

Answer

Opuziv slo
beravi by bizi
Wm T. Sp - Moore
Leat. Oct. 1995

Dear comrades

I have asked to be one of the speakers at this solemn meeting of the General Council held in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Paris Conference and Congress at which the establishment of the W.F.T.U. was decided. I am grateful to the Presidium for satisfying my request.

Dear comrades,

I had the privilege to be one of those trade union leaders who participated in the efforts to overcome the divisions of which for decades have weakened the trade union and labour movement of the world and thus made it easier for the enemies of the working-class and of the people, to attack and destroy most of their social economic and political achievements.

I was a very young trade-union leader when the news came across that at least the leaders of the most influential Trade Union Centres in the world, agreed to forget their differences and concentrate on the points and problems that could bring them together and unite them in common struggles. This news caused joy and enthusiasm among the trade unionists of all ranks and the workers in general. The Second World

War ~~had just ended~~ was approaching its victorious end. Fascism had been smashed and defeated together with its ally, the Japanese militarism. Now the people expected the realisation of the declared aims of the antifascist war: The elimination of nazism and fascism and the destruction of the fascist military machine. The restoration of ~~the~~ freedom, of the social and democratic rights of the people. The demagification of the

economy, of education, and of all aspects of life. The national liberation and the exercise of the right of self-determination by all the colonial people; the elimination of colonialism. The protection of the right to work and the elimination of unemployment and hunger. The recognition and protection of the right to organise and all the Trade Union freedoms and rights. The establishment of a complete and comprehensive Social Security system that would

offer protection to the unemployed and the sick, to old-aged people, to disabled people, to children and women, and finally the establishment and protection of a just and lasting peace.

For the politically matured and class-conscious workers and Trade Unionists, it was clear that the realisation of the declared war aims was not an easy exploit. In addition to the preservation and strengthen-

ning of the ~~setback~~ unity of the allied antifascist nations, the unity of the international Trade Union and labour movement was also imperative. Thus, we may say that the London World T.U. Conference in February 1945 and the Paris Conference and Congress in October of the same year and the decision to establish the W.F.T.U. as the united single organisation of

the trade union movement of the world, was the expression of the will of the world working-class to unite its forces and contribute in the creation of a new [⊕] happy world.

If indeed the establishment of the WFTU in 1945 was the expression of the will of the international working class for unity — and I believe it was — a question may arise as a result of the events that led to the split of the WFTU

⊕ peaceful and

three years later. How
was it possible for the
enemies of the working
class to split the WFTU
in 1948,
so soon after its establish-
ment?

Our answer to this
question is that the will
for unity expressed by the
London and Paris meetings
was not strong enough to
overcome the remnants of
ideological suspicion ~~and~~
enmity and ^{the} lack of con-
fidence that were pre-

reiling within the labour
and Trade union movement
for nearly half a century
before.

We remember that when
unity was achieved in 1945
many comrades spoke about
the bitter experiences of
the working-class and its
Trade union movement from
the divisions of the 1920s
and the 1930s. ~~Everybody~~
Nearly everybody was ready
to admit that those divi-
sions in the labour move-
ment reduced the strength

of resistance against the
advance of fascism. That
was a bitter experience.
But again, that experience
could not prevent the
split of the WOTU in
1948.

The split in the thirties
reduced the resistance of
the working-class and the
people against the advance
of fascism. Today the
existing split and the
activities of the enemies
of unity is reducing the

Strength of the resistance
of the working-class and
the people against the war
plans of American imperi-
alists and their allies.

Dear comrades,

There are great simi-
larities between the pre-
war period of the thirties
and the present time. As

in the years 1935 to 1939

we witness an unprece-
dented armaments race
which at present extends
into space. As the cynics

openly declare they are engaged into research work for the preparation of the mass war. Chemical war is also being prepared and new generations of powerful missiles are being manufactured and deployed in strategic points ready to strike at any moment against the peaceful nations of the world and mainly against the Soviet Union and the other socialist

Countries. As in the thirties we witness an unprecedented upsurge of anti communism and anti sovietism, this time coupled with a more intense intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, in particular in the internal affairs of people fighting for their national independence ~~and~~ for their social freedom and their economic emancipation. The situation in the Middle East and

in Central America is characteristic

I said that there are great similarities between the prewar period of the thirties and the present time. These similarities are not confined to the aggressive policies of imperialism, to the armaments race caused by their policies and to their ~~and~~ anti-communist and antisoviet plans. The similarities of the two periods extend

into the field of Trade-union politics. At that time, in the thirties, in the years of the appearance and advance of fascism, and in the years of the preparation for the Second World War the trade union movement was sharply divided along ideological and political lines. An ideological war was waged between the two major trends of the movement. All the efforts

of the revolutionary and class based movement to achieve unity of the working class and set up an antifascist front failed. They met with the stern refusal of the anticommunist and antisoviet leaders of the reformist unions.

This is what is again happening in the Trade Unions field, today. For over 35 years the world Federation of Trade Unions is working for the achievement of the international

Trade union unity and for over 35 years the right wing leaders of the ICFEU undermine these efforts and prevent the realisation of unity.

I am not alleging that in the field of the struggle for peace things are all along similar to the situation existing in the prewar years in the 1930's. There are important differences to-day which

were functioning in favour of the peace forces. Now, the Soviet Union as the champion of peace is not alone. The Socialist camp stands solid and all powerful in defence of peace supporting the initiatives of the Soviet Government. This is not the only support for the Soviet initiatives. The non-aligned movement is another source of support for the cause of peace.

Turning now to the

W.F.T.U as a source of strength and support for every peace initiative, we confidently believe that in spite of the divisions and the attacks by our enemies we are a much stronger and ^{more} influential Federation than the whole Trade union movement of the 1930's. We believe that the influence and impact of our policies is extending far beyond the limits of our affiliated national centres.

The W.F.T.U. leadership and the W.F.T.U. affiliated National Centres ^{never forget} what has been written in one of its resolutions at the Paris Congress. That "it was the solidarity of the people of the United Nations displayed in the struggle against the common enemy, which ensured victory on the battlefield." and that "the only guarantee of stable and lasting peace lies in the continued cooperation and friendship among the people of the United Nations

and the unshakable unity of their governments.».

The Paris Congress declared its dedication « to the task of preserving and strengthening this unity».

In another resolution the Congress in Paris declared its deep consciousness « of the need of increasing cooperation and friendship between nations and of preserving the firm and unshakable alliance of their governments in making and maintaining a just and enduring peace.»

We believe that during the 40 years of our existence and our activities as a World T.U. organisation we remained faithful to what we have decided and declared in London and Paris.

My intervention has concentrated on the question of peace. Nobody should assume that the activities of the WFTU were confined solely in this ~~political~~ ~~field~~ political field of peace. As it was guided

and instructed by the London Conference and the Paris Congress the WFTU never failed to direct its attention and its activities towards the social and economic problems of the workers. I could mention unemployment, social security, safety and health at work, working environment, the problems of youth, the problems of women, the Trade Union and Democratic rights, the consequences of the activities of the

multinational Corporations, the effects of the scientific and technological revolution on the life of the workers, the economic and social consequences on the life of workers by the frenzied armaments race.

I would not say that in the course of all these activities we made no mistakes or that we had no weaknesses. But we can confidently declare that the WFTU, its TUIs and its affiliated centres

remained faithful and consistent with the principles and the declarations of the London Conference and the Paris Congress.

At this solemn celebration of the 40th anniversary of our W.F.T.U we have only one pledge to take: that we shall continue to be faithful and consistent with the ideals the principles and the tasks set by our great Federation, that we shall be faithful to the

principles of solidarity
and internationalism.



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