

**FOR THE RIGHTS OF YOUTH
COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS**

Principles and aims

The WFDY includes youth organizations in different countries and of diverse political tendencies, religious beliefs and forms of activity which, on the basis of equality and mutual respect for their autonomy, wish to coordinate their efforts for the best satisfaction of the interests of youth and to make their contribution to the common ideals of freedom, independence, democracy, friendship, international solidarity and world peace.

The WFDY considers the development of international understanding as well as cooperation between all international, regional and national youth organizations of the world as a fundamental task in contributing to the strengthening of the unity of action and international solidarity of youth, of all anti-imperialist, progressive and democratic forces, to the satisfaction of the interests of all young people, taking into account the existence of a great variety of forms of association based on national ideas, conditions and interests, and the necessity for young people to go beyond these differences and face their common problems together.

The WFDY carries on political, economic and social activity and works in the field of education and culture:

a) to contribute to the education of youth in the spirit of freedom, democracy and solidarity, to end imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, to end racist and fascist regimes, to ensure peace and security in the world by supporting all initiatives and efforts to this effect;

b) to promote the active participation of youth in economic, social, cultural and political life by acting against all restrictions and discriminations connected with age, sex, methods of education, domicile, property, social status, religion, political convictions, colour and race, so as to ensure in all countries and for all young people full freedom of speech, of the press, of religious belief, assembly and organization;

c) to support the struggle of youth for higher living standards, for better conditions of education, work and leisure and for development of cultural, educational and sports activities for all young people;

d) to further the development of the young generation in the spirit of peace and international friendship and to support the noble principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

e) as an organization representing a major part of the young generation, to support youth's interests via all international bodies and in affairs of an international character. Wherever possible WFDY endeavours to call the attention of these bodies and of world public opinion to the problems of young people, and to encourage them to help in solving these problems.

Young workers and students

IN TODAY'S WORLD, SAFEGUARDING OF THEIR RIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CLAIMS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF WFDY ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD

The 7th Assembly of the Member Organizations of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, convened in Sofia from 6 to 16 June 1966, dealt in detail with the economic, social and cultural problems of youth. These questions are well known to all the member organizations of the WFDY, which act in each country according to their own particular features.

The rights of youth cannot be examined and, even less, settled, outside the national and international political framework.

The living, working and studying conditions of youth are closely linked with the most burning problems of our time. The continuation and worsening of the American aggression in Vietnam, the continuation of the arms race, the existence of colonialism, the neo-colonialist policy of the imperialist powers, the fascist oppression in many countries — all this reacts strongly against the fundamental rights of youth. The policy of reaction, the policy of war and social backwardness which is being carried on by the imperialist forces, are factors for obstruction of the legitimate rights of youth all over the world. In a number of countries, the youth and peoples are clashing more and more frequently with feudal forces which are the bastions of reaction.

The WFDY Assembly has welcomed the wide participation of youth in all the struggles of our time. The extensive action of millions of young people to end the American aggression in Vietnam, in solidarity with peoples fighting against colonialism and neo-colonialism, together with the great struggles for democracy — all these actions closely related to their struggles for recognition of their rights, show the high degree of consciousness of today's young generation.

Young people want to live in keeping with the pace of our time.

The WFDY wishes to help them by contributing to the development of unity of young people of different persuasions, in order to achieve a better future.

There are of course great differences in living standards in the different parts of the world, and between countries there are differences in experiences and in social realities.

There is, however, a community of interests to remove those contradictions and to facilitate the development and progress of the whole of mankind.

The WFDY Assembly has found that in the socialist

countries the situation of youth has considerably improved. The outstanding scientific progress of the socialist countries is the result of a vast social advance, of which young people are the first to benefit. Educational facilities are strictly guaranteed for all capable young people. The right of young people to work is strictly observed in these countries. The youth movements enjoy great authority and through them the young people play an extensive part in the social life of these countries. The situation of youth has also improved in various countries that have freed themselves from the colonial yoke.

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The Assembly is especially interested in the working conditions of young workers.

The Assembly has noted that the number of young workers is increasing and is concentrated more and more in large enterprises.

The trend towards an ever-increasing concentration of industry in the capitalist countries is accompanied by working and living conditions for young people which afford few of the possibilities that technical development offers for an improvement in the life and future of young people. The monopolies show their natural inability to cater for the vital needs of the present young generation: to study, to learn a modern trade, to get adequate food, to work, to earn decent wages, to have a home and to marry.

It is found that these young workers are paid less than grown-ups for the same work. This phenomenon is even more serious in the case of young women. Besides, young immigrants in West European countries suffer from racial discrimination. Shameful discrimination of this kind has made it possible for the capitalists, especially the big monopolies, to make super-profits.

In the industrialized countries, the problem of young people under twenty is generally that of securing their first job. In certain areas of these countries there are no openings for young people who have to work. In many cases they have difficulties in finding work at the trade they have learnt. The young people in the capitalist countries are the first victims of automation which, under capitalist conditions, tends to make the problems of employment more serious. As very often such young people have not yet worked, they are not considered as unemployed.

In the developing countries, where youth make up a large part of the population, economic backwardness, production still dependent on the imperialist powers, has, for instance, in Asia produced the effect that 80% unemployed agricultural workers, 60% of city unemployed are less than 25 years old and 77% of the requests for employment are made by workers under 25.

The 7th Assembly has found that in all countries, with the exception of the socialist countries, the proportion of

young workers compared to the total manpower is very high and unemployment is twice as high among young people under 20 as for workers as a whole.

The fight of the young unemployed and partially employed workers is growing in scope and takes different forms according to the countries and is supported by all the democratic forces. The WFDY pays special attention to this mass of young unemployed as they can become an easy prey of the reactionary, fascist and militarist forces who try to make use of their legitimate dissatisfaction for aims contrary to those of the workers and peoples in general.

The problems of rural youth are those of the great majority of young people all over the world, especially in the countries recently liberated from colonialism.

Young peasants are even harder hit than other young people by the policy of the monopolies in the capitalist countries and of colonialism in the other countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

In the capitalist countries, the extraordinarily high degree of monopolist concentration seriously affects the poor peasantry and especially youth. In many countries, while a handful of landowners have possession of great areas of fallow land, millions of peasants are ruined and are compelled to go abroad.

Furthermore, it is noted that the drift of rural youth to the towns has increased in recent years in all countries in the world. This situation raises new social and economic problems for youth, which have to be resolved.

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The Assembly notes that in the capitalist countries, in most of the newly independent countries and especially in the countries still under colonial, neo-colonial and imperialist domination, young people of modest origin are confronted with difficulties in gaining free access to education. Illiteracy affects young people in particular.

It has also been found that there are very many young people who are not even able to continue with their elementary schooling. This problem is decisive in the newly independent countries. This is confirmed by the fact that a considerable number of children of 10 to 14 are obliged to work, while in these same countries unemployment is high among grown-ups.

The ratio of young people who attend secondary and higher educational establishments remains extremely small. Access to secondary and higher education must be considered as a legitimate right of young people.

The democratization of education, the possibility for access to secondary, higher and professional education for all young people, without distinction, is a decisive problem for the future of all mankind.

For the complete and harmonious development of youth,

for the development of the aptitudes of millions of young people, the WFDY demands that democratization should be developed and promoted at all stages. This presupposes not only that governments should provide the necessary means but also that the development of private education should be restricted, as it is a sign of the most serious social discrimination in this field.

Vocational training is a right of all young men and women. A considerable extension of vocational training, adapted to the technical requirements of our time and of each country, would enable young people to face with less difficulty the problems set them by life.

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In the past years the problem of the leisure-time of youth has taken on increased importance. The economic and social conditions and political realities in most countries of the world give rise to inadequate possibilities for leisure for youth. This is one of the important causes of juvenile delinquency. It also hinders the development of young people in general in their after-school education.

The youth movements are striving to improve this difficult situation and first of all to mobilize youth in order to demand funds and the necessary means from the public authorities to provide wholesome recreation for young people.

A sufficient number of establishments must be built to provide facilities for recreation, sport and outdoor activities. Youth tourism must be facilitated. Young people in the suburbs of large cities have special difficulties. Travel to and from work is expensive, often uncomfortable, and takes up a lot of free time which young people need for relaxation after long hours of work at a factory or office.

The right to education and the right to free time are closely associated with the right to culture. The theatre and the cinema must be wide open to youth. This struggle is also for national and popular culture and against the distortion of culture by the capitalist monopolies.

Assistance must be given to youth movements, especially for the training of cadres and youth organizers.

Lastly, aid to all youth movements for all these activities is essential in the capitalist countries in order to counter the capitalist monopolies' aim to use this need of youth to extract further profits by means of commercial activities.

All these questions (education, apprenticeship, work, leisure, rest, etc.) have been aggravated by the addition of millions of young people who were born after the Second World War. The WFDY Assembly notes that structures have not generally been provided to cope with this dramatic situation in many countries.

The Assembly considers that the solution to these problems which affect our youth, is closely linked to the struggle against the nature and the plundering and exploiting policy

of the big capitalist monopolists and financiers of imperialism and of the exploiting and pro-imperialist oligarchies who oppress the peoples. Accordingly, it calls for intense activity on the part of youth and their organizations. This presupposes active participation by young people in political and social life.

The 7th Assembly considers that the question of full national liberation and democratic liberties is an essential problem that young people have to face in many newly independent countries.

The Assembly wishes to stress the fact that in many countries — in Spain, Portugal, Venezuela, Guatemala, Argentina, Paraguay, Kamerun, Niger, Iraq, Iran, Greece, etc. — all the activities of the youth organisations in general, not only member organizations of the WFDY, are restricted or banned, and these measures are applied not only in the political, but also in the cultural and sport fields. There are some countries in Africa (Libya, Ethiopia, etc.), where young people have no organizations at all. The right of young people to have their organizations and newspapers is part of their basic democratic right, which must be safeguarded.

Youth of different sectors of the population are prevented through reactionary laws and measures from taking part in national construction and in development programmes. In order to seize or maintain power for their selfish aims, the reactionary forces resort to the crushing of democracy; they persecute the progressive forces and break up their organizations, their social, cultural and sports functions.

The experience of many youth organizations has shown that when democracy reigns they achieve important successes in the economic, social and cultural fields, as well as in education. When all or part of the achievements are lost under reactionary regimes, the young people are threatened within imprisonment, torture and murder.

These last years have shown clearly that the crushing of democracy and anti-communism have become regular neo-colonialist policy of the imperialist and reactionary forces in order to maintain their domination and exploitation.

Experience has shown young people that wherever democracy is suppressed, their struggle for their political, democratic liberties fills the most important place.

To give an impetus to this struggle for youth rights, the WFDY Assembly has decided to organize an INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH RIGHTS, to be preceded by regional and specialized meetings.

At the conference discussions could be held on the rights:

- of young workers
- of young peasants
- of young women
- of secondary school pupils
 - * to education
 - * to culture
 - * to sport
 - * to leisure

- of youth in large towns and suburbs
 - * to happiness, freedom and peace
 - * to democracy and to have youth organisations,
- of young men doing their military service.

All youth organisations, members and non-members of the WFDY, the big international youth organizations, the democratic organizations, the official organizations like UNESCO, ECOSOC, UNICEF, etc., will be invited.

Resulting from the debates before and after the conference, from the big national and international actions preceding it, an International Charter of Youth Rights will be drawn up which will express, for example:

I. FOR YOUNG WORKERS:

- the right to work and its application in practice;
- respect for the principle of «equal pay for equal work», an end to wage discrimination against young workers;
- free education at all levels, and the setting up of complete systems for trade training, democratically run with the participation of the trade unions, possibilities for further training during working hours, with guaranteed wages;
- an end to discrimination against young women in the field of education, vocational training, and especially apprenticeship and wages;
- an absolute ban on the exploitation of children;
- complete freedom for young workers, including apprentices, to join trade unions and to take part in all trade union activities, especially in the setting up of special sections for young trade union members;
- unrestricted application of the right to unemployment benefit;
- reduced working hours for young workers, strict control of overtime and night work, longer holidays with pay, adequate possibilities for leisure and culture;
- guaranteed hygienic facilities, the right to medical care, security of employment and labour safety;
- ensure for young married couples housing conforming to present-day needs.

II. FOR YOUNG PEASANTS:

- the same rights for agricultural workers as for town workers, equal wages and social advantages, guarantees against unemployment;
- loans for young peasants to set up a home and purchase modern farming machinery;
- agrarian reform;
- wide possibilities for access to general, technical and higher education;
- possibilities to practise sports and have wholesome and varied leisure pursuits;

III. FOR THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION:

- guarantee for all young people of the right to and practical possibilities for free access to education at all levels, based exclusively on their ability, and irrespective of sex, colour of skin, race, religion, political views or social status;
- free access to education at all levels for all young people;
- provision at all levels of adequate and up-to-date equipment in schools and higher educational establishments, and introduction of advanced educational methods;
- free education at all levels;
- scholarships and adequate aid for all those in need of it;
- lodgings, canteens, leisure, and medical care, as well as facilities for cheap-rate study tours;
- educational reform to serve the needs of the population, and the social needs and progress of mankind.

IV. FOR POLITICAL RIGHTS:

- the right of youth to fight for the gaining of full economic, political and social liberation for their people;
- the right of youth to defend, together with their people, national independence, respect for sovereignty and self-determination;
- the right of youth to full equality with all, against manifestations of racialism and economic, political and social discrimination;
- the right of youth to fight for the abolition of foreign military bases, against aggressive military pact and the presence in their country of imperialist or mercenary troops;
- the right to vote at 18.

The WFDY Assembly has decided to promote, before or after the conference, the following initiatives;

- a seminar for young workers on the effects of automation on the living and working conditions of youth;
- a conference in Western Europe on the problems of young immigrant workers;
- a seminar on peasant youth;
- an «associated undertaking» with UNESCO on the possibilities for young peasants to have access to culture;
- a debate in «World Youth» in cooperation with editors of other youth papers on the problems of leisure time for young people;
- a seminar organised with a national commission of UNESCO on the right and necessity of youth to have their own organisations and press organs.

The WFDY will give all support to the following events:

- a meeting of young workers of Latin America, as decided by the 2nd CLAJ;
- a meeting of secondary school pupils of Latin America, as decided by the 2nd CLAJ;
- an International Trade Union Conference on the prob-

lems of apprenticeship and trade training, organised by the WFTU;

— a European discussion-meeting on the problems of the democratization of education in the present conditions of scientific and technical development.

The Assembly recommends that the executive bodies take into consideration all the proposals made by the participating organizations.

Lastly, the Assembly recommends that the WFDY Bureau should gear into action a Rights Bureau which should be given an important place and be granted means in line with the requirements for waging this struggle.

The Assembly recommends closer cooperation with the WFTU, UNESCO and ILO. The effectiveness of initiatives by these organizations could be strengthened by greater activity on the part of the WFDY.

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Realizing youth's aspirations, defending their vital interests and ensuring that their just claims are met, call more than ever for a strengthening of the ranks of the youth movement all over the world, for the rallying of the masses of youth into a single broad fighting front. This is quite natural due to the fact that the development of cooperation and the creation of unity of action of the international youth movement constitute decisive factors for assuring the full success of our joint struggle to further the interests of young people everywhere and for the realization of their just aspirations.

To this end unity and cooperation within the international youth movement must be conceived and achieved by means of a broad platform founded on ideas and aims acceptable to all democratic youth organizations, regardless of their political, philosophical and religious convictions and their international affiliation.

Final document

At the initiative of the Communist Youth Union of Hungary and the Communist Youth Movement of France working in cooperation with the World Federation of Democratic Youth a European Seminar on trade training and the tasks of youth organisations was held in Budapest on October 22-28, 1967. 51 representatives of 27 youth organisations in 19 countries and delegates from the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the World Federation of Trade Unions took part in the work of the Conference.

Six reports, 11 co-reports and sixteen interventions were presented. These reflected the special interest of youth organisations, as well as the WFDY in trade training at present. The participants in the Seminar exchanged views and stated their position on the general problems of trade training, career guidance, teaching and work opportunities, and how to fit the young generation of skilled workers into society.

Present demands are for greater general knowledge, a higher level of trade training and technical skill, and these will grow with the years to come.

The nature of a country, its economic needs and concrete requirements determine the ways and means applied for the training of young people for their role as citizens. The teaching institutions and youth organisations of a given country must take into consideration the new requirements of social, technical and scientific life today to be able to give the young people a proper education and suitable trade training. Rapid technical and scientific development, growth of the productive forces, and a greater demand for general, specialised, scientific and technical knowledge, are some of the main characteristics of our times. Trade training, further training, the perfecting of technical knowledge are requirements of the present and the future.

The right to work is a fundamental right.

The reports indicated clearly that education and trade training for young people vary according to the social and economic system in force. Between countries with the same social system there are however differences stemming from the local conditions, and especially the stage of political and economic development. The representatives from socialist countries stressed that whenever the means of production are in the hands of the people, the individual can directly take part in production, serving society as a whole and at the same time his own aspirations.

As in most parts of the world, there is an increasing demand for skilled workers in the socialist countries too, and the economic importance of the productive work of skilled manpower is growing. There has already been a considerable increase in the number of skilled workers, but the demands of the national economy will call for a quantitative and qualitative improvement as time goes on.

Socialist planning of the national economy ensures that these demands are met, for on the basis of the concrete requirements of the enterprises, it determines the amount of skilled workers required, and on these lines the trade training plans are elaborated. The continuous development of production opens up new possibilities for work. We can even say that in the socialist countries there is a tendency towards a shortage of labour reserves. New labour needs can only be met by more young people entering production.

The trade training of youth and their integration into the process of production are therefore of special significance.

In the socialist countries the state deals with the vocational training of youth on the basis of the needs of the factories and the national economy as a whole. The cost of trade training is covered by the State, which in many ways gives attention to the question of training of skilled workers.

All young people, without discrimination, have access to trade training and they enjoy facilities for further study at establishments for higher education. While there are relatively optimum conditions this does not mean that there are no problems requiring solution as, for example, in the field of vocational guidance. There are sometimes contradictions between the labour needs in one or another branch of the national economy and the individual wishes of young people concerning their choice of career.

In order to ensure the training of skilled workers there is a general trend in the socialist countries towards improving the structure of teaching and increasing the number of trade training institutions.

In socialist society the employers and the workers have the same objectives. One of the main tasks the youth organisations have is to render assistance in attaining these common objectives. It is of major importance that they give encouragement to the younger generation in fitting themselves into the process of production. In carrying on their activity they enjoy facilities from the State, especially concerning information services about trade training and the possibilities open to young people to learn the trade of their choice.

The youth organisations play a major role in vocational training in the socialist countries. They assist the trade training institutions in their work and help to raise the level of general culture and of the youth as well as their technical knowledge. They help young people in preparing for work; they promote their political and social activities; they help in organising their social life; they assist them in making good use of their free time, by arranging various programmes, and they represent their interests and safeguard their rights.

The representatives from capitalist countries pointed out how trade training is all too often designed to maintain and further the privileges of some social-economic groups.

The idea is to train the worker to serve an immediate purpose, and to secure the highest profit for the employer.

Very often a system of tests is used which is only a pseudo-scientific cover for organised social discrimination.

The opportunity for general training, to benefit from scientific and technical progress, for social, cultural and artistic development, are systematically denied. Under such a system the citizen has great difficulty in reaching full development, in making the fullest use of his capacities.

Trade training in capitalist countries, being designed primarily to secure quick profits for the employers, does not secure the growing necessity for adaptability of the workers, which is demanded by rapid progress in the technical and scientific field. There is often a disparity between the need for new and up-to-date trades, and the type of training given, which is frequently unsatisfactory.

Unbalanced training of this kind squanders the country's potential and does not meet the new needs of the nation, and compromises future development. Even although in some fields the employers have had to take into account the claims of the democratic movements especially of the youth organisations represented at this Seminar, the partial changes made do not alter the objectives, or the basic nature of education systems in the capitalist countries. As a result of this there has been an increase in social discrimination, as well as discrimination between sexes, and a trend towards using semi-skilled or unskilled workers, as well as shifting the organisation and control of trade training from the State into the hands of private concerns.

Nearly all the speakers referred to the often tragic conditions of trade training for girls and young people living in rural areas.

The representatives of youth organisations in capitalist countries quoted many examples and statistics to show how the shortcomings in trade training resulted in inadequate pay and unemployment.

In carrying on their actions for youth rights, democracy and peace, the youth organisations present at the Seminar work for a suitable training and education for young people in line with the needs of society.

They expressed their conviction that the final solution to the problems of training young people for their working life depended on the development of this general struggle.

Many useful proposals and comments concerning trade training were made during the seminar. It was noted that the problem is many-sided. The development of trade training depends on the level of the forces of production, on the traditions and experiences in the country concerned, on the level of teaching and general culture, on the social and economic system, and on the purposes which the political and social authorities set out to achieve.

Therefore it is obvious that no general rule can be applied.

However, despite the differences in conditions and possibilities in their countries, the participants approached a number of questions from a common point of view.

The meeting pointed out that from the viewpoint of the democratic youth organisations, trade training should among other things meet the following requirements:

1. Trade training being an essential task of each country, the State has to give special care to its organisation and development, meeting the immediate and long-term interests of the nation as a whole, and not of any privileged groups or classes. The State should manage the system of trade training with the active cooperation and under the control of the democratic organisations, the trade unions and youth movements, etc.

2. Trade training should be provided free of charge, including school materials and textbooks, etc. Special assistance should be given to young people whose financial circumstances are poor.

3. All young people, regardless of nationality, race or sex, religious or political beliefs, should have access to trade training.

4. The system of trade training must be built on the principles of scientific planning. It must take into consideration the rapid development of technology, the changes in the economic and social structure, the appearance of new trades and the disappearance of others.

5. Trade training should set the correct proportion between practical and theoretical work and should ensure that general knowledge meets the requirements of modern life.

6. A system of trade training should be worked out which would ensure continuity, i.e. enabling young people with the required aptitudes to continue with their studies or training even up to university level. All artificial barriers should be abolished; each level of training should be officially recognised so that the young person can according to his qualifications enter employment in the particular trade and be given the appropriate rate of pay.

7. Each trade training system should guarantee the right of the apprentices to wages corresponding to the work done during the course, the right to rest, as well as access to culture and sports.

The participants in the Seminar suggest that the WFDY should devote close attention to the situation in trade training and employment of young people in different countries and regularly give reports on it to its member organisations. The WFDY should approach the specialised agencies of the U.N. (UNESCO, ILO, FAO) asking them to put forward recommendations in the interests of young workers. The recommendations and materials of the Seminar should be sent to these international bodies with the request that they be distributed at international meetings dealing with similar problems and that they should be taken into consideration in all countries.

It is desirable that through effective cooperation the developed countries and the competent international bodies

should offer aid to the recently independent countries, and this should include the training of cadres.

The participants in the Seminar wish for closer cooperation between organisations in the field of trade training and consider that the exchanges of views and experience as well as the dialogue begun should be pursued in the future. They believe that the 9th World Festival, to be held in Sofia in 1968, will be an excellent opportunity for resuming this dialogue.

The participants support the initiative of the WFTU to convene an International Conference on Trade Training in Italy, in 1968. They suggest there should be a general strengthening of cooperation between the WFDY and the WFTU on the question of young workers' rights.

The participants warmly thank the Communist Youth Union of Hungary for the excellent conditions they provided for running the Seminar. They appreciate the serious and valuable work carried out by the Communist Youth Movement of France for the Seminar and also the activity of the World Federation of Democratic Youth in safeguarding youth rights and in the field of trade training. They call on all other international organisations to strengthen and widen their cooperation on the question of trade training, which is a vital problem for safeguarding the rights and guaranteeing a better future for the younger generation.

Charter of rights of working youth

SEMINAR OF THE LATIN AMERICAN WORKING YOUTH

Montevideo, May 1—6, 1968

We, representatives of the working youth of Latin America meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, analysing our common struggle, ascertaining the identity of our common interests, confronting our rich experiences and fraternally united by the similarity of our historical destiny, proclaim the present Charter of Rights of Working Youth.

Latin America is a rich continent, with 7.4% of the world's population; it provides 27,8% of the copper, 18% of the iron, 15.4% of the lead, 7.5% of the crude oil, 15.7% of the pastures, 10.1% of the hydraulic electric potential and 24% of the wood produce of the world. But in spite of this fact, decent living conditions and a happy life are denied to our peoples.

Hunger, malnutrition, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, restricted access to culture, sports and trade training, are the lot of our exploited peoples, and youth are the hardest hit.

This situation is a direct consequence of the tutelage imposed on our economic structures by American imperialism, curbing development and serving the U.S. strategy of domination and expansion.

This is how our peoples are exploited and our resources plundered with the complicity of anti-national minorities, of big landowners, bankers and Big Business, whose affluence and luxury reflect our under-development and backwardness.

In the face of this situation, the struggle which is shaking the whole continent today has legitimately inherited the finest traditions of combat for freedom and independence, traditions created by the last century's action for emancipation.

Political independence made formal by economic dependence from imperialism, especially American imperialism, is most sharply denied by open interference in our political, diplomatic and cultural affairs. This crude interference in our national affairs damages the most authentic values of our historic inheritance, violates our national sovereignty and distorts the development of our culture; this policy advocates solutions of force, direct military intervention, violent acts by gorillas and repression of popular movements.

Now can we overlook the disastrous presence of West German and British neo-colonialism and that of other capitalist powers also distorting our economies.

The same power oppressing our peoples uses formulae of development like the «Alliance for Progress», which is purely and simply a form of neo-colonial domination.

In our continent Cuba alone has shaken off the chains of foreign exploitation and the minorities serving it, and is building a new life where the people and youth can decide their own destiny.

We, young workers of Latin America, resolutely proclaim our inalienable right to free our economies from total subjection to the «dollar zone», to fight to regain our resources now in the hands of foreign monopolies, and to use these to assure the welfare of our peoples with full employment and fair wages.

Further, we affirm with conviction that the struggle for economic and social changes meeting the requirements and aspirations of youth — a goal which cannot be attained while oligarchies tied to Washington exist — is inseparably linked with the fight to safeguard and broaden democratic and trade union liberties, with the struggle for national sovereignty, the full exercise of political rights, which are limited in most the Latin American countries today.

The aggressive policy of imperialism, the repression of trade union and political rights, with official crime often becoming a routine action, show at one and the same time the decrepitude of the exploiting regimes and the imperative necessity to solidly unite popular and youth struggles in defence of rights, and of trade union, political, student or cultural youth organisations.

In Latin America, youth occupy a fundamental place by their number, by their mobilising and fighting capacity and by their own problems. 45% of the continent's population is under 30. 15% of the active population is unemployed, the majority of them young. Economic distortion, the presence of imperialist monopolies narrow down and diminish sources of work, thus limiting the prospects for rising generations of workers and condemning them to poverty and sub-human conditions of life.

We, young workers resolutely declare our right to work and to decent wages. It is essential that every young person should have a job corresponding to his abilities and to the requirements of the economy all they should be guaranteed decent wages and living conditions.

Young workers demand that work be assured for them, they reject the existing discriminatory practices in wage payment and demand the implementation of the principle of «equal pay for equal work», the introduction of the 8-hour working day and the necessary conditions for this.

The experience of our people shows the imperative necessity to find forms organisation and unity to carry on the struggle to defend and achieve our rights.

Accordingly, we participants in the 1st Meeting of Latin American working youth, urge the young people of our continent to consolidate the unity of the youth organisations, to unite with other workers and the mass of the people by actively developing militant forms of action and solidarity meetings.

In our Latin America, in the face of parallelism, collaborationism and trade union divisionism, in view of the restrictions on and liquidation of trade union liberties, we young workers are called upon to play a decisive role in changing this policy, which takes advantage of the disorganisation and division of the workers to increase exploitation and plunder. We proclaim the right to the effective application of democracy and the class independence of trade union organisations.

In views of working conditions where neither the safety of workers nor their minimum health requirements are respected, and in view of the long working days imposed on them, we proclaim the right to better working conditions, to social security, to medical care for the worker and his family.

In the majority of our countries, exploitation of minors constitutes one of the most inhuman aspects. Economic uncertainty and chronic hunger force children to work for miserable wages with long hours of hard toil. We demand that the right to technical training provided by the State, which prepares young people for their working lives; the minimum age at which a person can be employed should not be lower than 14 and the working hours of minors should not exceed 6 hours a day.

Exploitation in rural areas is still more merciless than in the towns. The indices of illiteracy and infantile mortality show dramatic figures. In Latin America, the countryside is exposed to harsh discriminatory repression.

We also demand the right of young peasants to fight for their land, to recover it from the big land-owners; every young person in the countryside must fight relentlessly for the recovery of his land, the most precious national inheritance, by the implementation of a genuine agrarian reform.

It is indispensable to organise the young peasants and young agricultural wage-earners, and to ensure for the native population a worthy life which is denied them now. The unity of rural youth with town workers, mutual aid and solidarity in defence of their rights, for the satisfaction of their demands and the improvement of their living conditions, are a fundamental precondition to obtain their rights.

In our continent, official statistics show that the rate of illiteracy in 10 countries exceeds 40 per cent. In Bolivia 61⁰/₀, in Ecuador 69⁰/₀, in Nicaragua 85⁰/₀ of the population is illiterate. Out of 100 children of school-age only 30 reach the sixth year of school. In rural areas, 99 out of 100 children leave school without finishing primary school.

In the whole of Latin America, out of 10,000 children registered in the first form of primary school, only 4 children of worker or peasant origin go on to University.

We, young workers vigorously proclaim the right to education, the right to haul down the barriers of ignorance imposed on us by the exploiting class. We stress the necessity

to fight for the democratisation of education, for the creation of national educational funds and to put into practice compulsory education in undenominational and free schools with scholarships enabling workers' children to have access to all levels of education; for the setting up of technical, professional and agricultural schools according to the requirements of the country, and facilities for access to them by working youth; for schools with programmes based on the scientific-technical revolution. Full use should be made of the knowledge of experts graduating from the national universities; their training has been assured by our peoples' efforts and they should not be forced to seek work abroad.

Youth must have access to culture and the arts, to physical and mental rest. We proclaim the need for sport for young workers as an essential right for the development of their physical aptitudes.

Bad housing is one of the most dramatic features, and it is rapidly getting worse. The struggle for housing, for house-building programmes for the people, which would ease this most burning problem for young people, is one of the essential rights for which young workers have to fight.

YOUNG WORKERS OF LATIN AMERICA!

We put into your hands this instrument elaborated at the 1st Meeting of Latin American Working Youth which we hope will help the struggle, unity of the youth of America to create for our peoples a new world without exploiters and exploited.

On the basis of unity, organisation and struggle, with the ever more active participation of young workers, we shall win our rights. But this victory presupposes involvement in the general struggles of vast social sectors, in unity of action for common interests, the unity of all those who, like ourselves, are fighting for social progress and the freedom of man, against imperialism and its agents.
Montevideo, May 5, 1968.

Conclusions

OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON «THE ROLE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLITERACY»

Ulan Bator, May 15-16, 1968

Presented by the Presidium

The participants in the international youth seminar on the role of youth organizations in the fight against illiteracy, arranged by the WFDY in cooperation with the Revolutionary Youth Union of Mongolia in Ulan-Bator on May 15-16, 1968, consider that in the world today, despite the remarkable progress achieved by humanity in various fields of science, technology and education, illiteracy constitutes one of the gravest evils depriving thousands and millions of men and women of the possibility to benefit from the results of this progress, to be able to develop and express their own personality and thus to contribute actively to the process of general human progress and to the fight of peoples for complete liberation from exploitation and oppression, for the establishment of world peace and understanding.

They recognize that illiteracy affects mainly young people, depriving them, from childhood, of the possibility to learn to read and write, to attend school and acquire further knowledge, thus placing them in a disadvantageous situation, exposed to discrimination and the effects of underdevelopment. This limits their capacities for personal development and excludes them from creative work, conscious activity and struggle.

It is obvious that this terrible situation which affects mainly people and youth of the Asian, African and Latin American countries is a direct consequence of the system of domination and exploitation imposed on the world by imperialist, colonialist and neo-colonialist forces and powers.

Instead of being spent on the armaments race and wars, of what the most vivid example are the billions of dollars poured by US into the Vietnam war, these resources could be used for peaceful aims and, more particularly, for the fight against illiteracy.

This is why the struggle against illiteracy, for freedom from ignorance, is closely connected with the more general struggle of peoples and youth for real independence, political, economic and social liberation, for democracy and world peace.

Wiping out illiteracy is becoming a goal of primary importance for the developing countries and is at the same time an effective and necessary means and condition for their further development and progress in all spheres.

The continuance of illiteracy and the increasing number of illiterates in the world, particularly among young people, constitutes one of the chief obstacles to the liberation, development and progress of many countries. Likewise it facilitates the maintenance of foreign domination and neo-colonial penetration of their economy, culture and policy.

In this respect, it is particularly important that the fullest use should be made of the experience of socialist countries and various other countries that have gained definite and complete independence, showing large possibilities for deep and effective social transformation in the interests of the people, for the liquidation of illiteracy, for the maintenance and development of the national culture.

Two countries, the Mongolian People's Republic and Cuba, are important examples of what can be done in this respect.

An effective contribution to the development of the world-wide campaign of information propaganda, and actions for the liquidation of illiteracy, is made by UNESCO, which has proclaimed the 8th of September as International Day for Literacy.

Being sharply conscious of the particular danger which the maintenance and growth of illiteracy represents for present and future millions of young people all over the world, youth organisations of different tendencies, ideologies and orientations have paid special attention to the problem of illiteracy and have stressed the urgent need to act and bring about a change in the present situation.

There is a vital necessity for various national and international organizations of youth and students to strengthen and broaden their activities in this field and coordinated actions by them can produce more effective results.

Young people of today can no longer tolerate the fact that in this age of space exploration, millions of young men and women are kept in a situation of backwardness and ignorance due to illiteracy.

On the basis of the foregoing considerations the participants of the Ulan-Bator Seminar:

— *call upon* different youth organizations to build up their activity in order to make a more effective contribution to the elimination of illiteracy;

— *welcome* the cooperation and mutual assistance already existing between various national and international organizations in this field.

— *appeal* youth organizations in developed countries to strengthen their political, moral and material to youth organizations in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America by providing school equipment, offering scholarships for the training of national cadres and educational workers, and sending teachers and lectures to help these countries in their fight against illiteracy.

— *welcome* the initiative of the WFDY in organizing the present seminar and urge it to give full publicity to its work

and results by publishing a special booklet and other relevant material.

— *express* their wish that, on the basis of the experience of the Ulan-Bator seminar, WFDY should undertake to organize similar initiatives in other continents, striving for the broadest participation by different youth organizations.

— *urge* WFDY to strengthen its cooperation in this field with international organizations like IUS, WFTU, FISE, ISMUN, and to participate actively in programmes initiated by UNESCO, FAO and other U.N. specialised agencies, especially during Human Rights Year.

— *urge* UNESCO and FAO to give more assistance to national and international *youth* organizations in their efforts to combat illiteracy.

— *propose* that WFDY should undertake a study of the situation and the scale of illiteracy among the youth of different countries and continents, publish the results of its work and provide information about the activities of different organizations in this field; likewise invite WFDY to propagate the experience gained by different youth organizations, under different social conditions, in their work to promote literacy.

— *calls upon* WFDY's voluntary service branch (SIVSAJ) and other voluntary youth organizations to contribute to the liquidation of illiteracy by sending volunteer teachers, students and lecturers for periods of service in Asian, African and Latin American countries.

— *welcome* various international youth meetings and initiatives, especially the forthcoming 9th World Festival of Youth and Students for Solidarity, Peace and Friendship which will enable young people from different countries to get together and discuss their problems, including the fight against illiteracy, and to strengthen their unity, cooperation and understanding.

— *invites* all youth organizations, regardless of their ideological, political or religious backgrounds, to unite their efforts and strengthen their cooperation in the campaign for the liquidation of illiteracy, for the creation of suitable conditions for the moral, spiritual and scientific progress of youth, for the defence of the basic social and economic rights, for the strengthening of solidarity, peace and friendship between the youth of different countries.

General Recommendations «The Role of Youth in Development and National Reconstruction»

The Regional Youth Seminar which took place in Cotonu (Dahomey) from 18 to 23 April 1970, on the initiative of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) in cooperation with the Youth Movements as well as other social and political organisations (trade unions, women, etc.) discussed the «Role of Youth in Development and National Reconstruction». Several West African countries, international organisations and international experts took part in its work.

After 5 days of fruitful discussion the Seminar noted with satisfaction that in spite of the different conditions and experiences in each country and in spite of differences of approach to the themes of the Seminar, there is general agreement on the increasing importance of the Role of Youth in the Building of a Free Africa. The seminar considers that young people in general and West African youth in particular — by their action and numerical weight in society — are not only the future of Africa, but constitute an important factor in the present struggle.

The discussion demonstrated the rich practical experience gained by the youth of different countries in the region, and a great diversity of forms of concrete youth participation in national construction. The debates of our seminar indicated real bases and possibilities for joint work based on the identity of tasks facing young people in almost all countries of West Africa.

In this respect the seminar noted that:

- West Africa has all the resources which are indispensable for the development of a modern economy (iron, bauxite, oil, uranium, etc.) but that these resources are not properly utilized for the real economic development of the region;
- taking into account the special character of the African economy the development of agriculture remains a fundamental factor, for the majority of the people live on it, and it provides work for 85—95% of the population;
- in spite of a great economic potential and political independence gained 10 years ago, the countries of West Africa continue to suffer from different forms of domination and exploitation by foreign powers. This is why the seminar urges the youth organisations to bear in mind in their everyday struggles the necessity for Africa's resources to be exploited in the interests of the toiling masses; that trading relations between the countries of

West Africa and foreign countries should be based on equality and mutual interests so as to check a «deterioration of terms of exchange»;

- considering the role of youth and their organisations in the work of development and national reconstruction the seminar recommends:

I. TO YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

In order to keep pace with the present level of struggle the youth must unite in order to mobilize and win over the great mass of African youth (young workers, rural youth, students) for popular struggles alongside all democratic and progressive forces of Africa.

Through their organizations they must help with the education, organizing and arousing of the conscience of the youth in order to:

- achieve real national independence, to defend their countries against foreign domination; to support the struggle of the African people still under colonial and racial domination for the total liberation of Africa and unity of the continent;
- to effectively contribute to the major tasks involved in development and national reconstruction, to eradicate forever poverty and ignorance, for a modern economy and a prosperous life for the people;
- to help educate local cadres on the national level so that their countries can benefit from their knowledge and experience;
- to organize literacy campaigns to educate the population — an important condition for the all-round modernization of the economy and the education of the masses.

To promote the education and political training of the youth to enable them to play a role in the political, social and economic life of society, in the struggle for democratization, for the raising of the national conscience, for the defence of the cultural heritage of West Africa, to encourage sports activities and physical education.

The seminar urges all African youth organisations and all democratic youth organisations the world over to do their best to support the holding of and ensure the success of the next Pan-African Youth Festival;

- to organize — at national and regional level — seminars, training courses in different sectors of production;
- to promote a national voluntary service for concrete tasks like the building of schools, houses of culture for youth, health centres, the construction and maintenance of roads, etc.

II. TO INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

The seminar calls upon international organisations:

— to redouble their efforts for the coordination of all sectors of the international youth movement for an ever more effective solidarity with the many-sided struggles of youth of all continents;

— to promote, on the pattern of the present seminar regional, continental and international meetings, to support a dialogue and exchange of experiences between different national, regional and international organisations.

III. TO SPECIALIZED INTER-STATE BODIES

— to take adequate measures to unite more strongly the national, regional and international organisations in their actions concerning young people to enable them to play a full role in development;

— to start institutional reforms which are indispensable for ensuring the welfare of youth, to give them basic education, trade training and jobs corresponding to their qualifications, taking into account economic and social priorities of development;

— to pay special attention to the training, education and integration of young women in production.

The seminar considers that such a policy of development must be based on the democracy, the conscientious action of the masses, of political and social forces, to ensure economic, social and cultural progress.

The seminar considers that the problems of national reconstruction in the countries of West Africa require joint and coordinated actions by different organisations and youth sectors, cooperation between the different organisations on the national level and their unity with all progressive forces of the world in the struggle for progress, freedom and independence of the peoples and for world peace.

The participants positively appreciate the holding of this seminar which made possible a profound discussion on the Role of Youth in Development and National Reconstruction. They express their thanks to the Dahomey authorities for agreeing to host the seminar in Cotonou. They express their satisfaction to the National Preparatory Committee for its warm hospitality and for its splendid efforts for the success of the seminar. They appreciate the initiative of the WFDY which, thanks to its disinterested help, enabled the social organisations of West Africa to have the benefit of this fruitful meeting held in Cotonou.

The participants express their thanks to the international organisations, the specialists and experts whose contribution to the success of the seminar was very important.
Cotonou, April 23, 1970

Resolution of E. C. towards the 8th Assembly

ALL OUR FORCES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOUTH

The recent period has witnessed a mass participation by young people in struggles against imperialism, for peace, democracy and progress. In powerful movements and campaigns, young people have raised their voices, taking their place in the first ranks along with the democratic and revolutionary forces, resolved to win the battle for a future of peace and prosperity.

They have challenged the old world with its old attitudes; its powerlessness to help solve their problems. They look forward with confidence to the future and fight against everything that stands in the way of progress. With the backing of all progressive forces this young generation is changing the face of the world.

Young people are revolted against imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism. They have seen it in action, in Indo-China, in the Middle East and elsewhere, they have noted its aggressivity, its contempt for the peoples of the whole world. Its policy of war and mass slaughter, its scorn for democratic liberties, its repression and exploitation, its expansion, its aims have struck youth's conscience, and prompted them to fight.

People everywhere are opposing imperialism, the major hindrance to the making of a more just world. It is also the main danger, a weapon brandished against the peoples. It is the arch-enemy, and all struggles are directed against it.

The peoples and youth wish to get rid of this hindrance. To this end, unprecedented struggles have developed the world over. In this connection Vietnam is an outstanding example of heroic struggle against imperialism.

Young people are present in these struggles as ever: young people of all political, philosophical and religious trends, from the different countries of the world.

The reactionary front has been forced into isolation: it is assaulted by all those forces who wish for peace: they are resolving to save the dignity of man and the freedom of peoples.

Vast perspectives are opening up for mankind, because the forces of peace are growing more and more; they are able to foil the designs of reactionary forces.

The great force constituted by the socialist countries, the workers and democratic forces in capitalist countries, by the national liberation movements and the peace movements are

a guarantee for all who are struggling. Therefore the unity of these forces is an all-powerful weapon in the peoples' hands. All these forces show that imperialism cannot play with impunity with the peoples' lives. A broad united front has taken shape and is extending and growing every day.

In this front youth are in the vanguard, for they are more sensitive to the great drives for change, for freedom. They are determined to win peace, justice, well-being and dignity.

In the factories and universities, in the fields and workshops, in armed struggle, as well as in struggles against exploitation and for the building of a new society, the younger generation is forging its weapons to build its future.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth draws its strength from that source. 25 years of life have placed it among the most consistent and united forces in the anti-imperialist youth front. Its anti-fascist origin, its fighting stand have linked it, in these 25 years, to the forces which are fighting for youth's demands.

WFDY has worked for the unity of youth in the common fight against the obstacles in the way of peace and progress: it has waged great campaigns for youth rights, to prevent the unleashing of a devastating war, for disarmament, against the revival of fascism and militarism, in support of struggling peoples, for lasting peace.

During its 25 years of existence, the WFDY has sought to apply creatively and consistently its aims in the daily struggles for the mobilization of youth all over the world, for concrete actions.

In convening the 8th Assembly, on the 25th anniversary of its existence, the WFDY wishes to have a reaffirmation of the trust of hundreds of youth organizations, it wishes to see its representation extended to all the progressive youth of the world. The WFDY wishes to be a place for exploring fields of activity and common actions for aims valid for all young people. .

The Assembly will be an opportunity for all progressive youth forces to define the principal objectives of anti-imperialist struggle, to unite their efforts in the spirit of cooperation, friendship and reciprocal respect.

It will be an opportunity for democratic and revolutionary organizations, with different conceptions and methods of struggle, of different countries, to work together and strengthen their unity.

The unity for which the WFDY works among youth needs a new impetus to overcome the difficulties still hindering our action. This will be our answer to those who seek to divide the youth. This anti-imperialist youth front is the result of the contribution of all forces struggling for peace, independence and freedom of the peoples, for democracy, progress, for a better future.

We call on all member and friendly organizations, on all progressive youth to work in the months between now and

the 8th Assembly for a further development of struggles, for the mobilization of forces for progress and democracy in united actions helping to strengthen the WFDY and broaden the anti-imperialist front.

We want to mark the anniversary of a quarter of a century of WFDY's existence by actions. This period should become the source of new successes and it should contribute to the growing and broadening of the anti-imperialist youth forces.

The time up to the 8th Assembly must be used to carry us forward on this path. We call on all progressive youth organizations to celebrate the 25 years of the WFDY in this spirit.

The 8th Assembly will have to push forward the anti-imperialist youth front: all forces sincerely wishing to contribute to common action should take note of this call of our Executive Committee. Present tasks are difficult but the youth look forward to the future: they will make a valuable contribution to the entire movement fighting against imperialism. The closer our unity the greater our strength.

Resolution

ON THE RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH, FOR DEEP-GOING CHANGES IN SOCIETY

The 8th Assembly of the member organisations pays special attention to the study and analysis of the situation of youth, their rights and to the struggles waged for the conquest and defence of these as well as to the close links of this struggle with the general struggle against imperialism and for anti-imperialist unity.

The young generation has its own wishes, aspirations and demands and as an integral part of their people, youth fight for the common aspirations and rights of all sectors which correspond in each country to the special conditions of their economic, political and social development.

In the last years as a consequence of the great eruption of young people in social and political activity and of their increasing participation in work and in the different aspects of production, study, research work and economic, scientific and technical achievements participation in culture, literature and arts, their demands are increasing and becoming more diversified.

It is for this reason that young people seek to participate actively in all aspects of the economic, political and social life of society, to participate actively in its direction.

The young generation of today living in the socialist countries is assured of its political and social rights by society. It plays an important role participating with the people in the great economic and social transformations and in the solution of new problems presented by life, contributing actively to the construction of the new society and to the strengthening and defence of the socialist system. It has the right to creative work and to the free choice of vocation, to democratic education, to free leisure, to hygiene, to social benefits, etc... which demonstrates the large range of the achievements of the socialist countries by the working class and the working masses in power.

In countries where the people have gained political independence by long struggles and who are taking the path of economic reconstruction without dependence on imperialism, young people have gained important rights whose development and expansion they envisage together with the national and international tasks.

In countries under the domination of imperialism and capitalist monopolies, young people are victims of the economic system, which is reflected in the grave problems they face every day, because of the incapacity of capitalist society to resolve them and they are victims of attacks on political and social rights, and in many countries even of the absence of democratic, social and trade union liberties.

In capitalist countries, in dependent countries and colo-

nies the working youth constituting a part of the working masses suffers first of all the general consequence of the domination of monopolies, of national oligarchies; the young workers in town and country are exploited and are in a special situation aggravated by the discrimination because of age. They suffer of a lack of employment, of insufficient vocational training which does not assure them a necessary integration in the process of production, they suffer from problems caused by speed-up, from obstacles in getting an education, in participating in culture and sports.

The situation of girls is often dramatic, they are doubly exploited. Illiteracy continues in many countries to be an unresolved and aggravated problem as well as housing conditions and reaction problems. Because of the concentration of land, because of latifundia and the obstacles they constitute, the young peasants' right to land are not satisfied and often they play the principal role in the rural exodus to the towns where they swell the army of unemployed and where they live in most cases in miserable housing conditions.

Despite the fact that the social and economic progress of society as well as the scientific and technological, revolution demand the enlargement and democratisation of education it remains in most cases subordinated to the interests of the imperialists and monopolies.

University autonomy and co-management are violated at the university. Young professionals, technicians and scientists cannot find a place in society commensurate with their qualifications.

In many of these countries young soldiers are made to repress their people or are utilized as cannon fodder in the war adventures of imperialism and of reactionary governments.

Most of the young workers in the arts and culture are faced with difficulties which prevent the fulfilment of their aspirations.

In countries dominated by the monopolies or in countries dependent on them, in the colonies, youth is valiantly struggling against this situation and in its demands, it puts forward a programme of rights which it defends, uniting this struggle with the general struggle against imperialism and the monopolies.

Youth struggles for its rights and demands by different means and in different conditions. These are mass struggles in which different sectors of the young generations take part with their own characteristics and particularities, involving new strata of youth with diverse forms of action.

Each sector fights for its own demands, organises to obtain them, from which they go on to the more general struggles of their generation and discover the principal enemy which is imperialism.

In these struggles young people likewise meet their allies, uniting with the working class and progressive forces. On

the same barricades they fight for democracy, liberty, independence, peace, for social progress and against the common enemy, imperialism and the monopolies.

The 8th Assembly denounces the principal enemy of young people — imperialism, which refuses their rights, supported by the national oligarchies, reactionary governments which in order to prevent organisation and struggle, has recourse to repression, to ideological subversion, aimed at diverting young people from struggle and friendship with other sectors of the people.

The 8th Assembly supports the struggles of youth for the conquest and defence of the common rights of the young generation, and of those which are particular to each youth sector.

By its forthcoming initiatives in this field the WFDY will help in the elaboration and formulation of a charter of demands and rights of youth marching towards fundamental social change, to assure young people their participation in the gaining and defence of political rights in their countries, economic and political independence, the self-determination and sovereignty of their countries in forms determined by the given conditions.

It supports the struggles of youth for the conquest of political and social rights, for democratic liberties and for full equality against all manifestations of economic, political, racial and social discrimination.

It claims particularly the inalienable right of youth to participate actively in the running of society, to vote at the age of 18, to elect and to be elected to parliament and other State bodies, to participate in the running of secondary schools, in the co-management of universities and in their autonomy. Young workers have the right to be trade union members and to participate in trade union activities creating sections for youth dealing with their particular problems. Young peasants have an inalienable right to land and to the liquidation of big landed estates.

Among the principal rights of working youth fighting against exploitation is that of full employment, equal wages for equal work corresponding to the necessities of contemporary life, the prohibition of child labour, and the right to human dignity of the worker, especially concerning working conditions, equal rights of workers in the countryside with those in the towns with respect to wages and social rights.

Students demand first of all the democratisation of education corresponding to the national interests, the guarantee to all young people of the right and the possibility of free access to education on the basis of ability of all levels, regardless of social status, races, sex, religion or political conviction.

A right demanded by our present age is to adjust programmes of studies to the scientific and technological revolution, to give them a rational and lay content, to guarantee the possibility of access to education. All young people have

the right to education, to vocational training and apprenticeship, i.e. young people in the towns as well as those in the countryside.

All young people should have access to culture, they have the right to utilise the mass media in the service of the interest of their people.

The 8th Assembly considers that the solution of these problems and these aspirations are closely linked to the struggle against the greedy and exploiting policy of the big monopoly capital of imperialism and the national oligarchies which oppress the peoples.

Consequently, the Assembly supports intense activity by young people and their organisations for the unity of anti-imperialist actions and for the rights of youth and appeal to them to participate actively in the initiatives which the WFDY will launch as part of its programme of action.

It considers that the programme of action for the rights of youth should be developed to have a greater effectiveness and greater result, as well as to enlarge the participation of the masses, including all sectors of youth constituting a part of the world campaign «YOUTH ACCUSES IMPERIALISM».

For these reasons the WFDY resolves within the framework of this Campaign to

— Sponsor and promote a campaign and initiatives for political rights, the vote at 18, the right to elect and be elected, for democratic liberties, the right to assemble, to organise, and freedom of the press.

It will specially demand the release of political prisoners, freedom of trade unions and other associations, and social liberties.

— Organise a large meeting on the problems of working youth which would be the principal activity resulting from the multiple national, international, regional and continental initiatives, the protection of which would permit

a) the encouragement of a study of the situation of working youth in different countries;

b) the convening of seminars which could deal with the following topics: «Working youth and the scientific and technological revolution». «Young women and their participation in society and production, their special rights»;

c) the organising of regional meetings for Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and North America;

d) to give impetus to the celebration of May Day by means of meetings on the theme: «The rights of working youth and their anti-imperialist unity»;

e) the encouragement of the organisation of sports competitions by a World Cup Meeting.

— Give impetus to and realise the initiatives concerning the rights of young peasants, in particular a seminar on rural youth, and its right to land, to a decent living against the latifundia.

— Sponsor the organisation of initiatives for secondary

school students, to implement their rights, among other activities promote the Meeting of Secondary Students of Latin America and of Europe.

— Coordinate with the IUS activities for the rights of students.

— Develop activity for cuts in and liquidation of war budgets, in the interests of the progress of the peoples and social needs.

— Organise chiefly a meeting of young workers in the arts and culture in Latin America. Encourage the organisation of festivals of protest songs.

— Develop through the CIMEA activity for the rights of children and adolescents.

The WFDY is for close cooperation in the defence of the rights of youth together with the international democratic organisations dealing with the rights of youth, among others, the IUS and the WFDY.

It wishes for greater cooperation with UNESCO, the ILO and other specialised agencies of the UN in this field.

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The realisation of the aspirations and rights of young people, the defence of their vital interests, the satisfaction of their legitimate demands are prevented by the interests and objectives of imperialism, monopolies and national oligarchies.

The WFDY will do its utmost to consolidate the ranks of the movement of youth and the broad united front of struggle against imperialism and for youth rights. This means that it is today imperative to realise the unity of anti-imperialist action of youth for their rights and interests, for democracy, independence and national sovereignty, for peace and national and social liberation.

This unity is the guarantee of the triumph of the interests and aspirations of young people and will remain so as a part of the united front of all democratic and anti-imperialist forces.

Conclusions on the work of the Seminar

Upon the initiative of the Communist Youth Union of Hungary and in close cooperation with the World Federation of Democratic Youth, a European School Students' Seminar was held in Budapest from 26 to 31 July, 1971. 52 representatives of 23 organisations in 16 countries as well as delegations of the IUS, ISMUN, CENYC and WFDY, took part in the discussions on the general theme: «For the right to education, for our future, for tomorrow's society in a peaceful Europe».

The seminar set out to find answers to the new questions arising for the secondary school in the recent period. There has been a considerable development in the educational system and school facilities in many countries. Major changes have taken place in the conception of what the secondary school should be. And among school students wide-scale struggles have been waged in a number of countries. Today, education is not only one of the most pressing demands of young people, but also, because it is a decisive factor for progress, a major national and international political issue.

The discussions of the three commissions, which met on the basis of the two reports, stressed:

— the importance of the right to education for all young people at a time of rapid scientific and technical progress, which is changing the face of the world,

— the unprecedented will of school students to take an active part in the democratic life of their school establishment and the life of their country; the necessity to satisfy their legitimate democratic rights,

— the increasing role of youth organisations and their co-operation with school students.

The discussion demonstrated the need for the democratic reform of education to meet the growing demands of our time and to ensure the adequate training of workers, producers and citizens, as is called for by today's economic and social development. A modern and democratic education, properly adjusted from the viewpoint of enrolment, method and content, is today not only a requirement of youth, but also an imperative economic and social necessity at national level.

Underlining the close interdependence between the educational system and society, the discussion showed that while there are common problems arising for the young people of all countries, the answers to them differ according to the given social system.

Thus, in the capitalist countries, although there have been various adjustments and some progress made necessary by economic development, by international competition with socialism and by popular struggles, education remains on a

class basis and is unadapted as regards its structure, content and methods. Difficult study conditions, selection based on examination results, social segregation, the deciding of a student's future at too early an age, difficulties concerning jobs and his future career, the denial of a really democratic life — this is the situation of which most school students are victims. Those are the reasons which give rise to unrest, to the considerable development of struggle and the setting up of school students' organisations on a union basis.

On the other hand, by giving education the place it deserves in society, the socialist system has created the conditions for the real democratisation of education. The effective application of free education, the provision of scholarships in large numbers, the means provided for national education — allow for real democratic enrolment. The principles of a polytechnic education, based on an extensive general schooling, provide high-level instruction in the scientific, technical, literary, artistic and sports disciplines and do not impose a too early orientation on the students. The permanent care for the students' sense of responsibility, the democratic life in the school establishments, make it possible to train them for their future as citizens. Of course, there are still problems and shortcomings to be overcome. But there is no doubt that this educational policy shows by its undisputed results that it is possible to meet the essential needs of our time.

The seminar's work made it possible to define the main common demands of school students on the basis of the principles of a democratic education:

- decent study conditions,
- equality of opportunity for all, which presupposes a really free education, sufficient means and scholarships for those who need them,
- teaching methods and structures ensuring a living education, a real cultural life, so as to develop a critical spirit among students,
- a modern, compulsory and high-quality education for all, assuring further schooling without any authoritarian selection or too early orientation, giving each young person a solid general culture comprising a scientific, literary, technical, artistic and sports education,
- access to vocational training and the guarantee of work for all according to his level of qualifications on leaving school,
- a really democratic life in the school establishment guaranteeing each young person his full place and responsibilities,
- an education stamped by the spirit of democracy, and of peace, friendship and solidarity.

On this basis it was felt that close cooperation should be encouraged between all national and international organisations of youth, students and teachers.

Likewise, it was deemed necessary to call the attention of the U.N. and its specialised agencies to the problems of defending the social and political rights of school students.

Bearing in mind the fact that none of the major problems of our times could be solved separately from those affecting the whole world and the continent of Europe; namely, the problem of peace and security, the delegates stressed the contribution that school students could make alongside other young people, in the framework of the world campaign «Youth accuses imperialism» for the strengthening of solidarity with the peoples of Indo-China and with all peoples throughout the world struggling for freedom, national independence and progress against fascism, for democracy.

In this connection too, the delegates expressed their support for concrete and constructive measures to weld more firmly together the ranks of youth for European security, in particular, the convening this year of a European youth meeting for security and cooperation.

Lastly, the participants stressed the necessity to continue to reflect on the problems of school students, to develop cooperation, exchanges of views and information among school students of different European countries and between their organisations.

Resolution on the World Meeting of Working Youth

The 8th Assembly of the WFDY expressed its full support for the struggle of youth for the gaining and defence of the common rights of the young generation and of those of each youth sector.

The struggle for the gaining and defence of the fundamental rights of youth, for conditions enabling them to participate actively in the political, economic and cultural life of society, against exploitation and the domination of the monopolies, is one of the main concerns of WFDY.

In accordance with the 8th Assembly decision, the WFDY E.C., meeting in Valparaiso (Chile) from 6 to 9 September, 1971, speaks out in favour of the holding in Moscow in the last quarter of 1972 of the World Meeting of Working Youth as an integral part of the world campaign «Youth Accuses Imperialism». The Meeting will be devoted to the struggle for the rights of youth, for deep-going social changes, the struggle against imperialism and the monopolies, and for the building of a new society.

This Meeting will afford the opportunity for the participation of WFDY member organisations, of all organisations who faithfully represent young workers throughout the world, organisations of all types and various tendencies. The invitations will be sent out on the basis of the situation in each country and the opinions of the national organisations.

The Meeting will be preceded and prepared by many national and regional events according to the condition in each country and region, which will deal with the specific problems of different sections of working youth of different regions and continents, as well as by an international preparatory meeting.

It will allow for the working out of a platform of joint struggle for the specific demands and rights of young workers and will promote the cooperation of youth in the framework of struggles of the working masses of their countries and of progressive forces throughout the world.

The Executive Committee calls on WFDY members and organisations of young workers all over the world to stage various initiatives and actions in preparation for the forthcoming World Meeting of Working Youth.

It calls upon national and international youth organisations to unite their efforts and experiences to ensure that the Meeting will be an expression of the concerns and aspirations of young workers, making a valuable contribution to their struggles against imperialism and exploitation, for their rights and their future.

Final document

ADOPTED BY THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL YOUTH SEMINAR

25 organisations representing 18 European countries took part in the Agrarian Youth Seminar held in Rousse (Bulgaria) from September 29 to October 2, 1971, organised on the initiative of the WFDY and the Dimitrov Communist Youth Union of Bulgaria.

The visits to industrialised agricultural complexes were followed by fruitful discussions.

The holding of the European Agricultural Youth Seminar was an occasion to make a general survey of the problems of young peasants and agricultural workers, and have a positive and constructive exchange of opinions on the work and struggle of the organisations represented.

The two working groups had broad-scale discussions. Many and various situations and problems were dealt with in the course of these.

This diversity reflected the social systems and specific conditions in each country.

The central theme of the seminar «Agricultural youth want to live in keeping with the times» is one of the main concerns of European agricultural youth in an era when the development of the scientific and technical revolution is opening up great possibilities. Keeping abreast of the times also means that agricultural youth want the possibility to work in the best conditions and to have a good general training and a high technical level.

Life in the country must meet the demands and cultural socio-educational and sports requirements of young people.

Agriculture in the capitalist countries is undergoing deep-going changes too. However, essentially these changes have come into being at the expense of the workers who till the land. In most of the countries concerned agricultural concentration has forced the small-holders out of business and an increasing number of young agricultural workers have had to go and seek work elsewhere, often with worse conditions. Many countries are beset with serious difficulties concerning their educational system. A large number of young workers do not have the scientific and technical training needed for the application of biology, chemistry and mechanisation in agriculture.

For lack of funds, equipment and promoters cultural and sports life in the villages has not developed sufficiently. This is a special handicap for the young generation. In this field, agrarian youth are at a greater disadvantage than other sectors of youth. In most countries the gap existing between the possibilities offered by our times and the real situation of young peasants is growing wider.

Many delegates stressed the unfavourable situation in agriculture concerning also the countries of the European Economic Community.

Although agriculture in the socialist countries still has its problems, deep-going changes have taken place allowing for the development of agriculture and the raising of the living standard of agricultural workers. The agrarian reform carried out in the socialist countries has made possible the application of science and new techniques and increasing work productivity — often to a considerable extent; taking into account the specific historical conditions of each country.

Life for young peasants continues to improve steadily as well as their living and study conditions. These conditions are nearing the standards that the young people aspire to.

A great number of young peasants have the possibility to acquire higher level of scientific and technical knowledge. The development of the material bases in the villages has made possible better cultural sports and socio-educational facilities. Efforts are being made to bring closer the living conditions of young peasants to those of young town-dwellers.

The seminar provided an opportunity to analyse the situation and aspirations of young peasants in different parts of Europe.

Agricultural youth organisations can draw the following conclusions from the seminar's work:

A joint task of organisations for agricultural youth is to work for a strengthening of the unity of the young generation — among agricultural youth, young workers and students, as well as other youth sectors.

The strengthening of this unity is a condition for headway to be made in defining the problems facing the young generation of our continent.

The participation of agricultural youth in the struggles and the different initiatives of youth will lead to success, to the satisfaction of their legitimate demands — scientific and technical education on a higher standard, proper wages and jobs for all and better living conditions. The development of cultural, socio-educative, sports and tourist initiatives and the introduction of different kinds of work competitions will create the possibility for the full and harmonious development of young peasants. With their common initiatives agricultural youth organisations try to broaden contacts of friendship and solidarity among the youth of the world. They welcome the WFDY-IUS initiative «Youth accuses imperialism». They express their solidarity with the young peasants of Greece, Spain and Portugal in their struggle against fascist dictatorship. They support the youth of Indochina, victims of US aggression, and welcome the WFDY's initiative to build the «Nguyen Van Troi» hospital in Hanoi.

On the occasion of the visit of Fania Davis to Europe — organised on the initiative of WFDY — agricultural youth

call for the release of Angela Davis whose life is in danger in a California prison.

We urge all youth to fight for the maintenance of peace. All agrarian youth support the initiative to convene the Security Conference in Europe and hail the coming Florence conference being initiated by the Italian youth organisations. They look forward with special interest to the next conference of working youth to be held in 1972.

The work of this seminar represents a considerable contribution towards the mutual cooperation of agricultural youth organisations.

Meetings and exchanges of experience among various agricultural youth organisations make possible a strengthening of the already existing contacts.

The participants in this conference consider that the WFDY, together with other national and international youth organisations (political, trade union and democratic) should organise more such meetings serving the interests of European agricultural youth.

The participants express their thanks to the WFDY and the DCYU for organising this seminar, and for the good conditions provided for the seminar's work and the facilities afforded to the delegates.

Conclusion

Upon the initiative of the Communist Youth Union of Hungary, in cooperation with the World Federation of Democratic Youth and as part of the preparations for the World Meeting of Working Youth scheduled for November in Moscow, a European Seminar was held in Budapest from May 15 to 18, 1972, on «The integration of young workers into the process of production». Representatives of 14 countries, and delegations of WFDY and IUSY (observer) attended the seminar.

5 reports, 5 co-reports and 2 contributions were presented in plenary sessions and in Commissions dealing with youth in industry and agriculture.

All reports and contributions reflected the particular interest shown by youth organisations and the WFDY today toward the question of integration of young workers into the process of production and in society in general, in view of the growing role of young workers — an integral part of the working class — in the social, economic and political life of their countries.

The content, requirements, forms and methods of training young people for life are determined by the character, economic demands and concrete needs of the given society. For an effective training of youth for life and their start in the process of production, youth organisations should take into consideration the new requirements of social life, technology and contemporary science. The rate of growth of technology, of scientific progress, of the forces of production, and the increased demand for more general and specific knowledge, are some of the main characteristics.

The reports showed clearly that the problems involved in the integration of young workers into the process of production differ from one social-economic system to another. Of course, within countries with the same social-economic system there are also differences.

In the socialist countries, where the means of production are the property of society, young people have the possibility of direct, creative participation in production to the benefit of society, at the same time of meeting their own individual aspirations. In the socialist countries, society as a whole concerns itself with the vocational training of youth, which is carried out according to plans on the basis of the needs of the national economy. Expenditure for vocational training is covered by the State, which demonstrates in varied forms the importance it attributes to the training of tomorrow's skilled workers.

Youth organisations in socialist countries play a decisive role in resolving the problems of young workers. One of the important tasks of youth organisations is to help and encourage the young generation in fitting into the process of

production. In their work they benefit from the facilities provided by the socialist system, particularly with career guidance and optimal possibilities guaranteed to youth to learn their chosen trade. Youth organisations help young people to prepare themselves for work, at the same time they encourage social, political and cultural activities and help them to find useful and interesting leisure activities; by ensuring programmes satisfying their interests, they represent the interests of youth and defend their rights.

Certainly there are still shortcomings and problems, but there is no doubt that the essential orientation of the policy for the integration of youth in the process of production corresponds to the essential needs of our time.

Representatives from capitalist countries pointed out that all too often the training of young workers is aimed at maintaining and perpetuating the privileges of big monopolies and capitalist trusts.

This concept has led to a utilitarian type of vocational training and the immediate goal of maximum profit for the employers.

General training, and an education opening up to the individual the benefits of scientific and technological progress, of social and cultural achievements, is systematically sacrificed. For this reason it is difficult for the individual to reach his full development, to use and develop his talents.

Being geared towards only short-term profitability the vocational training given in capitalist countries does not enable young people to adapt readily to change, which is so important for tomorrow's workers due to the increasing rate of scientific progress.

As a result of the struggles by workers and youth organisations as well as the need for the monopolies to adapt themselves to new conditions, some vocational training systems have been reorganised. But these changes have not altered the principal trends of vocational training in capitalist countries.

Often these changes lead to even sharper social discrimination between the sexes, to inadequate qualifications or out-of-date qualifications, and the transfer of state management and control of vocational training to private interests.

It was pointed out that one of the grave consequences of the capitalist system that youth suffer from is the alarming increase of unemployment. The inadequacy of vocational training is also one of the reasons for underpaid work.

Youth organisations participating in the Seminar have been working for proper vocational training for youth corresponding to the needs of the economy and of society, while acting for the rights of youth, for democracy and peace.

Despite the different conditions and possibilities in their countries, the participants had a common approach on a series of important questions:

The participants in the seminar consider:

1. In capitalist countries the right of youth to work should be guaranteed.

Vocational training, as a preparatory stage for the integration of youth into the process of production, is one of the main tasks of each society. It should be the particular concern of the State which organises vocational training and ensures its direction, with the active participation and control of democratic, trade union organisations, youth movements, etc.

2. Vocational training should be free of charge and accessible to all young people without discrimination.

3. The training of young workers should assure, apart from technical knowledge, a level of general knowledge corresponding to the requirements of modern life.

4. The possibility of further education at a higher level should be assured to young workers who have the necessary aptitudes, including access to university. All artificial barriers should be broken down.

5. Young people with special training should be guaranteed the right to work in the corresponding field, with appropriate wages and a fair remuneration for productive work.

6. Young people should be guaranteed the right to trade union, social and political activities, to rest, access to culture and sports.

The participants propose that the WFDY should continue to follow closely the problems of the integration of youth into the production process and to provide its member organisations with regular information on this matter.

WFDY should approach the specialized agencies of the UN (UNESCO, ILO, FAO) urging them to work out recommendations in the interest of young workers.

The participants suggest increased cooperation in this field between WFDY and WFTU.

The participant also wish for closer cooperation on the above problems between youth organisations and trade unions, and an exchange of opinions and experience; further, the dialogue begun between youth organisations representing different opinions should be continued.

With this in mind they expressed their support for the organisation of the World Meeting of Working Youth to be held in Moscow in November 1972, which will be a major event in the World Campaign of Action «Youth accuses imperialism».

The participants in the seminar welcomed the organisation of the 10th World Festival of Youth and Students in 1973 in Berlin (capital of the GDR).

Considering that none of the major problems of our time can be solved separately from the major problems confronting our continent and the whole world, the delegates wel-

comed the ratification of the USSR—GFR and Poland—GFR treaties, they express their support for the concrete and constructive measures aimed at creating a climate of peace and security in Europe, particularly the Assembly of representatives of public opinion for security and cooperation in Europe, convened in Brussels, and the convening this year in Helsinki of the European Youth Conference for Security and Cooperation, and the Conference of States for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

International standards relating to the conditions of employment of young workers

(Geneva, May 1972)

1. ILO standards relating to the conditions of employment of young workers are incorporated in a series of Conventions and Recommendations adopted during the last 50-odd years. They are designed primarily to protect young people from premature employment and to safeguard the health and welfare of young people at work.

2. The term «young people» usually refers to persons under 18 years of age but the age is higher in some cases.

Minimum Age for Admission to Employment

3. The abolition of child labour was one of the aims for which the ILO was created. Ten Conventions have been adopted on the subject of the minimum age for admission to employment.

4. The Minimum Age (Industry) Convention, 1919 (N° 5), fixes a minimum age of 14 years for employment or work in industrial undertakings. This does not apply to work in technical schools, on condition that the work is approved and supervised by public authority, or to undertakings in which only members of the same family are employed. No other exceptions are allowed. The Convention did, however, contain special provisions for India (a minimum age of 12 and a narrower scope) and Japan (a minimum age of 12, subject to completion of the elementary-school course).

5. This Convention is partially revised by the Minimum Age (Industry) Convention (Revised), 1937 (N° 59). This instrument raises the minimum age to 15. It allows national laws or regulations to permit the employment of children under 15 in family undertakings, but only on condition that no danger to life, health or morals is involved.

6. The Minimum Age (Sea) Convention, 1920 (N° 7), contains provisions analogous to those of Convention N° 5. It fixes a minimum age of 14 for employment or work on vessels engaged in maritime navigation (not including warships), with the exception of vessels on which only members of the same family are employed and of work on school ships or training ships on condition that such work is approved and supervised by public authority. The Minimum Age (Sea) Convention (Revised), 1936 (N° 58), raises the minimum age to 15. It allows the issue of certificates permitting the employment of children at least 14 years old in cases where the appropriate authority is satisfied that the employment would be beneficial to them.

7. The Minimum Age (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (N° 10) provides that children under the age of 14 can not work or be employed in any agricultural undertaking (approved and supervised work in technical schools again being excepted) save outside the hours fixed for school attendance. If employed outside those hours, the employment is not to be such as to prejudice school attendance. For purposes of vocational training, however, school attendance periods and hours could be so arranged as to permit the employment of children on light agricultural work, particularly in connection with the harvest, on condition that the total annual period of school attendance was not thereby reduced to less than eight months.

8. All employment not dealt with in the above-mentioned instruments, except employment in sea-fishing, is covered by the Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment) Convention, 1932 (N° 33). This Convention provides that children under the age of 14, or over 14 but still required to attend school, can not be employed in any employment covered by it. It does not apply to work done in technical and professional schools, on condition that the work is essentially educative, is not intended for profit and is restricted, approved and supervised by a public authority. In addition, the competent authority in each country can exempt from the scope of the Convention employment in establishments in which only members of the employer's family are employed, on condition that it is not prejudicial to school attendance or otherwise harmful or dangerous, and domestic work in the family. The Convention also allows for children over 12 to be employed outside the hours fixed for school attendance on light work not harmful to them and not prejudicial to their schooling. Such work is to be prohibited at night and on Sundays and public holidays. It is to be limited to two hours a day on school days or holidays, and the total number of hours at school and on such work is not to exceed seven a day. National laws or regulations are required to specify the forms of employment which would be regarded as light work and the conditions under which children could be employed on it. They also determine the work to be allowed and the hours to be worked during the holidays of children over 14 years but still required to attend school. A further exception allows the granting of individual permits to enable children to appear in films or public entertainments, subject to a number of conditions aimed at the protection of the health, morals and well-being of the children concerned. The Convention requires the establishment of a higher minimum age for employment involving danger to life, health or morals and also, where necessary, for itinerant trading in streets or public places, employment at stalls outside shops, or employment in itinerant occupations.

9. This Convention is partially revised by the Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment) Convention (Revised), 1937 (No. 80). The minimum age is raised to 15 (again, children above this age but still required to attend school are in-

cluded), the minimum age for light work is raised to 13 and the provisions concerning the hours that might be spent on light work are further refined.

10. Three other Conventions cover more limited categories of employment. The Minimum Age (Fisherman) Convention, 1959 (N° 112), prescribes a minimum age of 15 for work on vessels engaged in maritime fishing in salt waters. Some exceptions are permitted but are subject to various safeguards. The Minimum Age (Trimmers and Stokers) Convention, 1921 (N° 15) prohibits, with a few exceptions, the employment of persons under 81 years of age as trimmers and stokers on vessels engaged in maritime navigation (this provision was repeated in respect of fishing vessels in Convention N° 112). The Minimum Age (Underground Work in Mines) prescribes a lower limit of 16 for the minimum age to be fixed for employment or work underground in mines and allows ratifying States to assume, either at the time of ratification or subsequently, an obligation to prescribe a minimum age higher than 16.

11. In addition to these Conventions, the Conference has adopted four minimum-age Recommendations as such and two others containing specific minimum-age clauses. The Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment) Recommendation, 1932 (N° 41), is designed to provide guidelines for Members on the application of the Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment) Convention, 1932 (N° 33), with the object of ensuring as uniform application as possible. Its provisions include examples of jobs that might be regarded a slight work for the purposes of exceptions; suggestions for safeguards that might be required for the employment of children on light work or in public entertainments; examples of dangerous occupations; a suggestion that the employment of children by unsuitable persons should be prohibited; and suggestions for enforcement. The Minimum Age (Family Undertakings) Recommendation, 1937 (N° 52), adopted as a supplement to the Minimum Age (Industry) Convention (Revised), 1937 (N° 59), calls on Members to make every effort to apply minimum-age legislation to all industrial undertakings, including family undertakings. The Minimum Age (Coal Mines) Recommendation, 1953 (N° 96), provides that employment underground in coal mines should be prohibited up to the age of 16 and restricted between the ages of 16 and 18. The Minimum Age (Underground Work) Recommendation, 1965 (N° 124), calls for measures to raise progressively the minimum age for employment or work underground in all mines and quarries to 18 and for urgent measures to raise it to 16 where it was below that level.

12. Finally, the Conference adopted in 1945 a resolution concerning the protection of children and young workers. It establishes as objectives a minimum age of 16 years for employment in general and of at least 18 for hazardous occupations. It stresses the importance of avoiding any gaps between the school-leaving age and the minimum age for employment; and it urges that the minimum age should be

fixed at the same level for different types of employment in order to prevent children from drifting into work in branches of activity which are inadequately regulated.

Medical Examination for Fitness for Employment

13. Two general Conventions, one covering industry (N° 77, 1946) and the other non-industrial work (N° 78, 1946) relate to the medical examination of young persons for fitness for employment. They provide for free medical examination prior to entry into employment and for further examinations at intervals of not more than one year until the age of 18 years. In occupations involving high health risks, the upper age limit for examinations is 21 years. The instruments provide for appropriate measures of physical and vocational rehabilitation for young persons found by medical examination to be unsuited for certain types of work or to have physical disabilities. An accompanying Recommendation lays down guidelines for application of the Conventions.

14. The Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) Convention (C. 16, 1921) calls for medical examination before taking up seagoing occupations and for re-examination at intervals of not over a year until the age of 18 years. That applying to fishermen (C.113, 1959) requires a medical certificate of fitness on entry to employment, renewed every year up to the age of 21 years. That covering underground work in mines (C.124, 1965) provides for free medical examination on taking up work and regular re-examinations at intervals not exceeding a year until the age of 21 years. X-ray examination is required at the initial examination and subsequently if necessary, in view of the particular health risks involved in such employment.

Night Work

15. The employment of young people during the night is regulated by a series of Conventions, the first of which dates from 1919. Under this first Convention (C.6), no young person under 18 may be employed at night in any industrial undertaking. «Night» is defined as a period of at least 11 consecutive hours including the period between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. The revised Night Work (Young Persons) Convention (C.90, 1948) provides that no young person under 18 may be employed in industry at night. «Night» is understood as a period of at least 12 consecutive hours. In the case of young persons under 16 years of age, this period must include the interval between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. In the case of persons over 16 but under 18, the period must include an interval of at least 7 consecutive hours falling between

16. The Convention (No. 79, 1946) governing the night work of young persons in non-industrial employment stipulates that no child under 14 years who is admissible for full-time or part-time employment and no young person over 14 and subject to full-time school attendance may be employed at night during a period of at least 12 consecutive hours in-

cluding the interval between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Certain exceptions may be permitted by individual licenses. There is an accompanying Recommendation.

17. A Recommendation applying to agricultural work (R.14, 1921) lays down the rule that children under 14 years should have not less than 10 consecutive hours of night rest and young persons between 14 and 18 not less than 9 consecutive hours.

18. In the maritime field, the night employment of crew members under 16 is prohibited and the term «night» is defined as a period of at least 9 consecutive hours between times before and after midnight to be prescribed by national laws or collective agreements (C.109, 1958).

Weekly Rest

19. Recommendation N° 103 of 1957 provides that young persons under 18 years of age should, whenever practicable, have an uninterrupted weekly rest of 2 days.

20. Recommendation N° 125 of 1965 covering young persons on underground work in mines, makes provision for an uninterrupted weekly rest of at least 36 hours in each period of 7 days for young miners under 18 years of age and states that this period of rest should be progressively extended with a view to attaining at least 48 hours.

Holidays with Pay

21. Under a pre-war Convention, (C.52, 1936) which lays down a general standard of a holiday of at least 6 working days after a year of service, young workers under 16 years are entitled to an annual holiday with pay of at least 12 working days. A later Recommendation, N° 98 of 1954, provides that young workers under 18 should be given longer holidays than adults. These instruments apply to industry and commerce. The revised Convention (C.132, 1970) sets a general standard of not less than 30 working weeks for one year of service and contains no special more favourable standard for young people.

22. In agriculture, the Convention dealing with holidays with pay, N° 101 of 1952, specifies that, where appropriate, provision shall be made for more favourable treatment for young workers in cases in which the annual holiday with pay granted to adults is not considered adequate for young workers. The Plantations Convention (C.110, 1958) contains a similar provision. A Recommendation supplementing the agriculture Convention (R.93, 1952) states that for young workers under 16 the minimum length of the holidays should be 2 working weeks.

23. The Underground Work in Mines Recommendation on the employment of young persons (R.125, 1965) provides that persons under 18 years of age working underground in mines should receive an annual holiday with pay of not less than 24 working days (4 working weeks) for 12 months of service.

Hours of Work

24. No standards govern the hours of employment of young workers as such. However, the Recommendation on the reduction of hours of work for all workers (R.116, 1962) provides that, in arranging overtime, due consideration should be given to the special circumstances of young persons under 18 years of age.

Safety and Health

25. A good many of the ILO instruments contain special provisions designed to protect the health and guard the safety of young workers. These include the Convention concerning the use of white lead in painting (C.13, 1921) which excludes young males under 18 and all females from industrial painting involving the use of white lead or sulphate or other products containing these pigments and the Recommendation on protection against lead and zinc ores (R.4, 1919) which excludes young people under 18 from employment in specified processes involving the use of these areas.

26. The Radiation Protection Convention (C.115, 1960) provides that no worker under the age of 16 may be employed on work involving ionising radiations and that appropriate levels for maximum permissible level should be fixed for young people over 16 and under 18.

27. The Maximum Weight Convention (C.127, 1967) specifies that the assignment of young workers under 18 to manual transport of other than light loads shall be limited and that the maximum weight of such loads shall be substantially less than that permitted for adult male workers. The Recommendation (R.128, 1967) repeats this provision and urges that, so far as possible, young workers should not be assigned to regular manual transport of loads. Where the minimum age for assignment to such work is under 16 years measures should be taken to raise the age to that level and the aim should be to attain a minimum age of 18. Where young workers are assigned to load-carrying, provision should be made to reduce the time spent on actual lifting, carrying and putting down of loads and to prohibit the assignment of young workers to particularly arduous jobs.

28. The Recommendation concerning the employment of young persons on underground work in mines (R.125, 1965) devotes particular attention to their health and safety. It provides for special instruction regarding safety and health hazards and urges a series of practical measures to safeguard the life and health of young workers and to promote their physical development.

29. Finally, as has been noted, a number of the ILO's instruments provide for a higher age than the normal minimum age for admission to employment for all work which by its nature or by the circumstances in which it is carried on is particularly dangerous to life, health or morals.

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