

IC / ISM

The Council Meeting of the W.F.D.Y. in Warsaw, 16th to 18th August, 1955

---

The meeting was very much influenced by the relaxation of the international tension and by the wish of the W.F.D.Y. to co-operate with representative youth organisations of the West. The whole atmosphere seemed to have changed, and none of the officials speakers were directly hostile towards the Western world. Complaints were rather made from countries like Guatemala and from African and Asian countries.

Several of the speakers mentioned the conference in Geneva and expressed their belief in the idea of peaceful co-existence. A resolution was adopted which regretted the unjust expulsion of the Yugoslavian Youth Organisation and several Scandinavian youth organisations seven years ago, and the secretariat was asked to investigate the possibilities of co-operation with Western youth organisations in the future. Some changes in the set-up of the W.F.D.Y. were also provided for, which may facilitate this co-operation. S.C.I. was specially mentioned as an organisation with which the W.F.D.Y. wants to co-operate.

Most of the delegates to the meeting were living in the technical high school in Warsaw, together with several festival participants who were waiting to go with delegations to the Soviet Union and other countries. Arrangements seemed to be rather normal, and perhaps less luxurious than at previous W.F.D.Y. meetings.

When I came to the conference, I was introduced to Jacques Denis and Bruno Bernini (secretary and president of W.F.D.Y.), and I also had discussions with other international officials of W.F.D.Y. They all seemed to be very keen on co-operation in the future, but apparently there are still some hesitation within the national branches in the people's democracies. Also for this reason they asked me to intervene at the conference, and to take contact with the national representatives.

As most of the international officials and the 'Eastern' representatives were staying in another hotel, there was not much time to make personal contact (in fact only during a pause of 15 minutes in the morning and another one in the evening). I had discussions with the Soviet delegation and the Czech secretary for international exchange program. The Soviet delegation was not in favour of having a work camp in their country, but would consider sending participants to a camp in another country. None of the representatives from other countries had the authority to accept a project for next year.

Some of the international officials of the W.F.D.Y. told me that they will now ask the national branches to send them suggestions for work camp projects and then they will either chose one, or they will send all proposals to S.C.I., so that we can chose ourselves.

Perhaps the French branch should than find a concrete project in France that is suitable for an 'East-West' camp, and send the proposal to W.F.D.Y. for approval before the next executive meeting of the W.F.D.Y. Jacques Denis will come to Paris soon, and Etienne will then be able to discuss these questions with him once more.

Proposals for future steps :

1. To send suitable pamphlets (in French, English and German) and news bulletins to the W.F.D.Y. and their national branches in the people's democracies.
2. To invite an observer from the W.F.D.Y. to the I.S.M. this autumn. Maybe a special session could be arranged at the I.S.M. for this question ?

Randi Kittelsen