

# LIFE WILL TRIUMPH

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writer, delegate to the World Congress of Women.

"We appeal to you:  
"to act without rest and without respite to bring about the cessation of nuclear tests;  
"to support the creation of atom-free zones;  
"to struggle for the removal of all bases and the withdrawal of military troops on foreign soil;

"to support the action of personalities, organisations and governments and of all those who act in this spirit;  
"to multiply the number of women's campaigns for peace, peaceful coexistence and disarmament."

This passionate appeal, addressed to women, to mothers of all countries and all continents, to sisters and friends, is part of the Appeal of the World Congress of Women held in Moscow from June 24 to 29.

It was attended by representatives of hundreds of millions of women from 110 countries. They arrived in Moscow from all over the world: from Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and all the countries of the American continent to share their experience, discuss their anxieties and aspirations, and to decide together what has to be done to put an end to worries over the destinies of the world. 1,500 delegates to the Congress—representatives of various peoples of the world, of varying political views and religious beliefs—were unanimous in resolutely affirming the necessity of fighting for peace, disarmament, equality, national independence, and children's happiness.

As a token gift to the delegates of the World Congress a special postcard was issued in the Soviet Union. It shows a woman, her arms stretched upwards and a large brilliant sun resting in her hands. This postcard, with an attached badge showing the daughters of different continents has been the symbol of the Congress and even now, after the end of the Congress, we see the picture of the woman holding the sun above her. This is a symbol of the Congress' six days of intensive work which produced sound formulas for future progress. It has become a pictorial expression of the reports, speeches, meetings, sharp discussions and friendly talks. The woman who is holding the sun in her hands, who is fighting for life, happiness and future, has many names: French or Japanese, Indonesian or English, Cuban or Iraqi, Czech or Algerian. She is also Valentina Tereshkova, the heroine of the cosmos, "our Valya", as she was warmly called by the Congress delegates. In all languages of the world the woman with the sun in her hands is Mother. A delegate from Africa said addressing the Congress: "The hands of those who rock children's cradles should rule the world."

In his message to the World Congress of Women, N. S. Khrushchov wrote: "The vital question of our day is to preserve and strengthen peace. Women—mothers, sisters, educators of children—are vitally interested in lasting peace. And it is perfectly natural that the struggle against the danger of a thermonuclear war has become the most important incentive for consolidating the international unity of women. This struggle cements the international women's movement, unites all its participants, irrespective of their colour or political and religious convictions. . . . What is necessary is energetic, truly heroic mass action to avert a world war. And here a particularly important role belongs to you, the women!"

"Yes, Premier Khrushchov is right," Elise Boulding, an American woman, told me "Thermonuclear war would mean the death of hundreds of millions of people, the destruction of all the results of constructive work of dozens of generations, it would inevitably turn to ashes in the world many of the things which used to be called civilisation."

It is difficult to keep the sun shining when thunderclouds are gathering. It is difficult to keep the sky always clear of thermonuclear explosions. But it is something which must be done. This is the resolve of women who comprise more than half of the world's population.

Successful struggle for women's rights in capitalist countries, and for the emancipation of women in colonial countries and in those recently liberated from colonialism is possible only in conditions of peaceful coexistence between states of differing social systems. The World Congress of Women illustrated the growing role of women in the national-liberation struggle waged by their respective peoples. Delegates from Africa, Asia, Latin America, spoke of their determination to wage a struggle for freedom, in which women are taking a most active part.

The Congress delegates emphasised many times in speeches and in conversation with friends and journalists that the existence of the socialist camp and of the Soviet Union, which is building communism, constitutes tremendous moral support to all countries which are fighting for their freedom and independence.

I spoke to Renu Chakravarthy, a prominent public figure and member of the Indian Parliament, and a delegate to the Congress, who said: "We shall never forget the contribution of the Soviet Union to the national-liberation movement. When we go back to India and resume our difficult struggle we shall always remember the example of patience and wisdom shown to us by Soviet women."

Indeed our country, the great Soviet Union, is tirelessly fighting for the freedom and independence of all peoples in the world. It is common knowledge, that it was the Soviet Union which took the lead in the powerful offensive against colonialism.

The motto of the World Congress of Women was unity of action. It had aroused a wide response in all countries and reaffirmed the great prestige of the Women's International Democratic Federation which sponsored the Congress. The Federation has become a genuine spokesman of the demands and aspirations of women in the modern world, expressed in the final words of the Appeal:

"We represent the greater part of mankind. Our strength is our unity, which has so far enabled us to avoid the horrors of a third world war.

"The things which unite us constitute a tremendous force: love for our children, friendship and solidarity among women and peoples of the world, our striving for peace, justice, progress and happiness of mankind."

"We agree to unite and work with all our strength against the danger of war, to ensure a lasting peace on earth.

"If we will it, life will triumph."