

International Peace Update



Volume 62 No. 6 December 1997

Published by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Call to WILPF's 27th International Congress 24 -31 July 1998, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Edith Ballantyne, International President



Logo of WILPF's 27th Congress

WILPF's 27th International Congress will open at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, on 24 July 1998. It is none too soon to start plans to get there. This call is to urge you all, WILPF members and friends, to come to Congress and take part in making the decisions that will guide us into the next millennium.

We are living at a time of demanding challenges. This Congress will dare face some of them. The International Executive Committee decided that this 27th Congress should take a hard look at the process of 'globalization' which is pervading every area at all levels of activity of our societies — economic, social, political, environ-

mental — and its impact on concepts of governance, sovereignty, security, economic and social development, and on fundamental human rights. We will challenge the notion that globalization by corporate rule is inevitable and that the best that can be done is to ease the hurts. We will challenge ourselves to put forward a people-centred model of globalization based on co-operation, fairness and solidarity.

The Congress will have many exciting features. Among them will be the two-day forum on Educating for a Culture of Peace, with Augusto Boal of Brazil involving us as players in his Theatre of the Oppressed, a dynamic method of approaching and understanding the issues of justice, peace and freedom.

Two days of theatre will lead us into panel discussions and workshops where we will examine economic, social and political issues, as well as human rights issues with a focus on racism and women's human rights in light of the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We will examine military and economic and social factors, and issues of sovereignty and governance, all of which determine our security. We expect our explorations and discussions to lead us to

(continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Call to Congress</i>	1-2
<i>Outer Space without weapons</i>	3
<i>UN Reform</i>	4-5
<i>UN News</i>	6-7
<i>WILPF Section News</i> ...	8-9
<i>Women and Conflict Resolution</i>	10-11
<i>Children's Peace Camps</i>	12
<i>WILPF's 27th Congress</i>	13
<i>Readers Forum</i>	14
<i>Books</i>	15
<i>Resources</i>	16

**WILPF**

1 rue de Varembe
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Tel. (41) (22) 733 6175
Fax. (41) (22) 740 1063
E-mail: womensleague@gn.apc.org

WILPF aims at bringing together women of different political and philosophical tendencies united in their determination to study, make known, and help abolish the political, social, economic and psychological causes of war and to work for a constructive peace.

The primary objectives of the League are the achievement of total and universal disarmament, the abolition of violence or other means of coercion for the settlement of all conflicts, the substitution in every case of some form of peaceful settlement, and the strengthening of the United Nations and its family of Specialized Agencies for the prevention of war, a sustainable environment, the institution of international law, and for the political, social and economic cooperation of peoples.

Conscious that under systems of exploitation and oppression these aims cannot be attained and that a real and lasting peace and true freedom cannot exist, the League's duty is to facilitate by non-violent means the social transformation which would permit the inauguration of systems under which would be realized social, economic and political equality for all without discrimination on grounds of sex, race, religion, or on any other grounds.

The League sees as its ultimate goal the establishment of an international economic order founded on meeting the needs of all peoples and not on profit and privilege.

**International
Peace Update**

Published bimonthly by WILPF
Annual Subscription: CHF 20.- or
US \$15.-

Editorial Board: Edith Ballantyne (President); Barbara Lochbihler (Secretary-General); Jeanne Vickers (Editorial Consultant). Corresponding Members: The Director, WILPF UN Office, New York; and the WILPF International Vice Presidents.

Your articles are welcome. Deadlines: January 10, March 10, May 10, July 10, September 10, November 10.
Opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily endorsed by WILPF.

(continued from page 1)

the adoption of a comprehensive position paper on globalization and action that will advance the realization of the right of working women to Bread, and to Roses too.

Another exciting feature will be the report of the two-year work of the Rainbow, the organizational development committee, which the International Executive Committee established at its meeting in Sri Lanka in 1996 to examine WILPF's structures and methods of work in a rapidly changing world. We will be challenged to decide on changes that the Rainbow will recommend as means to strengthen the organization and enhance its effectiveness.

We will be called upon to take decisions laid down by the Constitution, such as electing officers for the next three-year term, adopt the 1999 budget, admit new sections, and so on.

Children from 4 - 9 years of ages will have the chance to learn and live peace in a Camp designed for them. And newcomers to WILPF, or to the peace movement generally, can attend the annual Gertrud Baer Peace Seminar which will run alongside and also interlink with the Congress.

The Congress is where we get to know and learn from one another as we work together to meet the challenges of our time in a multicultural setting. It will be important to decide together on practical actions that contribute to ending militarism, advance disarmament and the building of a Culture of Peace in the 2000s.

The Congress Committee and its many working groups are deep into the preparations for our triennial gathering. The International Working Group on Globalization, established by the IEC earlier this year, will meet in Geneva from 18 to 24 January 1998 to draft a first discussion paper which will be sent to all sections and to any member indicating to the International Office a wish to contribute to the discussion.

I call on you all to join in examining the prevailing world order, from our perspective as women, and in developing alternative models that will bring us closer to our goals of peace and freedom. □



Outer Space: The Count-down has begun

Stephanie Fraser

The nuclear arms race of the Cold War is finding its way into outer space. The rocket is on the launching pad and the lasers are being aimed.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is once again in the forefront to stop this move by the military in its tracks and has decided to put organizational energy toward achieving that goal.

The United Nations deals with the issue under the item of 'Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS)' and includes conventional as well as nuclear weapons. However, only the military aspects of the uses of radionuclides in outer space are being considered. PAROS, as currently defined, does not address the civilian, or 'peaceful' uses of the atom in governmental space programmes. These so-called 'peaceful' uses are seen as virtually sacrosanct by governments.

For years, the UN General Assembly has called for negotiations of a treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space, building on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. This Treaty outlines the principles governing the exploration of space, the Moon and other planets. It stipulates that exploration of space should be for peaceful purposes and benefit everyone, and that weapons of mass destruction should not be placed in orbit or on satellites and other celestial bodies.

The 1967 Treaty clearly is not enough to prevent an arms race in outer space today, and the General Assem-

bly has repeatedly called on the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to begin negotiations on a PAROS treaty. Again, in 1996, the General Assembly emphasized in resolution 51/44 "...the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space".

The debate around PAROS, which has been avoided for more than ten years in the CD, has been influenced in part by the argument that there are desirable benefits from most applications of radionuclides and that all nations have an inalienable right to these benefits. This notion is enshrined in Article 4 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Thus, the plutonium-powered CASSINI Saturn Probe, against which WILPF engaged in a global struggle to prevent its launch (alas unsuccessfully), is seen as a 'civilian' project and does not fall within the realm of PAROS. But it should!

The PAROS treaty should also cover laser weapons, launched from satellites, pulsed-power weaponry and other fourth generation high-tech weapons systems. PAROS should prohibit the launching of ballistic missiles carrying nuclear weapons into outer space. Furthermore, it must cover HAARP, the US military High-altitude Active Auroral Research Project based in Alaska, which is developing and testing weaponry using the magnetic fields of the earth to wipe out electrical grids or cause explosions in a targeted area. HAARP is the worst of science fiction to be made a reality.

Preventing an arms race in outer space links all aspects of life and begs many questions: Will the military control the movement of humanity into outer space? Should humanity move into outer space? What are the driving forces behind this exploration-at-any-cost mentality? What will be done with the minerals that are to be mined on the Moon, Mars and other planets? What are the economic, social and environmental costs of this exploration? Should the resources, brain power and capital be spent more productively? Should plutonium ever be used in a space mission? What about other non-fissile radionuclides? Should they ever be used for space exploration?

In confronting the need to stop the militarization and the nuclearization of space for whatever purposes, WILPF is redefining the scope of the debate. By connecting PAROS and CASSINI, WILPF will act, once again, as a catalyst for change and will undermine the 'inalienable right to nuclear technology' dogma which denies a future in a peaceful, safe and clean world.

As for CASSINI, the count-down has only begun. We face April 1999, when this radioactive meteor will come hurdling back at us to use the Earth's gravity to propel it toward Saturn. The project should and must be stopped. Our campaign against CASSINI and for PAROS must continue and be intensified. □

Stephanie Fraser is a US disarmament and peace activist.



United Nations Reform

An Analysis of UN Secretary-General's Reform Programme

by Dr. Roberl Kehl

"The developments in the UN need a wide public debate before fatal decisions are taken and the promises of the Charter adopted 50 years ago are dashed forever." (Edith Ballantyne, IPU August 1997, p.7).

Confidence in the UN's ability to prevent and rapidly contain wars has dropped to almost zero. The UN's failure in this respect, as well as in respect to controlling the production and trade of arms is acknowledged by experts and others around the globe. It has led to a resignation by many to never see an end to wars. While a sense of desperation is taking hold of people everywhere, an attitude of 'getting used to living with the war monster' is gaining ground. Only a radical reform of the United Nations can be seen as a possibility for change.

Anatol Rapaport, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto, stated in his address to the conference on 'The Evolution of World Order' held in Toronto, Canada, in June 1997, that the United Nations must "reform or die!"

The UN Secretary-General agrees with the need for reform and presented his report entitled 'Reform Programme', dated 14 July 1997, to an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly. Understandably, he minimizes the UN's failures and emphasizes its achievements. But he cannot hide the catastrophic situation of the organization and makes numerous admissions to that effect.

Kofi Annan's reform programme, however, in no way inspires serious hopes for the United Nations. In his

assessment of the organization's weaknesses, achievements and lack of them (page 10), he avoids going into the real reasons for the present situation with two exceptions. He mentions explicitly the lack of a UN military enforcement capacity, and implicitly the one-sided permanent membership of the Security Council as problems, pointing to "intensive and prolonged discussions" regarding the Council's expansion. For the rest, the Secretary-General describes the UN's weaknesses almost exclusively in terms of administrative shortcomings, such as lack of institutional and policy coherence, inefficient management, or shortcomings in documentation and public information services. But these remain secondary to the causes of the UN's real problems.

The real shortcomings of the UN, as I see them, are the following: Most important is the fact that the UN is unable to declare war to be the worst conceivable crime and to strictly prohibit it. Instead, it accepts war to be legal and an unchangeable political reality. Another problem is the outdated idea of state sovereignty, enshrined in the Charter, that prevents the UN from interfering in the 'internal affairs of states'. This means nothing other than that peace-promoting conventions all too often exist on paper only because compliance with them is purely voluntary.

Sanctions against violations of agreements are in practice imposed only through economic blockades, even though they have proven to be of little success, but they punish the powerless and the poor. Because of voluntariness, there can be no effective sanctions imposed for breaches of international treaties or of UN resolutions, not to mention that the World Court has no power to enforce anything whatsoever. The UN is basically dependent upon the goodwill or the arbitrariness of its member states.

UN employees are not always independent individuals but, at a certain level, are often representatives of their states, acting according to their governments' orders. The UN has no system of checks and balances.

A particularly grave problem is the veto power of the permanent members in the Security Council. This results in a dictatorship of the World War II victorious powers and an institutional paralysis. Given these rules, it is obvious that the United Nations body cannot adequately fulfill its mandate.

A close look at the Secretary-General's report shows that it expresses on the highest official level a trend already under way for several years: a change in the nature of the UN. In a slow and silent



process of substitution of the original purpose of the UN, its central function is being diverted and almost replaced by secondary purposes. For example combating drug problems, dealing with settlement questions or securing energy sources, are continually expanding.

While some of these aims are mentioned in the Charter, the prevention of war is still the most important and central responsibility of the UN, which was founded for this very purpose. Everything else was added by the founders to this primary purpose to give the UN additional tasks and to make it more attractive.

Several small but 'frank' phrases in the report show that the Secretary-General himself does not expect much improvement in fulfilling the original and main purpose of the United Nations, namely, the securing and maintenance of international peace. It is particularly regrettable that the report does not mention the UN's worst failure: Art. I of the UN Charter stipulates that principles and procedures are to be adopted that ensure that military measures should be applied only when they are in the collective interest. Fifty years after the found-



ing of the UN, we are far from realizing this basic goal. It is precisely this that is not mentioned in the report, although it should have been because it is central to it historically.

A report on the situation of the UN should also have mentioned, at least as an example, how the UN has disgraced itself by failing to act effectively during the horrendous wars in Yugoslavia and Africa, where the situations required urgent and decisive measures. It is because of this lack of action that the UN is not taken seriously today. Added to this should be the ever ongoing consultations and negotiations in the UN on arms limitations, while at the same time many billions of dollars are spent annually on arms production and trade. The Secretary-General himself in his report has to admit to a sense of powerlessness concerning this situation.

In fact, the same resignation that exists among the world's people regarding the UN's capacity to effectively achieve its objectives can be discerned in careful reading of the Secretary-General's report. Because he cannot, and would not be able to live with a feeling of resignation, he shifts the emphasis to the secondary purposes of the UN and thereby — surely with some regret — accepts and builds on the above-mentioned change of the nature of the organization.

It is disturbing to read in paragraph 238 of the report that the United Nations "will be judged by the impact its efforts have on the poor, the hungry and the sick". One cannot agree with this conclusion no matter how glad one would be to see improvements in these areas. Actually, the sad fact is that the UN's ef-

forts have not succeeded in preventing the poor from getting poorer while the rich are getting richer.

But the real reason for my disagreement with Kofi Annan's conclusion is that surely the United Nations will be judged by whether it succeeds in preventing future wars.

On 12 November 1984, the UN General Assembly adopted a unique declaration on the right of people to peace and to be without war. It emphasizes that the maintenance of peace and security of peoples (meaning freedom from war) is the highest goal of the United Nations.

This report by the Secretary-General finally mirrors a malignant situation in which there is no willingness whatsoever to clearly address — let alone remove — the real causes of the UN's failure to maintain peace. This means almost certainly that we are heading for the dissolution of the United Nations as a war-prevention organization, just as the League of Nations was dissolved for these same reasons.

Whether or not the United Nations would be able to continue to exist as a global organization with social and economic purposes only is not certain. Although states are concerned with these aspects, they are not likely to pay \$10 billion annually for such a structure (in reality it is probably much more) which is about what the United Nations spends today. □

Dr. Robert Kehl, a Swiss lawyer, is the author of *The Time is Ripe for a More Effective International Law*, published by WILPF.



The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

For the third consecutive year an Intersessional Working Group met in Geneva, 27 October-7 November to draft a UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The meeting was organized in formal sessions, where decisions were adopted, and informal sessions with consultations among the delegates from indigenous NGOs and governments. Each morning, the sessions were opened with invocations by indigenous representatives.

For the Indigenous Peoples delegates, the meeting was a time of frustration and lack of consideration on the part of some governments, namely the so-called CANZUS group (Canada, Australia, New Zealand,

United States). These governments want to renegotiate some of the articles of the Declaration. To Indigenous Peoples it seems like nit-picking. And some of their suggestions are in variance with existing international instruments. It was frustrating because in the informal sessions governments often did not turn up.

Indigenous Peoples have held the line that no more redrafting should be done. If redrafting was to be done, it would have to include Article 3, the right to self-determination, and not only articles such as the right to education. The states did not want to address this, no matter how often we pointed out that the question of self-determination underpins the whole Declaration. It was finally agreed to

schedule a discussion on Article 3, but it never took place.

Article 43 (rights and freedoms of males and females) and Article 5 (right to a nationality) were formally adopted in their original version, although the US and New Zealand governments voiced some concerns.

It has taken thirteen years of negotiations to bring the draft Declaration to where it is. It is an imposition of governments to want to change wording now to suit themselves. It is time to finish and adopt it.

Was it worthwhile to attend the meetings? Yes, indigenous peoples must continue to hold the line!

Pauline E. Tangiora, Aotearoa WILPF.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Britain

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by States, met at the UN in Geneva from 17 November to 5 December 1997 to review a number of country reports. Among them was that of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The British Section had been sent a copy of the government report earlier by the WILPF Geneva Office; members studied it and prepared their own report on the implementation of rights covered in the covenant. The section's document was submitted to the Committee's members in writing and a summary was

orally presented on the first day of the Committee's session.

In the document, WILPF pointed out several issues of concern, such as the deprivation of asylum seekers and refugees of the right to work, to adequate housing and to welfare benefits; the precarious situation of women in Wales; the lack of public funding of all sectors of public education, health and social services.

When questioning the UK delegation, the Committee's experts expressed concern about the laws affecting the workers' right to strike. One expert posed questions concerning education and working conditions of teachers, the very points raised in WILPF's written document.

This is an example of how WILPF can work as an international organization with access to the UN. It can inform about national situations with the co-operation of its sections. Such co-operation strengthens WILPF as a whole. It also strengthens the UN and its human rights monitoring system.

Among the countries whose reports the Committee will examine next year are The Netherlands, Germany, Bulgaria, Russia and Switzerland. This will be a unique opportunity for the WILPF sections in these countries to prepare a factual document on the situation under review. Write to the Geneva Office for your country's report.

Sonja Wölte, Human Rights Intern.



Gender Persecution in Times of War

Barbara Bedont

A UN expert group meeting on this subject was held in Toronto, Canada, from 9-12 November 1997. Work was done in three working groups: legal mechanisms for protection of women's rights during war; refugees and internally displaced persons; and security issues of women in situations of conflict. Critical Areas D and E in the Beijing Platform for Action were drawn upon during the discussions, as were the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme for Action. The experts noted that gender-neutral language in human rights treaties can obscure the harm suffered by women. Thus, new definitions need to be formulated.

Obstacles to the attainment of women's security during and after armed conflict include the demands of religious extremism; perception of violations of women's rights as personal and not public matters; lack of reliable data on gender based persecution; women's traditional roles; women's multiple identities, based on race, ethnicity, class, age, nationality; lack of women in decision-making bodies; lack of understanding of women's reactions in situations of armed conflict. In their final report to the CSW the experts recommended that :

- ◆ Gender crimes be included in the statute of the Criminal Court;
- ◆ Rape be left undefined but should be understood to mean forcible penetration of the vulva, anus or mouth by the penis or any object;
- ◆ Sexual violence during armed conflict meets the definition of 'perse-

cution' in international refugee law;

- ◆ Discrimination and harassment either in wartime or peacetime may constitute persecution in international refugee law;

- ◆ Serious violations of women's rights meet the definition of persecution, whether perpetrated against some or all women;

- ◆ Feminism constitutes 'political opinion' as a ground for refugee status;

- ◆ Women constitute a 'social group' as a ground for refugee status;

- ◆ Sexual violence be considered to be within the definition of torture;

- ◆ Training, education, and dissemination of information be required for military, peacekeeping forces, UN agencies, staff of the international criminal tribunals, and the ICC, especially the Witness Protection Unit, all persons involved in refugee determination;

- ◆ Women to be included in decision-making positions at all levels;

- ◆ Gender balance be instituted in all international bodies including the tribunals, peacekeeping forces, military, etc;

- ◆ Attention be directed to long-term health needs of women after war;

- ◆ Land mines treaty be ratified;

- ◆ International Red Cross to increase gender-sensitive interpretation of international humanitarian law, convene a special meeting on gender persecution during war, and share information with NGOs. □

Toronto WILPF members Colleen Burkes and Barbara Bedont represented WILPF at the expert group meeting.

The Women's Peace Petition

A women's peace petition is circulating worldwide and fast gaining momentum. A non-governmental initiative with more than 150 organizational co-sponsors from around the world, including WILPF, the petition demands that all governments transfer over the next five years a minimum of five per cent of their military budgets to health, education and employment programmes.

The 100,000 signatures collected so far in more than 100 countries, were presented on United Nations Day, October 24, to the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Hennadiy Udovenko of Ukraine, following a press conference sponsored by UNIFEM. In a brief but moving ceremony, Mr. Udovenko pledged his support for the spirit of the petition, and agreed to have it translated into Ukrainian and circulated amongst women's organizations in his country.

The petition also calls for delegitimizing war in the same way that slavery, colonialism and apartheid have now been delegitimized. It further calls on governments and the people to develop together new institutions and new means for settling conflicts peacefully.

The petition will continue to be circulated through the year 2000 as an expression of hope that the new millennium will inaugurate a culture of peace.

Stephanie Urdan, International Women's Tribune Centre



Australia

Western Australian (WA) WILPF has a small but continuously growing and committed membership whose work focuses on campaigning against uranium, human rights education and globalization. At a discussion on the branch's priorities in 1996, our wider membership particularly endorsed WILPF's international focus on globalization in the context of peace and our role in campaigning against the Status of Forces Agreement between Australia and the US.

Since April 1997, the group has been an active member of the Anti Uranium Coalition in WA. We are

campaigning to stop the Kintyre Uranium mine from going ahead in the Rudall River National Park region. We are challenging the environmental assessment process and have organized two public meetings with prominent speakers, the first one on June 29, 1997. Some of our membership is involved in the SURF (Stop Uranium, Reclaim the Future) Pilgrimage Project which is bringing out two Russians for a speaking tour on Chernobyl and a pilgrimage to uranium mines, nuclear testing grounds and nuclear sites in Australia.

An important aspect of the group's work is the follow-up to Kirsten

Hawke's participation in the WILPF International Human Rights Training Course in Geneva, March/April 1997. Since then, knowledge of UN human rights procedures have been disseminated to solidarity groups to help report violations. In WA, WILPF has and will continue to conduct a series of human rights education seminars and workshops in order to share the knowledge with other WILPF members and human rights workers. Out of one of the workshops the new project Women to Women was born, which is designed to help WILPF and non-WILPF women in our region with economic development aid for their own grassroots projects. □

China Today & Tomorrow: Women and the Environment Join the WILPF Delegation to China, June 5-19, 1998

China is part of everyone's future. As the largest and most populous nation on earth, what China does impacts on all of us in small and large ways. WILPF, in partnership with the Citizen Ambassador Programme of People to People International, has organized a 15-day mission to China under the leadership of WILPF's President Edith Ballantyne and Vice-President Regina Birchem. This journey is viewed as a follow-up to the 1995 WILPF Peace Train from Helsinki to the Fourth UN Women's Conference in Beijing.

The mission's focus will be on the environment and inter-related areas of arms control and China's ethnic minorities. Meetings are being scheduled with governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations. Delegates can expect to meet old friends of WILPF such as the leadership of the All-China Women's Federation.

The delegation will spend five nights in Beijing and eight nights in western Sichuan Province, China's most populous region; an area known for its ecological diversity as well as for serious environmental problems. Three

of those nights will be spent in a forest adjacent to the 10,164 foot Mount Emei, one of China's four great Buddhist Holylands. Dotted with Daoist and Buddhist temples, it has been the inspiration to poets and painters for centuries. A Chinese naturalist will accompany the group during this portion of their journey. The delegation's focus on China's indigenous peoples will include a half day at the Southwest Minority University in Chengdu.

The all-inclusive round-trip cost from San Francisco is \$4735 on a double occupancy basis. The all-inclusive within-China cost for our European members on a double occupancy basis is \$3,690, with each person responsible for arranging her own flight to and from China.

For more information write to either Regina Birchem, R.D. 1, Box 134, Irwin, PA 15642; Email <rbirchem@igc.apc.org> or to

Kathleen Meyer, Director, Citizen Ambassador Program, P.O. Box, 1013, Wilmington, DE 19899-1013; Email: <KathleenMeyer@msn.com>



Chile

Two contradictory elements mark the political make-up in Chile: one is the official effort to find national consensus, and the other is the strong presence of the armed forces in governance. Under our Constitution, former presidents of the republic and the heads of the different branches of the armed forces are members of the Senate by virtue of office and sit in the lower house of Parliament. This makes it unlikely to bring about constitutional changes necessary for genuine democratic governance. The gnawing confrontation between the two parts inevitably continues.

The government has promised to look into the grave violations of human rights that were committed during the Pinochet dictatorship.

These are among the issues to which we have given attention and have held a number of meetings to analyze the current situation and take positions and actions. We have carried out a number of other activities.

We organized the visit of a Cuban women's trade union leader to acquaint her with many of our country's women's organizations and with their work. We also had the pleasure of receiving Pilar Reyes, a Chilean refugee from Pinochet who has made her home in Sweden, where she is active in WILPF. She spoke to us about integrating women in the political life of society.

In following up on the decisions of WILPF's IEC meeting in Britain this summer we collected signatures to the petition on transport of nuclear waste.

Marianela Castillo, Secretary

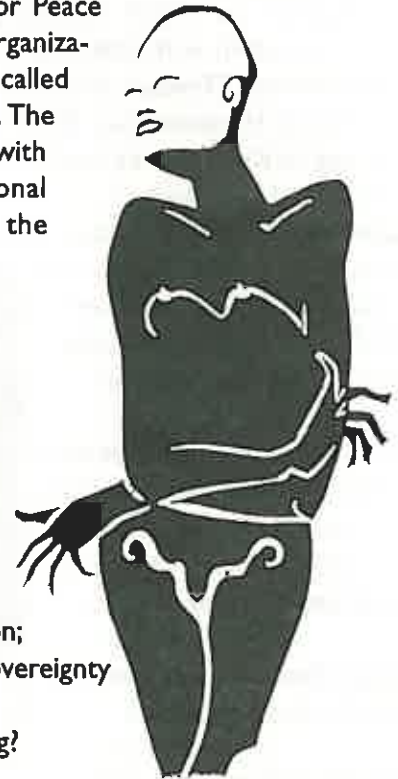
Solidarity with the Women of Cuba

**International Women's Solidarity Conference
11-19 April 1998, Havana, Cuba,**

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is one of a number of organizations co-sponsoring this conference called by the Federation of Cuban Women. The Continental Front of Women for Life with Dignity and the Women's International Democratic Federation are among the many other co-sponsors.

Issues to be debated include:

- ◆ Women, Economy and Sustainable Development;
- ◆ Women and Political Participation;
- ◆ Women, Health, Education, Culture and Social Security;
- ◆ Women and the Mass Media;
- ◆ Women, Violence and Discrimination;
- ◆ Women, National Independence, Sovereignty and Peace;
- ◆ How far have we come since Beijing?
- ◆ Where do we go from here?



Come and join women from around the world and take advantage of this opportunity to share experiences and develop strategies and models designed for building global women's solidarity!

For more information, address yourself to:

Department of Foreign Relations of the Federation of Cuban Women,
Paseo 260, esq. 13,
Vedado, Havana, Cuba
Tel: (537) 3 9931/32/34/35 and 30 1582
Fax: (537) 33 3019 / 66 2245 / 24 0866
Email: fmccu@ceniai.inf.cu

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
1, rue de Varembé, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 733 61 75
Fax: +41 22 740 10 63
Email: womensleague@gn.apc.org



Women and Conflict Resolution

Boel Bruce

A three-day seminar on nonviolent conflict resolution took place in Kiev, Ukraine, from 6 - 8 October 1997, organized by the WILPF Göteborg branch (Sweden) with Valentina M. Bondarovskaya, Director of the International Humanitarian Centre 'Rozrada' in Kiev. Speakers included:

Barbara Lochbihler, Secretary-General of WILPF, whose lecture was on 'Striving for a culture of peace: WILPF's international experience in conflict resolution.'

Zoya V. Zarubina, Vice-President of the International Movement for Education for Peace and Understanding, Moscow, who spoke about peace education.

Natalia Berezhnaya, President of WILPF's Russian Section.

Oleg Bodruk, Institute of International Economics and Relations, Kiev, who lectured on 'Conflict at the Social Level, International and inter-ethnic conflicts.'

Valentina M. Condarovskaya, Ph.D, Director of the International Humanitarian Center Rozrada, analyzed 'The Psychological Consequences of Totalitarian Power as the Source of Conflicts at the Different Levels of Community'.

Valentina Cherevatenko, Union of Women of Russia's Don Region, spoke about practical mediation between ethnic groups and between former enemies, for instance the Chechnya conflict, and announced

that a conference would be held in January 1998 concerning post-conflict peace and freedom.

Svetlana Skornayakova, Russian Institute for Women and Management, St. Petersburg, told of the St. Petersburg Association of 23 women's organisations dealing with training and education, explaining



Zoya and Iryna cutting the big bun.

that her organization had translated into Russian B. Dahlborn Hall's book about leadership.

Marta Cullberg Weston, Swedish psychologist, now living and working in the US, dealt with 'Negotiation - Communication or Power Struggle?' A workshop on this subject followed, focusing on the level of the family.

The seminar was attended by 24 women from Kiev and other parts of Ukraine, two women from WILPF Denmark, Anne Lise Ebbe and Mia Nilsson, and three from WILPF Göteborg (Sweden),

Boel Bruce, Ann-Britt Karlsson and Tyra Spångberg.

Three different objects symbolized the seminar: a white rose for Peace and Freedom, presented by Barbara Lochbihler, a big bun for solidarity, from Iryna Danuluik-Naiduh, Ternopil, of the public organization 'Ukrainian Family', and a giraffe given by Marta Cullberg Weston symbolizing a conflict-solving communication pattern: which can be summarized as follows: What do I hear/see in the other's behavior, concretely, not judgementally, not diagnosing it? What do I feel when I hear/see that? Why do I feel that way? Because I want to ... (I take responsibility for my own feelings); and What do I want? (asking for a concrete step from the other). This, the central idea of Marshall Rosenberg's communication pattern, led to roleplaying according to 'giraffe' communication. The opposite is 'wolf' communication; the wolf punishes, blames and judges, a pattern that will not solve a conflict.

We had three interesting days together. The seminar ended with a bouquet of autumn leaves, picked by Svetlana Kominko of Ternopil University, and passed around the table. Each said some words when handing it on to the next person, making a chain of words in Ukrainian, Russian, Danish, Swedish and English. Natalia Berezhnaya promised to help the group to start a WILPF Section in Ukraine. □

Boel Bruce is an active member of the Göteborg Branch, Sweden.



OSCE Takes a Look at Women's Participation in Society

Leny Durville

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) held a 'Human Dimension' Seminar in Warsaw, 14 - 17 October 1997, on the Promotion of Women's Participation in Society. It was attended by some 90 delegates from 54 member states, representatives from intergovernmental organizations such as the ILO, UNDP, UNDPA, UNHCR, the Council of Europe and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Some 70 NGO representatives and 22 ODIHR officials made a total of about 200 participants. The main theme was dealt with in three sub-themes: (1) women in decision-making processes; (2) women in social-economic life; and (3) women in conflict situations, including war crimes and violence against women.

In the first plenary session Elisabeth Rehn explained that her focus on the legal status of women was coloured by her experience as Minister of Defence of Finland and especially as UN Rapporteur for Human Rights in Bosnia/Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. She felt that women should be assisted before, during and after trials at the International Tribunal for War Crimes in the Hague. She considered the Convention on the Rights of the Child a crucial instrument.

For two days participants worked in discussion groups on the three sub-themes. Group 1 was led by Maria Regina Tavares da Silva, Council of Europe expert and Adviser to the Governmental Commission for Equality and Women's Rights in Portugal. Group 2 was led by

Dilfusa Gulyamova, Staff Member of the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights Office in Uzbekistan. Group 3 was led by Barbara Lochbiler, WILPF Secretary-General.

In many ways the seminar was a clear follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action. Its main result was to ask participating States to ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all activities, programmes and work plans of the OSCE to enable women to play a full and active role in democracy and peace building. The seminar recommended also the establishment of a senior post and appropriate mechanisms within the framework of the OSCE to help implement gender mainstreaming in order to achieve a better representation of women in decision-making positions, and to ensure that OSCE activities take into account the interests and needs of all: children, men and women. It is clear that, since it is member states which must take the action, there is much lobbying to be done at the national level.



From L-R: Heide Schütz (Women for Peace, Germany), Barbara Lochbihler (WILPF), Dorlies Bröcking (Women for Peace, Switzerland), Brigitte Schmidt (WILPF, Germany), Leny Durville (WILPF, Sweden) enjoying Polish cooking during the Seminar.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the Netherlands WILPF Office, F.C. Donders straat 23, NL-3572 JB Utrecht, telephone 030.2712121, or from the WILPF International, C.P. 28, CH-1211 Geneva 20 in Geneva. □

Leny Durville is a member of the Dutch Section of WILPF.



CHILDREN'S PEACE CAMPS

Millee Livingston

Children's Peace Camp was begun by Region I of US WILPF at the US Section Congress in 1986. It has evolved and expanded throughout the US and in other countries. Today there are more than 20 WILPF and non-WILPF Peace Camps in the United States, a camp in Sarajevo and an inquiry from Belize, Central America.

We have developed staff manuals, and materials on how to start and organize a camp. Some Peace Camp organizers present training sessions to help camps get underway. It is a most rewarding experience for everyone!

The idea was born out of the need of mothers attending the WILPF congresses. When we prepared for the 1986 Congress, the mothers wanted to bring their children, but wanted them to learn something about peace, freedom and justice. We met the need by organizing a Peace Camp which was so successful that it was duplicated in Auburn, California in 1987 with the help of a grant from the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA) Miami Fund, and later, a grant from the Doris Jones Fund.

The camp's mission is to provide alternative day camp experiences which foster an understanding of peace, justice, and environmental awareness appropriate to the needs of the children involved.

Since we started, our goals have expanded to teach concepts of peace, equality and justice at a developmentally appropriate level. We encourage self-esteem, empower-

ment, critical thinking skills, and the ability to initiate change (activism). We encourage respect for the environment and the interdependence of all living things. We introduce peaceful conflict resolution skills and alternatives to war play. We provide an opportunity for children of diverse ethnic and class backgrounds to create comfortable, empathic relations with one another. We facilitate in children an understanding of their humanness and the different ways they are human and provide a relaxing, yet energizing "camp" atmosphere for the campers and their families.

The camp's planned activities include creating an atmosphere based on mutual respect and developing an awareness, appreciation and respect for nature. We discover the biological interdependence of all living things and extend this understanding to global interdependence. We expand and present alternatives for children, other than war as a solution for all disputes. We present to the children alternatives to conflict resolution.

We implement the activities in a constructive manner, through field trips, observing nature through nature walks, sharing ideas, art work, crafts, games, songs, etc. The first Camp closed with a public program in commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We recognize that all communities have different needs, so we recommend that each camp reflect its ability to determine these. While every peace camp is different, there are

some basic programmes that apply to all. A Peace Camp programme may weave together:

Anti-bias lens - self and group identity, empathic relationships, critical thinking about stereotypes and taking action.

Emergent curriculum: developed around issues about which children express interest (observation and listening by teachers to connect with children's concerns and development). The "Teachable Moment" is an opportunity to expand children's learning based upon child-initiated action.

Community-building focus on skills and democratic practice: empowerment, conflict management, choice-making, shared power, co-operation, inclusion, trust, "Agreements", consensus process (not voting but instead finding unity).

Members of WILPF's Peace Camp group meets in Northern California for a Peace Camp Retreat where we share experiences and help those who may wish to organize camps in their communities.

Materials and informations are available by sending US \$2.00 to Peace Camp Resource Center, 11251 Tahoe St, Auburn, CA 95604-9235, USA. Phone: 530-823-2224, Fax: 530-888-0535. □

Millee Livingston, former President of WILPF US Region I, serves currently on the US Section Board.



The 27th International WILPF Congress Bread and Roses Women Define Globalization

Joan Patchen

*As we go marching, marching in the beauty of the day
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts gray,
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses,
For the people hear us singing: "Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses!"*

"Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread but give us roses" was a picket sign at the great 1912 strike of textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts (USA). It inspired the famous labour song which in turn has inspired the title and shape of WILPF's 27th International Congress, with the theme: Women Define Globalization.

The first to be held in the United States in 20 years, this Congress will herald a new way of looking at the reality of women and work in this current wave of globalization. It begins with a weaving together of all participants to create a community of women representing many cultures and languages exploring together the world we want to build.

The programme is still in the making and there is room for input from all. Below is a general outline, developed through the women's eyes of the right to bread and roses.

The Congress will open late afternoon on 24 July with the mingling of the participants in a unique way of 'getting acquainted' and from there move into the opening plenary session to be welcomed and hear keynote speeches.

In conjunction with the Congress, Goucher College will co-sponsor a course, 'Organizing For Peace & Justice'. Students attending the special class sessions and the Congress can receive credit for the week's work. The course and the first two days of the Congress will be in the workshop format of Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed.

From there we move into the first Panel, addressing state and corporate dimensions of globalization: examining the oppressive forces that stand in the way of bringing about what we wish for people and our planet. Panel 2 will address human rights issues in the face of globalization: claiming justice and building solidarity.

Workshops will allow for further debate and for deepening the understanding of issues raised in the panels, and to plan actions.

One day will be earmarked for demonstrating in Washington D.C., and possibly speaking to some of the US legislators and decision makers.

Plans are being made for an evening in solidarity with Cuba. We will begin with a supper of Cuban food with Cuban music, followed by

**Hearts starve
as well as bodies
give us bread
but give us roses**

more music and dance. We will enjoy the company of special guests invited for the evening.

The annual Gertrud Baer leadership training seminar will take place alongside and within the Congress. There will also be a Peace Camp for children, an international video festival, celebrations large and small, and time to be with new and old friends.

So, dust off your poems, paintings, videos and paeans to peace. Bring your songs of solidarity and bring your energy and strength. We want your dances, your skits, your musical instruments. We want your sewings, weavings, ribbons and banners to festoon the halls and places where we meet.

Commit to bring a young woman, a woman of colour, a woman from a different background from yourself to deepen and widen our diversity.

Be a peace practitioner and be at the Congress in Baltimore in July 1998. □

Joan Patchen is the WILPF's 27th Congress Co-ordinator.



Dear Readers,

This is your page. We invite your comments on articles published in IPU and to write us on issues which are of concern to you. You may wish to share information or enter into a dialogue with other readers on justice, peace, disarmament and any other security issue through this page.

Whose Nickel is it anyway?

The last time I went out to witness with WILPF, it was on behalf of the Innu of Labrador who were suffering low-level military overflights of their territory. Those flights came to mind when I read Julia Bastian's letter in the IPU August issue. She says "Land tenure is fundamental to all human life". The implications of that truism are, unfortunately, not widely grasped.

I cite a second Labrador example: developments surrounding the recent nickel 'find' of Voisey's Bay, land where both the Innu and Inuit live. The international mining company Inco, whose business is extraction and processing, has agreed to pay two geologists who 'discovered' the nickel as 3 per cent net smelter royalty. Inco has already paid CA\$ 3.4 million to acquire the project. Inco did not pay those millions to the traditional people who live on the land and whose resources they are exploiting, nor to the Crown for the benefit of the community at large. Nevertheless, a columnist writes in the 20 September 1997 issues of the *Globe & Mail*, Canada's

leading newspaper, of "freeloaders and panhandlers...stalling Inco's progress", and names specifically the Innu, the Inuit, and the Newfoundland government!

Whose nickel is it in the first place? Should that not have a bearing on who gets the benefits? The columnist's blindness to the fundamental injustice of the prevailing land tenure system is terrifying.

Mary Rawson, WILPF Vancouver

WILPF in El Salvador

Our WILPF group is active and growing. One of our programmes is evaluating the government's promises in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action. We have begun to do a survey and are writing articles about our findings. We would like to receive materials on the subject from other sections and from the International Office.

We are planning to hold a round table on NAFTA/fast track with the participation of researchers in that field. We are also planning to organize a conference for students on economics.

We are working hard to build cooperation among groups and organizations for the benefit of children, for the protection of the environment, and for development.

We send greetings to all WILPF sisters from El Salvador.

Martha Benevidas



From Israel

We are very busy with demonstrations, gatherings, vigils, meetings and consultations. The high holidays in Israel are a time for soul searching. All the failures and disasters of our present government have really driven the peace people and progressives out into the street to make themselves visible and have their views heard.

In September, a group of women, coming from the US, Canada and a number of European countries, joined our Women in Black vigil in Tel Aviv and invited us to demonstrate with them on the 27th outside Dimona near the Nuclear reactor to demand Mordechai Vanunu's release from prison.

We joined them of course, but we regretted that nothing had been done in Israel to make the demonstration known. We decided to do something about the lack of organization and have formed two committees, one to work for the release of Vanunu and keeping contact with him, and the international group working for his freedom. The other committee will concentrate on educating the public about the need of nuclear disarmament.

Aliyah Strauss, President

Thanks for the Peace Update

I have just received your International Peace Update and wish to thank you for all the work that comes together through its pages. So many times we share what WILPF is contributing worldwide for peace and harmony. It is always a special time when Peace Update arrives. I enclose a small bill to help your work.

Pearline Ferguson, Aotearoa/NZ



On Globalization

Dan Bolef

Increasingly, in the 1980's and 1990's, activists, academics, even business executives have been addressing the issues of modern corporate power and the effects of economic globalization. Among my favorite book titles are *Corporations Are Gonna Get Your Mama: Globalization and the Downsizing to the American Dream*, and *50 Years Is Enough: The Case Against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund*, both edited by Kevin Danaher and published by Common Courage Press (USA).

Two of the most profound treatments that I have come across are *Predatory Rule: State and Civil Society in Africa* by Robert Fatton [Lynn Rienner, USA 1992], and *Root Causes of the Global Crisis* by Janet Bruin (1996, to be republished) who for sixteen years edited WILPF's *pax et libertas* and also served as Secretary of the Special NGO Committee on Development (Geneva).

The recent book by David C. Korten, *When Corporations Rule the World* [Kumerian Press and Berrett-Koehler Publishers Inc, USA, 1995] is an outstanding contribution to this genre. Much of Korten's career has been spent in elite, establishment organizations, including Harvard University Graduate School of Business, the Ford Foundation and, most recently, eight years as a senior advisor on development management to the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

In his forthright, honest, engaging manner, Korten relates his gradual metamorphosis into a perceptive and severe critic of what he had formerly been part of. It was a gradual process of learning from his experiences among the poor and underprivileged in the US, in Asia, in Africa. His sensitivity to people's needs is evident throughout. In his self-revelations, in his concern for the poor and the oppressed, in his understanding of the path not taken, Korten shows himself to be a perceptive, intelligent, humane man. Janet Bruin, WILPF writer and editor, comes to mind as an appropriate comparison.

In a world committed to growth, big business and deficit financing, why is there rising poverty and unemployment, inequality, violent crime, failing families, and environmental deterioration? Korten's experiences in Asia, relating especially to poor people committed to local initiatives to improve their lives, led him to the conviction that real development cannot be purchased with foreign aid monies, but rather 'depends on people's ability to gain control of and use effectively the real resources of their localities — land, water, labor, technology, and human ingenuity and motivation. Korten pursued this path to its logical end: He helped found the People-Centered Development Forum, a citizen network engaged in examining how national- and global-level structures and institutions deprive people and communities of the power to meet their

own needs in responsible, sustainable ways.

Korten reviews in some detail the development of the 'growth illusion', the belief that economic growth is the key to meeting most important human needs, and the corporate conviction that there are no environmental — or human — limits to growth. He analyzes the roles of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in bringing disaster to millions of ordinary people in country after country. His summary of the rise of corporate power in America, and his analysis of the nature of corporations are lucid and understandable even to those, like myself, ignorant of academic economics. The inevitability of corporate undermining of democratic pluralism is strongly emphasized.

The core of the book describes graphically "the conscious and intentional transformation" to "a new world economic order in which business has no nationality and knows no borders". It is driven by global dreams of vast corporate empires, compliant governments, a globalized consumer monoculture.

Explicit cases are cited, including those subjected to the intrusive role of the World Bank and IMF in dictating the public policies of indebted countries and undermining progress toward democratic governance and public accountability. Korten gives graphic exam-

(continued on page 16)



**The Editorial Board
of
International Peace Update
wishes you a very happy,
healthy and peaceful New Year!**

(continued from page 15)

ples of the wild illusion within which the world's power holders live, an illusion maintained by the dysfunction of an economic system that lavishes rich rewards on power holders for decisions that place terrible burdens on the rest of humanity.

The relevant chapter headings permit us no doubt as to where Korten stands: Dreaming of Global Empires; Building Elite Consensus; Buying Out Democracy; Marketing the World; Adjusting (!) the Poor; Guaranteeing Corporate Rights.

In the section of the book on A Rogue Financial System, Korten describes in some detail the predatory nature of the global and national financial systems. He then devotes equal space to describing the disastrous effect on people's lives — a 'race to the bottom'. The

final section of the book, Reclaiming Our Power, covers many areas but remains general and sketchy. He does not, for example, go into the practical detail — given by WILPF member Carol Brouillet*, for example — of changing the rules of the global money game through local communities creating alternative or complementary currencies over which banks have no control.

(*Carol Brouillet, *Reinventing Money, Restoring the Earth, Reweaving the Web of Life*, reprinted in *Haversack: A Franciscan Review*, Summer, 1997. P.O. Box 408676, Chicago, Illinois 60640). □

Dan Bolef is Professor emeritus, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. Long time WILPF member and supporter, he lives now in Pennsylvania, USA.

**Remember to renew
your subscription to IPU for 1998 NOW!**

**Give a subscription
to your favourite relative and friend**

Join WILPF

**WILPF
Publications
Order from WILPF
1, rue de Varembe
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland**

**Backgrounders,
Fact Sheets, Essays...**

- Women and Militarism, 1994.
 - Controlling the Arms Trade, 1993.
 - Migrant Workers and Human Rights, 1993.
- Price: SF 5.- each

Reports...

- Search for Peace in the Middle East, 1997. SF 5.-
- Nuclear Disarmament - Strategies to Achieve a Nuclear Free World (Women's Seminar, 8 March 1997, Geneva). SF 5.-
- Conversion: An Essential Practical Component for Effective Disarmament, 1996. SF 8.-
- Human Rights Violations against Women during War and Conflict, Report of Round Table, Geneva, 1997. SF 5.-
- Breaking the Barriers to Peace in the Middle East, Women's Dialogue, Cyprus, 1997. SF 3.-

Other Publications

**Please add SF 2
for postage**

