This success is the result of the united action of the workers and the people of the Congo and of the powerful national liberation movement of oppressed peoples which receives the active solidarity of the international working class. Unity is and continues to be the surest guarantee for the winning of new victories and for the liquidation of all vestiges of colonialism. The World Federation of Trade Unions declares its continued support for the cause of the workers and the people of the Congo and their struggle for the consolidation of their independence, for an improvement in living and working conditions, for trade union liberties and democratic rights, for the maintenance of peace and for disarmament. Long live the independence of the Congo. Long live the unity of the workers and the people of the Congo. Long live international working class solidarity."

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

No.159

7 JUL 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

212-A

June 30, 1960.

## PRESS RELEASE No.158

In the suburbs of Vienna, on the plain of the Danube is the central depot of the Austrian mineral oil industry. The W.F.T.U. radio correspondent spoke to the Chairman of the Shop Stewards' Committee there, Johann RESCH about the visit of Premier Khrushchov to Austria which begins today:

"Before the Summit Conference our workers decided to send a delegation to Paris to present a petition in order to contribute to the preservation of peace. Unfortunately our plan for a delegation and a petition could not be carried out. All, or almost all the 450 workers and employees in our firm signed this petition. We also made a collection to finance the journey of three delegates to Paris. But since the Americans wrecked the conference the journey never took place. Our Shop Stewards' Committee then discussed the question and decided to invite Khrushchov to visit us. We would be happy if this visit took place. We have informed the Soviet Embassy in Vienna of our decision.

"We think however Premier Khrushchov might not have the time to come to our depot and we have discussed this in our Shop Stewards' Committee. In that case we will try to see him wherever he is whether it be at his official residence or at the Austro-Fiat factory or elsewhere during his stay in our country."

74 JUL 1968

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

June 30, 1960.

## PRESS RELEASE No.159

Vincenzo GALETTI, General Secretary of the Trade Unions International of Agricultural and Forestry Workers (Trade Department of the W.F.T.U.) told the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent:

"On July 1, the Italian agricultural workers and labourers are going to declare a nation-wide 24-hour strike. They will be supported by the tenant farmers who, led in unity by their trade union organisations, have decided to strengthen their long battle, refusing to thrash the corn and take part in the harvesting of summer crops.

"The strike on July 1 will bring their struggle into a more advanced and broader stage since it will involve several million workers. The Italian workers have reached this stage after a number of limited struggles conducted at a factory, district and regional level. But nearly all the workers concerned took part in these struggles.

"What are the Italian agricultural workers demanding? First of all, a radical change in the present economic policy of intensive capitalist development pursued by the big landowners and the monopolies. This is precisely the object of the struggle for a change in the policy and content of the "Green Plan".

"Their determination and participation in the struggle illustrates that the Italian workers are fully aware of the reactionary and class nature of the policy of European integration and they are fighting this policy with all their strength and determination. If the system of the European Common Market is applied, the Italian countryside will be "depopulated". France, and even more so West Germany provide a warning example: hundreds of thousands of peasants will be ruined; millions of workers will be driven from the land and forced to emigrate.

"They understand that theirs is a battle for life and death which will decide the future and which to a great extent determines the democratic development of their country.

"There can be no doubt that these struggles serve as an example and as an incentive for the workers in the other Common Market countries.

"Naturally, these struggles are related to the problems arising from the conclusion of the new collective agreement and a general wage increase as well as to the recognition of trades, a new metayage agreement which would stipulate new criteria for the

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sharing out of running expenditure and the distribution of produce advantageous for the tenant farmers. These battles are further related to the demand for the opening of negotiations in the country for the settlement of employment problems, joint participation and other forms of land tenancy and to the solution of various social security problems which still exclude agricultural workers and labourers from the same benefits enjoyed by the other workers.

"The landowners will put <sup>up</sup> a stiff resistance. Every effort will be made to weaken the determination of the workers and to break their unity.

"Only a long and courageous struggle can bring the Italian employers to see reason.

"It is certain that the Italian agricultural workers, inspired by their tradition of 60 years of trade union struggles will again prove equal to the occasion.

"And agricultural workers all over the world are in complete solidarity with them, with their families and with their united struggle."

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### W.F.T.U. IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

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In protest against attempts to deprive civil servants of some of their basic trade union rights when they organised a big five-day strike in July, the All Indian Trade Union Congress (W.F.T.U.), the United Trade Union Congress (independent) and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (I.C.F.T.U.) observed September 2 as Trade Union Rights Day. The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to the three organisations:

" On the occasion of Trade Union Rights Day, the World Federation of Trade Unions extends full solidarity to all Indian workers of different affiliations in their united action for the defence of their basic rights, particularly the right to strike for all categories of workers. The W.F.T.U. demands cancellation of all repressive measures and sanctions against the strikers. The W.F.T.U. wishes your united struggle every success."

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Published by the W.F.T.U.

Press Dept. No. 177.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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July 1, 1960

## PRESS RELEASE N°160

A Week of International Action organised by the National Union of French Miners is being observed throughout France at the present moment. On this occasion, Léon DELFOSSE, General Secretary of the Union has made the following statement :

Our 54<sup>th</sup> Congress that was held in May decided to organise a Week of International Action. The reason for this is quite simple: in general, the miners in the capitalist countries have to cope with a crisis which they are fighting in various ways. The purpose of our Week is to organise campaigns so as to demonstrate our active solidarity, especially under the present conditions with our brothers in Japan, Chile and South Africa. But more than this, our Week of Action is to demonstrate the support of the French miners for the united trade union front formed by the miners of the ECSC countries. In fact, for the same reasons, the crisis is having the same effect on the miners of France, Belgium, Germany, Luxemburg, Holland and Italy. Therefore, in face of the European Steel and Coal Community the international cartel of the coal trusts, it is necessary to organise a powerful miners' front to achieve the same demands: the struggle against the dismantling of the mines, for shorter hours of work in the mines, higher wages and more adequate social security and the struggle for better safety and health protection. This is the significance of our Week of International Action. However, this would be far from complete if we did not make it quite clear that another and perhaps the most important aim of our Week is to muster the most militant miners for the struggle for peace and against the intentions of the revenge-seeking nazis in West Germany who have not abandoned their plans. And in this connexion, we would like to help our German brothers in the mines of the Ruhr. Our Week of Action is further closely related to the Day for peace in Algeria to be observed in France on June 28. This explains why the French miners are signing

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tens of thousands of letters which are being sent to their opposite numbers in the countries of the European Coal and Steel Community. A delegation of our Union will hand over these letters to the Miners' Congress of Federal Germany which opens in Dortmund on July 3. We are certain that our Week of Action will have widespread repercussions. It will pave the road to international unity among the miners which is the ardent desire of our Miners' Trade Union International belonging to the World Federation of Trade unions.

Achille BLONDEAU, Secretary of the  
National Union of French Miners  
declared :

Our 54<sup>th</sup> Federal Congress took the unanimous decision to observe a Week of International Action and Solidarity. The first action taken during the Week is a widespread collection campaign in all the pits and surface mines. For whom do we need to collect money? For the Chilean miners who have been on strike for several weeks and who suffered great hardships in the disaster that has just occurred in their country. To help the Mitsui miners at Miike in Japan who have also been out for many weeks. To help the trade unions in South Africa to give relief to the families of the coloured miners, killed during the recent mining disaster since the racist government of South Africa has abandoned them completely, and to help the trade unions to organise the miners. We are also anxious to help all miners in a general way who are exposed to persecution by the government and the employers. We shall demonstrate our solidarity, especially with the Spanish miners who are detained in Franco prisons, as well as their families. The French miners are going through difficult times in view of the fact that they are being hit by unemployment. But their feelings of solidarity are strong and we are confident that they will all contribute to the collection in the knowledge that the financial sacrifice they are making is needed to help their brothers abroad.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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July 4, 1960.

## PRESS RELEASE No.161

Jack HAIN, Secretary of the West Area of the National Union of Mineworkers of Great Britain (N.U.M.) today spoke with the B.B.C. radio correspondent in a personal capacity:

The problems in coal mining are not confined to the British coal mines. They extend generally to those countries with capitalist economies; those countries whose economies are unplanned and where the mode and trends of production are geared to making profit for a few instead of meeting the needs of the many.

In Britain many pits have been closed or are scheduled for closure. Sections of pits have been closed and single shift working has also been introduced.

The present crisis in British coal-mining has arisen mainly because of the policy of the British Government, a policy that has by design given the oil monopolists in Britain every opportunity and advantage to exploit the fuel energy supply market. As a result of this policy many thousands of miners have left and are leaving the industry. The uncertainty of the future and insecurity of employment has precipitated a tremendous exodus of men from British coal mining.

The British Mineworkers' Union, in association with the T.U.C. and the Labour Party, have joined in consultation about the problems in mining and general agreement on some principal policy points has been reached.

Firstly, the need for an overall fuel policy wherein the contribution of fuel energy whether by coal, oil, methane gas, atomic power, etc., would be pre-determined and thus allow reasonable scope for the planning of the mining industry and its contribution to the national economy.

There are many important factors related to the issue of a fuel policy apart from a firm place for coal. For example, coal is available in plentiful supplies and yet in 1959 imported oil

totalled 12% of the U.K. import bill. Again, we suggest that a tax be imposed on certain fuel oil to afford protection to coal. There is nothing new about this, all major industries in Britain are either subsidised or protected by tariffs. The Miners' Union has also listed a number of reforms in the welfare and economic fields:- For a shorter working day! It must be remembered that British miners have a longer working day now than over 30 years ago. For increased pay and for longer holidays. These and many other demands are being made by British miners in defence of their livelihood and conditions of work.

"In recent days the leaders of the British miners have given stern warning to the Government that they intend to defend nationalisation and that the wages and conditions of British miners must be improved, and that they will struggle to achieve these aims.

"We must recognise, however, that our problems are the problems of capitalism and until we get rid of capitalism we shall not get rid of the problems. To this end we must strive for the unity of the international working class and for an end to the barriers of unity and for absolute co-operation between the World Federation of Trade Unions and the I.C.T.U. In this direction lies the absolute solution of all problems of the international working class and of miners everywhere."



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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July 4, 1960.

## PRESS RELEASE No. 162

Fritz NEUBAUER, Vienna, member of the Labour Council (Arbeiterkammer) and an active member of the Austrian workers' movement, who has done a great deal for the protection of the rights of oil workers, spoke to the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent about the impression that the visit of Premier Khrushchov is making on the Austrian workers:

"First of all I am very happy to see Premier Khrushchov, the representative of the great Soviet Union, here. Khrushchov - whom I saw today for the first time - appears to be a simple man not in the least like one expects to find among great statesmen and diplomats who more like demi-gods are very far from the population and from their people. He is a man who, at a first glance, gives one the impression that he is of his people.

"The bourgeois and the socialist press just like the Catholic Church in a pastoral letter, made an appeal that the Soviet Premier should be welcomed politely but without any demonstration of sympathy.

"But this appeal has had no effect, as the crowd which warmly greets Premier Khrushchov everywhere is proving. I am sure that the main reason they come is not curiosity but the desire to greet a man in whom people, even in Austria, place the hope that his struggle for co-existence and for maintaining peace will bear fruit."

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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272  
July 5, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.163

"Questions for Trade Unionists" is the title of a book just published in Great Britain. It is written by Jim GARDNER, former-General Secretary of the Foundryworkers' Union (ICFTU) and now Secretary of the British Peace Committee. In a recent discussion with the WFTU radio correspondent, Mr. Gardner dealt with that section of the book, wherein the international trade union situation is analysed:

"The problems facing trade unionists today in Britain and in every country in the world cry out for unity. Consider the contribution which full unity of the trade union movement on an international scale could make to the defence of the interests of all workers, it could unite the efforts of trade unionists in all countries in the fight against unemployment and for higher living standards ensuring that the workers of one country are not competing with those of another in the interests of the employers.

"It could work out a common line of action to meet the attempted intensified exploitation arising from the formation of the European Common Market and the rival block of the Little Seven Free Trade Area inspired by British monopolists both expressive of the sharpening economic war within the capitalist world in general and Western Europe in particular.

"It could strengthen the world-wide movement to end bans on full and free trade between East and West; it could more effectively help the heroic struggles of trade unionists in colonial countries to free themselves of oppression and raise their living standards.

"Above all, it could unite trade unionists the world over in the cause of peace, making common cause in barring the road to a nuclear war, in bringing an end to a poisoning of the atmosphere through nuclear weapon tests, ending the gigantic and almost incredible waste of manpower, scientific knowledge, money and materials on armaments that would, if directed to social ends, enrich life the world over and end in security and poverty for all time.

"And how much too can be learned and gained mutually by trade unionists from socialist and capitalist countries coming together to share experiences and knowledge and advancing to a healthier, happier and more prosperous life for everybody.

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"Yet today two international organisations of trade unionists exist plus the more smaller international of Christian trade unions, and what could be one of the most powerful organisations for human advance in world society and the greatest force for peace the world has ever known has been split. The major responsibility for the split was undoubtedly that of those union leaders in the West.

They took the politics of the cold war into the trade union movement and who preferred collaboration with their own employing class to collaboration with the trade unions in the socialist countries or with those in the West whose leaders were dedicated to class struggle and the ending of the whole system of exploitation. These Western leaders remain advocates of cold war politics in the world trade union movement, nobody is more vehement in its support for NATO than the leaders of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

"So, in contrast the World Federation of Trade Unions has, ever since its inception, and faithfully since the split championed the best interests of trade unionism, adhered to principle, defending living standards, peace and the cause of colonial freedom. Yet, these two centres of international trade unionism exist together with the Christian trade unions with their own centre and the fact of their existence has to be faced. Within the ICFTU are national trade union centres which speak for millions of members who do not subscribe to cold war-policies and who themselves are working to bring about changes in a progressive direction. There must be a perspective of rebuilding world trade union unity to bring all three centres together. Even before the road to organisational unity has been travelled and the goal of unity reached there are many pressing and urgent issues of common concern on which joint discussion could lead to joint action even if at first on a limited basis.

"The drive of world monopoly capitalism towards ever-greater profits and world domination and the menace of nuclear war affects all trade unionists irrespective of the world centre, the WFTU, the ICFTU or the Christian trade unions to which they hold allegiance. Such joint discussion and common action could lay the basis for the ending of the split in the world trade union movement and the foundation of one trade union international. It could effect such an influence on governments as would compel lasting agreement at the Summit on banning nuclear weapons and ending the cold war.

"The problem of world trade union unity is not the preserve of top leaders, it must be made a burning issue by the rank-and-file in every union, in every big factory, in the branch rooms and the conference rooms, the prospects for trade unionism the world over depend in no small measure upon it. World trade union unity is the spearhead that should be decisive in the struggle for a world without war, for higher wages, shorter hours, social progress."



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### MESSAGE FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS FROM THE BALTIC COUNTRIES AND NORWAY

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The W.F.T.U. Secretariat has sent the following message to the Third Conference of Workers and Trade Unions from the Baltic Countries and Norway which will take place on July 5 and 6:

"The World Federation of Trade Unions sends warm fraternal greetings to your Conference which as part of the Baltic week will unite for the third time at Rostock delegates from countries with different social regimes as well as workers and trade unionists who independently of their international affiliations, their political leanings, their ideological or religious beliefs, are fighting together, inspired by the same determination to protect life and the achievements of the people in the Baltic countries and to safeguard peace.

"During your second Conference last year together you passed excellent resolutions, in particular that the Baltic should remain a "sea of peace" useful for strengthening the bonds of friendship and solidarity between the peoples.

"In the present international situation, some weeks after the wrecking of the Summit Conference by the American imperialists and the capitalist monopolies who have also just brought the Ten Power Disarmament Conference to a deadlock, the forces of peace are more and more aware of the need to counter the imperialist warmongers with an ever broadening and more united front and to concentrate and unite their efforts to guarantee the success of their campaigns.

"In this struggle the working class plays a decisive role. Your attendance at the Conference of Workers and Trade Unions from the Baltic Countries and Norway is fresh proof of this.

"Faithful to the principles which were instrumental in its formation exactly 15 years ago, the W.F.T.U. has just reaffirmed at the 11th session of its General Council at Peking the campaign for the relaxation of international tension and the strengthening of peace, for peace co-existence and disarmament remain among the fundamental aims of the international trade union movement. This struggle is closely bound up with the fight for the improvement of the living and working conditions of the working class and for the respect and broadening of trade union rights in countries where harsh exploitation by the capitalist monopolies prevails.

"You, as workers, know better than anyone the price of peace. You know that it is indispensable to those building socialism in their countries to the others to fight more effectively for social and economic claims; it is also necessary for the development of commercial, scientific and cultural exchanges which will contribute to the progress of the peoples throughout the world.

"The W.F.T.U. wishes your Conference every success for it is a fine example of the co-operation of workers and trade unions of all affiliations to strengthen their common fight against the aggressive policy of the imperialists and especially against the rebirth of militarism in Federal Germany which constitutes a direct threat to the peoples of the Baltic and a grave danger to world peace.

"The World Federation of Trade Unions reaffirms its support for your struggle which is contributing to the success of the fight that the workers and the peoples are waging together to rid themselves of the scourge of world atomic war by forcing the imperialists to have serious negotiations for peace and for universal and complete disarmament in peaceful competition and co-existence.

"It assures you of its active solidarity and the warm fraternity of the 101 million organized workers throughout the world whom it represents.

"Long live solidarity and friendship between the workers of the whole world !

"Long live peace!"

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

No.160

July 5, 1960.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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July 6, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.164

Ernst SCHMIDT, President of the Shop Stewards' Committee of the big Austro-Fiat works which Premier Khrushchov visited during his stay in Austria was interviewed today by a W.F.T.U. radio correspondent.

"Premier Khrushchov actually said that his interview with workers in the past and probably also in the future can be summed up as follows: when he asked a worker whether he wanted war, the worker would never reply that he did want war. Workers want peace. I think that in this sense the workers in the Austro-Fiat factory agreed with him for that is the natural feeling of workers.

"A worker who has a sense of values and who is interested in his work and in his wages in order to live with his family will never destroy the values he has created and will never want to exterminate the family of one of his brothers. I think that in this sense the workers understood Premier Khrushchov when he spoke of co-existence, of the need to co-exist and to maintain peace."

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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312-A  
July 8, 1960. ✓

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### TELEGRAM OF SOLIDARITY FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE C.G.I.L.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram:

On behalf of its 101 million members the World Federation of Trade Unions greets the powerful and victorious struggle of the Italian workers and people, led by their great Trade Union Centre in the defence of democracy and for the satisfaction of economic and social claims. Expressing the emotion felt by all workers throughout the world for the victims of police repression, the W.F.T.U. pays homage to those Italian workers who have fallen fighting for these noble aims and begs you to express its deepest sympathy to their families and to the whole working class of Italy. It assures the C.G.I.L. and the Italian workers and people of the fraternal and active solidarity of workers all over the world. Your exemplary and fighting action is a contribution to the struggle of the international working class for the defence of democracy, of freedoms and trade union rights and for the safeguarding of peace.

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

No.162

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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July 12, 1960.

15 JUL 1960

## PRESS RELEASE No.166

Stan COLE, A.E.U. (ICFTU) Convenor and joint Shop Steward-Secretary at Manchester Dry Docks, spoke with the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent in a personal capacity today:

"I believe our job, as militant trade unionists, must be to see the relationship between disarmament and trade unionism. If we disarm - we can modernise our internal industry, assist the formerly colonial peoples in building theirs which will begin to find us customers for our engineering goods etc., we'll see that there's a great and close relationship between war and peace and the employment of workers on the shop floor. One of the problems that is felt, of course, is American bases.

"We can do away with the nuclear weapons and remove the American bases from this country because, having in mind, reading one or two points about the accidental firing of nuclear weapons, it seems to me that a few geese flying past or even a switchboard operator can set off these nuclear rockets, and these are some of the concerns, and I believe some of the feelings of the working lads that I come across inside our particular dockyard."

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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July 13, 1960.

## PRESS RELEASE No.167

The issues of disarmament and peace are in the centre of discussions throughout the British trade union and labour movement, leading up to vital policy decisions which will be taken by the autumn conferences of the T.U.C. and Labour Party. Wally ROBERTS, member of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Vehicle Builders (I.C.F.T.U.) and twice its General President, commented on this situation today in a discussion with the N.F.T.U. radio correspondent:

"My Union, the National Union of Vehicle Builders, 75,000 strong, and which celebrated its 125th anniversary last year, has a proud record of struggle in the fight for peace, in Britain.

"We have always been against the production of the atom and hydrogen bomb. We have repeatedly demanded the universal outlawing of the hydrogen bomb, the destruction of existing stocks; an end to the carrying of hydrogen bombs in British skies by planes of the United States Air Force and have repeatedly demanded the end of American bases in Great Britain. And I'm very proud to say that we cast our votes at the 1954 Trades Union Congress against the re-arming of West Germany when, to its ever-lasting shame, the British Trades Union Congress accepted that infamous policy.

"And time and time again we've called for a Summit Conference aimed at easing international tension, ending the cold war and solving outstanding international problems and last year my Union moved a resolution at the Trades Union Congress which demanded no nuclear arms for West Germany and which was carried by a majority of over 3½ million votes and since then we've condemned the policy of granting bases to West Germany, in Spain and on British soil. And we will play our part in the battle now raging inside the British trade union and labour movement for a sane nuclear policy.

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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212-A

July 19, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### SOLIDARITY WITH THE MINERS OF ALJUSTREL (PORTUGAL)

The miners at Aljustrel (Portugal) have recently organised a strike to force the employers to meet their demands, namely higher wages and the reinstatement of dismissed miners. A group of miners refused to come up and decided to carry on the strike at the bottom of the mine. When all the miners and the population of the village showed complete unanimity and a strong fighting spirit, the mayor had to call the security police. The strikers at the coalface were deprived of water and food. Crowds of miners and dismissed workers together with their wives and children who were occupying the premises of the official union, were turned out under the threat of being fired upon.

One hundred and fifty strikers were imprisoned and their families as well as the families of the dismissed miners were reduced to terrible hardships.

The W.F.T.U. has received a letter from a group of miners appealing for solidarity. The following letter has been sent in reply to the appeal:-

Dear Brothers,

The W.F.T.U. is fully aware of the difficult conditions under which the workers and people of Portugal are fighting against the Salazar dictatorship, for a new regime of democracy and freedom, for trade union rights and more human living and working conditions.

The World Federation of Trade Unions has always followed with close attention and sympathy the courageous battles you are waging, in defiance of repression, for the satisfaction of your demands, for your liberties and for the release of all imprisoned workers and democrats. We convey to you the feelings of

brotherly solidarity from the workers of the world who are by your side in your relentless struggle.

The W.F.T.U. assures the miners at Aljustrel and the entire Portugese working class of its moral and material support in their struggle for the achievement of their legitimate demands.

It is confident that with the support of the active solidarity of the working class in all countries, your struggle will end in the triumph of your justified aspirations to happiness, democracy, freedom and peace.

With fraternal greetings,

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

Published by the Press Department  
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No. 164.

27 JUL 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

July 21, 1960.

212-H  
PRESS RELEASE No. 168

Domenico BANCHIERI, General Secretary of the TUI of Workers in Commerce (Trade Department of the W.F.T.U.) told the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent today:

The 2nd session of the Administrative Committee of the Trade Unions International of Workers in Commerce met in Bucharest from July 11 to 13, 1960.

After discussing the work done by the TUI since its formation, the Committee gave its full attention to the present and future tasks of the Trade Unions International on the basis of the decisions of the 21st session of the W.F.T.U. General Council. These tasks will have to be fulfilled at a particularly difficult time, especially since preparations for the 5th World Trade Union Congress will be well under way.

The resolutions adopted by the Administrative Committee of the TUI confirm the decisions taken by our Foundation Conference in June, 1959, and reaffirmed the policy of the TUI which consists in bringing about a close relationship between the struggles for the achievement of economic and social demands advanced by workers in commerce and the campaign for a relaxation of international tension, disarmament and peace, for national independence and the respect of democratic rights.

The work of the Administrative Committee confirmed the far-reaching importance to our TUI of the growth of economic and social struggles, tightly linked to more general demands.

The Committee agreed that disarmament can be imposed on the imperialists by struggle. The campaign for disarmament means to make sure that the huge sums which are today being squandered on the arms race are spent on the economic, social and cultural progress of all the peoples.

In its decisions, the Committee stressed that one of the most important tasks was the development of contacts between unions of workers in commerce of all shades of opinions in all countries as well as direct contacts between trade union branches in big stores in various capitalist, colonial and backward countries and between the trade unions of those countries and those in the socialist countries. Moreover, it is essential to give attention to the problems of the European Common Market and the steps taken by the trade unions to promote the struggle against its dangerous effects on the workers, to the encouragement of the campaign for universal and complete disarmament and the strengthening of co-operation between all affiliated and friendly organizations in order to improve the publications of the Trade Unions International.

The first two resolutions adopted by the Committee outline the present tasks of the TUI in all spheres of activity.

The Committee has thrown light on the close relationship which exists between economic and social demands, the problem of unity among the workers and the need for a continuous mobilisation

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of the workers and trade unions to bring about disarmament. In order to achieve these aims, the Committee considered it essential to give fresh impetus to united action among the workers for the satisfaction of their aspirations, to strengthen international co-operation among the trade unions and to increase efforts to establish contacts with other industrial unions and promote solidarity in various campaigns and in the struggle.

On the basis of the list of the most pressing demands endorsed by the First International Trade Conference of our TUI, the Administrative Committee considered that at the moment the most urgent demands which are likely to rouse the great majority of workers in our trades are as follows:

- 1) an increase in wages and all forms of remuneration;
- 2) equal wages for women and young workers;
- 3) shorter hours of work without loss of pay;
- 4) a struggle to win collective agreements where these do not exist and their improvement where they have been achieved;
- 5) lowering of the age of retirement and an increase in old-age pensions;
- 6) an examination of all the harmful effects on the workers of the introduction of new sales methods; the right of the trade unions to negotiate all new aspects which arise in traditional labour relations;
- 7) the protection and respect of trade union and democratic rights.

Dealing with the development of technical progress and the increasing number of big stores, the Committee made it clear that the workers in our trades were not opposed to this tendency. However, the Committee specified that in the capitalist, colonial and economically under-developed countries, the workers in commerce were fighting against the conditions under which this modernisation is being applied since it only serves the capitalists and commerce and shows complete disregard for living and working conditions.

In this connection, the demands for shorter hours of work and for more adequate paid holidays are closely related to the demand for higher wages.

In the discussion and in the conclusions it reached, the Administrative Committee clearly pointed out that under present conditions and in view of the workers' united struggle to improve their living and working conditions, the preservation and consolidation of peace are among the fundamental objectives of the trade unions and workers in our trades.

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

July 25, 1960.

## PRESS RELEASE No.169

Victorin DUGUET, General Secretary of the Miners' T.U.I. (Trade Department of the W.F.U.) has just returned from Japan. He spoke today to the W.F.U. radio correspondent of his visits to Takamatsu and Tokyo. Duguet then went into the most important aspects of the big strike at Miike.

"Let me say first of all that the strike has been going on since January. The strike was declared because the management of the mine announced the dismissal of 6,000 miners out of the 15,000 employed by the company. Before the strike began there were discussions between the trade union and the company. Under pressure from the miners, the company reduced its figures. Instead of 6,000 dismissals they would have been "content" with little more than 4,000, at least for the first two years.

But the miners and their trade union did not agree.

When I arrived at Ohnuta station on June 15, I was welcomed by about 2,000 strikers forming the strike picket at the station, for on that day the miners, the railwaymen from the goods departments and from other corporations had declared a 24-hour strike in support of the Miike miners and against Eisenhower's visit and the ratification of the American-Japanese treaty.

It was, moreover, this strike which was decisive and which forced Eisenhower to cancel his trip to Japan.

And this is what I saw at the pithead. The strikers had barricaded the main entrance with every kind of material. Some yards from the door, which was barricaded in this way there was a sort of wire entanglement about 2 yards high and between the door and the wire entanglement there was a tent canvas sheltering the strike picket composed of about 30 men who stay there permanently day and night and are relieved every 8 hours. To reach one of the pits which is situated on a sort of semi-island one has to go by boat and it is by this means that the company is trying to get through the men of the second trade union who are not on strike. But the strikers are on guard. They have rented two boats which keep guard on both sides of the semi-island and when a boat belonging to the non-strikers comes along the coast then the strikers' boat tries to bar its way and that is how on the day when I passed by, the afternoon of June 15, a boat of non-strikers had to turn back and give up landing. This is also the place where serious incidents have occurred a few days ago.

At the central headquarters of the trade union I saw about 150 active trade unionists busy with their many jobs (provisions, propaganda, solidarity, health service, finances, youth, women, etc.) There I spoke for a long time with the leaders of the organisation of the miners' wives.

The solidarity of the Japanese people and workers is very strong. SOHYO, that is to say the big trade union centre of Japan is actively supporting the strikers. Collections have been made throughout the country and are still continuing. The miners are each paying 600 yen per month. Our friends told me that food was not the most difficult problem. The strikers and their families are content with adequate rice rations.

International solidarity is also playing its part and the miners are well aware of it. The W.F.T.U. and our Miners' T.U.I. have sent 9,500 dollars; the miners of Federal Germany have sent more than 2 million yen, the Yugoslav miners more than 1 million yen and other contributions are awaited and hoped for. In the last few days, our T.U.I. has sent 10,000 dollars which was a gift from the Miners' Union of the Soviet Union.

This strike may go on for some time.

The strikers are determined, they have amazing moral strength and they are inspired by a spirit of sacrifice which does honour to the miners' organisations in every country. The miners are convinced that their cause is just and that their noble efforts must result in victory.

The company has already given in slightly, the policy of the Kishi government is badly shaken. Eisenhower was not able to come to Japan. Kishi has been forced to resign.

The Japanese people and workers are not prepared to accept a change of government which would not involve a change of policy. They want to change the policy of their country, they want a policy of social progress and peace. We have read in the press that the employers and the government have ordered the strike pickets to withdraw. Thousands of police have been brought upon the scene. But the strikers and the population of the area and of the whole country are determined to have their way. As soon as this decision was announced a demonstration, 100,000 strong, took place in Ohmuta, and other demonstrations are expected throughout the country to thwart the plans of the employers and the government.

Wishing every success to those demonstrations which mark perhaps a decisive stage in this struggle that has been going on since last January, I am sure that the miners of the whole world understand that the struggle of the Japanese miners is also their struggle, that the victory of the Japanese miners will also be theirs because basically the demands of the Japanese miners are as similar to those of our miners as two drops of water."



3 - AUG 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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July 29 1960.

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE No.166

Brother SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U.  
- on convalescence

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. informs the workers and the trade union organisations that the health of Brother Saillant has improved.

The General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. has just left Moscow where he has been undergoing treatment up till now.

Louis Saillant remained in Prague for a few days and continued his journey to France where he will continue his convalescence.

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*Also about S.A.D*

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

August 3, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

the W.F.T.U. Secretariat sent a letter to Mr. Dag HAMMARSKJÖELD, Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation, on the problem of disarmament.

Sir,

The workers of the whole world greeted with satisfaction the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on universal and complete disarmament, which was unanimously adopted on November 20, 1959, at the 14th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The resolution stated among other things "that measures leading towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control will be worked out in detail and agreed upon in the shortest possible time."

This corresponds to the just demands of the workers who know from their own experience that it is especially they who bear the heavy burden of the armaments budget, who shed blood and experience the suffering of war.

The workers and the people are struggling resolutely and firmly for the maintenance of peace, for the peaceful solution of unsettled problems and for peaceful co-existence and friendship among the peoples with respect for their sovereignty, freedom and dignity. They know that only the big capitalist monopolies - supported by the militarists at their service - want armament and create war hysteria and threat of war because in rearmament and war they find the source of immense scandalous profits.

Many months have passed since the date when the resolution in question was adopted, and the world notes that no agreement has been reached for its practical application. The World Federation of Trade Unions and the workers who have been attentively following the work of the Ten Power Commission in Geneva have a very clear idea of the responsibilities of the western powers in this respect.

This responsibility falls in particular to the United States government. Its war policy represents a permanent danger to world peace. Indeed it is difficult to believe in its peaceful purpose when it is reinforcing its military bases, when it shows its intention to resume atomic tests, when it believes to have the right to violate the sovereignty of other countries with its military planes, when it does not hesitate to take serious steps against smaller states which are merely laying claim of their own wealth.

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The speeding up of the arms race, worsened by the remilitarisation of Federal Germany and Japan justifiably arouses the anxiety of the workers. The Japanese workers are struggling firmly to repel the nuclear armament of their country, the presence of United States military bases and the Treaty signed with the latter against the will of the majority of the Japanese people.

Today the workers have a right to expect bold moves by the U.N.O. in favour of disarmament.

The workers are fighting resolutely for disarmament because they know that the liquidation of armies and of military expenditures as well as the transformation of a war economy to an economy of peace would promote economic development and the improvement of their living and working conditions.

It is sufficient to point out that the sums spent on military purposes by the great powers during the last 10 years would have been enough to build 100 million modern homes. At the present time about 100 thousand million dollars are spent each year, throughout the world, on armaments and for military purposes.

The sums freed by disarmament could and should be used to raise the well-being of the workers and the people, to guarantee employment, increase wages, pensions, family allowances and unemployment benefits, to facilitate the reduction of the hours of work, improve social security systems, general and trade education. They should be spent on investments for social purposes such as the construction of schools, homes, hospitals, cultural and rest centres for the workers.

The sums freed by disarmament can and should bring considerable aid to under-developed countries capable of giving an important impetus to their economy and in particular to their industrialisation, if this help is granted without political conditions, fully respecting the independence and sovereignty of these countries.

The workers, are therefore, vitally interested in the speedy solution of the problem of disarmament. They are going to follow very attentively the proceedings of the 15th General Assembly which, on the proposal of the Soviet Union, is going to re-examine this question in view of the unsuccess encountered up to the present.

It seems to us that it would be opportune for the U.N.O. Secretariat to take steps to convene a World Disarmament Conference open to all States without exception.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, in accordance with the decisions taken at the last session of its General Council, asks you, Sir, to insist on a more sincere and effective co-operation from the western governments who are opposed to disarmament, and to take immediate and concrete steps so that the principles contained in the resolution on general and complete disarmament should be put into practice.

Yours respectfully,

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



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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August 4, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.170

## SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS OF HONDURAS

Just recently the Government of Honduras has launched a new wave of repressive measures.

All leaders of the Shoeworkers' Union of San Pedro de Sula as well as several other democratic and working class leaders in the country have been arrested with no valid reason.

They have suffered tortures of a medieval type, they have had to remain standing in very narrow cells for many days without being able to sleep so that their lives have been endangered.

As well as this there are the continual persecutions against the peasants of the North Coast who have been violently expelled from their land by the Civil Guard and the army on the orders of the American monopoly, United Fruit, and in other regions by the big landowners.

The workers and trade unions in Honduras have campaigned to demand respect from the government for trade union and democratic rights, the liberation of the working class and of democratic leaders who have been imprisoned simply because they have fought for better living conditions for the people, for national sovereignty and against imperialist domination.

The W.F.T.U. Secretariat has sent a telegram to the President of the Republic of Honduras, Ramon Villeda Morales, asking: "In the name of the 101 million workers affiliated to the W.F.T.U. a guarantee for the lives of those in prison and for their immediate freedom, respect for trade union and democratic rights and freedoms and an immediate end to arbitrary repressive measures."

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

August 5, 1960.

## PRESS RELEASE No.171

Secretary of the National Miners' Union of France (C.G.T.) VALZAK, spoke in an interview about the Conference of the Miners of the ECSC countries which was held on July 23 and 24 in Lens

In this Conference there were miners of the Federal German Republic, members of the I.G.METALL D.G.B., Belgian miners of the F.G.T.B. and many Italian miners from the C.G.I.L. with miners from the C.G.T. in different parts of France.

Victorin DUGUET, General Secretary of the Miners' Trade Unions International, affiliated to the W.F.T.U., presented the opening report. He exposed the broad lines of the situation of the miners in the ECSC countries as a result of the coal crisis. He denounced the real causes and those responsible for this situation, and he emphasized the possibilities the miners have to unite, to work to bring about the failure the bad plans of the ECSC and to win better living and working conditions. Finally he emphasized the urgent need of the struggle for peace and disarmament.

Then there was a useful discussion during which Brother DELFOSSE, General Secretary of the Miners' Union (CGT) made an important speech on the French miners' situation, the struggles carried out, the types of struggle and the solutions that we suggest for putting an end to the crisis. His speech was greatly appreciated by the delegates particularly by the foreign delegates.

A resolution was then adopted unanimously and Brother MANERA, General Secretary of the Italian Miners' Union (CGIL) Vice-President of the Miners' T.U.I. summed up the results of the two days proceedings.

- The Conference Bureau made up of a representative from each country was transformed into a permanent committee to organise joint action by the miners from the ECSC countries for the unity of all miners and for their claims.
- The edition of a quarterly bulletin by this Committee in French and in German by the National Miners' Union (CGT) with the help of the Miners' T.U.I.
- A request will be made by the Conference that the miners of the C.G.T. and the C.G.I.L. should attend the ECSC Conference on the coal crisis which will be held in Luxembourg on September 26 with representatives of the English miners.

- A document will be drawn up on the coal crisis and the possibilities of ending it and it will be sent to the ECSC Conference.
- A day of action will be organised in the industry on September 26 in the form of addresses, resolutions and telegrams from the ECSC Conference to express the dissatisfaction of the miners and their desire to oppose the liquidation of the coal industry which will deprive them of their means of existence.

Letters and telegrams will be sent from the industry to the Congress of the Miners' International Federation which will be held in Stockholm in the month of August calling for the unity of all miners and of all the miners' trade union centres for certain success in the struggles for claims and for peace."



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

August 16, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### THE W.F.T.U. GREETES THE DECLARATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF CYPRUS

On the occasion of the Declaration of the Independence of Cyprus the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. sent the following telegram to the Pan-Cyprian Federation of Labour:

"In the name of the W.F.T.U. we wish to greet warmly the Pan-Cyprian Federation of Labour, all workers and the people of Cyprus on this occasion of the declaration of the Independence of the island. This achievement in the liberation struggle, which has taken so many years, is the result of firmness and unity in struggle and the courage of all those who have suffered and died for the freeing of their country.

"There still however remains the threat of the British occupied military bases on the island and the danger that they represent to the real independence of Cyprus and to the peace of the world. The demilitarisation of the island is an essential condition for the security of its people and their future progress. We feel sure that the unity of all trade unionists and the inhabitants of the island will insure that in the not too distant future this problem will also be solved to the satisfaction of Cypriot workers and patriots, insure the independence of its people, full employment and prosperity."

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

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No. 172

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

August 17, 1960.

## PRESS RELEASE No.172

Radio Budapest today interviewed Elena TEODORESCU, Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions:-

QUESTION: This year the World Federation of Trade Unions is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Could you, as a member of the W.F.T.U. Secretariat, give us a brief idea of its creation and its activities during these years?

ANSWER: "- If we are to speak of the role and the activities of the W.F.T.U. during the past 15 years, we must give some idea of the development of the trade union movement after the Second World War and some idea of the history of the workers' great struggles for social progress, for freedom, for the independence of the peoples, and for the safeguarding of peace in the world.

"- These questions could be the subject of numerous lectures but they are difficult to deal with in a short account.

"- I will therefore limit my account to some aspects and reply in some parts to your question.

"- To have a better appreciation of the important role that the W.F.T.U. has played in the international workers' movement during these last 15 years I must remind you that the history of its creation has deep foundations in the past history of the workers' struggles throughout the world. It is the story of a new phase, a decisive phase in the awareness of the working class in the political and trade union field.

"- The W.F.T.U. was properly formed in October 1945, at the end of the Second World War.

"- Because the W.F.T.U. was born in this decisive period of world history we must take into account the political conditions in which the W.F.T.U. was formed and which determined its policy and its programme of struggle.

"- The formation of the W.F.T.U. therefore belongs in the framework of the people's struggle against fascism and has its foundations in a whole united international policy which was first followed by those for unity so that the strong idea of organic trade union unity on a world scale should be fulfilled.

"- The First World Trade Union Congress in Paris in 1945 adopted the Constitutional Charter of the W.F.T.U. and the Statutes which have since influenced all its activities.

"- The main aims of the W.F.T.U. can be summed up as follows:-

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- to struggle against all forms of fascism and to wipe out its foundations;
- . to struggle for peace and against the causes of war;
- . to struggle for the improvement of the workers' living and working conditions;
- . to struggle to destroy the colonial system as quickly as possible;
- . to struggle for the economic development of the less-developed countries;
- . to represent the international working class and to protect its interests in the international organisations;
- . to work tirelessly for working class unity, an essential condition in the success of its struggles.

"- So it is on two fronts of struggle closely linked that the W.F.T.U. has developed and is continuing to develop its activities:-

- . the struggle for peace and the independence of the peoples;
- . the class struggle for the workers' economic and social claims.

"- During its 15 years the W.F.T.U., faithful to the aims of its Constitutional Congress, has done a great deal of work despite all the obstacles which were put in its way and despite the division in its ranks provoked by reformist trade union leaders.

"- It has developed a great deal of organisational work and has provided effective help to the trade unions and workers of different countries in their campaign for political and economic claims. It has always spoken up against the consequences and the rebirth of fascism. Everywhere it has strongly supported the heroic struggle of the workers and peoples for their independence against regimes of terror and oppression and against colonialism.

"- The W.F.T.U. is continuing its fight in accordance with its programme and its statutes which remain for the most part those which were unanimously adopted at the 1945 Congress.

"- It therefore still remains the international trade union organisation in which workers of all political opinion, of all philosophic outlooks and religious beliefs can unite in order to defend their class interests and out of respect for the principles of the individual and the principle of trade union democracy.

"- At the present time the W.F.T.U. has more than one hundred million members out of a total 170 million organised workers throughout the world.



"- With branches throughout the five continents it includes the trade unions of countries with different political and social regimes who co-operate fraternally.

"- There is therefore nothing surprising in the fact that the W.F.T.U. is recognised by workers throughout the world as an important factor in the forefront of the international trade union movement.

"- The nature of our organisation gives it heavy responsibilities. It must face up to these responsibilities by carrying out the programme and the decisions taken by its leading organisms.

"- Its activities which are very varied are always inspired by the interests of the working class, its hopes for a better life, for trade union freedoms and for the safeguarding of peace in the world."

QUESTION: What are the aims and the tasks that the World Federation of Trade Unions has fixed for now and for the future?

ANSWER: "- The present tasks of the W.F.T.U. have been determined by its last General Council which took place in Peking in June, and they are reflected in its resolutions and its decisions.

"- Based on the assumption that the considerable growth and the unprecedented successes of the forces of socialism and peace in the world, as well as the upsurge and the success of the anti-colonial struggle can bring about the failure of the war-like policies of the imperialists, the General Council considers that the safeguarding and strengthening of peace remain among the fundamental aims of the struggle of the international trade union movement.

"- It appealed to the workers of the world to work constantly in a joint campaign for peaceful co-existence and disarmament, for the freedom and national independence of the peoples and against the rebirth of German and Japanese militarism. It appeals to them to strengthen their vigilance in the face of the aggressive policy of the imperialist leaders of America and the other western powers.

"- In the economic and social field, the General Council drew up a programme of struggle for the reduction of hours of work, for increased wages, for the defence of social security and trade union rights and for the limitation of the power of the monopolies.

"- More concretely, in order to help the indispensable joint international front of workers and trade unions, the W.F.T.U. will soon organise an international trade union commission for the defence and protection of the victims of trade union

repression. It will also organise a broad international trade union commission for social security.

"- The W.F.T.U. has also undertaken to summon in the first quarter of 1961, a European trade union conference on the 40-hour week.

"- In the struggle against colonialism the General Council adopted a concrete programme of measures aimed at strengthening international solidarity and bringing constantly more effective support to the workers and their trade unions in their struggles for national liberation.

"- These are some of the tasks that the W.F.T.U. will tackle now."

QUESTION: Would you, finally, address a special word to the Hungarian trade unions?

ANSWER: "- Since the W.F.T.U. is a mass organisation, it bases its activities and has its strength in the national centres which are affiliated to it or which co-operate with it.

"- When one traces its activities on the occasion of its 15th anniversary one is inevitably drawn to the emphasize the great contribution that the workers and trade unions of the whole world and particularly those of the socialist countries have made to the strengthening of the W.F.T.U. and to the inestimable support that they have given to the workers who are still living under imperialist and colonialist oppression.

"- The Hungarian working class, the workers, peasants and intellectuals of Hungary, have shown ample proof of their devotion to the W.F.T.U. and of their international class solidarity.

"- The great successes of the Hungarian workers in the building of socialism are not only a testimony of the happy future for the Hungarian people, but they are a precious contribution to the struggle of workers of all countries for social progress, freedom, national independence and for the safeguarding of peace in the world.

"- In the great family of the W.F.T.U. I am sure that the Hungarian workers will always be in the forefront of those who struggle for international working class unity, to unite the workers in a single powerful front for peace, and for the strengthening and growth of our great World Federation of Trade Unions."

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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August 19, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Telegram from the World Federation of Trade Unions to the Foreign Ministers' Conference of the Organisation of American States.

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The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to the Chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Conference of the Organisation of American States and to the representative of Cuba :-

"Speaking for 101 affiliated workers, the World Federation of Trade Unions strongly protests against the intention of the United States to use the Foreign Ministers' Conference of American States for the adoption of political, economic and military measures against Cuba.

"We support the just cause of the Cuban people and vigorously condemn the repeated aggression to which they are exposed by American imperialist circles.

"The workers of the world are firmly by the side of the workers and people of Cuba and will not tolerate any unilateral or collective attack against the freedom and sovereignty of Cuba."

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Published by the Press Dept.

No. 174



25 AUG 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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August 22, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### W.F.T.U. GREETES SOVIET SCIENTISTS

Following the success achieved by Soviet scientists, the W.F.T.U. Secretariat has sent the following telegram to the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions.

" Certain of conveying the feelings of all the workers of the world when hearing of the latest magnificent success achieved by the scientists, workers and people of the Soviet Union in launching living creatures into space and returning them to earth, the World Federation of Trade Unions takes pleasure in writing to the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions and congratulating the workers of the USSR most sincerely and enthusiastically. This great achievement again proves the determination of the Soviet Union to work for the progress and happiness of all mankind by using outer space not for provocations and war, but for peaceful purposes. It is of great historical significance and is an invaluable contribution to peaceful co-existence and world peace. "

Published by the W.F.T.U.  
Press Department - No.175.

SEP 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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August 31, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### MESSAGE FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE WORKERS AND C.G.T. OF VIETNAM

The W.F.T.U. Secretariat sent the following message to the workers and the C.G.T. of Vietnam:

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the creation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the World Federation of Trade Unions, in the name of its 101 million members, sends its warmest congratulations to the workers and all the heroic working people of Vietnam. It expresses deepest respect for their determined struggle against imperialism and for their enthusiasm in working so full of self-denial to build socialism.

The foundation, 15 years ago, of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was a great victory against colonial repression which resulted from the heroic struggles of the people of Vietnam under the leadership of President HO CHI MINH and the Lao Dong Party.

The treacherous aggression of the French colonialists against the young Republic found the people of Vietnam ready to make new and heroic sacrifices. Strongly united in the war of resistance, they forced the French colonialists to sign the Geneva agreements in 1954, recognising the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Vietnam.

This new victory of the people of Vietnam has inspired all the colonial and semi-colonial peoples with confidence and perseverance in their fight and has helped them to understand that only strength and unity in the struggle can win independence for their country, freedom and peace.

In accordance with the Geneva agreements Vietnam should have been peacefully united a long time ago by means of a general election. But American imperialism, which supports the puppet clique of NGO DINH DIEM, has sabotaged these agreements. They are turning South Vietnam into a military base and a United States' colony with the result that the division of the territory of Vietnam continues and there is an unstable peace in Indo-China.

The W.F.T.U., which always gives its sympathy and support to the hopes of the people of Vietnam for the reunification of their country, demands the faithful

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application of the Geneva agreements and the evacuation of American bases from South Vietnam. The W.F.T.U. notes with pleasure the important successes won in recent years in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in building socialism. It hails the fulfilment of the three year plan and the introduction in 1961 of the five year plan on an even bigger scale. It welcomes the decisive successes won in the socialist transformation of private industrial and business firms and in the organisation of agricultural and craftsmen's co-operatives.

Along with the growth of production, the material and cultural living conditions of the workers and the population of Vietnam have undergone a great improvement. The C.G.T. of Vietnam has made a remarkable contribution to the accomplishment of these difficult tasks.

These outstanding successes in North Vietnam are a source of encouragement to the population of South Vietnam who are fighting at the present time to get rid of American imperialism and the treacherous clique of NGO DINH DIEM.

The W.F.T.U. always supports the heroic struggle of the people of Vietnam against imperialism and colonialism. They condemn the policy of the arms race and the preparations for war being made by the American imperialists and by NGO DINH DIEM. They also condemn the acts of repression and the barbarous massacres of the population of South Vietnam where trade union rights and democratic freedoms are in no way guaranteed and where the working people live in poverty.

The people of Vietnam see more and more clearly that American imperialism is not only the enemy of peaceful reunification of Vietnam but also the cause of the poverty of the large mass of the people and of the unstable situation in Indo-China. They also see that as long as the American forces of aggression are in South Vietnam, peace and security in Vietnam and Indo-China will not be guaranteed, and the urgent hopes of the people of Vietnam for peaceful reunification will not be fulfilled.

The W.F.T.U. is deeply convinced that with the powerful support of the socialist camp and of all peace-loving peoples, the rightful and growing struggle of the people of Vietnam against American imperialism and its lackeys will certainly result in a final victory and will bring new successes that are even more important to the building of socialism.

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

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

No. 176



11 5 SEP 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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September 10, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### STATEMENT BY THE W.F.T.U. AGAINST THE MILITARIST PLOTS IN WEST GERMANY

On the occasion of the XIIth All-German Conference, the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. issues the following Statement:

At a time when hundreds of trade unionists are meeting at the XIIth All-German Workers' Conference in Leipzig, the World Federation of Trade Unions sends fraternal greetings to all German workers and makes an urgent appeal to them for active unity against the new and serious threats of militarism in Federal Germany.

Hitler's former generals in the leadership of the Supreme Command of the Federal German army, have just openly revealed their aggressive and revenge-seeking aims in a memorandum endorsed by the Bonn Government. Certain of help from the American imperialists who have supported their rebirth, they are defying existing agreements and are demanding the complete militarisation of the country and the equipment of the Bundeswehr with atomic weapons.

While demonstrations by former Nazis are taking place officially, in the presence of the military authorities, Adenauer's Ministers are cynically proclaiming their plans to recover the territories of other countries especially in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

The W.F.T.U., confident that it is expressing the justified indignation that this warlike policy arouses among all workers and peoples, denounces the gravity of these demonstrations and the widespread preparations for a war of aggression which would have incalculable consequences for the peoples and for world peace.

While capitalist profits are soaring continuously, the workers and people of West Germany are already suffering the crushing effects of the criminal policies of the big monopolies: reduction of purchasing power and attacks on the social security system, wage freeze while rents are going up, worsening of working conditions by the introduction of methods of rationalisation and more and more frequent attacks on fundamental trade union rights and democratic liberties.

More and more workers of Federal Germany are standing up against the effects of monopolist and militarist domination despite the obstacles they encounter.

.../

The W.F.T.U. greets and gives its full support to these brave actions and hopes that they will develop into a powerful and united struggle of all the workers and their trade unions. These struggles draw their strength from the solidarity that they arouse from workers in all countries who are engaged in the same fight against the rebirth of militarism and fascism, for disarmament, peaceful co-existence, freedom and happiness.

In this struggle, the workers of Federal Germany can count on an ever-growing support from their brothers in the German Democratic Republic who, under the leadership of the workers' and peasant Government and their trade union centre, the F.D.G.B., are successfully building a society freed forever from the grip of the monopolists and from the roots of nazism and militarism.

The W.F.T.U., along with them, and with the European workers and the trade unions who solemnly swore their solidarity in May 1959 at Goerlitz-Zgorzelec on the Oder-Neisse frontier, with millions of workers of all trade union affiliations throughout the world, undertakes once more to do all in its power so that the lawful hopes of the German workers and people will triumph over the imperialist forces of reaction and war. It reaffirms its determination to campaign for :-

The signing of a Peace Treaty with the two German States; to make West Berlin into a free and demilitarised city and so open the way to a united, peaceful and democratic Germany.

In view of the insolent rebirth of revenge-seeking militarism in Federal Germany, the W.F.T.U. is appealing to all the workers to unite and to campaign with all the other forces of peace in order to bar the way to the serious threat which menaces world peace.

Speaking to all the workers and the trade unions of the two German States, by means of the XIIth All-German Workers' Conference, the W.F.T.U. appeals to them to strengthen unity in their fight so that they can confront the policy of war and poverty of the militarists and monopolists of Federal Germany, with their joint efforts and their common desire for peace, freedom and social progress, and be victorious.

Issued by the Press Department  
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No. 179.

19 SEP 1960

September 15, 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

212-A  
PRESS COMMUNIQUE

MESSAGE TO THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF  
TRADE UNIONS

Men and women workers of all countries,

Fifteen years ago, in October 1945, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the powerful international class trade union centre was formed in Paris, uniting for the first time all the trade unions and workers of the capitalist, socialist and colonial countries under the flag of international workers' solidarity.

The formation of the W.F.T.U. greeted enthusiastically by the working class of the world, was the climax of years of struggle and sacrifice to crush fascism and German and Japanese militarism and to bring democracy, social progress and peace.

The 1st Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions, held in Paris, its unanimous decisions and the aims it fixed for itself in its Constitution were a clear witness of the desire of the workers and trade unions of all countries to achieve complete unity,

- to set up stable and lasting peace,
- to exterminate the roots of every form of fascism for ever,
- to eradicate the colonial system and guarantee the national independence of the peoples,
- to win the legitimate economic and social demands of the working people and to enforce respect for their trade union rights and democratic freedoms,
- to strengthen their international solidarity.

Men and women workers,

Writing to you after 15 years of tireless struggle to fulfil these tasks and to safeguard and recreate trade union unity, the W.F.T.U., with its 101 million members in all countries and continents, is aware that it has been faithful to the principles of unity and to its Constitution.

The continual strengthening of its ranks, the growth of its activities and influence despite the attacks of the monopolies and the regrettable split



brought about in 1949, confirm that it continues to respond to the deep hopes of the working class.

On its fifteenth anniversary the W.F.T.U. greets with joy and pride the inestimable contribution to the cause of peace made by the great economic, social and scientific achievements of the workers in the Soviet Union, China and the Socialist countries, who go from victory to victory in creating a prosperous, free and happy socialist society.

It greets the workers and peoples of Algeria, Japan, Cuba and the other countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America whose admirable struggle and remarkable successes during the past 15 years ring the death knell of the colonial system and undermine the position of imperialism.

It pays tribute to the powerful, united struggles which have been growing in all the capitalist countries during the last 15 years and are directed against exploitation by the monopolies, for the defence and improvement of living and working conditions, for trade union rights and democratic freedoms. It hails the persistent battle of the workers and peoples for the relaxation of international tension, national independence, disarmament, and peace.

However, it must also be stated that barely 15 years after the defeat of Hitlerism, the Western powers, and especially American imperialism, in violation of all the agreements signed at Potsdam, are refusing to sign a peace treaty with Germany and have given criminal help to the recruitment of Federal Germany and the revival of the worst revenge seekers and militarist forces, who threaten peace in Europe and throughout the world.

It must also be pointed out that barely 15 years after the end of the second world war and the criminal bombardment of Hiroshima, the policy of provocation and atomic armament by the American imperialists, their deliberate support for Japanese militarism, their aggressive acts against the Peoples' Republic of China and their attacks against the Cuban people are a dangerous threat to peace, an obstacle to the desire for the relaxation of international tension to disarmament and peaceful coexistence of the workers and peoples.

It is important to note that the colonial powers with the support of American imperialism are carrying on a bloody war against the Algerian people and trying to destroy the independence of the Congolese people.

Throughout the capitalist world your social achievements are constantly challenged your trade union rights often flouted, your living and working conditions and your jobs are precarious and systematically threatened.

Men and women workers,  
Trade Unions of all countries,

On this fifteenth anniversary of the W.F.T.U.,  
on this fifteenth anniversary of your joint victory  
over the forces of war and reaction, in face of the  
obvious community of your interests and hopes, in  
face of the urgent need to strengthen world peace,  
the W.F.T.U. appeals to you to raise the banner of  
working class unity and international solidarity.

- Everywhere you must multiply your efforts to  
increase your united actions even further. Demonstrate  
everywhere your desire to reestablish the same inter-  
national trade union unity which existed in 1945, and  
to eradicate the disastrous and regrettable results of  
the division.

- Unity and action for increased wages and the  
reduction of working hours, for the defence of trade  
union and democratic rights.

- Unity and action to strengthen peace and to  
impose disarmament, the banning of nuclear weapons and  
peaceful co-existence.

- Unity and action against the atomic armament  
of the Wehrmacht and German militarism, for the abrogation  
of the Japan-U.S. military treaty.

- Unity and action to liquidate colonialism in  
Algeria, in the Congo and wherever it subsists, once  
and for all.

- Unity and action against imperialism, for the  
safeguarding of the independence of the peoples.

- Unity and action in defence of the democratic  
achievements of the workers and people of Cuba.

LONG LIVE THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD  
FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS!

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND UNITY  
AMONG THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD!

LONG LIVE PEACE!

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE W.F.T.U.

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No.180

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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2124  
September 30, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No:175

Marcel BRAS, Secretary of the W.F.T.U.,  
was today interviewed by Radio Prague:-

QUESTION: "This week the workers are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the W.F.T.U. Can you tell us in a few words what this means to you?"

ANSWER: "The 15th anniversary! In practical terms, this means for the W.F.T.U., and for the trade union centres and workers affiliated to it, 15 years of constructive work which was crowned with success in the countries where the working class holds power and 15 years of bitter and even bloody struggle where the people are still subject to capitalist exploitation and colonial domination. 15 years which have constantly verified, confirmed and strengthened the united class basis which characterized the creation of our organisation and which we have consistently defended.

I shall not give you an account of the activities of the W.F.T.U. during these 15 years. As workers, you yourselves have taken part in those activities, in those struggles. And, anyway, an account is rather a dull affair.

The W.F.T.U., whose roots reach into the very heart of the life and struggles of workers throughout the world, is not interested in keeping an account of its activities, but rather in helping to fashion this aspect of present-day history which is the very life of the trade union movement.

Fifteen years ago, at the first World Trade Union Congress, held in Paris from September 25 to October 8, 1945, 272 delegates from 56 countries, representing more than 64 million organised workers, succeeded in overcoming the difficulties which stood in the way of working class unity and set up the first truly international trade union federation.

Today, 101 million of the world's 170 million organised workers are affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions.



As you see, that represents quite a power: a force that the capitalists have to reckon with, and, make no mistake, they don't like it."

QUESTION: "Can you comment briefly on the immediate tasks of the W.F.T.U.?"

ANSWER: "The immediate tasks of the W.F.T.U. are fully in accord with the Constituent Charter adopted 15 years ago in Paris by the 1st World Trade Union Congress.

Briefly, these objectives are:

First, to continue the struggle to eradicate all forms of fascism. As you know, the W.F.T.U. was born during the second world war against nazism, and was greatly influenced in its objectives by that circumstance.. The rearming of Western Germany by the American imperialists and the shameless territorial claims openly voiced by the militarists and former nazis in power in the German Federal Republic make this a vital problem today.

For you Czechoslovak workers, as for those in other European countries which are directly threatened, this is a question of burning importance, to which President Novotny, quite rightly, drew attention in his address to the United Nations.

The second objective, which is inseparable from the first, is to fight against war and against the causes of war, and to work for a lasting peace. The struggle for universal and controlled disarmament and for peace is a paramount issue for the workers and peoples of the whole world, and has been discussed by the W.F.T.U. at all its important meetings. The last General Council, held in Peking last June, emphasized that the safeguarding and strengthening of peace remained one of the fundamental tasks of the international trade union movement. It called upon workers everywhere to spare no effort in the joint fight for peaceful co-existence and disarmament, and for the liberation and national independence of peoples, and to be more than ever on guard against the aggressive policy of the American imperialist leaders and other Western powers.

The third objective is to improve the living and working standards of the working class. During these 15 years, the W.F.T.U. has striven unceasingly to defend the workers' interests. In the capitalist countries, it has stimulated and supported powerful struggles against capitalist exploitation and for the satisfaction of workers' economic and social demands. After organising the workers to combat the disastrous consequences of the Marshall Plan and the so-called Productivity Campaign launched by the international monopolies to intensify their exploitation of the workers and to increase profits, it strongly denounced the ECSC and the European Common Market, which have already led to a deterioration of living and working conditions in capitalist Europe.

In the numerous stubborn fights the workers have conducted for increased wages, reduction of working hours, improved social security, the recognition and extension of trade union rights, and against the growing power and exploitation of the monopolies of the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Latin America, France and Belgium, whether or not the unions are members of the W.F.T.U., we find reflected the demands and goals of our Federation, which the workers recognise as their class trade union organisation. Despite the attacks and slanders by their own leaders, they trust the W.F.T.U. because it resolutely denounces the false theories put out by neo-capitalism and leads the workers on the only correct path of uncompromising struggle against their exploiters. The example and achievements of the workers in socialist countries, all of whom belong to the W.F.T.U., provide a powerful stimulant to action.

The fourth objective is to bring an end, as soon as possible, to the colonial system and to assist the economic advance of less-developed countries. The cause of the oppressed colonial peoples has always found firm support in the W.F.T.U., which has most vigorously denounced colonial systems, and has thrown its weight on the side of the workers and peoples heroically fighting for political and economic independence against the increasingly combined offensive of the colonialists and imperialists.

The W.F.T.U. completely endorses the proposal submitted to the United Nations by Nikita KHRUSHCHEV who, in accordance with

the Soviet Union's policy of peace and support for oppressed people in their fight for independence, has called for the complete and final abolition of the colonial system. This would be an enormous contribution to civilisation and progress.

But the fulfilment of these aims depends to a great extent upon the achievement of unity in the trade union movement.

The establishment of the W.F.T.U. in 1945 was a victory of international trade union unity over the forces of war and exploitation.

Since then, these forces have managed to undermine that unity, but these 15 years of the W.F.T.U.'s existence are a record of ceaseless effort by our organisation and its national centres, first to maintain, and then to restore this indispensable unity around clear and precise objectives which meet the workers' aspirations.

That is one of the vital tasks set by the General Council, which emphasized that "unity is strengthened in action and by action on a class basis" and "that it must be brought about in a clear manner, by exposing constantly through facts the pretexts and manoeuvres of those opposed to unity".

The 170 million organised workers of the world, if they are united, represent an irresistible force. Our class enemies know this very well and do everything they can to keep the trade unions divided. We workers of the W.F.T.U. know it too, and will therefore do our utmost to achieve this indispensable unity.

Our strength lies in the correctness of our class position, which rallies millions of workers throughout the world, whatever their affiliation, to our side. The community of interests of workers everywhere, and our aims of peace through disarmament and peaceful co-existence, of social progress and national independence, and of the elimination of imperialist and colonial forces are the urgent issues that can mobilise the workers of all countries.

In celebrating the 15th anniversary of the W.F.T.U., the trade unions and the workers will intensify their efforts to achieve these objectives, and will faithfully adhere to the decisions on united action adopted by the 1st World Trade Union Congress."



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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October 11, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### TELEGRAM FROM THE W.F.T.U. PROTESTING AGAINST THE INTENSIFICATION OF REPRESSION IN SPAIN

The W.F.T.U. Secretariat has sent the following telegram to FRANCO, head of the Spanish Government:-

"Expressing the indignation felt by the workers and democrats in all countries at the exacerbation of your penal legislation, which now classes strikes, economic struggles, public demonstrations and meetings, and the mere expression of an opinion against the regime as military rebellion to be tried by court-martial and punishable by death, the W.F.T.U. strongly protests against this intensification of repression in Spain and demands that these new tyrannical measures be rescinded.

"The heroic Spanish people, who have been victims of your dictatorship for more than 20 years, have in the past few years clearly shown their determination to fight together for the cause of freedom and democracy. With them, all workers and peoples condemn this further infringement of the Declaration of the Rights of Man drawn up by the United Nations, at which your Government is represented.

"In addition to the repeal of these new repressive measures, they demand a general amnesty with the immediate release of imprisoned workers and democrats, and the restoration of democratic and trade union rights in Spain."

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No. 183

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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October 12, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### STATEMENT

#### ON THE VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

The W.F.T.U. Secretariat has issued  
the following Statement:

Since the beginning of May, the YOULOU Government of the Republic of Congo-Brazzaville has been conducting a harsh campaign of repression against the working class. Oppressive measures have been taken throughout the country, including searching of homes and the offices of trade unions and democratic organisations, and the arrest of active trade union members.

In Brazzaville, 24 leaders have been imprisoned, among them Julien BOUKAIBOU, **General Secretary** of the African General Confederation of Labour (C.A.L.) and member of the General Council of the W.F.T.U.

A series of emergency laws were voted on May 11 by the National Assembly and came into force on May 12, 1960. The result is, that the free exercise of trade union and democratic rights is denied and colonial and imperialist domination is perpetuated in new forms.

The World Federation of Trade Unions immediately sent a strong protest to the YOULOU Government of the Congo Republic. The last session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U. reaffirmed this position and, in addition to the release of their imprisoned brothers, demanded the restoration of trade union and democratic rights.

On May 19, moreover, the W.F.T.U. submitted a complaint to the I.L.O., Geneva, on the infringement of the Conventions on trade union rights; a further complaint was lodged in October.

Despite the protests by the W.F.T.U. and the courageous fight conducted by the Congolese workers and even by those in

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prison, the authorities of the YOULOU Government are continuing their anti-democratic policy and are keeping the trade union leaders under arrest, without trial and without the elementary means of defence.

These anti-working class attacks on trade unionists who played a decisive part in the struggle for national independence and the progress of their country, clearly show that the YOULOU Government has taken over and is continuing colonial policies.

Once again, the W.F.T.U. condemns these oppressive actions and the violation of the most basic freedoms and trade union rights, which were won by the workers in bitter struggle against colonial domination. Such fundamental rights are indispensable to the African working class in its fight against colonialism and all forms of imperialist exploitation. The violation and suppression of these rights clearly indicate the dangers of neo-colonialism, which are evident also in some other newly-independent African states.

The W.F.T.U. pays tribute to the courageous struggle of the imprisoned leaders and the workers of Congo-Brazzaville, and condemns the manoeuvres which deny them the help of their lawyer. It demands an end to repression, and the free exercise of trade union and democratic rights.

The W.F.T.U. calls upon all workers and trade unions to take all possible action in support of the trade union members and leaders in prison, to protest to the Government of the Congo-Brazzaville Republic and to demand their immediate, unconditional release and the restoration and respect of trade union and democratic rights.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has also sent the following telegram to Mr. YOULOU, Head of the Congo-Brazzaville Government:-

"The WFTU once more strongly protests against the unjustified imprisonment, for more than 5 months, of Julien BOUKAMBOU, General Secretary of the CGAT, member of the General Council of the WFTU, and other trade union leaders. It condemns the manoeuvres which deny them the help of their lawyer. These are people who took an active part in the people's fight for national independence. On behalf of its 101 million members, the WFTU demands their immediate and unconditional release, and the restoration and respect of trade union and democratic rights."

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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15 October 1960

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF INAJIRO ASANUMA, THE W.F.T.U. EXPRESSES ITS SYMPATHY AND ITS SOLIDARITY TO THE SOHYO

The following telegram was sent to the SOHYO  
by Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the  
W.F.T.U. :

"Deeply disturbed by assassination of Brother Inajiro Asanuma, eminent leader of Japanese people's united struggle for peace and democracy against US imperialism and Japanese reaction, WFTU extends sincere condolence to his family and friends, Japanese workers and people. His assassination is closely related to revival of fascism and militarism which threatens fundamental rights of workers. The WFTU expresses fraternal solidarity with Japanese workers who have risen in protest actions against fascist terror and for defence of democratic freedoms."

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No. 186

## WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

212-A

November 1, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUEMESSAGE FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE U.G.T.A.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following message to the General Union of Algerian Workers:-

On this day of November 1, the W.F.T.U. sends its warm and fraternal greetings to the U.G.T.A. It asks the U.G.T.A. to assure the Algerian workers and people of the proletarian solidarity of the 101 million working men and women affiliated to our organisation.

The friendly relations established between our two trade union organisations have strengthened and developed the expression of solidarity felt by workers throughout the world who recognize that the Algerian people have the right to live as an independent nation.

The colonialist war of the French imperialists, which prevents the Algerian people from exercising their right of self-determination, is condemned by the great majority of the world's population. The more widespread and organised this condemnation will become, the more quickly we shall see peace in Algeria and the beginning of a new relationship between the Algerian and French peoples based on equal rights and mutual respect for independence.

Giuseppe CASADEI  
Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

7 NOV 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

212-A

November 3, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### MESSAGE FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE C.T.C., CUBA

Louis SAÏLLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., has sent the following message to the C.T.C. in Cuba:

On behalf of millions of workers of every opinion and trade union affiliation who deeply sympathise with the important economic and social reforms effected by the Cuban Revolution, the W.F.T.U. enthusiastically greets the complete nationalisation of North American monopolies and banks and of the big national monopolies, which are the bitter enemies of Cuban independence and progress.

Such popular measures as the establishment of diplomatic and trade relations with all countries in the world are the most effective answer to imperialist pressure and interference. They are creating the conditions required for rapid economic development in your country, for the elimination of mass unemployment and for systematic improvement in the material and cultural standard of living of the working people.

The W.F.T.U. congratulates the C.T.C. and the whole working class of Cuba on their great sense of responsibility and on the ability they have shown to solve the difficult problems arising from the new economic situation in your country.

The W.F.T.U. wishes once more to assure the C.T.C., and the workers and people of Cuba, of its wholehearted solidarity with them in the economic blockade unleashed by the United States Government and the military aggression which is being prepared against Cuban freedom and independence.

It draws the attention of the working class and trade unions throughout the world to the gravity of the threats to Cuba, which is a free American country, and calls upon them to demonstrate their unshakable support of the Cuban people. It invites them to condemn forcefully, in every country, the provocative attitude of the United States Government by organising protests, petitions and other measures appropriate to the national situation for the attention of the U.S. diplomatic representatives.

Strengthening of friendly relations between the Cuban trade unions and those of all other countries will reinforce the solidarity we express on behalf of the 101 million members of the W.F.T.U.



9 NOV 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

2125A  
November 4, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### M E S S A G E

FROM THE W.F.T.U. ON THE 43rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER

### SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions:

Dear Brother GRICHINE,

Forty-three years ago, at the height of the imperialist war which was decimating the peoples, the bright light of the Socialist Revolution of Workers and Peasants burst upon the world. Greeted hopefully by the international working class, the first socialist State, though surrounded by imperialist powers, laid the foundations of a new world, in which the exploitation of man by man would be banished for ever.

Expressing the deepest aspirations of the masses, the Government of Russian workers and peasants declared peace to the peoples and proclaimed the right of every nation to determine its own future. Since that time, the struggle for peace has assumed greater meaning and content for all peoples of the world. The name of the Soviet Union is linked with every powerful action which reveals to the peoples the possibility of a peaceful era for humanity. Together with their brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union, the workers and peoples of the world warmly welcome this policy for peace and independence of the peoples, placed before the world by the October Revolution and since followed by the Soviet Union with the support and in the interests of the broad masses throughout the world. They joyfully greet, and fully support, the Soviet Union's untiring efforts to make war avoidable by so weakening imperialist policy as to frustrate its dangerous warlike ambitions.

The World Federation of Trade Unions is proud to include the Soviet trade unions in its ranks. It is sure that it speaks on behalf of all working men and women throughout the world in conveying to the Soviet trade unions, and through them to all working men and women of the USSR, its warmest proletarian greetings.

LONG LIVE THE WORKERS OF THE USSR!

LONG LIVE PEACE AMONG THE PEOPLES!

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WORKING-CLASS SOLIDARITY  
FOR THE END OF COLONIALISM, FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS  
AND FOR UNIVERSAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT!

## WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

November 23, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

On November 22, the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. sent the following message to the President of the XVth General Assembly of the United Nations:

"Sir,

From the outset of the Congo crisis the World Federation of Trade Unions, in accordance with its anti-colonialist principles and traditional support for national independence, has demonstrated its full backing of the Congolese workers and people in their struggle against Belgian colonialist aggression and its attempts to create secession, and for respect of the independence and territorial integrity of the Congo Republic.

Workers in every country are concerned at present about events in Congo which are characterised on the one hand by persistent interference by the colonialists for the purpose of destroying the territorial unity of Congo and on the other hand by further aggravation of the economic and social situation of the people fostered by those who wish to prevent the country from establishing a normal democratic life.

Living and working conditions of the working people are steadily deteriorating and generally they are denied the possibility of exercising elementary democratic and trade union rights.

Workers note that actions of the United Nations Secretariat in that country have not helped the Congolese people its assemblies or its legal Governments to consolidate the country's sovereignty and integrity or its national independence and economic development.

The Belgian colonialists have returned in full force while representatives of American financial and industrial interests are multiplying manoeuvres for secession, in order to retain and increase their privileges and their hold on the resources of Katanga and of the entire Congolese people. These intrigues which have aroused the just indignation and opposition of the Congolese people are the cause of the massacres which have occurred in Katanga province. At the same time certain members of the United Nations particularly the USA have instigated numerous attempts to replace the sole legal authority of the constitutional assemblies and Mr. LUMUMBA's elected Government by the rule of politico-military fractions working in the service of these powers.

.../

As no precedent exists in UN history for a General Assembly to act in favour of a Head of State against the Head of a legally constituted Government we consider it essential that the present General Assembly should hear Mr. LUMUMBA and the Presidents of both constitutional assemblies of Congo.

On behalf of its 101 million members the W.F.T.U. requests you to take all necessary steps to ensure:

- that full exercise of their sovereignty be restored as early as possible to the Congolese Assemblies and to the sole legitimate Government headed by Mr. LUMUMBA which are the expression of the people's will;
- that accordingly the latter be accepted as sole representative of the Congolese people at the United Nations General Assembly;
- that the interventions and interference of Belgian colonialism and other imperialist powers led by the United States in the internal affairs of independent Congo be condemned and rejected ;
- that Congolese trade union organisations should be enabled to conduct their affairs and accomplish their tasks without any foreign participation so that they may be truly Congolese and thus make their necessary contribution to the establishment of a normal life and to the economic reconstruction of their country.

Yours respectfully

Louis SAILLANT

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

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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9th Session of the Administrative Committee  
of the  
Trade Unions International of Transport, Port and  
Fishery Workers.

The 9th Session of the Administrative Committee of the Trade Unions International of Transport, Port and Fishery Workers was held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from 16 to 19 November, 1960.

The Administrative Committee agreed to convene the IIIrd International Trade Conference during the first two weeks of May 1961. Among the documents unanimously approved were a General Resolution, an Appeal to all transport, port and fishery workers, a Statement on the situation in Congo and a Message to transport workers in Cuba.

The texts of the Message and Statement are as follows:

MESSAGE TO TRANSPORT WORKERS IN CUBA

Dear Brothers,

On behalf of the 9 million members of the Trade Unions International of Transport, Port and Fishery Workers, the 9th Session of its Administrative Committee sends warm fraternal greetings to your Federation and to all its workers. It fully supports the just struggle of the heroic Cuban people for freedom and national independence.

On behalf of all affiliated trade union organizations of transport, port and fishery workers, our Session strongly protests against interference by the United States in the internal affairs of the Cuban people and against the intervention which American imperialists are preparing against your country.

On behalf of the workers in our unions, we assure you, dear brothers, of our fraternal solidarity and wish you great success in the just fight for the independence and happiness of your people.

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN CONGO.

The Trade Unions International of Transport, Port and Fishery Workers warmly supports the struggle waged by the workers and people of the young Congo Republic to maintain the independence and integrity of their country, which were acquired at great sacrifice.

It strongly condemns the American imperialist manoeuvres which have paralysed the functioning of the legitimate Congo Government and have used the UN Secretariat to interfere in the internal affairs of Congo.

On behalf of its 9 million members, the Trade Unions International of Transport, Port and Fishery Workers firmly supports the courageous fight of Congo workers and their legitimate Government, headed by LUMUMBA, and of the people's elected Parliament. It wishes the Congo people complete and final victory in the struggle for freedom, integrity and independence of their country.

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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November 28, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### BROTHER LOUIS SAILLANT'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

On the 50th birthday of Brother Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., numerous congratulatory messages and telegrams from political personalities, from trade union leaders and from workers in various countries have arrived at W.F.T.U. headquarters.

Greetings have been received from A. NOVOTNY, President of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, from Brother R. DAMIANOV, First Vice-President of the Council of Ministers of the P.R. of Bulgaria, from Brother A. NOVELLA, President of the W.F.T.U., from Benoit FRACHON, Secretary of the French C.G.T., from Brothers GRICHINE, President of the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, LIO NING I, President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, Herbert WARNEKE, President of the trade unions of the G.D.R., I LOGA-SOWINSKI, on behalf of the Polish trade unions and workers, G. APOSTOL, on behalf of the Roumanian trade unions and workers, from the Central Council of Trade Unions in Bulgaria and Korea, from the Secretariat of the C.G.I.L., from the Trade Unions Internationals (W.F.T.U. Trade Departments) and the W.F.T.U. Secretariat, and from the working class leader in the United States, W.Z. FOSTER... A large number of trade unions and federations in France also sent greetings to Brother SAILLANT.

Many delegations came to see him on his 50th birthday, including one from the Czechoslovak trade unions headed by Brother ZUPKA, President of the Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions, a delegation from the F.D.G.B. and another from the Czechoslovak miners.

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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December 1, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### THE W.F.T.U. DEMANDS THE LIBERATION OF CLOTARIO BLEST

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

The W.F.T.U. expresses its complete and fraternal solidarity with CUTCH and with Brother Clotario BLEST, victim of government repression, who so courageously defended the legitimate claims and rights of the workers of Chile. We ask you to convey our warm greetings to him. We assure your United Centre and all the Chilean workers of the support of the workers of the whole world who demand the immediate freedom of Brother Clotario BLEST, President of CUTCH, respect for trade union freedoms and the fulfilment of their just demands. Fraternally yours.

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# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

December 6, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### THE W.F.T.U. PROTESTS AGAINST THE VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN GREECE

We publish below a telegram sent to the W.F.T.U. Secretariat by the following building workers' organizations: Plasterers' Association, Piraeus; Union of Colorifier Hydraulic Technicians and Assistants, Athens; Association of Mosaic Floor Technical Workers; Union of Woodworkers and Technicians, Athens; Union of Mechanical Wood Project and Case Makers; Association of Carpenters, Piraeus and Suburbs; Union of Cement Workers, Piraeus:-

"We accuse that 15,000 striking builders meeting on 1 December 1960 in a peaceful demonstration before the trade union centre in Athens were subject to armed attack by police by order of the Government. During this attack guns, weapons, waterhoses, tear gas bombs, etc. were used. More than 100 workers were wounded. 139 strikers were arrested. Arrests and attacks continue. In protest against attack and violation of constitutional liberties, the building workers announced today another 24-hour strike. We call for assistance of international organizations for the protection of trade union rights."

In response to this telegram, Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., has sent the following telegram to Mr. CARAMANLIS, Prime Minister of Greece:-

"Having been informed by several trade union organizations of building, wood and allied workers in Athens and Piraeus about police brutality used on 1 December last against building workers demonstrating for their demands, the WFTU, on behalf of the 101 million organised workers it represents throughout the world and in support of the Greek workers' struggles for better conditions, strongly protests against this flagrant and typical violation of human and trade union rights. The social demands of the building and wood workers are just and must be satisfied. The WFTU demands that the strikers unjustly arrested be released immediately and requests that those responsible for police brutality be punished."

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16 DEC 1960

# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

December 12, 1960.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE T.U.I. SECRETARIATS AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE W.F.T.U.

A consultative meeting between the Secretariat of the Trade Unions Internationals (Trade Departments of the W.F.T.U.) and the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. opened today at W.F.T.U. headquarters in Prague. The Agenda is as follows:

- 1) Plan of general and trade activities for the T.U.I.s in 1961 and increased co-operation with the W.F.T.U. Secretariat;
- 2) draft budget for the T.U.I.s in 1961.

The session is attended by the W.F.T.U. Secretariat, the Secretariats of the Trade Unions Internationals and F. ZUPKA, President of the Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions and Vice-President of the W.F.T.U.

The first meeting was opened by Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

In his introductory statement, Louis SAILLANT stressed the quantitative and qualitative changes that had occurred in the class struggle since the General Council in Peking as a result of the superiority of the socialist countries, which opened increasingly vast horizons for the workers, as a result of the upsurge of economic and social demands, as a result of the disintegration of the colonial system.

In these circumstances fresh concrete possibilities of tightening the bonds between working people at international level existed and should be explored.

Liaison with the masses remained a key question. In that connection, further action was required to improve:

- international contact between affiliated organisations;
- contact between organisations affiliated to the W.F.T.U. and those affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U.;
- contacts between basic organisation in cases where obstacles to unity were raised by reformist leaders.

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