

Berlin (GDR), capital
of the 10th Assembly of WFDY



1978
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WORLD YOUTH

WORLD YOUTH

W.F.D.Y.

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A broad mass movement is developing throughout the world against the N-bomb, that new weapon of mass extermination, which is claimed to be "humane" and "clean" by its inventors and by those Pentagon circles who are out to restore the atmosphere of "cold war" and the arms race. Progressive and democratic youth of all the continents have already voiced their condemnation of this new weapon and US imperialism's intention to

the N-bomb and prevent its production.

We, editors of the international youth magazine published by WFDY, are of the opinion that the world youth press also has — as a vital task — to contribute to the world campaign launched by youth, by all progressive forces against this new nuclear threat. We shall — within our modest limits — make our fullest contribution alerting the public to the dangers that this new weapon of mass extermination represents for mankind and the future of mankind — the youth.

This is why we ask WORLD YOUTH readers to let us have their opinions and ideas concerning the devilish plans to add this new horrifying weapon to the arsenal of imperialism. Readers' opinions will be published in the magazine.

We also call on democratic youth organizations and editorial boards publishing for youth to send us all materials they have already published or plan to publish in protest against the neutron bomb: articles, posters, drawings or graphics on this new danger threatening the whole of mankind. We will ensure the widest possible coverage to your views and demands. If together we all say NO TO THE NEUTRON BOMB! — we shall multiply the strength of a broad world movement that will stay the hand of the criminals and prevent the political détente that has developed these past years from being undermined.

Write now! Your contributions will become part of the common treasure of all progressive forces fighting for a lasting peace, for détente, for general and complete disarmament, for social progress. Let us spare no effort to warn public opinion, to strengthen the anti-imperialist conscience of youth, to save our common future!

Write to WORLD YOUTH, now, the next issue is already yours!

The Editor-in-chief

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Dear Readers,

In this issue we start publication of a series of views of picturesque Cuba, most of which will be available either in postcard series or big size full-colour posters. This will be another contribution by World Youth enabling readers to learn more about the host country of the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students — Socialist Cuba. Send in your order now for those lovely full-colour photos to decorate the walls of your room or for coloured postcards of Cuba to send to your friends. For 3 dollars or equivalent you will receive a set of 4 posters or 12 postcards. The choice is yours!

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NO TO THE NEUTRON BOMB!



start mass production of it. At the beginning of this year, the participants in the European Youth and Student Conference on Disarmament, i.e. the delegates of a wide cross-section of organizations of different political, ideological, philosophical and religious tendencies meeting in Budapest, stressed the danger that the N bomb represents for détente and world peace.

The 10th Assembly of member organizations of the World Federation of Democratic Youth held in Berlin, capital of the GDR — as the supreme forum of the Federation — also had its say on this issue. Nowadays — when the youth and peoples all over the world are waging an ever more conscious struggle for peace, détente, cooperation, social progress and general and complete disarmament — it is but logical that WFDY should launch from Berlin an Appeal to the youth of the world to condemn

Call it 2⁰⁰

Interview

Close

with Ernesto Ottone
Fernández,
the new President
of WFDY

cooperation

QUESTION: *The WFDY Assembly unanimously and enthusiastically elected the CY of Chile and you personally as President of the Federation. What do you think of this trust shown by the member organizations?*

ANSWER: The confidence and appreciation manifested towards us by all member organizations which elected us as President of WFDY is a great encouragement and at the same time a great responsibility for us, young Chilean Communists.

It is a great encouragement since in this decision we see another display of confidence and solidarity with the struggle waged by the whole Chilean people and youth together with democratic forces against fascism, for democracy and freedom, a struggle which — because of its antecedents and development — has become a universal symbol of the democratic and anti-imperialist commitment of youth.

We also see in our election a reaffirmation of the deeply universal character of the Federation, its growth and extension to all geographic latitudes of the globe, its staunch solidarity in support of all peoples and youth struggling for their national independence, democracy and social progress.

And finally it is an appreciation of the permanent effort that our organization has always made to perform its duties in the field of international solidarity, its work to help the general tasks of the international youth movement, its strivings for unity and a broader understanding of the objectives shared by the overwhelming majority of young people today.

Taking into account the development of the international situation



Ernesto Ottone Fernández, the new WFDY president thanks delegates for their enthusiastic applause

and the strengthening of the role and reputation of WFDY, we see our task as a great responsibility. And to fulfil it we — as the Chilean Communist Youth Union — will do our best to be worthy of this great confidence that has been placed in us.

QUESTION: *How do you see your tasks as WFDY President?*

ANSWER: In regard to our tasks as WFDY President, we would like to say first of all how highly we esteem the way our predecessors, the Italian Communist Youth Federation, carried out this responsibility for 28 years. Their work was characterized by a great political ability and a united will which contributed greatly to the development, extension and strengthening of WFDY in the course of all these years.

For our part, we shall do our best — in close cooperation with all

members of the Bureau — to effectively implement the decisions of the 10th Assembly.

We feel that the President should in the first place play an active role in boosting WFDY activities, he should help to reach agreement and interpret the wide range of joint decisions and actions of our Federation, he should be an important factor for promoting and developing cooperation with other youth forces in the international field, and finally he should be an active factor for the development and improvement of the working methods of WFDY and see to it that it keeps pace with the development of the international situation and the requirements of the youth movement. It is clear that this task cannot be carried out single, by one organization, and even less so by one person, so it is a question of playing an active role in a task which — to be carried out successfully —

should rely on the constant support of all WFDY organizations.

QUESTION: How do you see the future of the Federation in the light of the decisions adopted at the 10th Assembly? How important will the Assembly be for the further development of WFDY, to enable it to solve the problems of the international youth movement, to always find the best answers and solutions to the questions emerging every day in the world and in the first place in the struggle of the young generation?

ANSWER: On the basis of the outcome of the 10th WFDY Assembly our view of its future is by all means optimistic.

In our opinion the 10th Assembly has been very important since in its discussions and decisions it went far beyond the normal statutory scope.

The 10th Assembly reaffirmed the character of WFDY, confirmed its strengthening and growing importance as a factor of common action in the democratic and anti-imperialist orientation of millions of youth the world over.

The Assembly highlighted the historic, irreplaceable role of the Federation, its action linked with each and every struggle of youth in these 33 years, its effective contribution to the struggle and democratic unity of several generations, its growing influence and consistent action.

Moreover, it analysed the fact that — as a direct consequence of the positive changes in the international situation and with its own growth, new challenges, new requirements and possibilities have emerged; this is why the Assembly sought to improve and extend the programme of action of WFDY, to further improve its democratic life, to remove shortcomings and broaden its composition. All this has been done in a positive atmosphere of unity and willingness to seek agreement, as reflected in the main documents of the Assembly and in the programme of action.

At the 10th Assembly — as has been foreseen — a large number of new organizations of different orientations became members of the Federation, a fact which reflects its viability, its growing representation and the wide prospects for its further strengthening.

QUESTION: What are the basic and most urgent orientations of the

work to be done after the Assembly? How does WFDY contribute to successful preparations for the 11th Festival?

ANSWER: In the programme of action of the 10th Assembly, which is an inspiring, long-term document containing the main orientations in different fields where WFDY pursues its activities, I would like to point out three basic directions on which we focus our attention. They are linked with:

— Strengthening and development of joint actions of democratic forces in their struggle for peace and disarmament;

— Development of international solidarity, especially solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa, with the Arab peoples and the Arab people of Palestine, with the Chilean people as well as in support of all peoples struggling against imperialism, fascism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid;

— Struggle of the youth of the world for its rights and aspirations.

Along with these basic orientations there are other topics of major importance, such as struggle for a new international economic order.

The most urgent tasks are of course connected with the latest development in the international situation.

So, today, stepping up the world campaign against the Neutron Bomb is — due to its seriousness — of great importance to us, as well as the successful holding of the Day of Action of European Youth and Students for Disarmament.

Besides, such matters as the Israeli aggression on South Lebanon made necessary a rapid campaign of denunciation and political, moral and material support to the people of Palestine and the Lebanese democratic forces.

In a broader sense the big task of the period following the 10th Assembly is the ongoing preparations for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Havana, Cuba. We are concentrating our efforts on this, supporting national initiatives, promoting the ideas of the Festival and contributing politically and materially to its preparation.

WFDY's participation in the preparation of the World Festival of Youth and Students has always been very important and now — as always — WFDY will draw upon all its experience and strength to contribute in a many-sided manner to the full success of the Festival.

I. S.

WORLD YOUTH: At the 10th Assembly the FGCI did not stand again for the post of WFDY president. Could you tell us the reasons for this decision by the Italian Communist Youth Federation?

P. Lapićciarella: The reasons for this were made known for the first time at the WFDY Executive Committee Meeting in November 1976, then in the speech of FGCI national secretary Da Lema, from the rostrum of this Assembly. First of all, we thought that after 28 years as holder of the post of president it was time to hand over the office to someone else. This does not mean in any way that we thought we no longer had the strength to continue doing this job. It is obvious that no organization can fill a post of such importance and prestige as the WFDY presidency for so long without the risk of contributing in one way or another to the, so to say, «fossilization» of the organization itself, since some of the posts of responsibility in the Federation have become hereditary. Therefore, in calling for a more open nature of WFDY we meant greater efforts for an opening up to realities, for a new capacity to understand what is going on in the world, for a lesser tendency to repeat everything that has already been done in the past, that is to say, we thought in this framework that our move to resign from the presidency could be a useful thing. At the same time we wanted to reiterate that this does not mean in any way that we are cutting down our commitment within WFDY. On the contrary, it is a matter of continuing our commitment in diverse forms, though we want to do it more freely, as the post of WFDY president demands continuous efforts to interpret all the different stands of the member organizations, whereas another post inside the Bureau of the Federation — one also calling for a sense of responsibility, an ability to comprehend — permits of more unilateral aspects. This means we shall keep up our commitment within WFDY and we are happy that we have been able to step down from the presidency, with the help of all other organizations, without giving rise to anything in the way of a scandal. After the first manifestations of concern, our decision was understood as a normal thing, even a correct move.

WORLD YOUTH: You were President of WFDY in a period full of great events of major international significance for the whole of mankind, and not only for the youth



«We shall keep giving our contribution»

Interview with Piero Lapicciarella, outgoing President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth

movement. How did you see this interesting and important period at the head of the Bureau?

P. Lapicciarella: Yes, it was a period of major events. For me, personally, it meant a whole range of experiences, a life time of experiences condensed into a few years. I don't mean only the frequent trips and the possibility to learn new realities, but also the many personal experiences and impressions. I could gain, from the political point of view holding the post of WFDY president was not always easy as agreement had to be sought between different organizations inside the Bureau and sometimes it was even necessary to resist certain stands which at a given moment of time had majority

backing but which were — in my opinion — minority viewpoints in the long run. The presidency of an organization — be it occupied by the FGCI or by any other member organization — demands also the power to see things from a broader angle, to get a more general view of the validity of one standpoint or another. Here the cooperation of all members of the Bureau should be stressed, i.e. the ability I have just mentioned was a more general ability shown now by one representative, now by others. These international dialectics of WFDY, this capacity not to take rigid and preconceived stands, has further developed during the years when I was President of the Federation. Today, I believe this ability belongs already to the heritage of WFDY, it is one of

Piero Lapicciarella, outgoing president of the Federation at the 10th Assembly opening session

the elements that make this youth organization one of the highest esteemed international organizations in the world.

Then there were big international events which will remain imprinted in my memory for ever. In the first place the victory of Vietnam — and here I must say that the political experience of our youth is closely linked with the solidarity campaign in support of Vietnam — then the collapse of fascism in Portugal and Greece and Spain, the end of the Portuguese colonial empire in Africa, an so on. On the other hand, setbacks for the workers' and progressive movements, as in the case of Chile, but also the commitment and mobilization of all democratic youth to isolate the dictatorship and contribute by means of solidarity to the overthrow of fascism in Chile.

WORLD YOUTH: All these years, all these experiences, what did they bring to you personally?

P. Lapicciarella: I think they helped me first of all to see the world from different viewpoints, or rather, to understand that the world is seen from different viewpoints. They helped me, so to say, to adjust my bearings at a given moment, to look at everything from a broader perspective where different forces are acting and interacting than those that one can see within the narrower limits of a single country. This means that I will be able to observe events in my country in more placid way, singling out more easily the more significant features of an issue and dropping the less significant ones. So, I've become calmer, cooler and maybe even wiser.

WORLD YOUTH: Coming back to FGCI, what will its international commitment be within WFDY in the future?

P. Lapicciarella: FGCI is right now in the process of gradually increasing its international commitment. Nevertheless, we are still there in solidarity campaigns, in efforts to support peoples struggling in the different continents; it is not long since that FGCI began take part in international — not purely solidarity — events, as, for instance, on the question of peace and security in Europe, or the question of disarmament, or questions concerning the cooperation of youth organizations in Europe. The interest of FGCI is

focused above all on the European continent, as a result of a realistic view of our possibilities here, and especially a correct analysis of the fact that our basic interests are linked with this continent, nudging it towards a strengthening of peace, détente and cooperation in the direction of disarmament. As to Western Europe — where we belong — our main objective is to build up a better understanding and the solidarity of different democratic and progressive movements: Communist, Socialist, Radical, Christian-Democrat, etc., to route Western Europe towards a democratic development and, internationally get a special commitment on the questions of peace, disarmament, and a new international economic order, seeing this as a framework for more just, equitable relations based on mutual advantage between economically better-off countries and developing ones.

Apart from this commitment there is our commitment on universal, international themes: solidarity with the Chilean people and with other peoples of Latin America fighting against fascism and fascist or reactionary dictatorships, for their freedom, for democracy and progress. We feel that the struggle of those peoples is of a universal value and their victory will contribute to the strengthening of consciousness in regard to the importance of the fight for democracy. We follow closely the events in the Middle East both because of its geographic nearness and because we believe that the issue of peace and security in Europe cannot be set aside from the process of peaceful settlements in the Middle East and in Africa. We do not think that European security can be limited to the actual borders of Europe. The opposite of that would be to take a narrow view of the problem. This is why we are for a peaceful solution in the Middle East, enabling the Palestinian people to obtain its legitimate right to live in its own independent state, and enable the Arab peoples to regain their territories illegally occupied by Israel, and all this within

the framework of recognition of the existence of all peoples and all states in the area, including the State of Israel. As to the African continent, we support the peoples of southern Africa fighting against racism and apartheid, because we consider this struggle to be part of the struggle of mankind against all forms of barbarity still existing in the contemporary world.

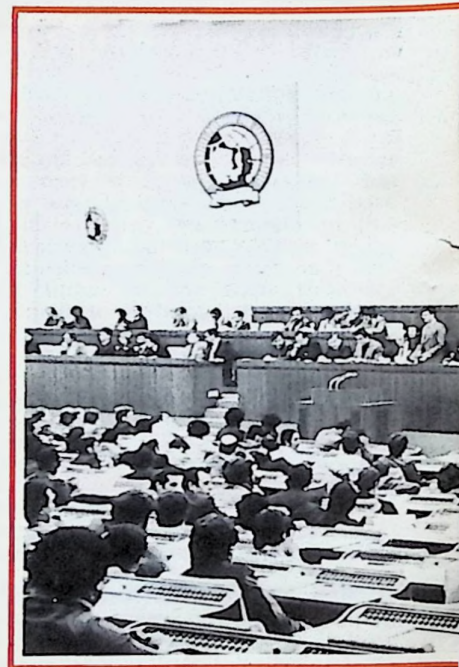
In Africa we have good relations with the Algerian and Libyan comrades, we want to extend our cooperation to all democratic organizations in the Arab countries; we support the struggle of the Polisario Front for the self-determination of the people of Sahara. We consider this cooperation to be very important as such a cooperation between Mediterranean countries could lead to a new understanding and joint efforts to steer the region towards building peace. We have also good relations with youth and peoples who, unfortunately, are warring with each other, such as Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea. Within the bounds of our possibilities we try to help toward a peaceful solution of the crisis in the Horn of Africa on the basis of the inviolability of borders, which we consider the main principle for preserving peace in Africa and the world over. This is a universal principle. But, at the same time, the rights of all peoples concerned must be recognized, including the people of Eritrea.

We also take part in other efforts, for instance, in the struggle against youth unemployment in Western Europe and in other capitalist countries, or — as it has been proved several times — in efforts aimed at the development of WFDY, at the expansion of its activity, in which we fully cooperate. We feel that even under the new circumstances we shall be able to keep giving our full contribution. We must decide in what specific fields we can undertake responsibilities. After this Assembly, and on the basis of the work that we have carried out, we think that attention towards WFDY and its international activities has increased within FGCI itself.

I. Sch.

From February 22 to March 1, 1978, in Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic, the Free German Youth (FDJ) offered its traditional hospitality to the delegates of WFDY's member and friendly organizations who came together for an event of major importance in the life of the Federation: the 10th Assembly of member organizations.

The importance of this event, its broad discussions and the documents adopted cannot be made known within the narrow limits of a single article. The coming issues of WORLD YOUTH will be dealing in detail with the Assembly, the more so as the resolutions adopted there and the general conclusions as well as the programme of actions serve as guidelines in our press



work, at least until the 11th Assembly of the Federation's member organizations. These documents are and remain the base for all activities of WFDY in the period that has commenced after the conclusion of the work of this supreme forum. Thus our readers will have plenty of other opportunities to get acquainted with the reports resulting from the extensive discussions in Berlin.

First reflexions
on the 10th
Assembly

On the path of anti-imperialist solidarity peace and progress

of member organizations
of the World Federation
of Democratic Youth



View of the hall during the 10th Assembly of WFDY member organizations

Careful preparations

For this reason in the present article we only give you the first impressions and reflexions with a rich illustration of this major event.

The first aspect to be stressed is the preparations for the 10th Assembly, this long and careful pro-

cess which included a series of meetings, consultations and trips allowing for thorough exchange of ideas and views. Aware of its role and prestige in the world, as well as of the hopes and requirements of democratic and progressive world youth, WFDY paid special attention to the good preparation of the As-

sembly of its member organizations. The holding of this supreme forum was by no means only the organizations of the WFDY Constitution. A permanent concern of the Federation during the preparatory stage was to better adapt itself to the new realities in the world and to better correspond to the new requirements and remain a faithful



The Presidium of the WFDY Executive Committee meeting

echo and mobilizing force for the aspirations and struggles of the young generation.

An enlarged meeting of African member organizations was held in Accra, Ghana, which was followed by an enlarged meeting of Latin American member organizations in San José, Costa Rica, and an enlarged meeting of European member organizations held in Budapest, Hungary, trips to the Middle East, Asia and Oceania, visits by successive delegations to WFDY headquarters were so many proofs of the Federation's efforts to go to Berlin to the 10th Assembly, with «up-to-date files». The final communiqués of these meetings and mainly the thematical broadness of the report presented by the WFDY to the delegates to the 10th Assembly fully confirmed the usefulness of this broad and careful preparation.

A faithful reflection of the youth movement of our day

The report and its conclusion enabled the delegates to devote themselves to a thorough eight-day

discussion, a critical analysis of all that has been carried out since the 9th Assembly in Varna, Bulgaria, a critical analysis of the activities of WFDY carried out during this period, an objective analysis of the changes that have taken place in the world, so many solid bases to elaborate resolutions and a programme of actions with a standard in keeping with the requirements, aspirations and struggles of the youth of the world.

Starting out from the analysis of the results and shortcomings of the World Campaign of Common Action of Youth for anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and progress, launched by the previous Assembly in Varna, the delegates meeting in Berlin stressed the conclusions to be drawn from the carrying out of this Campaign so as to be able to put forward just proposals concerning the objectives for the future. In this context, the political maturity and increased awareness of the democratic youth movement, its entirely just demand to participate directly and continuously in the elaboration of the guidelines, the programmes of action of WFDY as well as in the preparation and holding of future initiatives, was stressed.

The first point to stress in this analysis is the proof of the strength and militancy of the democratic youth movement, its ability to always have a general and complete view of the world, to have an ear for all problems causing concern to the young generation. The Campaign launched under the slogan: "For anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and progress" proved to be effective and rich in content. It enabled the carrying out of tasks of world importance for youth, and enabled millions of young people all over the world to act in a coordinated way, so to say, simultaneously, for the solution of problems related to peace, security, cooperation, for the further development of anti-imperialist solidarity, for democracy, youth rights, at the same time extending WFDY's sphere of influence and further increasing its prestige and authority.

The results, the rich balance of the Campaign showed that WFDY

is not merely an ensemble of member organizations, but represents an incomparably superior force to what could be expressed "numerically" by a simple addition of the forces of each of its member organizations. This additional force, this inexhaustible reserve of energy and militancy, derives from the voluntary and conscious unity of millions of young people from the five continents aimed at resolving together, by harmonized joint efforts, the most burning problems of our time,

Boris Patukhov, first secretary of KOM-SOMOL on the rostrum of the 10th Assembly

Luis Corvalán, general secretary of the Chilean Communist Party addressing the solidarity meeting with the people and youth of Chile, organized during the Assembly



to build together a better future, free of the threat of war, free of exploitation and oppression. It is this inexhaustible and invincible force that contributed to the historic victory of the Vietnamese people, that will contribute to the inevitable downfall of the dictatorship of Pinochet and his consorts, to the crushing of the last bastions of colonialism and racism in Africa, to the achievement of democratic rights for youth in capitalist countries, to the establishment of a new economic order, to the banning of the neutron bomb and all thermonuclear weapons, to general and



P. Lapicciarella opens the joint FDJ-WFDY exhibition together with Hartmud König, secretary of the FDJ CC



Delegates lay a wreath at the monument to the victims of nazism, in Berlin



Egon Krenz, first secretary of the Free German Youth (FDJ) CC with a group of delegates

the clear dialectic of history prevails without exception. It is through such contradictions and discussions and analyses that the best solutions are crystallized which give a positive answer to the demands of the young generation. It is through reasonable compromises that the goals set become goals for the entire movement, goals having a mobilizing force in all parts of the world. And it is always in the revival of continuity that this dialectic bears its fruits in the ever-enriching balance of activity of WFDY.

complete disarmament, to lasting peace and security.

Always young, always full of energy

The maturity of national youth organizations is everywhere accompanied by the completely just and understandable demand to play an ever greater part in elaboration and decision-making, in allotting the immense responsibility falling to the builders of a peaceful and happy future. Young people all over the world demand the right to accomplish their mission, to play the role falling to them, in keeping with their weight in modern society. Often contradictory positions and views clash in the attempts to find better methods of struggle, in seeking new objectives. But everywhere

The famous Quilapayún group at the solidarity meeting

One of the guests: Ernesto Dabó, representative of the "Amílcar Cabral" African Youth from the Republic of Guinea-Bissau



The 10th Assembly has certainly brought about a series of changes in the composition of the Executive Committee and even the Bureau of the Federation. In keeping with the changes that have come about in the world, the young people of developing countries have new tasks and new responsibilities within the Federation. This is an imperative law of development, the permanent ability of the Federation itself to continuously renew and always adapt itself to new situations, for it is and will be only due to this ability that it remain in the centre of attraction for the democratic youth movement. Its influence increases day by day, it lives and works with, for and through world youth.

Many tasks await WFDY and its member organizations now that the 10th Assembly is over. The grand gathering for anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship — the 11th Festival to be held in Havana — will soon commence. The implementation of the resolution passed in Berlin requires also much energy and many efforts. The delegates left



Berlin convinced that they had done a good job that will be effective and lasting. And the richer the harvest the greater the prestige and hearing of WFDY and the balance to be presented to the 11th Assembly.

The 10th Assembly did not launch any new campaign. Its documents do, however, express the resolve of democratic world youth to carry on relentlessly, achieving still greater victories on the same path, the path of anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and progress. For this path has proved to be the best and most fruitful one.

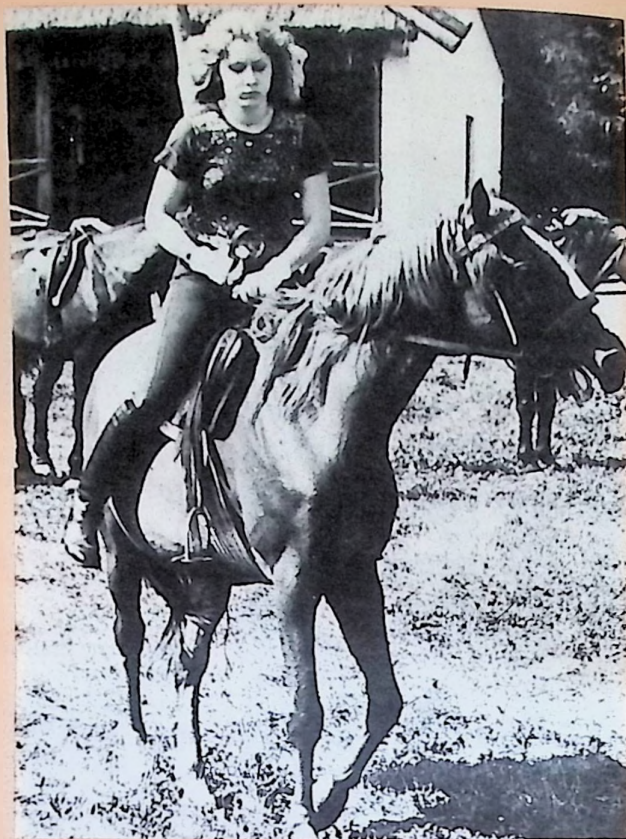
I. Schütz

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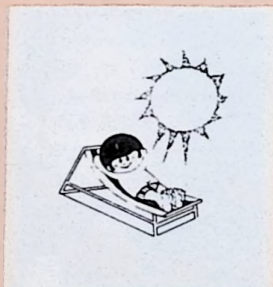
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On the threshold of the 11th Festival

Christopher Columbus caught sight of the Central American coasts for the first time in September 1502, during his 4th and last voyage. However, the conquest, or rather, the colonization of the area started later, after the collapse of the Motezuma Empire. It was a rather slow and peaceful process, as the adventurers preferred to join Cortés or Pizarro, who was searching for the fabulous El Dorado. Peaceful settlers installed themselves everywhere. They hoped to make a fortune, as the climate was favourable for agriculture. The struggle against the natives started later, with the expansion of plantations that forced the Indians up into the high plate and mountains. The peoples of the region shook off the Spanish colonial rule in the «twenties» of the last century and by 1825 five independent states had been established in Central America: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, and the territory of today's Panama which belonged at the time to Colombia and which proclaimed its independence only in 1903.

For the first time in the history of the youth movement a World Festival will be held in the Western hemisphere in the Caribbean, that is, in the immediate neighbourhood of Central America. It will be an event which has and will undoubtedly have in the future an effect on the life of youth in these countries.

This is why our editorial board initiated the holding of a round-table talk with representatives of the national youth movements of six Central American countries. This has been a sort of imaginary round table, not bound to the limits of time and space as — for different reasons — the conversations took place at different times, in different countries and continents, and happened rather by chance than by some pattern or organization. But we can put the result of these conversations at your disposal. Let the

Panorama of Central America

spokesmen for the different countries speak in alphabetic order of their countries.

Dependence and anti-imperialist struggle

Lenin Chacón is well known in the majority of the countries of the isthmus. He is General Secretary of the Vanguard Youth of Costa Rica. To our request he agreed to try and outline the present image of the region extending over an area of more than half a million square km.

«World public opinion does not know much about our six republics, often referred to as the «Banana Republics». This name not only reflects the fact that the banana is still our second largest exported item, it is also an exact socio-political term. The common characteristic feature of the entire area is the rather narrow economic and political dependence on the United States which maintains its grip on Central America by military and economic means. At the beginning the main aim of the US imperialists was to get hold of huge plantations. During several decades, the ill-famed United Fruit Company and the Standard Fruit Company, its successor, dictated the law in the area, appointing and overthrowing governments in accordance with their interests at a given moment. But as the strategic importance of the isthmus grew — after the opening of the Panama Canal and the discovery of the sec-

ond richest oil fields after the Middle East — US imperialism tightened its grip.

«This economic and political dependence had grave consequences in all Central American countries: economic underdevelopment, poverty, tremendous social problems, illiteracy, and — with the sole exception of Costa Rica — dictatorial regimes, docile tools of US imperialism which trample underfoot the most elementary human rights.

«The first victims of this grave economic social, and political situation are youth, millions of whom find neither jobs nor means to continue their education. In Costa Rica alone, despite its relative economic buoyancy and democratic traditions, there are at present almost 160 000 jobless youth out of the total 2 million inhabitants. In other countries the situation is even more serious. A growing number of young people try to escape from their hopeless situation by resorting to drugs; delinquency and prostitution are also widespread among young people. But at the same time, the number of socially conscious youth is growing, too, i.e. ones who firmly oppose dependence, imperialism and US monopolies. Using all means of legal and underground struggle, those young people oppose the dictators and demand a national policy that will serve the real interests of the working masses and the future of the young generation. It is in this spirit of awareness and anti-imperialist struggle that youth in Central America are preparing for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students.

And finally, it is necessary to speak about a new and more refined form of US imperialist domination, which reflects the trends toward economic and political integration of Washington. The question is the Central American Common Market and the Defence Organization of Central American States. Both serve the interests of US monopolies, further increasing the dependence of our countries. The first allowed for a certain industrial development, in the case of Costa Rica it even led to a relative boom, but the basic resources continue to remain in the hands of foreign monopolies as well as new enterprises which are actually assembly lines for parts made elsewhere. These investments bring generous profits to multinational companies: they exploit underpaid labour, and profit from all kinds of fiscal allowances guaranteed by the Central American Common Market; they enjoy more favorable conditions on the international market and pocket bigger profits. The job of the second of the two organizations is to strengthen United States military control over the region. In this organization Costa Rica participated just as an observer, since its Constitution of 1948 bans the formation of a national army, while Panama — because of its specific situation — remains outside the confines of the Common Market of the area.»

After that summary of the present realities in the Central American states let us give the floor again to Lenin Chacón. He will tell us about his country after the election of February 5, as a continuation of our series of articles on Costa Rica started before the election (see *WORLD YOUTH* 1 and 2, 1978).

Development with tensions

Costa Rica is the only country in the area which has «civilistic» and democratic traditions, of course with all the limits and disadvantages of a bourgeois democracy. The fact that there is no army resulted in a relatively calm political development of our country, without the violence that determines the life of a lot of peoples in Latin America. Our bourgeois democracy has even given asylum to political refugees from other countries. US imperialism — naturally — exercises a growing pressure on our country to install

here a rightist regime, a military regime which would be more useful for its plans for economic and military integration and would obey its orders. This why the struggle for the safeguard and expansion of our democratic institutions, for our rights and democratic liberties is a primary task for the whole of the revolutionary and democratic movement in Costa Rica.

«Our political life is relatively calm but it is in no way free of tensions and social problems. As is generally known, the election of February 5 last year resulted in the defeat of the National Liberational Party. This party is a social-democratic orientation and governed our country for the last 8 years and put forward certain economic and social reforms. But it was unable to solve the basic problems of the country, such as the ongoing price measures, including the prices of basic consumer goods and public services. In view of this weakness of the government, the struggle of the peasants for land, the struggle of workers for wage increases and trade union rights has intensified. During the last strikes on banana plantations along the Atlantic coast, the government even resorted to repression and several militants of our youth organization fell under the bullets of the Guardia Civil. Besides, these last years have brought to the surface the problem of corruption in public administration. Under the shadow of the state unlawful dealings enriched some persons with links in government.

«These were the main reasons that led to the electoral victory of the UNIDAD (Unity) conservative coalition. One can even say that a great number of voters cast their votes against the Party of National Liberation to protest against official incapacity, against corruption, but hoping that personal changes in the state leadership could bring solutions to the essential problems of the masses. One should not forget that Rodrigo Carazo, a candidate for the conservative forces, who was elected to the post of president, waged a populist electoral campaign, with attractive slogans for the masses: hard-hitting measures against corruption, fight against taxes, improvement of living and working conditions, etc.

«For me personally it is very clear that the new government of President Carazo will show the same inability to solve the great

problems of our people and that the coming years will open up great prospects for the struggle of the popular movement led by the revolutionary organizations, first of all by our Pueblo Unido (United People), that is, the coalition of left-wing Costa Rican parties.

«In the last electoral campaign Pueblo Unido accomplished its main tasks, in spite of the fact that the elections far from reflected its influence and the sympathy of the working masses. This left-wing unity proved to be a sure base enabl-



Lenin Chacón, general secretary of the Costa Rican Vanguard Youth

ing us to advance toward higher levels of unity, to involve other social strata: small and medium holders, middle classes, professional classes.

«For us, the Vanguard Youth, one of the main results of the electoral campaign — in which our activists took part wholeheartedly and with great enthusiasm — is that more than 3,500 new members joined our organization in that same period. This is an important step in fulfilling the task set out by the 4th plenary meeting of our Central Committee: to start the year 1979 with 12,000 members, which will represent a significant force in the Costa Rican youth movement.

«It is in these conditions that we are preparing for the 11th Festival. The National Preparatory Commit-

tee was set up more than six months ago with the participation of all political youth organizations; National Liberation Youth, Youth of the conservative coalition UNIDAD, the Vanguard Youth, the Socialist Youth, the Students of the People's Front, the National Unification Party Youth, not to speak of the representatives of student, trade union (represented by their youth sections), cultural and social organizations. The NPC is as large as it can be, only extremist groups remain out of it. This committee carries on its work with great enthusiasm, in order to prepare the Youth and Student Festival of Central America that will take place between May 28 and June 4 in our country as a joint step of major importance for the successful preparation of the 11th World Festival, that imposing demonstration of the world's youth for anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship which will open on July 28 in Havana.»

in popular struggles. In order to better understand their weight in our society, it is necessary to stress the fact that in Guatemala, the average lifespan is 45 years, that is the majority of workers in town and country are young. Today, everybody recognizes that in Guatemala the workers' movement, the trade union movements form the centre of all political movements of opposition to the dictatorship. The student movement through its consistent policy, regained the role which had been played by the Association of University Students in Guatemalan history. AUS is always ready to cooperate, to act in solidarity with all the other progressive and popular forces in the struggle against crimes and violations of human and elementary rights by the dictatorship.

«No progressive youth organization can stand aloof from other forces who identify themselves with

«It was in the framework of these efforts to establish a broad anti-fascist and anti-imperialist unity that we set up our National Preparatory Committee with the participation of all strata of the revolutionary and progressive youth of the country. The preparation of the 11th Festival and the National Preparatory Committee itself will enable us to concretize a unitary policy and assure that all deep concerns of different sectors of our youth be expressed in an organic and organized manner. This unitary spirit which prevails in all activities of our National Preparatory Committee since its founding will bear fruit enabling us to find broad areas of agreement and further enlarge the front of struggle of our youth.

«All over the country youth take part in cultural and sports events, in political and social discussions preparing some important events on the national level, as the National Festival of University Students, from

Fighting against the dictatorship

Our next partners are representatives of Guatemalan youth, or rather of the two most important organizations of the country: the Patriotic Working Youth and the University Students' Association. For security reasons, we do not print their photos and names. But we convey to you their testimony without any alteration, as has always been our practice.

«In Guatemala, the intervention of the military in 1954 established a regime of terror and repression, a fascist regime of terror and repression, a fascist regime which was out to choke all political, democratic and progressive organizations by any means. Since 1954, we have had to work in the strictest clandestinity. We are the only organized youth movement for persecution and fascist repression. Herein lies our great responsibility towards the masses of Guatemalan youth: to mobilize them for joint struggle for their claims and rights, to involve them in the revolutionary process to change the structures of the country and which will lead to the establishment of a socialist regime, after the victory of the socialist and popular revolution.

«The Guatemalan youth have always played a very important role



«Che» is always a symbol for the masses struggling against threatening dictatorship and fascism in Central America

the main goals of our day, who are ready to contribute in building a broad anti-fascist, anti-oligarchic front making possible a democratic breach by means of struggle, which will lay the foundation for the progressive development of the society, of our country. Only a broad policy of unity and rapprochement brings us toward the attainment of these goals.

March 6 to 11, then, in the third week of March, the National Festival of Secondary School Students, organized by the National Federation of Secondary School Students, which has won well-justified merit in the past period, after the success of three student strikes which stopped the functioning of secondary schools all over the country. These two festivals and other initiatives

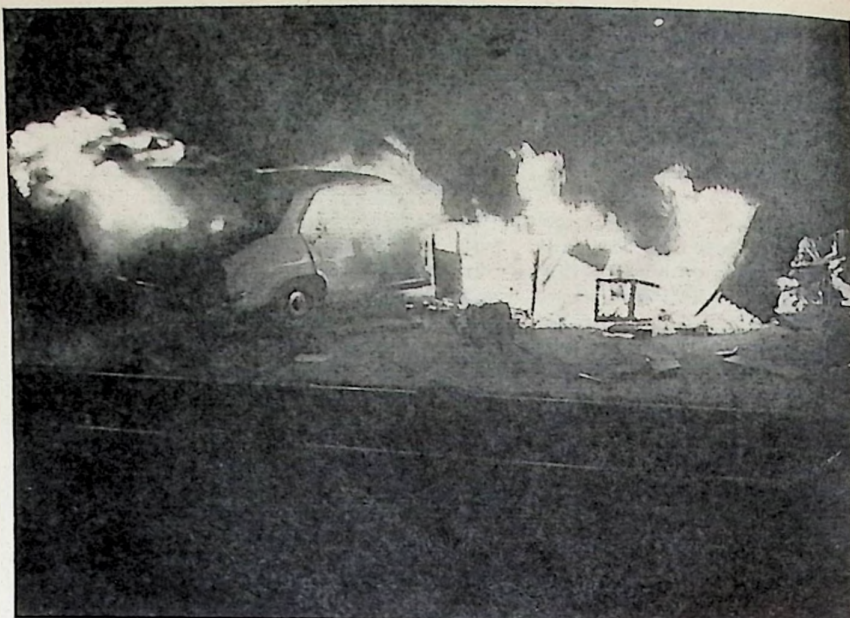
serve the good preparation and successful holding of the National Meeting of Youth and Students, the first such meeting since 1954 which will bring together, between April 12-25, about 1000 youth and student delegates from all parts of the country. It is worthwhile to stress that the holding of all these events is not a gift from the dictatorship, but was imposed on it through consistent struggles by students and other progressive movements of Guatemalan youth. The National Meeting will undoubtedly be a considerable step in the preparation of youth for active participation in the Festival of Central American Youth and Students in San José and in the 11th World Festival in Havana. We will convey there our solidarity message to the youth of the world and our conscious commitment to the anti-imperialist and anti-fascist struggle.»

Militarism and poverty

Enrique Peña is a young communist of Honduras. He is not for publishing his photo. It could entail troubles and difficulties with the authorities of his country. These are military authorities formed in the Latin American way, not too scrupulous about human rights.

«After the failure of a bourgeois, reformist attempt in 1972, a military regime has been established in Honduras under the slogan of 'development for the country'. The development programme of such a government means nothing but the massive penetration of foreign capital. In the case of Honduras, principally American capital. The military government would like to solve all national problems setting up development centres. For the moment there are two of them: a project for the agrarian development of the Bahuavan zone and another investment project for the building of an industrial complex for the production of paper-pulp and paper.

«The strengthening of the dependence of Honduras on foreign monopolies is only one negative aspect of the present government. Another very serious one is the inclination of



In Managua (Nicaragua) mass anger and revolt break loose against the dictatorship, despite all repression

the military to use more and more stringent repressive measures which entail a general offensive against the whole popular movement, in particular against trade unions and progressive organizations. At the same time, the country faces a serious structural crisis which is becoming sharper following the government's heavy military spending. Prices are hiking, including those of essential products. Our youth are particularly hard hit by this deep crisis, first of all by unemployment and the impossibility to continue their education.

«The most important youth organizations are the political and student ones. I want to stress here a strong tradition of struggle of the National Organizing Committee of Youth, of the Federation of University Students and the Federation of Secondary School Students. Another organization that has to be mentioned is the National Union of Young Workers of Honduras. All these organizations have an active anti-imperialist position in spite of their differences of opinion as to the strategy and tactics to be followed for the attainment of socialism in our country.

«Our Communist Youth, similarly to the party, has worked up to now in semi-legality, this means that a

great number of our activists are not known by state organs or by the police. The National Committee of Communist Youth has been one of those who supported the setting up of a National Preparatory Committee for the 11th Festival, formed on December 23. Our Committee is now preparing the necessary conditions for the legal participation of communists, on the national level, in the preparation of the Havana World Festival. The NPC has been formed on a very broad and representative basis, with the participation of all youth organizations representing different tendencies, from the extreme left to the Christian-Democrat and bourgeois youth. The NPC is and will be a good school for us in united action.

«As to the 11th Festival, we will take part in it deeply convinced that we will be able to inform delegates from different countries about the realities in our country in order to win effective solidarity of the youth movement in the struggle that we are waging in more and more difficult conditions. We ask for their solidarity in securing the release of political prisoners, peasants and others because they fought for land. The international youth movement could considerably help our struggle for democracy and youth rights, unmasking the present

regime of Honduras and thwarting its attempts to become constitutionalized.»

On the threshold of civil war

In our last issue, we informed our readers in detail about what is going on in Nicaragua under the fierce dictatorship of the Somoza clan. Eduardo Castillo, a representative of the Socialist Youth of that Central American country informs us below about the 11th Festival preparations in Nicaragua.

The festival movement has no tradition in Nicaragua. Indeed only a very limited number of young people knew about it. Now, despite very difficult conditions, despite the



AMNISTIA TOTAL PARA LOS REOS Y EXILADOS POLITICOS!!!
Por la incorporación de la Juventud en la lucha anti-dictatorial y anti-imperialista!!!

An underground leaflet demanding full amnesty for political prisoners and exiles: an important aspect of the preparations for the 11th Festival

of a federative character, such as the National Union of Students or the Secondary School Students' Movement, as well as youth sections of trade union centres, including sections belonging to the centre with a Social-Democrat orientation. Girls sections of our women's organizations and professional organizations also participate, as, for instance, the National Association of People's Artists.

«We set up our National Preparatory Committee to prepare publicly the 11th Festival. Due to our present situation which is becoming more and more difficult, NPC public activities remain very limited and will be even more so in the future. Yet, young people who work within the Committee are enthusiastic and are developing their activity conscientiously. During the preparations we wish to carry out two national youth initiatives at least: 1. 1st National Youth and Student Meeting, 2. 1st Popular Festival of Nicaragua. These initiatives will be devoted to the struggle of our people and youth against the dictatorship, foreign domination, for democratic rights in our country.

For national dignity

Alexis Dixon is general secretary of the People's Party Youth of Panama, an organizer of and active participant in countless actions by the youth and people of Panama for recovering territorial integrity and national dignity.

Since 1903, the date of the proclamation of the Republic of Panama, until 1968 and, in a sense, up to today our people has been oppressed by two parallel systems of domination: the imperialist system and the system of oligarchic domination. The same can be said of nearly all countries in Central America. Yet, in the case of Panama imperialist oppression is striking: an important part of the territory is occupied by the Americans, American troops are stationed in the Central Zone, on a part of the national territory a foreign flag is hoisted and a foreign jurisdiction is in force. All this is the result of the famous treaty on the Canal of 1903 signed without the presence of any Panamanians. This shameful treaty signed by a French agent of American imperialism alienated an important part of Panamanian territory. All this resulted in permanent clashes between the Panamanian people and the colonial set-up in the Canal Zone on the one hand, and a growing anti-imperialist awareness in Panama on the other.

«For decades the Panamanian people has waged a permanent struggle against imperialism and its ally, the national oligarchy. Countless Panamanian, including many young people and students sacrificed their lives in this anti-imperialist and revolutionary struggle which led to the general crisis of the anti-popular regime and of the oligarchy in 1968. The revolutionary action led by General Omar Torrijos aimed to liquidate the oligarchy and start a democratic and anti-imperialist process took place at that moment.»

«Last year finally a new treaty was signed. It is in process of being ratified now. A large majority of Panamians approved the new treaty. It is considered as marking the end



Alexis Dixon, general secretary of the Panama People's Party Youth

fact that we were so to speak on the verge of a civil war, we have succeeded in setting up our first National Preparatory Committee. That was in November 1977. The Socialist Youth initiated this Committee which is composed of representatives of all political youth and student organizations in the country. Apart from the Students' Revolutionary Front, the Christian Movement, the Students' Democratic Union, there are other organizations

of colonialism in Panama. Although the new treaty is far from meeting all our aspirations, we know that it is the first result of a consistent struggle waged for over 70 years and it will lead to the recovery of our sovereignty in the Canal Zone. We also know that within the US Senate the most conservative sectors of American imperialism have started their manoeuvres to prevent the treaty from being ratified. We must reckon also with the possibility that the Senate will vote against it. In this case all our people, our party and all democratic forces in Panama will be ready to further continue their struggle on two fronts: on the one hand, for the Canal Zone, and on the other, for deep-going changes in order to advance on the way toward independence and social progress. Our people and youth have acquired the political awareness to understand that the priority of struggle goes to the Canal Zone.»

«Preparations for the 11th Festival started in the present conditions. Internal reaction, right-wing forces were launching their offensive to organize their detachments in a bid to divert our revolutionary process when our National Preparatory Committee was set up. On August 6, legislative elections will be held. To frustrate the manoeuvres of reaction, to prevail over the right at the elections anti-imperialist and anti-oligarchic unity of all Panamanian popular forces has to be further strengthened.»

Our National Preparatory Committee was set up in this same spirit. At the side of the People's Party Youth the representatives of the Panamanian Student Federation, trade union centres, cultural and social organizations are also present. The National Preparatory Committee is very broad and a result of ongoing talks with the Church, we hope that the Catholic youth will also join in very soon.

«The Havana Festival will be an excellent opportunity to make the delegates of world youth understand that Panama means more than the Canal, that one goal of our struggle is to achieve deep-going economic and social changes in our country. We have envisaged sending a Panama-

nian youth delegation to visit different parts of the world, and we hope that after the Festival some delegations will visit our country to better understand the realities here and have stronger arguments as the basis for their solidarity with us.

A country of hunger

Daniel Hernández is a young communist from El Salvador, the smallest country in Central America. He works in the underground movement. He runs serious risk when he goes to other countries of the isthmus.

«Public opinion knows very little about El Salvador, the living and working conditions of our people and youth. In Central America, the rate of illiteracy and under-nourishment is unfortunately the highest in El Salvador. There are but two other countries in the world where and poverty are even greater. The great majority of our children cannot even finish a six-year primary school education. There is no organized vocational training, no law to defend apprenticeship rights, and the number of young people with no work and no hope grows every day. Poverty is even more widespread in the villages where young people are at the will of the big land-owners.»

«The government of General Romero has unleashed a wave of repression and terror against all progressive and democratic forces in the country. Through this fascist escalade the dictatorship aims to silence all protests, and to prevent any organization from mobilizing the masses. Violations of human rights are on the increase in our villages and cities. We witness a strong fascist upsurge backed by President Carter who has spoken so much of human rights.»

«The regime of General Romero threatens the very existence of popular organizations in El Salvador. His goal is to destroy them. In view of this fascist repression and persecutions, all democratic organizations in the country have been compelled to combine legal and underground forms in their struggle. The whole democratic movement, particularly our Communist Youth, do their ut-

most to maintain their legality. At present the sole youth organization with a national structure and regular activity among all youth sectors is our organization.»

«Preparations for the 11th Festival started concretely in September 1977. All youth and student organization representatives were called upon to set up the National Preparatory Committee. All organizations gave a favourable response save the extreme-left. Unfortunately in El Salvador the left is still divided. This division could not be overcome in the Festival preparations either. The National Preparatory Committee was set up with the participation of the United Action Front, the Secondary School Students' Federation, the Artists' Pro-Festival Committee and other cultural organizations. Yet we are optimistic about getting the support of extreme-left organizations. The Congress of the University Students' Federation of Central America was held earlier this year. Extreme-left trends who wanted to organize the so-called 'counter-Festival' still dominate within FEUCA. At its last Congress reviewed its previous position and adopted a resolution which calls on all its member organizations to participate in the activities of National Preparatory Committees in the respective countries.»

«We expect a great deal from the World Festival of Youth and Students. Firstly we hope that world youth will express their solidarity with our struggle. For, so far, unfortunately our people and youth have not felt this solidarity so much. We are grateful to the WFDY press which has broken the wall of silence to show the youth realities in El Salvador and the fascist danger threatening us. We need international solidarity very much. The hand of fascist criminals, the fascist escalade in El Salvador can be stopped only by international solidarity. Youth opinion must know our realities it must help to disclose all violations of the most elementary human rights committed by those in power with the support and complicity of US imperialism. This solidarity will help and promote our anti-fascist and anti-imperialist struggle.»

I. Schütz

On the threshold of elections

Interview with AQUILES VALDEZ — General Secretary of the Youth Force for Socialism

QUESTION: How would you describe the present situation in the Dominican Republic?

Answer: In the Dominican Republic the political situation is marked by an important advance of the democratic forces for the broadening of political liberties. Different political forces find it easier to express publicly their opinions. However, this advance is not coupled with a process of social reforms. On this point the situation is serious. The economic dependence on the United States is a thorn in the side of our country. Foreign monopolies as Alcoa, Falconbridge, Gulf, etc., enjoy concessions from the Balaguer government and with the consent of the right-wing majority opposition exploit and plunder our natural resources while the majority of the people are faced with severe poverty. Out of 2 million citizens of working age there are 400 thousand unemployed, there is a constant balance of payments deficit, the external debts amount to more than one thousand million dollars and problems in education and the health service together with a growing inflation clearly show that the present Dominican society faces serious difficulties. These difficulties led to a sharp crisis which cannot be overcome in the framework of dependent capitalism which condemns us to underdevelopment. This in fact has to be paid for by social sectors with the lowest income — workers, the marginal population and peasants. This state of affairs as well as the social roots of the crisis do not allow any political formula which is not for a social change.

All this shows how important it was to gain political liberties and the legalization of the Communist Party, above all if we consider that the Communist Party represents the

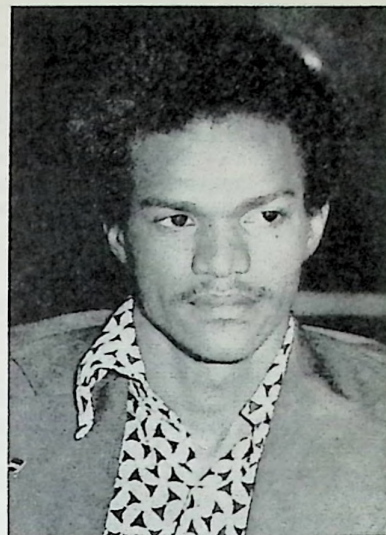
sole political tendency on the national scale with a programme of far-reaching changes aimed at unmasking those who fuel the crisis.

QUESTION: What factors do you think have helped the Communist Party in obtaining legalization and the right to run in the elections?

Answer: The decisive factor enabling the Communist Party to achieve legality is its prestige in all sectors of Dominican political life.

The Communist Party was the first to declare its readiness to act legally when there was no longer any possibility to pursue the April action (the civilian and military uprising of 1965). It was the first to notice that the forms of the movement had changed and that sticking to one road linked with past was but futile day-dreaming by those who did not understand the new features of our political situation.

The Communist Party was the first to denounce, in a thorough analysis avoiding empty words, the reasons for Dominican society being subjected to a constant crisis; it was the first to react and come up with solutions to all major problems of our economy, of our social and political life. The seriousness of the analysis and the vigour of the denunciations found wide echo among large sectors of the population. It was no longer possible to keep a party in a state of illegality which had been active in all aspects of public life. Naturally, this systematic work aroused sympathy but stirred up enmities, too. The struggle for democracy and against the civil and military sectors using methods of terror cost the lives of a number of comrades. This was the case with Orlando Martínez (a former secretary of the WFDY Bureau), one of our best members, murder-



ed by a fascist military sector which considered the CPD as the main obstacle to imposing a bloody way out on the Dominican Republic.

QUESTION: What are the main points of your election programme? What following does the CPD have before the elections?

Answer: Let me tell you first of all about the first national convention of our party which took place on January 26 with the aim of choosing candidates for the elections, including the most important positions, and working out — within a month — an electoral programme.

Narciso Isa Conde, General Secretary of the Party was nominated as our candidate for the post of President of the Republic. Pericles Franco, one of our founders, was chosen as our candidate for the post of vice-president.

The framing of our election programme was completed when I was outside of the country. Allow me to point out that the CPD election programme will definitely include measures aiming at carrying out a far-reaching programme of agrarian reforms, eliminating the prevailing injustices in the countryside which enable a parasitical minority of big landowners to dispose of the best

lands. Measures will also be taken to nationalize all foreign enterprises seizing control of our resources through arbitrary contracts. Furthermore, measures will be taken to solve the problems of unemployment, health, education, nutrition, child care, etc. Finally, the government programme of the Communist Party will offer solutions for all economic problems of society.

As to our electoral hearing, it is difficult to define this, as we are taking part in elections for the first time. However, we are sure that the results of the election may be better even than we expect. The CPD is the sole tendency presenting a programme of social changes in an election contest where the parties of the majority, of the government and of the opposition do not represent very different colours; and this will encourage the left to vote for the CPD. In addition, the CPD has the broad backing of the people, that is why it can run candidates for all posts in the government; and that is why it could present within two months a list of 136,000 affiliates to the main electoral junta, although a period of one year is at the disposal of parties for presenting this list.

QUESTION: *What kind of role are the Dominican youth playing in the election process?*

Answer: Young people are called upon to play a very important role

in these elections, first of all because of their numerical weight. In our country young people represent the largest part of the population. And secondly, broad sectors of youth are attracted toward democratic ideas. The main advantage for the traditional parties is that a great part of eligible voters has been accustomed to voting for the government or the opposition. Thus is the first time that our people will have the possibility to choose between the programme of the left presented by the CPD and that of the right represented by the government and the PRD conservative opposition. We are sure that a large number of young people will veer to the left.

QUESTION: *Are there possibilities for creating an electoral alliance between the main progressive parties?*

Answer: The answer to this question derives from what I have told you just now. There is no possibility for an alliance. The main parties, the parties of the majority, hardly commit themselves for maintaining even the present political liberties, which we consider as limited. Bosch's party has proposed the same programme of a group set up in 1974, a programme in which strong participation by right-wing big landowners clearly shows its content. The other parties make up branches of the government party and consider their weak, already

outmoded reformist measures as radical steps.

For the CPD an alliance outside a programme of change has no sense. Consequently, if there is an alliance in Santo Domingo, it won't be a Left one.

QUESTION: *How are the Festival preparations proceeding in the Dominican Republic and what forces make up the National Preparatory Committee?*

Answer: The Dominican National Preparatory Committee was set up in August, 1977, with the participation of the Youth Force for Socialism, the Revolutionary Youth of Dominica and the most outstanding youth personalities of the country, as for example, Sonia Silvestre and Ramón Leonardo, famous national artists, Fradique Lizardo, director of the National Folk Ballet, poets, writers, and so on. The setting up of the NPC took place in the form of an enthusiastic mass meeting. We have a lot of tasks in view, such as the organizing of a National Festival of Youth Songs, the preparation of a National Meeting of Young Writers and activities in all provinces of the country. On the other hand, with the involvement of the Dominican Students' Federation and other local student trends, our National Preparatory Committee will rally together the most important youth organizations in the country.

I. S.

Interview with IGNACIO RODRIGUEZ LUCAS Head of international relations of the Dominican Revolutionary Youth

WORLD YOUTH: *How would you describe the present situation in the Dominican Republic?*

Ignacio Rodriguez: The present situation in the Dominican Republic is marked by the full-swing development of an electoral campaign in which we are actively engaged. Our organization, our party, which is known in the country as the most powerful mass organization, hopes to get into power via election, as

we are a party where all social classes of our society converge, while the Dominican government uses all means at its disposal to try and persuade Dominican voters not to go to the polls. The government itself is aware that even in the case of minimally free elections in the Dominican Republic, our party, which has a tremendous influence among all progressive sectors of the country, would form the next Dominican government.



WORLD YOUTH: *What are the focal points of your electoral programme?*

Ignacio Rodriguez: The essence of our electoral programme is the need to unite with all progressive sectors of the population that are today in opposition. The present government has been in power for 12 years already and — while trying to win election after election — it still thinks it can continue to remain in power.

Our party boycotted the previous election but this attitude turned out to be in favour of the government's manoeuvres. Now our party is trying to face the elections of May uniting all democratic and progressive sectors really interested in a change of government, removing the present one which has sold out all our wealth — gold mines, copper, bauxite, sugar — to powerful US monopolies. As to the possibilities of a broad electoral alliance of all progressive forces in the Dominican Republic, I must stress that in the past the government accused us firstly of being agents of international communism. Since the traditional anti-communism of Dominican regimes spilled into masses of the country, too, there are broad sectors who fear anything that is communist. One should not forget that in the Dominican Republic there is an illiteracy rate over 60 per cent! This is why our party is very cautious in its policy of electoral alliances and its electoral tactics are linked with all parties and forces which struggle which have not yet taken a stand for democratic socialism, but are to the Left as compared to the present government. In this way we would like to avoid the present reactionary government basing its electoral campaign mainly on the charge that our party is linked with forces that endanger democracy in the Dominican Republic.

In the economic field, the main objective of our party is the need to radically improve the present economic situation. Under the present government the conditions of

life and work of the masses are steadily getting worse.

The Dominican peso has been devaluated several times, prices — including the prices of goods of prime necessity and services — are going continuously up. An agricultural worker earns, by law, two pesos a day. How can he buy a bottle of milk for 36 centavos, a pound of sugar for 17 centavos, a pound of meat for 1 peso or a pound of rice for 1 peso 50 centavos, let alone pay for urban transport which costs 25 centavos for the shortest trip? And how can such a worker send his children to school, to university? The bulk of industrial workers — men and women — earn no more than from 15 to 20 pesos a week and because of the high cost of living they are practically doomed to a slow death. Hence the imperative need to have radical changes in the economic structure of the country aiming to improve the living and working conditions of the masses. And hence also the broad backing of our party by workers in the factories and in country areas.

WORLD YOUTH: What is the attitude of the petty and middle bourgeoisie in the electoral campaign?

Ignacio Rodriguez: The middle strata, the petty and middle bourgeoisie, are one of the most vigorous parts of the present electoral campaign. In an under-developed country like the Dominican Republic, it is always easier for the reaction to keep the lower classes and strata — who have no schooling or cultural and political education — politically indifferent. Besides, the middle strata, students, white-collar workers, small businessmen, or as well call them, the «detallistas» (retailers) have their share of worries and problems too, and they stand for a decisive change of the present situation stamped by economic crisis. The Dominican Revolutionary Party incorporates a major part of the middle strata, of the petty and

middle bourgeoisie, who are playing a very active part in the electoral campaign, but naturally, we do not underestimate the working class and the peasantry in the struggle for the essential radical changes. All these sectors, including small producers in the countryside and artisans, are convinced that the present government acts to the detriment of their economic conditions and that a new government would also serve their fundamental interests. And for this reason these sectors believe that the Dominican Revolutionary Party is a Party holding out hope to the nation. Only certain sectors of the bourgeoisie stand aside and let themselves be influenced — because of the lack of conscience — by imperialist propaganda and the local oligarchy, who in their efforts to preserve a regime and a policy that serves only their interests, have done and are doing all they can to maintain the political inertia of those sectors of the national bourgeoisie. But we are convinced that with the electoral victory of the Dominican Revolutionary Party these sectors, already isolated from the bulk of the nation, will also realize that our party is a major force for progress, that the struggle waged by our party and the struggle of the Dominican people are aimed at covering our national resources, a fundamental interest of the entire Dominican people. Our candidates for the presidency and the vice-presidency, Silvestre Antonio Guzmán Fernández and the University professor Giacomo Molguta are two prominent Dominican citizens fully determined to introduce radical changes in our country, as foreseen in the electoral programme of the Dominican Revolutionary Party. It is around these candidates, around this programme of fundamental changes in our society that the Dominican Revolutionary Youth — what we might call the motive power of the party — unites and acts with great enthusiasm.

The seven tasks of the youth

This time our interlocutor, or to be more exact, our woman-interlocutor is Alcinda Abreu, first deputy general of the Youth Organization of Mozambique (OMY). As the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students to be organized in Havana is approaching, it is quite clear that the main theme of our conversation was that great event of the world's young generation. Nevertheless, as it is a question of one of the youngest independent states in the African continent and besides, about a country in the frontline of the struggle to remove the last vestiges of white colonialism on African soil, other important points arise, too. And we shall begin by answering these other questions, the more so as the reader will understand better the specific aspects of the preparations for the coming Festival after having got acquainted at least with the essentials of the present-day reality in Mozambique.

«Mozambique today lives under conditions of the democratic popular revolution of a nation which took up arms to gain its independence and freedom», says Alcinda Abreu. «To give a general image of Mozambique on the threshold of the 11th Festival, we should stress the presence — almost everywhere — of youth, involved in all spheres of life, working conscientiously for the fulfilment of the big tasks serving their motherland.»

«Our 1st national conference held last year founded the Organization of Mozambican Youth in accordance with the decision taken by the Central Committee of FRELIMO and drafted its Constitution.»

«For the present the Organization of Mozambican Youth has seven basic tasks, five internal and 2 in the external field. The first one is to give to the whole of our youth a patriotic education for socialism, that is, to mobilize broad masses of youth for active participation in the fulfilment of all tasks involved in the building of a new free and independent Mozambique. As educational work, and especially its results, depends to a great extent on the strength of our OMY, the implementation of its structures among the



broad mass of youth remains a task of high priority. Here we should stress that during the hard years of the national liberation struggle we succeeded in establishing provisional structures of our youth organization as part of the Mozambican Liberation Front, FRELIMO. Now those temporary structures are to be substituted for solid and permanent ones, in accordance with the stipulations of our Constitu-

tion. And this is in no way a formal task, as solid structures will serve as a tool for youth to carry through the programme of OMY. It is in this framework that various regional youth conferences took place in Mozambique from March 2-11, to elect local leaderships for the provinces, to establish and consolidate the OMY's local structures.»

«The second important task of our

organization is to promote and organize the voluntary work of youth. After almost 5 centuries of Portuguese colonialism, after the national liberation war, we have much to do to build up our backward country, to provide better living and working conditions for the whole of our people. In the national liberation struggle the Mozambican youth showed a good example of heroism, patriotism and self-sacrifice. Now

it will continue on this road taking part in the voluntary work through which it identifies itself with the working masses of our country.»

«Portuguese colonialism did its best to wipe out our national culture, to instil a colonialist bourgeois mentality on our youth. At the same time, the great majority of our youth had no access to culture, indeed, they were doomed to illiteracy and poverty. This is why our third basic task is the development of culture at all levels. It is not only a question of extending our cultural activities, of developing sports among youth, of organizing all kinds of useful leisure-time pursuits. Basically, it is a question of working out a new concept of culture accessible to all. It is a question of valuing and preserving all the monuments and highlights of our history, all the treasures of our culture and arts.

Another important task is the dynamism of the process of training cadres for the Organization of Mozambican Youth. This is an urgent task because the majority of our cadres have been trained for the immediate needs of the national liberation movement. But, after winning our independence and freedom, the conditions and needs have changed a great deal, the tasks are to be tackled by our cadres have multiplied. And the effective work of a youth organization depends also on the quality of its cadres. Among the indispensable conditions for the work of an organization there is the need for material means. Youth is a permanent and special matter of concern for our state but we cannot expect everything from it. This is why our fifth task is the collecting of funds for the various tasks of the Organization of Mozambican Youth.

As to our activity at the international level, here we can resume our basic tasks in two points. First of all we must continue the process that has already been started to establish relations of friendship and cooperation with other revolutionary and progressive youth organizations the world over, to contribute in this way to the strengthening of international democratic youth and student movement, to the strengthening of its unity. Throughout for struggle for national liberation we enjoyed strong-international anti-imperialist solidarity which helped us a great deal. Now, having won our independence, we believe that one of our most important tasks is to draw up a concrete solidarity plan in support of our brothers and sisters fighting in southern Africa under extremely harsh conditions against colonialism, racism, and apartheid. It should be stressed that it

is a question of a wide spectrum of actions that could be staged successfully only together with other progressive and democratic youth organizations.

To sum up the central objective of the OMY's plan of action, we could say that the focal point of all our work is the patriotic and social education of youth, to turn every young Mozambican into a progressive, well-educated citizen, aware of his responsibilities, healthy in body and mind.

I have not singled out the tasks of our youth and our organization in the strengthening of the defence of our motherland, tasks which are considered as of vital importance in the present-day reality in Mozambique. It should be stressed that at present we live in a period when our defence capacity is being built up. I do not think I have to dwell specially on this point. Everybody knows very well the designs of Ian Smith and his accomplices. Defence of the country and of the gains of the Revolution is the most sacred duty for each Mozambican citizen. And our youth is fully involved in the accomplishment of that task. Everybody has to fulfil it in the place where he lives, in the place where he works. Concrete forms for carrying out this task are: study, direct participation in productive work and in the strengthening of our defence capacity. Because — and we must lay emphasis on this — it should be clear to our youth that defence of the country and the Revolution can be done not only with arms or by military service. Every young person who studies at different levels is at the same time a conscious militant who fights against obscurantism, against the manoeuvres of the enemy, against the remnants of the colonialist and bourgeois spirit, against disrespect for manual work, against cultural alienation, etc., and thus in the long run strengthens our defensive power. Every youngster who works in agriculture or industry is at the same time a conscious militant who fights against enemy sabotage, against indolence, for the well-being of the masses, thus contributing with his work to the strengthening of our defensive cooperation.

It is in this concrete and realistic context that our youth prepare for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students. We should add that a delegation of Mozambican youth has already participated in the 10th Festival held in Berlin in the capacity of youth or a national liberation movement as part of the broad anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist front of FRELIMO. Today

we are the youth of a free country, of a sovereign state in the African continent, and we will take part in the Festival in Havana in this capacity. Our National Preparatory Committee was established prior to the setting up of our Organization of Mozambican Youth on the basis of a decision of the FRELIMO Central Committee. The task of the NPC is to well prepare the delegation of Mozambican youth which will take part in the Festival, but, at the same time, we consider the preparations for the Festival a very big event of national significance for our youth. It is necessary that all our people, and more particularly, our youth live in the atmosphere of that magnificent fête of world youth. The whole preparatory phase is becoming a large school to educate our youth in the internationalist spirit which is a constant factor of our struggle.

A vast campaign of information and propaganda is being developed in Mozambique, including political actions, cultural and sports programmes, voluntary work, competitions in literature and the arts. Almost everywhere you can see an enthusiastic spirit of emulation: every young person would like to get the first prize and win the right to go to the Havana Festival.

But the 11th Festival next July will not only be a magnificent gathering of youth coming from all over the world, it will also be an unforgettable manifestation of anti-imperialist solidarity which has been the dominating aspect of the preparations for the Festival from the very beginning. For us, young Mozambicans, the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students will be an excellent opportunity to further broaden the anti-imperialist front of youth and other progressive forces in the world. And we see this anti-imperialist front as a very concrete thing: as continued and growing support for all youth, all peoples struggling for their independence, for democracy and social progress. The broadness and effectiveness of that broad anti-imperialist front depends to a great extent on the relations of friendship and cooperation existing among youth organizations of different countries and continents. In the same spirit we stand for the further improvement of the relations of friendship and cooperation of our Organization of Mozambican Youth with the World Federation of Democratic Youth, for relations which should be reflected in joint concrete actions».

S. I.

Year of strengthening and reorganization

Our delegation has come to this Assembly of member organizations of the World Federation of Democratic Youth to thank the democratic and progressive youth of the world for their concrete solidarity expressed during the long years of our national liberation struggle, our struggle against the manoeuvres and aggressions of imperialists and reactionaries who continue doing everything in their power to crush our young Republic, to prevent us from building a worthy future for our entire people. Another purpose of our delegation is to inform the representatives of democratic and progressive world youth about the situation in the People's Republic of Angola, on the activities of our youth and our organization.

As you are well aware the last Congress of MPLA took a decision to transform our liberation movement called MPLA into a Marxist-Leninist party — the Party of Labour. In keeping with this decision of our party we have the task of reorganizing the JMPLA.

As a mass youth organization of Angola and an integral part of our liberation movement, the JMPLA should become the youth organization of a political party. This means that a qualitative change should be made in keeping with the present reality in the country. We have already commenced the education of our members in a Marxist-Leninist spirit and, together with this work, we are waging a campaign to recruit new members, mainly from the workers' sectors and among our militants. Later on we shall be extending these activities to the sector of young peasants, too.

We are planning to convene our next Congress for 1979. We consider the year 1978 as a year of strengthening and reorganization of our youth movement to which we are giving a political organization.

In the ranks of the Angolan youth we are carrying on an intensive activity for the creation and strengthening



**Statement
by Vicencia Brito,
representative
of the Youth of the Popular
Liberation Movement
of Angola
(JMPLA)
and head of
the Angolan delegation
to the 10th WFDY
Assembly**

of a new outlook. We are doing our best in order that every young Angolan man and woman really participates in the renewal of our society. This means first of all the active participation of Angolan youth in all fields of national reconstruction and defence of our party. On the production front we are successfully organizing the voluntary work of young people of both sexes, be it the building of bridges, housing schemes, the harvesting of coffee or rice, or the era-

duction of illiteracy. The fact must be stressed that this year alone over 112,000 Angolans have learnt to read and write and that more than 80 per cent of those responsible for courses to liquidate illiteracy are young volunteers. I must add that due to the lack of teachers we have enormous difficulties in the field of teaching. But our young people cope with these difficulties: they continue their studies and at the same time help in teaching others or they continue their studies without leaving their jobs in production.

On April 14 we commemorate the Angolan Youth Day in honour of the young commander Hoji ya Henda, Hero of the Angolan people, who fell in the struggle against the Portuguese colonialists. This Day of our youth will be one more occasion to redouble our efforts in the fields of reconstruction as well as strengthening the defence of our country.

It is in this framework that we are preparing for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students. A broad emulation campaign is developing among our youth with the aim to successfully accomplish their tasks in reorganizing our JMPLA, in production and defence. Artistic and cultural competitions, actions and days of solidarity are organized one after another. We lay particular stress on the strengthening of our young people's solidarity with the peoples and youth of southern Africa, the last bastion of racism and colonialism on our continent. We consider the preparatory stage of the 11th Festival as an effective means to further increase the spirit of internationalism among Angolan youth. We want to make our entire people understand what this grandiose gathering of world youth in Havana, capital of socialist Cuba, represents for our youth, for the strengthening of anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship.

«For anti-imperialist solidarity,
peace and progress»

WFDY BETWEEN TWO ASSEMBLIES

Since the 9th Assembly (Varna, Bulgaria, November 1974) until the 10th Assembly in Berlin, capital of GDR (February 22nd to March 1st 1978) WFDY has carried out a large number of actions and initiatives in order to realize the tasks of the World Youth Campaign of Common Actions for anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and progress. As it would be impossible to enumerate all these actions in the present issue, we present here in chronological order a selection of the most important events during this period of time.



1975

Havana, capital of socialist Cuba is chosen as host-capital of the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held in summer 1978. For the first time a Festival will be held in America.



1976

The European Youth and Student Meeting (EYSM) took place in Warsaw, preceded by long and thorough preparatory work, in order to discuss together the questions for peace, security and cooperation.



1977

The messengers of democratic youth meet in Milan, (Italy) to condemn once again the fascist dictatorship of Pinochet and demand a clear answer as to the whereabouts of the more than 2.500 «disappeared» Chilean patriots.

1975

WFDY celebrates two historic anniversaries: the first for all mankind, the other for the democratic youth movement: These are the 30th anniversary of victory over fascism, linked with the 30th anniversary of WFDY,s foundation. The Federation focuses its activities on these events which are characterized by the noble spirit of the London oath, above all by anti-imperialist solidarity.



In Europe the accent is on preparations for the European Youth and Student Meeting (EYSM) with the participation of a large cross-section of youth organizations of different political, ideological, philosophical and religious trends. The Balatonalmádi consultative meetings (Hungary) are traditionally held which helps toward a further increase in the number of European organizations participating in the preparations for the EYSM.



For the first time the editorial board initiates trips of groups of youth press journalists. The first group goes to several Western African countries before being arrested in a provocative manner in Luanda by the FFNLA authorities of the traitor Holden Roberto. The second group spends nearly three weeks in Peru and comes back deeply impressed by the gains of the 1968 Revolution on the one hand and the increased pressure threatening the fate of this historical event of the progressive and revolutionary military of Peru, on the other.

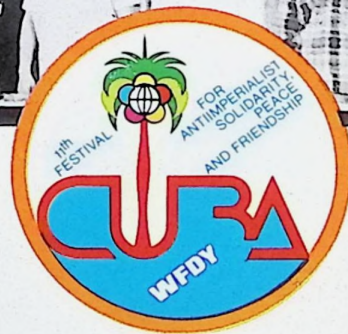


1976



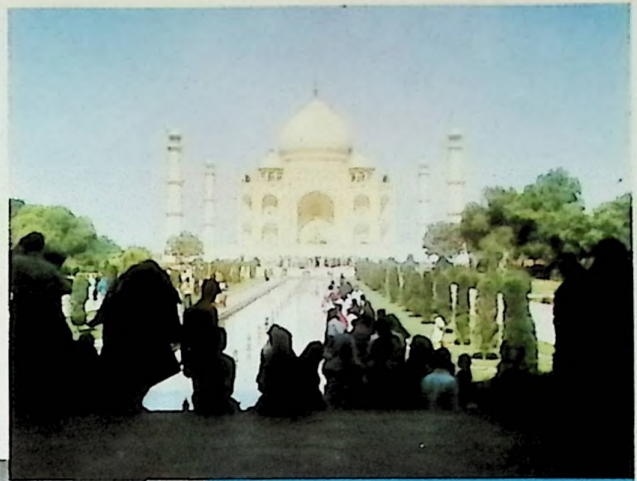
Da Nang, native town of Nguyen Van Troi, hero of the Vietnamese people and youth, is the place of a symbolic and important ceremony for the democratic youth of the world. The school called after Nguyen Van Troi, built as a result of a world fund-raising campaign launched by the 20,000 participants of the 10th World Festival of Youth and Students in Berlin is opened in the presence of a delegation of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students.

One of the most important events in the year is the 2nd meeting of the IPC for the 11th Festival. This meeting launched an Appeal to the youth of the world and made active solidarity the keynote of all preparatory work for the Festival. During the actual meeting solidarity events were organized in Havana in support of peoples and youth in struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism, apartheid, against dictatorship, oppression and exploitation, for the rights of youth, for democracy, peace and progress.



Warsaw, the Polish capital ruined by the Second World War and rebuilt, offered its hospitality to the messengers of the young generation in Europe who met to map out together their tasks for maintaining peace and security and strengthening their cooperation. The democratic youth movement of the continent sends its representatives to the European Youth and Student Meeting who unanimously approve the need to convene a European Conference on Disarmament at youth level.

Peace and security, the strengthening of cooperation and mutual understanding should not be limited to the continent of Europe. These have to be the common good of all peoples and youth of the world. It is in this spirit that the International Youth and Student Conference met in Madras (India) in October, under the slogan "The Indian Ocean should be transformed into a zone of peace, security, and cooperation", thus joining the initiators of the traditional meetings of young research workers in Nakhodka (USSR) guided by the same noble goals in the region of the Pacific.



Peace, security, cooperation and progress are inextricably linked with the struggle against fascism, imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid, against oppression and exploitation, for democracy, for a new economic order. Delegates of a wide range of political youth organizations met in Mexico at an international meeting organized by WFDY and a broad national preparatory committee to discuss together the above questions of vital importance for the young generation.

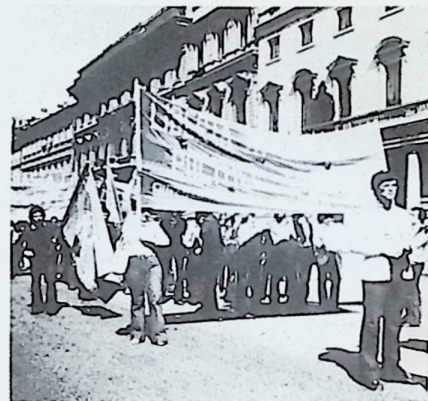


1977

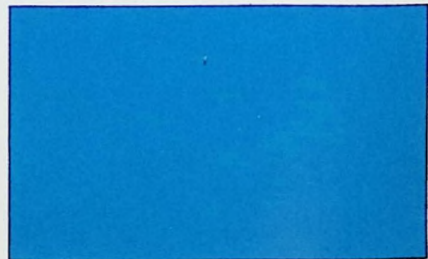
A year very rich in events and actions most of which served the effective solidarity with the struggle of youth in developed capitalist countries against the excessive power of multinational themes of vital importance for youth have been tackled at a seminar (Brussels, February) and at a meeting of young experts on these questions (Budapest). A special enlarged WFDY Bureau meeting was devoted to the problem of professional ban (Berufsverbot) depriving progressive youth in the FRG of the right to exercise their profession.



The chronicle of the Federation has been enriched with an unforgettable event: Luis Corvalán, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Chile, paid a visit to WFDY Headquarters where he personally expressed its recognition of the merits of the world campaign of solidarity with the people and youth of Chile in struggle against the fascist dictatorship of Pinochet and his clique.



Summer was marked by a major solidarity event in support of Chile and the peoples and youth of southern Africa. The struggle of the people and youth of Chile against Pinochet's bloody fascist dictatorship continues to mobilize millions of youth the world over who, alongside other progressive forces of mankind, isolate the torturers of Santiago more and more every day. This time the venue of an international seminar and an enthusiastic rally of 30,000 youth was Milan, a big city in the North of Italy.

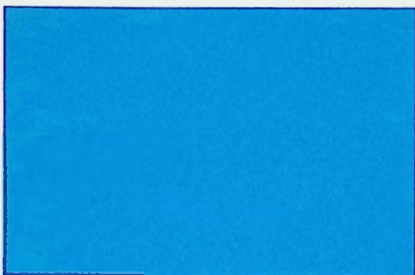




WFDY has always paid special attention to the struggle of the peoples and youth of southern Africa against racism and apartheid, against the last vestiges of colonialism on the African continent. Helsinki, the capital of Finland, offered its hospitality to delegates of the International Meeting organized under the banner of active solidarity in support of the peoples and youth of Zimbabwe, Namibia and the South Africa Republic.

WFDY also participated very actively in the preparation and holding of the International Conference against Racism and Apartheid organized in Lisbon with the participation of leaders of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) and the African National Congress (ANC).

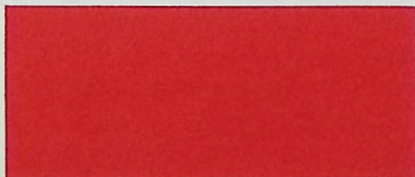
Preparations made in the course of last year for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students were marked by two important international events.



The International Children's Festival had a very rich programme for children's and adolescents' organizations, allowing for a broad exchange of opinions on the rights of children, and contained an unforgettable programme for the children too amidst the picturesque scenery in Artek (USSR).



In Primorsko (Bulgaria) on the sunny coast of the Black Sea assembled the delegates of a large number of organizations on the occasion of the inauguration of the 1st European Centre of Youth and Student Tourism. The well-known slogan «Youth Tourism – Passport to Peace» found a very broad and favourable echo.



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«We are with the youth of the world»

The delegation of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Vietnam, a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, notes with great satisfaction the anti-imperialist tendency for peace and friendship which has been demonstrated and further developed in the course of the work of our 10th Assembly. The Assembly of WFDY member organizations has touched upon all questions related to the struggle of youth in different parts of the world. It dealt with them on the basis of the imperative necessity to develop and strengthen concrete solidarity with all these struggles. As examples, we can mention the special sessions devoted to solidarity with the peoples and youth of Chile, of southern Africa, of Palestine, or the solidarity meetings with the peoples and youth of Vietnam and Laos and other concrete demonstrations of anti-imperialist solidarity by the world's democratic and progressive youth. Vietnamese youth raised their voices together with the youth of the world, united in the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. As a people which has fought for noble ideals, we stand alongside the youth of the world in present struggles being waged for the same ideals.

The historical victory we won over the American aggressors was not only victory, but also that of the democratic youth the world over who supported us during the long and difficult years of war. We have taken advantage of this 10th WFDY Assembly to express again our sincere thanks for the international solidarity demonstrated towards us in the past, present and in future, too.

In this historical 10th Assembly we have witnessed the solidarity of the world's democratic youth with our present struggle for the build-

A statement by Nguyen Tien Phong, secretary of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth and head of the Vietnamese delegation to the 10th WFDY Assembly.



ing of socialism in our country, their support for our efforts in healing the wounds of war, for our efforts in demanding that the United-States observes its commitments in regard to its participation in the rebuilding of Vietnam after the war. We also witnessed the solidarity of our friends and comrades all over the world in the face of the illegal act of the American government against our permanent delegate in the UN headquarters.

We have also to thank our friends and comrades all over the world who expressed here, from the Assembly platform, their support for the just proposals of our government for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the border conflict between Vietnam and Cambodia. As you know, after our victory over the American aggressors, the Vietnamese people and youth wanted to concentrate their efforts on the rebuilding of the country but, unfortunately, the government of Cambodia made a series of provocations and armed aggressions along our common border. We would like to reach a quick solution, a peaceful settlement of the problem through negotiations, according to the interests of the Vietnamese and also of the Khmer people, to the interests of peace in South-East Asia and the whole world. We heard with pleasure and satisfaction the expressions of support by world youth for those just proposals from our government.

Here, in the framework of this Assembly, we have discussed with the representatives of the democratic youth of the world the prepara-

tions for the 11th World Festival. Concerning Vietnam and Vietnamese youth, we are carrying on an intensive work in order to contribute to the success of this event of world significance for all young people. We have organized a through-going national preparatory campaign with cultural, arts and sports activities. Our young workers have started a broad-scale socialist emulation in the factories and fields in honour of the 11th Festival. On the basis of this emulation will be chosen the delegates to the Havana Festival representing Vietnamese youth in the capital of the Island of Freedom, the first socialist country in the new world. Among the members of the Vietnamese youth delegation there will be heroes of the resistance to the American imperialist aggression, students chosen from among the best, outstanding artists and athletes who, together with the vanguard young workers of the socialist reconstruction and exemplary young farmers, will show a true image of today's Vietnam to the democratic youth of the world.

As you know, our people and government highly appreciate the contribution of the WFDY to our victory, to our efforts for the rebuilding of our country. That is why the President of our Republic awarded the WFDY last year the Medal of Friendship. We take this opportunity to stress that this valuable contribution of the WFDY to our struggle has been enriched by the contribution of your Magazine, *World Youth*. That is why we convey to the Editors and staff of the WFDY magazine our warm thanks and best wishes in their work, our greetings of solidarity and friendship.

On March 4, 1978, thirty thousand Israeli soldiers equipped with ultra-modern weapons crossed over the Lebanese border and launched a large-scale offensive against the country's southern region. The official pretext for the new Israeli aggression was the March 11 raid by a Palestinian commando group against a bus near Tel-Aviv, which caused 32 deaths. The objective officially recognized by Israel was the carrying out of a «preventive measure» and not a retaliatory action. Today it is clear that Israel launched her criminal aggression with the tacit approval of Washington which had let the Begin government understand that it would not oppose such a move so long as Tel-Aviv remained within «correct proportions».

The scale of the Israeli aggression is in itself an undeniable proof of the fact that the military operation had been given a long and careful preparation, in all evidence already before the Israeli Right came to power.

To deal a «coup de grace» at the Palestinian resistance and resolve the entire Palestinian problem by violence, has been an old dream of the Zionist and annexationist circles in Tel-Aviv. But how to reach the point where this could be done? — that was the question the fanatics for «Eretz Israel» (Greater Israel) had on their lap for a long time.

Deep-rooted manoeuvres

As after the Black September of 1970, the Palestinians were given the possibility to settle in South Lebanon, the attacks of the Israeli aggressors were more and more pinpointed against this area. With the complicity of the American imperialists the forces of the Lebanese right had undertaken to prepare the way for the Israeli attacks. They unleashed civil war in Lebanon against the progressive Lebanese forces and the Palestinian resistance.

During his visit to WFDY headquarters, we asked Haydar Haydar, representative of the leadership of the Palestinian Information Agency Wafa, to briefly sum up the new situation in Lebanon. «This is not

«For 8 days now South Lebanon has been turned into an area of bitter struggle and heroic resistance waged by the forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese patriotic movement against the largest and most brutal Israeli aggression against Lebanon.»

«This aggression, prepared by imperialism and Zionism with the assistance and complicity of Arab reaction, is one of the most serious attacks against the progressive and peace-loving forces of the region aimed at liquidating the Palestinian resistance and carrying out the reactionary plan to partition Lebanon...»

(From the Appeal of March 22, 1978, Issued by the WFDY Bureau to World Youth).

* * *

the first time the Israeli aggressors have wanted to liquidate us», said Haydar Haydar. «But this time they thought they could fulfil their old plans. The road seemed to be well prepared and the aggression minutely elaborated. Today, after the failure of their enterprise, they are trying to play down the significance of their military operation. However, Brzezinsky unmasked their real intention in a statement he made shortly after the aggression had been launched: «Good-bye PLO!» Thanks to our fight waged jointly with the Lebanese progressive forces, we taught the aggressors a good lesson. Mardahal Gour, the Israeli General who commanded the whole large-scale military operation was forced to admit that they had been prepared for a «walk through South Lebanon» and that they had not reckoned with «such a resistance causing serious losses». That is to say their plan ended again in a striking defeat. And the Palestinian resistance has become still stronger both from the political and the military point of view.

In his speech delivered on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of Kamal Jumblat, Yasser Arafat PLO president stressed, among other things: «The terrorist Begin and his minister of defence claim

Youth and the new Israeli aggression

that the «operations» are still on. The fighters of the Lebanese National Movement are continuing the struggle side by side with their brothers and comrades-in-arms, the Palestinian fighters, and especially in this area which is dear to us and which we are defending with heart and soul in spite of the use of the

American war machine, namely, airplanes, artillery and armoured units.»

As to the political effect of the aggression within Israel, we again give the floor to Haydar Haydar: «The Arab people of the occupied territories are our Palestinian people who support the resistance with

their limited means and possibilities. Since the failure of the aggression the Arab masses in the occupied territories have answered by demonstrations and strikes. Arab workers held a general strike in Ghaza, Naplouse, Ramallah, Halhoul, Toulkarem and Hebron; the Israeli military operations aroused a powerful wave of protest in the West Bank of the Jordan, schools and shops are still closed, students erect barricades, demonstrators demand an end to the Zionist regime of occupation and the Israeli aggression against South Lebanon. In several places the police of the Israeli occupiers fired on demonstrators who answered with stones. On March 17, the occupation authorities began large-scale arrests to prevent the wave of demonstrations turning into a popular uprising. It must be stressed that the Israeli aggression was condemned not only by the Arab-language press in the occupied territories but also by progressive forces within Israel, which is clearly demonstrated by the statement issued by the Communist Party of Israel. These stands, this solidarity which are expressed in all parts of the world for our struggle, give us new energy to continue our fight. The solidarity of democratic and progressive world youth — expressed in the recent statement of the WFDY Bureau and a reassuring proof of which was the immediate supply of tents sent by the WFDY Bureau to help those who had been left homeless — is new evidence of the conscious commitment of world youth. We thank you very sincerely for this valuable assistance. A delegation of our youth will — despite all the difficulties — be present at the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students in Havana and will express their thanks to the 16,000 messengers of youth from the five continents.»

Budapest, 21st April, 1978.

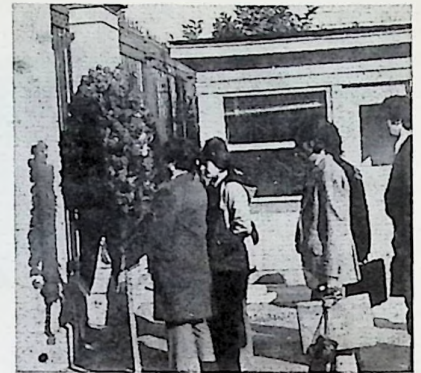
I. Schütz





The first WFDY delegation is Greece since the fall of fascism (1975); from right to left: P. Lapicciarella, WFDY president, V. Lordkipanidze and R. Guha, vice-presidents

The Federation's delegation lays a wreath at the wall of the Polytechnic in Athens in honour of students killed by fascist repression



GREECE:

The youth in struggle for their rights

After the recent elections of the 20th of November considerable changes took place in the political scene in Greece.

The progressive forces increased their vote, the Communist Party took 10 per cent of the vote and increased more than two fold its number of deputies (11 deputies); the strength of the right decreased; the majority of our people condemned the policy of serving the interests of imperialism and the monopolies as followed by the government of Karamanlis.

A new balance of forces was formed in the political life of the country which opens to the youth movement bigger possibilities and perspectives, helps toward the further mass participation of youth in the struggle and organization of the youth movement on a broad basis, for new gains in the struggle for employment, education, culture, for

the expansion of democratic and trade union rights, for the further contribution of the youth to the general anti-imperialist and democratic struggle of our people.

60,000 young people jobless

The working youth as a part of the working class of our country are among those affected most by the governmental policy.

Young working people are subject to the crudest exploitation. They are made to enter production without proper qualifications, with insufficient training or no training at all. Meanwhile the number of unemployed or underemployed youth increases. The actual number of unemployed youth in our country is

60,000, i.e. one out of three unemployed is young. This is why the active participation of Greek youth in the WFDY campaign against youth unemployment acquires particular importance.

Inequality in pay is also one of the main problems. Under the pretext of «apprenticeship» young people are employed in specialized jobs with much lower pay than their adult colleagues. The official data reveals that industries in Athens and Pireus pay the so-called apprentices 40 per cent less than the average general wage. In the countryside the situation is even worse.

Minors are employed — in large numbers — in hard or unhealthy jobs; even the existing relevant legislation is violated but the state does not bother to exercise the necessary control. It is estimated that 60,000 minors participate in production today. The example of the quarries of the big capitalist firms Skalistiris or Chalkidiki where boys and girls break rocks for 5 or 100 drachmas a day (1.5 and 3 dollars respectively) is characteristic of the situation.

While the inhuman overexploitation of youth secures more super



A huge demonstration by youth on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the student uprising at the Polytechnic

profits for the monopolies the stepping up of the rate of production and the lack of many labour safety measures in the work-places causes, every year, an increase in the number of industrial accidents. The majority of these accidents — more than 50,000 a year — happen to young workers.

The legislation covering working people's health and safety and which should protect them from these abuses dates back to 1912 in its basic points.

Many young people have to work and study at the same time. Their situation is even worse if we consider that they need more than 18 hours a day to perform this dual task.

Despite all these things, the government, closely following the directions that issued from the meetings of the imperialist powers in Puerto Rico (1976) and London (1977) and the demands of the monopolies, insists in its policy of «austerity», the freezing of wages and salaries, utilizing laws and other «practical» measures to deal with the actions and demonstrations by young workers alongside the working class.

The anti-labour law 330/1976 prohibits trade union activity by young workers under 16 years of age, while tolerating and encouraging the terrorist dismissals of young trade unionists.

In many strikes, the working people frequently have to face the police «special forces». Arrests and trials intending to intimidate the working people follow.

In the face of this situation the militancy and consciousness of the young working people increase. In greater and greater numbers they join the trade unions. Mass class struggles have been waged with considerable successes.

In 1977 alone, 1.5 million working people went on strike, i.e. the total number of the working people of our country. The participation and contribution of youth in these struggles was significant. Youth demanded among other things, a solution to its specific problems: a six-hour working day for those under 18 and

ing the demands that have to be met.

In most trade unions the young working people have established their own Youth Committees alongside the Union Boards, for the better promotion of their claims and the organizing of their participation in the general working class actions. The Youth Committees have up till now displayed a considerably varied and multiform activity, including cultural and sport activity.

KNE has elaborated a concrete programme of immediate claims, that considerably helps the further development of working youth struggles.

The work of KNE in this field results in an increase in its influence and its membership among young workers.



Living and working conditions of Greek youth have not changed much since the collapse of the dictatorship: in the port of Pyreus more than 60 thousand young people and children do dangerous work for a very low pay

for working students and pupils, equal pay for equal work, leave with full pay for working students during examinations, etc. In many big enterprises these claims were satisfied, despite the hostile attitude of the government.

In 1978 young workers developed new struggles alongside the working class for the signing of a new National Labour Contract contain-

128,000 candidates for 21,700 seats in the Universities

Despite the pompous declaration of the government for an «educational revolution», the educational system of our country is one-sidedly oriented toward serving the interests of the ruling class. The road to higher education is blocked especially to children of working families. Out of 80,000 candidates for higher education in 1977, only 15,000 were accepted; out of 45,000 candidates for higher technical and vocational training only 6,700 were accepted. The rest have to choose between unemployment, underemployment, over exploitation or emigration.

The recent laws concerning technical and vocational training offer only low-level training to the students, no guarantee of employment, and forces them to enter production under unfavourable conditions.

The other levels of education also have grave problems, which have to do with the content of education, the material and technical substructure, the limitations imposed on trade union rights. Nurseries are virtually non-existent. 650,000 children of pre-school age have no nursery places, there is a lack of more than 25,000 classrooms and 10,000 teachers and professors in primary and

secondary education. All this causes a boom in private educational institutions.

Only 1.9 per cent of the Gross National Product is currently allotted to education, whereas 4.6 per cent is spent for armaments, within the NATO framework.

For all these reasons, young people of all educational levels, link their struggle with the general anti-imperialist, anti-monopoly, democratic struggle of our people, they develop their movement under the slogan: Double the budget for education! Meet students' demands!

Pupils and students do not struggle alone. They build a common front with their teachers and professors, with their parents, they combine their struggle with the Associations of Scientists, the trade unions and leading figures of social life.

KNE promotes a concrete programme of immediate youth claims. Its basic points are:

— The creation of suitable pre-conditions for popular education, without social discrimination and barriers, at all educational levels. Grants and measures helping students and pupils of working class origin.

— Democratization of the content and structure of education. Improvement of the study and living conditions of students. Creation of an adequate and up-to-date material and technical sub-structure.

— Consolidation and expansion of the students' and teachers' rights and liberties.

The students struggle consistently for the achievement of a democratic Constitutional Charter of Higher Education.

The contribution of the young communists in all the major and everyday struggles of the pupils and students is significant. This explains the prestige, the influence and the important increase in membership of KNE among students.

The recent student elections are an example: the organization supported by KNE emerged as the first force, gathering, all over Greece, more than 15,000 votes (30 per cent of the vote).

The «cultural products» of the ruling class and the cultural movement of youth

The policy of our country's ruling class concerning the creative utili-



In Patras, youth call for the dismantling of American military basis

zation of the leisure time of youth, the encouragement of their cultural activity and all forms of culture offered to youth is appalling.

On the one hand the «American way of life» is persistently cultivated and diffused (recently the same «life-style» has also been dubbed as the «European ideal»). There are no cultural and recreational clubs supported by the state where youth can make proper use of their leisure.

Sport — and particularly football — is open only to a few and is mainly used as a commercial enterprise. No care is taken for the development of sports in school, for the cultural improvement of young workers and students.

On the contrary, night-clubs and cabarets are abundant, pornography is rampant and the network of drug distribution is on the increase.

The ruling class bombards youth incessantly with the «cultural» sub-products of capitalism, it steps up its efforts to discourage and disorientate youth, to alienate them from social struggles.

Therefore Greek youth struggle in the field of culture as well. Youth struggles for the building of a broad progressive cultural movement based on the militant and cultural traditions of our people, encompassing youth's broadest sphere of interests and satisfying their needs in recreation and their creative impulses in the field of culture.

Hundreds of cultural clubs and unions have been created in all quarters of the cities, towns and villages.

These clubs have displayed a rich and varied cultural, educational, environmental and sport activity.

Furthermore they have gained significant experience in supporting the work of the municipalities, by closely linking their work and cooperating with the town and city councils.

The young communists consider that work in these cultural clubs is of the utmost importance.

The organizations of KNE have constantly orientated their work towards the strengthening of these clubs, so that they may comprise all the youth and make their work constant and multiform.

Apart from the KNE work in this field, both generally and at a local level, for the development of the cultural movement of youth, we must mention the separate cultural activity of KNE mainly expressed

through the Festival of KNE and its newspaper «ODIGITIS».

The 3rd Festival of KNE and ODIGITIS (September 1977) lasted four days and included various political (speeches, mass meetings, discussions, forums) cultural (dancing, singing, plays, cinema, children's entertainment, etc.) and sports activities. More than 700,000 people participated in the events.

Furthermore, the Festival was preceded by hundreds of local cultural events lasting one to four days. These took place in big cities, towns, villages, etc. The four days of the central events were but a culmination of all this activity.

1978: a year of important events

1978 is a year of even greater development and maturity of the youth

movement in our country, a year of more successes.

For KNE this year is of particular importance because of the important events and jubilees it includes.

— In May the 10th Congress of the Communist Party of Greece will take place. The Congress will be a milestone in the development of the working class movement and the popular movement in Greece. KNE has the hard and noble task of deeply studying and propagating the documents of the Congress among youth. Furthermore, we have the duty in the course of the pre-Congress work, to further reinforce our ties with youth and especially with the working youth through special recruitment plans.

— 1978 is the year of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Greece. The resolution of the 6th Session of the Central Council of KNE states that all activity of KNE during this year will be dedicated to the party of the working class of our country.

— 1978 also marks ten years since the founding of KNE and its press organ «ODIGITIS». The 10th anniversary will be celebrated with various actions and events culminating in the 4th Festival of KNE and ODIGITIS, which will take place in Athens from the 7th to the 10th of September, 1978. The celebrations will be a new opportunity for better acquainting youth with the young communists and their work, for strengthening KNE by recruiting thousands of new militant members.

— Finally, KNE is actively participating in the preparations for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students in Havana.

KNE will continue its active participation in the international progressive youth movement. It will participate in all international initiatives undertaken or supported by WFDY, as a member of its Executive Committee. KNE will support the solidarity campaigns, it will continue to struggle for the rallying together and common struggle of Greek youth for their basic rights, for national independence, democracy and socialism, for peace, security, cooperation and détente all over the world.

Athens, February 20, 1978.

Solidarity meeting with the peoples and youth of Chile, Vietnam and Cyprus, in Athens



C. A.



Between August 9 and 11, 1877, seven thousand Russian and Bulgarian soldiers repelled the fierce attacks of Soliman Pasha's Turkish army of 30 thousand men, thus preventing it from taking the Plévná passage

Centenary of Bulgaria's liberation

Bulgaria's existence as a medieval independent State stopped at the 14th century. The Bulgarian nation was subjugated for almost five centuries. Nevertheless, towards the second half of the 17th century a process of cognizance and formation of the Bulgarian nation took form and developed step by step. For two hundred years the national liberation struggle of the people grew and took on a powerful impetus in the second half of the 19th century. The insurrection in April 1876 was the highlight of the revolution for national liberation against the secular subduers. The popular masses, filled with a spirit of selflessness, joined in it with great enthusiasm.

But this April uprising suffered a painful defeat. The oppressors violently shamed the upsurge of the national liberation struggle. However, the exploitation of the popular masses and the cruelty of the foreign tyrannical regime drew the attention of European public opinion. The most progressive-minded people of the time expressed their compassion for the sufferings of the Bulgarian people and their admiration for its courage in waging an unequal struggle against the powerful Ottoman Empire. The American journalist McGahan, the French writer Victor Hugo, the Italian revolutionary Garibaldi, and the English politician Gladston expressed their support for the Bulgarian cause and contributed in wakening European public opinion concerning the destiny of this part of Europe.

However, it was among Russian public opinion that the struggle of the Bulgarian people for its freedom and national independence found an echo and the most reassuring compassion. The progressive forces in Russia gave their support to the struggle of the oppressed Slav people in the Balkan peninsula, to the struggle of a people linked closely to the Russians by the same ethnic origin.

On 12-24 April 1878, Alexander II, Emperor of Russia proclaimed his manifesto declaring war on the Ottoman Empire. Regardless of the political moves of the Saint Peters-

burg Foreign Ministry, the news of the outbreak of hostilities was received with lively approval by the toiling masses in Russia. Workers and peasants, intellectuals and functionaries were eager to give it their support. Volunteers poured in from different parts of the Russian empire to take part in the struggle for the liberation of the «oppressed brothers beyond the Danube».

The Bulgarian people received the news about the declaration of war with hope and conviction. The Bulgarian revolutionary emigrants mainly concentrated in Romania launched an appeal to the Bulgarian people to give effective assistance to the Russian armies. In the period preceding the declaration of war, those emigrants, enjoying the assistance of Slavophil circles, had prepared the formation of Bulgarian detachments who would immediately be involved in military activities. During the military operations those newly-formed Bulgarian military units gave evidence of their great qualities as fighters.

The evolution of the military operations took a complicated path marked by many a vicissitude. At the beginning the Russian armed forces scored fine victories and their march forward seemed to herald a rapid conclusion of the war. But the enemy succeeded in rallying its forces and dealing effective counterblows; it stabilized its defence and the war went on. The counter-offensive of the Army of the Ottoman Empire was stopped in the Shipka Pass which connects northern Bulgaria with its southern part. During the defence of the Shipka Pass the Bulgarian volunteers and Russian soldiers fought side by side and strengthened their mutual friendship.

In the winter of 1877-78 the Russian armed forces got the upper hand again and launched an irresistible assault on the Ottoman Army. The Russians scored crushing victories and obliged the Constantinople government to ask for an armistice.

The peace treaty which confirmed the liberation of Bulgaria was signed on March 3, 1878 in the small village of San Stephano, not far from the capital of the empire.

However, the «Bulgarian problem» again fell into the hands of diplomats. The powers of western Europe did not wish to see the strengthening of Russia in the Balkans and in the East and they imposed a revision on the outcome of the war. Vague political agreements between the powers that were alien to the Balkan peoples resulted in the dismemberment of the Bulgarian nation, in the return of a part of the Bulgarian population to within the confines of the Ottoman Empire. The Treaty of Berlin in 1878 established the new frontiers.



On December 23 (January 4/1878), the future capital of Bulgaria, freed from the Ottoman occupation, welcomes the liberators according to the ancient Slav custom

The Russo-Turkish war of 1877/78 however had the role of a national liberation revolution for the Bulgarian people. Russian arms made possible the political liberation of Bulgaria, the restoration of the independence of the Bulgarian state. The victorious march of the Russian army into Bulgaria led to the crushing of feudal relations and opened the way for the development of capitalist production relations. This resulted in the establishment of a new political order in Bulgaria. A bourgeois-democratic political regime was established in the country which firmly set out on the path of modernization and tried to overcome the secular backwardness of Bulgaria as compared to the most advanced States in Eu-

rope. However, the Bulgarian bourgeoisie was not able to fully carry out this updating of Bulgarian society. Within a short time it made a shift towards reactionary positions and became itself an obstacle in the way of the progress of the Bulgarian people.

During this war of liberation the friendship of the peoples of Bulgaria and Russia was consolidated. Their joint struggle and sacrifices in the battlefields became a source of lasting relations and mutual sympathy between the two Slav peoples.

The revolutionaries of the two countries continued strengthening this friendship. Already at the end of the last century fraternal ties were formed between the proletarian revolutionaries. The proletarian revolutionary movement in Bulgaria was also strongly influenced by the Russian working class and its allies who fought for their liberation.

The victory of the socialist revolution in Russia in 1917 and in Bulgaria in 1944 created new conditions for the development and consolidation of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship. Today the peoples of the Soviet Union and Bulgaria are shaping their own destinies in close friendship and mutual cooperation.

Christo Kjossev
University lecturer

The Philippines belongs to the Third World. It suffers from the debilitating problems common to all underdeveloped countries — mass poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, lack of medical, educational and social services, and environmental deterioration.

The majority of the Filipino youth, therefore, are adversely affected by the conditions which they find themselves in and over which they individually have no control. Collectively, however, they make up the most numerous sector of Philippine society and therefore are a potentially powerful force for social transformations. As of now, Filipinos below 24 years of age comprise the majority of the population; those below 15 years of age already make up 45 per cent of it.

Filipino youth of working-class and peasant origin are very much disadvantaged compared to their more fortunate and well-off counterparts. During their early formative years, their families could not afford to provide them with adequate and nourishing food for optimum physical and mental growth. Many of them suffered from childhood infections and diseases which could have been prevented or controlled by hygienic surroundings, fundamental knowledge of hygiene and simple medical attention.

Selection in education

Just as bad was the cultural deprivation which lower-class youth experienced due to poverty. The majority of them have very limited formal schooling. Statistics reveal that in 1974, there were two million illiterates. Out of 100 Filipino children who entered Grade I, 25 dropped out after Grade IV, 50 more after Grade VI. Only 25 out of 100 reached high school.

What do these figures mean? According to UN studies, it takes six years of formal schooling for a student to be permanently and functionally literate. Therefore, it may be assumed that the 25 who dropped out after Grade IV would lapse back into illiteracy.

The formal educational system is a highly selective structure which eliminates many of the lower-class youth at every level. According to

Filipino youth for real development

1965 statistics, 1,344,381 Filipino students entered Grade I. Out of this number, 401,762, or roughly 30 per cent, only reached fourth-year high school. The results of the college entrance examination in 1974 showed that only 267,284 high-school graduates passed. Out of this 267,284 only 146,887 enrolled in the various colleges and universities throughout the country in the same year. Those who did not have enough means to pay for higher education simply had to stop attending school.

To sum up, less than 150,000 of the 1.34 million Filipinos who entered Grade I in 1965 reached college in 1974. The majority of this 150,000 come from urban, upper-class families.

Almost 90 per cent, therefore, of college-level Filipino youth in 1974 were out of school. An overwhelming number of them dropped out as early as the elementary grades to help their parents in farm work or to join the urban labour force.

According to Department of Labour statistics, youth 10 to 19 years of age comprised 19 per cent (2,626,560) of the total number employed in 1974. Of this, 1,745 million were in the agricultural industries. Unemployment in this age group was very high — 30.2 per cent (138,316) of the total number of unemployed.

Problems of working Youth

Working-class youth suffer very much from the general conditions which plague Filipino workers as a whole. Very low wages, high prices,

substandard working conditions, acute housing problems and the constant threat of unemployment aggravate the misery of a hand-to-mouth existence. Those who have ambitions of working their way through college are stopped short by steep and ever-increasing tuition fees.

Rural peasant youth are fast being transformed into farm hands or agricultural workers because of the rapid transition from feudalism to capitalism in the countryside. The rapid expansion of the landless rural poor and, therefore, of surplus labour — a consequence of a rise in population which is not accompanied by an increase in tillable lands — led to a deterioration of working conditions as millions of people scrounge and compete for limited work opportunities in their struggle for survival. Many of the landless rural poor are young — sons and daughters of farmers who have to fend for themselves by becoming tenants of tenants, helpers of peasants who have lands to farm, kaingeros or rice cultivators, roving planters and harvesters, workers in plantations, fishponds, cottage and rural industries. The problem is aggravated when they marry at an early age and begin having children whose basic needs they cannot even adequately provide.

To escape from the misery and stagnation of rural life, thousands of rural youth trek to the big cities in search of adventure and better working opportunities. Many of them do not find what they look for. The males among them get introduced to backbreaking manual jobs or to the vicious underworld of crime. The females wind up in the «hospitality» trade or in domestic service.

To sum up, therefore, the majority of the Filipino youth who are

out-of-school and/or working are victims of dehumanizing conditions inherent in underdevelopment. This underdevelopment, however, is a legacy colonial past and a product of the neo-colonial present. The only way to permanently and qualitatively improve the conditions Filipino youth find themselves in is to unite and attack the roots of underdevelopment through a coherent and concerted program of action.

The roots of underdevelopment

Why is the Philippines a poor country? Why are most Filipinos poor?

The answers to this question are not very difficult to understand if seen in the context of foreign domination. The Philippines suffered more than 400 years of colonial rule, first by the Spaniards and later by the Americans.

When the United States granted the country formal political independence in 1946, American influence did not cease to dominate all significant areas of national life. Up to now, this influence is still strongly felt.

In the economy, for example, key sectors continue to be controlled by American business interests, with Japanese and Western European concerns close behind them. Huge, global firms called multinational corporations are setting up their branches and subsidiaries in the country in order to exploit cheap Philippine raw materials and labour. They use up local capital, edging out credit-starved native capitalists in the competition. They drain the Philippines of its wealth by remitting huge superprofits to their home countries.

In the field of politics, US imposition is most concretely felt in the continued presence of the military bases and the recurrent abuses perpetrated by American servicemen on Filipino citizens. US pressure on government policy remains very strong in certain areas, specifically economic planning.

In the cultural sphere, the main purveyors of ideas — the educational system and the mass media — perpetuate colonial consciousness.

The continued use of English, Western textbooks and teaching models has resulted in the alienation of Filipino students from Philippine reality and the molding of favourable attitudes towards the American presence in the country. Higher education, instead of equipping college students to serve their people better, has prepared them for a life of material individual success in the employ of the elite, and inculcated in them the desire to work abroad.

The same goes for mass media, which feed highly biased information in favour of the West. Aside from this, the kind of entertainment being peddled on radio, TV and film is mostly derived from American sources or constitutes a poor imitation of the latter. Needless to say, the emphasis on sex, violence and escapist content contributes to the corruption of the values of the people, especially the youth.

Government policies and programs

The present martial-law administration under President Marcos is not oblivious of the problems and possibilities of the youth.

Proclamation No. 1110 issued in 1973 declared February 15 of every year as *Working Youth Day* in recognition of the contribution of working youth to nation-building. In one such celebration, President Marcos announced the adoption of a «Study-Now-Pay-Later» plan to enable youth from lower-income families to pursue their college studies with government support. In a very limited way, this can be seen as a good beginning for the democratization of higher education. It is also a logical offshot of the President's contention that the very existence of working youth reflects an anomalous situation. According to him, all youth should properly be in school preparing for a useful and productive life.

But since the working youth is a reality that government cannot simply wish out of existence, certain laws have been adopted to protect their rights and to promote their general welfare. The Labour Code

of the Philippines, for example, contains provisions on minimum employable age (15 years), prohibitions against child discrimination, the principle of equal pay for men, women and youth, education and medical treatment of domestic helpers. In addition, Department Order No. 4 of the Department of Labour ruled that young workers are not allowed to be employed in occupations declared hazardous.

The Bureau of Women and Minors under the Department of Labour has aimed at the establishment of Working Youth Centres which shall provide information and education on the Labour Code and family planning, leadership and vocational training, guidance and counselling, legal aid, medical, dental, recreational and socio-cultural services. Other projects of the Centres include working youth cooperatives, working youth exchange programs, and a yearly search for exemplarily working youth.

The National Manpower and Youth Council, an agency affiliated with the Department of Labour, takes charge of training out-of-school youth in various skills and trades so that they will have more chances for employment.

The DEC has likewise passed a policy which may encourage the youth who have stopped schooling to continue further their studies. This is the accreditation policy which recognized that education is not merely learned in the classroom but it can also be imbibed through one's experiences in life. This means that a student who has finished grade 6 may enrol in the 3rd year or any year not necessarily following the chronological order, provided that he has acquired enough knowledge to make up for the other years.

To emphasize the growing role of young Filipinos the Department of Youth and Sport Development was recently created with President Marcos himself at the helm.

The Kabataang Barangay, a nation-wide community-based organization personally led by Imee Marcos, aims to train youth 15 to 18 years old for leadership and good citizenship. It is represented in local government bodies such as the Sangguniang Bayan. The Kabatang Barangay seems to represent an attempt by the government to rechannel the energies of the youth from the destructive ultra-leftism

characteristic of pre-martial law days to a constructive activism geared towards positive ends. Up to now, however, its influence is not strongly felt at the grassroot level.

The government must certainly be commended for its policies and programs geared towards youth development to recover our lost assets. At the height of our struggle for equality, progress and peace, the youth can serve as one of the strongest forces towards the attainment of our national goals. The even more important reason why the youth should be developed is not so much one of what they will be able to contribute today but more of what they will be able to contribute tomorrow.

The role of progressive youth

Conditions favourable to the organization of progressive youth became ripe a few years after martial law. The government then seemed to have taken a few bold steps towards national independence by ordering the re-negotiation of the base treaty, by opening ties with socialist countries, and by having close relations with the Third World. Agrarian reform once more raised the hopes of the rural masses for a better life. Popular participation in political affairs was also being encouraged through the barangays, local government bodies and various mass organizations.

In response to the need for a youth organization which would clearly take a nationalist line and carry out a realistic program based on youth involvement in development, four thousand rural youth activists joined hands in 1976 to form the Samahan sa Ikaunlad ng Kabataang Filipino (SIKAP).

SIKAP recognizes the historical role of the youth in the struggles of the Filipino people for genuine independence, e.g. the *Katipunan*, as exemplified by heroes like Andres Bonifacio, Emelio Jacinto,

Gregorio del Pilar and many others. The organization finds inspiration in the lives of our nationalist leaders who started their involvement in nation building as young men and women.

SIKAP in its constitution pledged to work for peace, equality, development, freedom and democracy. It committed itself to the following principles: the principle of national unity and direct involvement of the youth in the country's development; the principle of preserving national dignity and promoting national consciousness; and the principle of an independent foreign policy.

Among its aims are:

1. free secondary education and a broad scholarship program;
2. reorientation of curricula to promote a nationalist and humanist consciousness;
3. cooperative dormitories and canteens for students;
4. coordination between universities and industries to make sure that all graduates find employment;
5. nationalist industrialization;
6. limitation to the profit-making activities of multi-national corporations and other monopoly firms;
7. a living wage for all workers, employees and soldiers;
8. creation of youth cooperatives managed by properly trained youth leaders;
9. establishment of barangay-based public libraries containing good reading materials;
10. free cultural shows for the barrios;
11. free hospitalization and low-priced medicine for all;
12. a system of cooperative insurance for youth;
13. encouragement of youth participation in sports activities;

14. support for diplomatic and trade relations with all countries irrespective of social systems.

It is obvious from the above principles and aims of SIKAP that it is conscious of the roots of underdevelopment which are responsible for the oppressive and miserable conditions which many Filipino youth find themselves in. The role of national consciousness, from the point of view of SIKAP members, cannot be overestimated in finding permanent solutions to the concrete problems of the country. This is why SIKAP places so much emphasis on educating the youth so that they will learn about Philippine reality and be conscious of their duty to transform it.

SIKAP appreciates the importance of grassroots initiative and participation in the struggle for real development. Thus the strength and base of the organization is in the village level. The educational program both in content and style is geared towards the concrete needs and capabilities of the village youth.

In this endeavour, SIKAP finds common cause with other youth organizations, both local and international, which affirm the same principles and aims. It sees the Kabataang Barangay as a potent force towards nationalist awakening. It has formally affiliated with the International Union of Students (IUS) and the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), which are committed to the fight against colonial domination and for lasting peace. SIKAP, however, frowns on the infantile, destructive and adventurist activities of Maoist and Christian left youth organizations which serve as foreign instruments of destabilization.

It seems that during its short span of existence, SIKAP has shown the correctness of its political line and its program of action. Its numbers have swelled from 4,000 to 10,000 within one year. In due time, SIKAP may be able to prove that the youth are indeed the hope of the motherland.

June 25, 1977

*Samahan sa Ikaunlad ng Kabatang
Filipino (SIKAP)*

All eyes are turned on Havana

On March 2-3, 1978, the 4th meeting of the International Preparatory Committee for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students was held in Berlin, the capital of the GDR.

The meeting started its work the day after the closing of the 10th Assembly of WFDY member organizations and it had a double objective: to inform the delegates and through them the entire democratic youth movement of the world on the present stage of the preparations and to finalize various points concerning the Festival programme.

After warm greetings extended on behalf of the GDR youth by Egon Krenz, First Secretary, Central Council, Free German Youth (FDJ), the delegates heard three reports on the preparations in Cuba and on the world scale and on technical and financial aspects of the 11th Festival preparations.

The whole population mobilized

The delegates gave a warm ovation to Luis Orlando Domínguez, First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Youth Union who gave a short but encouraging report on the state of the preparations at the national level. His survey clearly reflected the high level of mobilization not only of the youth but of the whole Cuban society for the success of the 11th Festival.

The speaker stressed the fact that Socialist Cuba is a developing country living in modest conditions, nevertheless he said that the Cuban youth and people are doing and will do their utmost so that every delegate to the 11th Festival, all the 16,000 representatives of the world's democratic

on Havana



The presidium of the 4th meeting of the International Preparatory Committee for the 11th Festival

and progressive youth, will feel at home during their stay in Havana. Luis Orlando Domínguez quoted concrete and convincing proofs of the endeavours and enthusiasm of the youth and people of Socialist Cuba.

The 1st Congress of the Cuban Communist Party held at the end of 1975 — in a special resolution on the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students — expressed the firm conviction «that our people and youth will accomplish with honour their tasks and responsibilities to make the 11th Festival a new success of our Revolution and of revolutionary and progressive youth and students the world over struggling for an-

ti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship».

In accordance with that resolution of the party, the National Preparatory Committee — presided over by Fidel Castro, First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, President of the State Council, was set up at the beginning of 1976. The NPC got down to work without delay. Several months later the Organizing Committee and the Committee of Support to the National Preparatory Committee were established, as well as a far-reaching national network to assure the smooth running of the 11th Festival preparations. This network, which had been establish-

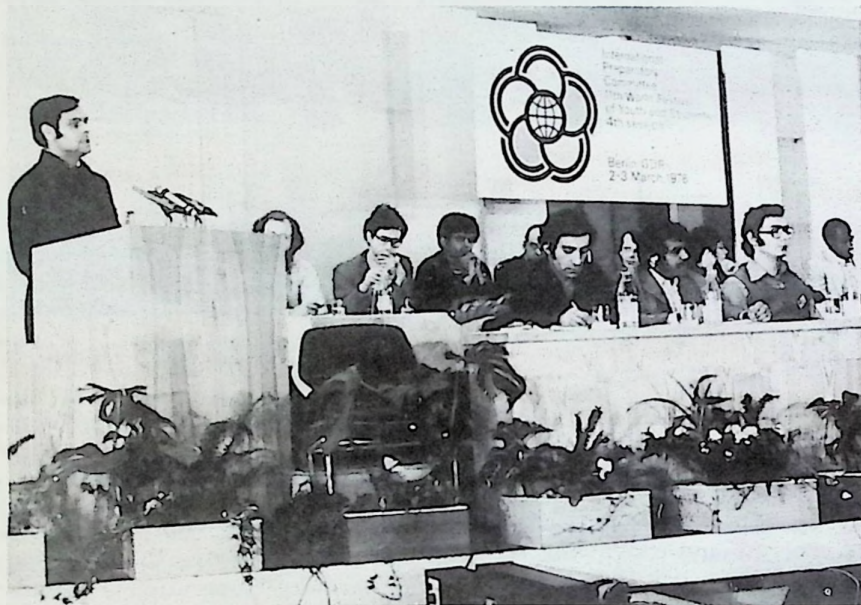
ed by the beginning of 1977, comprises 14 provincial, 169 municipal and over 32,000 base committees (the latter operating at places of work and study, in agricultural farms and army units).

Under the watchword «Every Cuban — an activist for the Festival» an intense, varied and continuous activity has highlighted the creative spirit and boundless enthusiasm of the Cuban masses. The working class initiated — from January 1, 1977 — a special emulation in honour of the 11th Festival. This will last until the end of 1978. This emulation — whose concrete objectives were set in accordance with the provisions of the five-year plan for Cuba's economic and social devel-

Among the most important results of the first stage, Luis Orlando Dominguez mentioned, among other things, the great mobilization of Cuban youth for the «zafra» (sugar-cane harvest), the great scale of voluntary work accomplished by young people at high priority construction sites for the five-year plan, and the enthusiastic work of the Youth Technical Brigades in the production of much needed spare parts for agricultural machines.

Talent and initiatives

Young Cubans have mobilized all their creative spirit, inventiveness and talent for the prepara-



opment — serves also as a base to choose the members of the Cuban delegation to the Festival. The first survey of this emulation, made in the second half of 1977, shows that already 145,000 young Cubans (6 per cent of the entire population between 15 and 29!) — as winners of the first stage of the emulation — got the title of delegate-nominees. They have all made new pledges at their work places for the second stage of the emulation.

tion of the 11th Festival. The extraordinary national movement of youth for «La Maleta de Amistad» (Suitcase of Friendship) resulted in the production of 500,000 souvenirs, the majority of them folk art and «typically Cuban» gifts, the best 50,000 of which will go to the Friendship Bazaar as a contribution of Cuban youth.

The mobilization of youth and of the whole population made it possible to develop an immense number of creative initiatives as a



Alain Gresh, coordinating secretary of the IPC speaks about world-wide preparations for the Festival

Luis Orlando Dominguez, first secretary of the Communist Youth of Cuba briefs delegates about the state of preparations for the Festival in Havana

Ervin Farkas, the IPC treasurer takes the floor at the 4th meeting

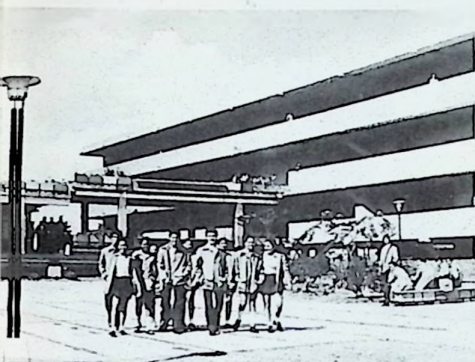


result of which until now a total of 45 million pesos (over 50 million dollars) have been collected as a contribution by the Cuban people to the 11th Festival Fund.

In the cultural field the preliminary selecting of professional and amateur art groups has begun for the cultural and arts programme of the 11th Festival. The Political Song Day organized in

Havana, the Festival of New Poetry, the Cultural Tour of Cuba are but some examples of the present stage of the cultural and artistic preparations being made by the Cuban youth. The broad political, cultural, sports and recreational activities forming part of the National Festival of Youth and Students held in Havana from 15-21 July, 1977 was an opportunity to make a first balance-sheet of the state of the preparations on the national scale.

Havana, the host capital of the 11th World Festival of Youth and



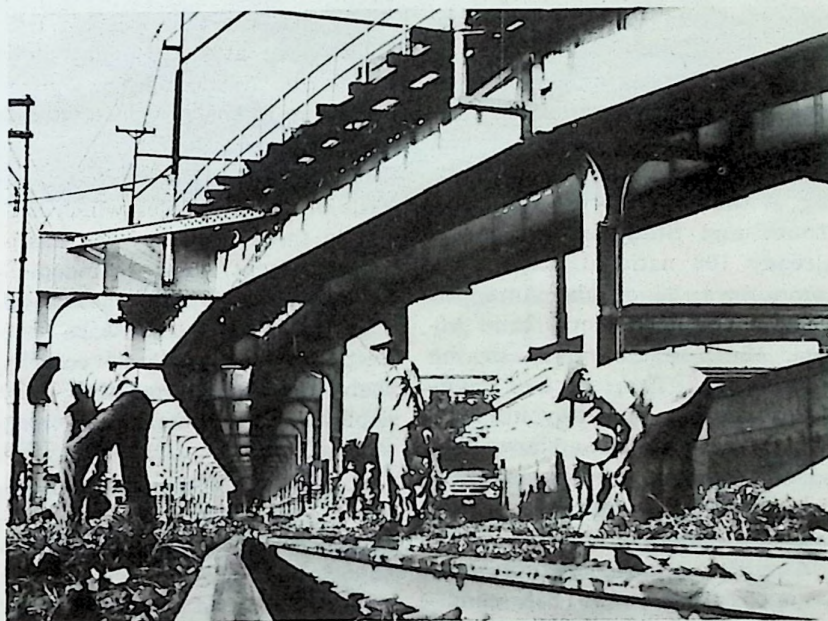
With socialist Cuba hosting the Festival we asked the «Juventud Rebelde» editors to select some pictures about the everyday life of Cuban youth: a group of students in front of new school building

Students is being made more attractive too thanks to its inhabitants, primarily the young people. More than 8,000 buildings have been repainted already, the network of roads, cultural and health centres, etc., is being improved, the José Martí Airport has been updated and enlarged, and so forth. All these deeds underscore the great mobilization of the masses, of the whole of Cuban society, to give a worthy welcome to the messengers of the world's progressive and democratic youth.

The year 1978 will go down in the history of Cuba as **The Year of the 11th Festival**. And the Festival Year coincides with the commemoration of two great historic events in Cuba: the centenary of



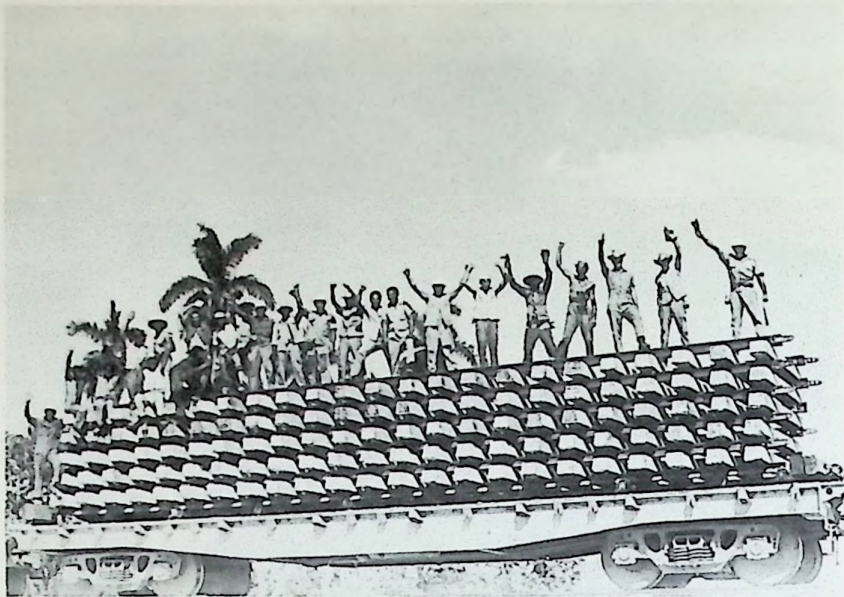
Youth working in Cuba's agriculture



Young workers building the central rail-road

the Baraguá Protest (the proclamation by the legendary General Antonio Maceo that Cuba would continue the struggle against Spanish colonialist to win full independence or to perish on the battlefield, and the 25th anniversary of the Assault on the Mon-

cada Barracks under the leadership of Commander Fidel Castro. These two events are part of the same century-old history of battles and revolutionary intransigence, belonging to the patrimony of all peoples struggling against oppression and exploitation.



Youth working to embellish the capital

Over 100 NPCs

Alain Gresh, Coordinating Secretary of the International Preparatory Committee took the floor to brief delegates on the present stage of the preparations on the world scale. He stressed the fact that five months before the opening of the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students there were already 108 national preparatory committees, 30 on the American continent, 28 in Europe, 24 in Africa, 15 in Asia and 11 in the Middle East. The increased number of countries where youth have already formed NPCs shows that participation in the Havana Festival will be broader than in the previous one.

Another encouraging fact is the broadness, the large representation of the national preparatory committees. In the bulk of countries young Communists, Socialists, Social-Democrats, Radicals, Liberals, Christian-Democrats, etc., are working together for the success of the Festival. It is also important to note that other democratic forces and important sectors of liberation movements are taking part in the work of NPCs.

This is further evidence that the noble ideas of the Festival movement, the Appeal to the Youth of the World issued by the 2nd IPC (1976) have attracted many new forces who are taking part for the first time in the preparations and in the Festival itself.

Most of the NPCs work on the basis of the principles which constitute the strength of the Festival movement: they are independent bodies grouping together all organizations which share the Festival ideals; in each country there can be only one NPC; they deploy a major mobilizing activity among youth.

As to this mobilizing activity, Alain Gresh quoted several eloquent examples. In the USSR about 50 million young people took part in a day of voluntary work to contribute to the World Solidarity Fund. In the GDR youth have also organized days of voluntary work for the World Solidarity Fund, and under the sign of the preparations the 7th Political Song Festival took place in February with a broad national and international participation.

In the FRG a mass rally was organized in Düsseldorf; in Fin-

land the NPC launched a broad fun-raising campaign to boost the World Solidarity Fund under the slogan: «An Hour's Wage for Solidarity». In Ecuador the 1st National Meeting of Young Peasants, which brought together 121 organizations from 11 provinces, adopted an appeal in support of the 11th Festival. In Argentina the NPC has found ways to work legally in spite of the specific conditions in the country. In Vietnam the NPC launched a nation-

Arts and cultural programme for young people

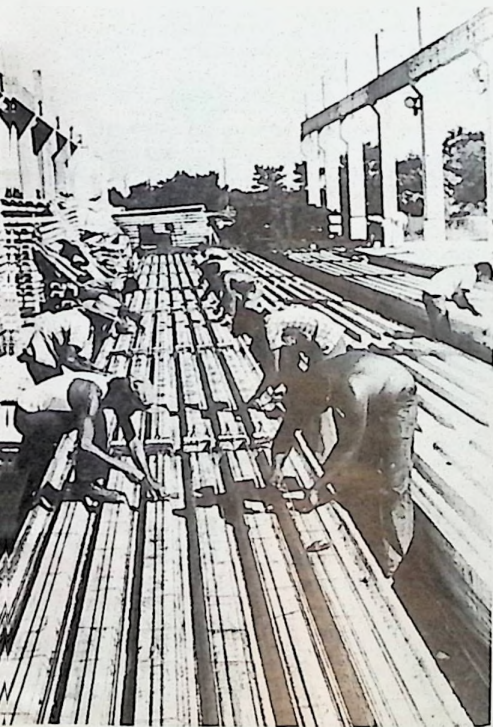


al campaign for emulation in work, study, and artistic and cultural activities, as one of the most important aspects of the preparations for the 11th Festival.

These are only some examples of the scale of the preparations in different parts of the world. Also significant are a number of regional and international meetings that spoke out in support of the Festival, such as the European Meeting of Student Organizations (Sofia, February, 1978), the European Youth and Student Conference on Disarmament (Budapest, January, 1978), the 12th



Cuban youth for the defence of the homeland



Young workers in a house factory

Congress of the International Union of Students (Sofia, October, 1977), the 10th Assembly of WFDY member organizations held recently in Berlin, capital of the GDR, and these are only the more important initiatives.

As to the activity of the International Preparatory Committee Alain Gresh informed delegates that the Permanent Commission of the IPC comprises representatives of 29 national preparatory committees and 6 international and regional organizations, apart from the Coordinating Secretary and the Treasurer.

The Permanent Commission started its work in Havana on September 19, 1977. As its first

important task it set up six working bureaus: for relations, for the programme, for students, for press and propaganda, for services and for the material preparation of the Festival, as well as a finance committee. The coordinating secretary spoke out highly of the constant attention and considerable aid received from the National Preparatory Committee and the Cuban authorities.

At the end of his report Alain Gresh stressed the profoundly democratic character of the Permanent Commission's work which is ensured by the participation of all representatives, by periodic consultations with the largest possible number of national preparatory committees and by unanimity in taking decisions.

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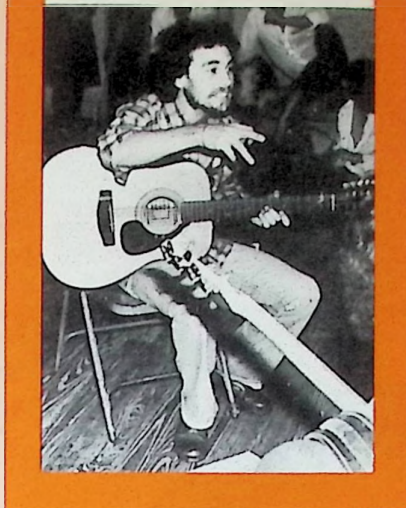
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A song on the theme of the 11th Festival. Chosen from 272 musical compositions at a competition organized by the National Preparatory Committee, the Communist Youth Union and the Cuban Ministry of Culture



«Looking for a New Flower»

HAVANA. About a year ago the National Preparatory Committee for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students, the Communist Youth Union and the Cuban Ministry of Culture announced a Song Competition on the theme of the 11th Festival as part of the preparations for that magnificent event which will take place in Havana next July.

The aim of the competition was to choose a song which identified with the Festival itself and which — in some months — all young people will know and learn.

By the end of the competition 272 works have been assessed by a panel of well-known musicians, mainly composers.

The song entitled «Looking for a New Flower» by a young composer Mike Porcel has been unanimously chosen by the jury.

The chosen musical theme, says its author, is a possible dialogue between a young man and a girl who meet at the Festival: two friends, two lovers. Their conversation reflects in a poetic form the big themes of youth today: friendship, the need to fight now, belief in a better future, solidarity, unity, internationalism and peace as dreams that can be realized.

The sea-gull is a symbol of the union between the peoples of all latitudes; it can cross seas, link continents... The text was written in collaboration with another young poet: Ireno Garcia.

As to the music, composed by Por-

cel also, the tune is very simple without any big jumps between the intervals, which is not typical of the author and one can say that the music and the verses are very catching.

Mike Porcel is 28 years old and represents the best tradition of the Cuban song being continued by the present New Song Movement whose best known representatives are Silvio Rodríguez and Pablo Milanés. Mike Porcel learned to play the Spanish guitar for five years, took a course in History of Music, studied harmony, composition and arrangement.

He first held a guitar in his hands at the age of three... when he started learning to play the classic guitar, he joined a rock group. Then the chanson returned and he made his choice and began to compose songs of this kind.

Now he is author of many compositions and father of a son of six. Mike's favourite poets are José Martí, Antonio Machado, Pablo Neruda, Walt Whitman, Miguel Hernández, and Rabindranath Tagore — he wrote music to their verses, in particular ones by Martí and Tagore. He admits that he would like to write music to the poems of Bertold Brecht.

Now he belongs to the rock group called *Síntesis*, with whom he is working on a show dedicated to the Festival. His style is a mixture of classical harmony, baroque counterpoint, beat rhythms and the beautiful lyricism of his verses.

Theatre is another of the arts he is fond of. In recent years he has been working intensely together with actor Carlos Ruiz de la Tejera on a show entitled «What the Poets Say». The show comprises songs and poems, poems to which he composed music. They perform mainly at schools, workers' centres, military units and they are always a success with the public.

What about the Festival?

«I see streets full of young people, music, merry-making, solidarity... No doubt, it will be a new experience, and only those will savour it, who come to spend some time together and let themselves be carried away by the swirl of the event.

«If your hands fly together with my hands

Like a thousand sea-gulls who share wind, sun, love and bread in their flight

We would become a thousand more sea-gulls soaring over the sea».

The 11th World Festival of Youth and Students already has its theme song.

LOOKING FOR A NEW FLOWER»

Lyrics: Mike Porcel — Ireno Garcia

Music: Mike Porcel

If your thirst breaking distances becomes one with my thirst and your breath reaches up to the sun looking for a new flower And if your breast watches over my repose and my flight releases your song and your struggle shelters in my heart in a single voice, we shall have dreams to weave for the sea the gentle star of liberty

And this flower which must be found away yonder where the poem will be Peace that is growing If your hands fly together with my hands Like a thousand sea-gulls who share wind, sun, love and bread in their flight We would become a thousand more sea-gulls soaring over the sea.»

by Susana Lee and Rolando Cartaya of JUVENTUD REBELDE (Cuba)

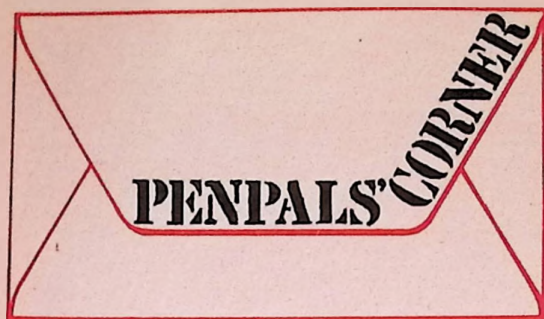
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