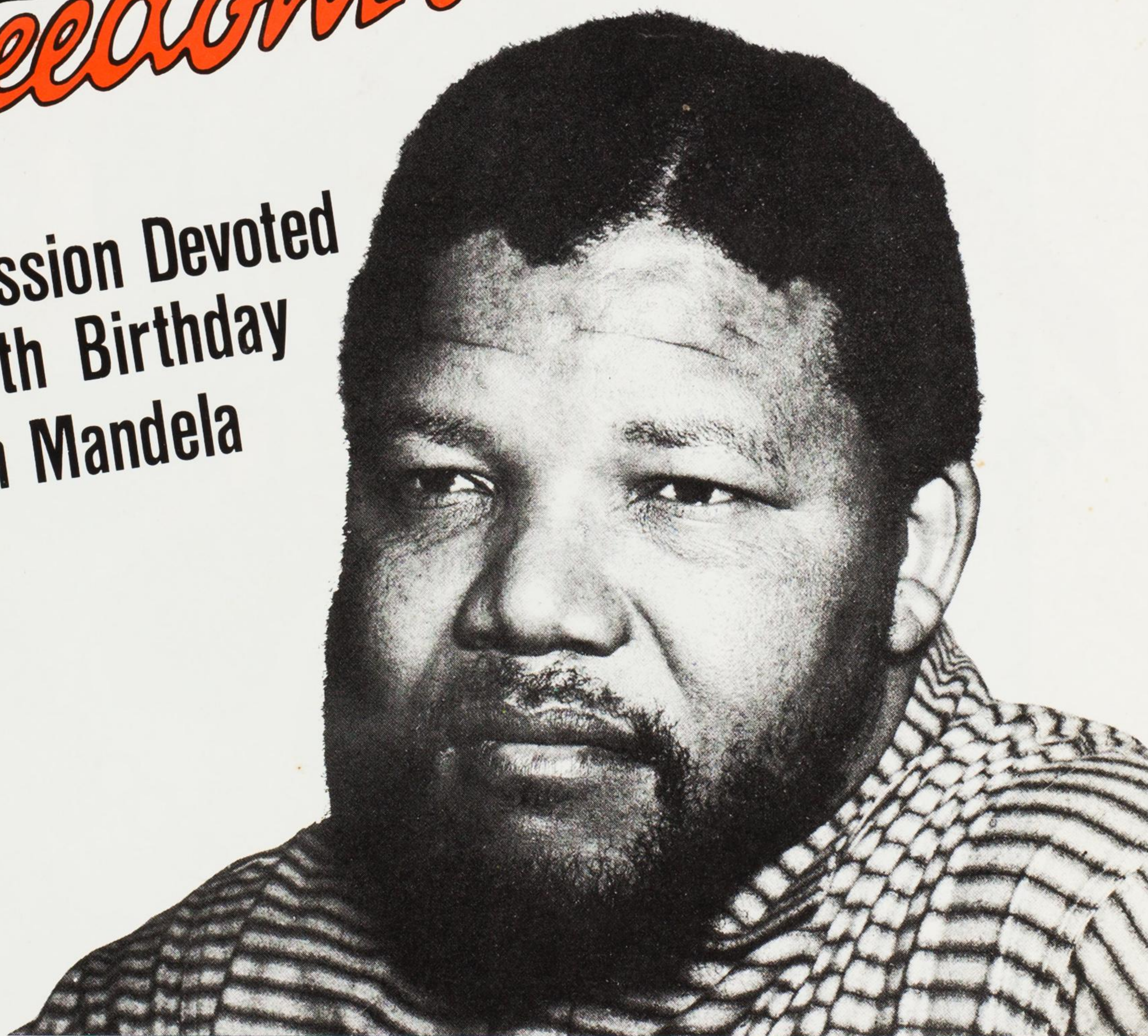


Dem 1001/0002/6
International Conference of Youth and Students
in Solidarity with the Victims of Apartheid
Maputo, Mozambique, November 1988
Jointly organized by WFDY, IUS, OJM, MPJ and AASU

26 YEARS IN PRISON
Freedom at 70

Special Session Devoted
to the 70th Birthday
of Nelson Mandela

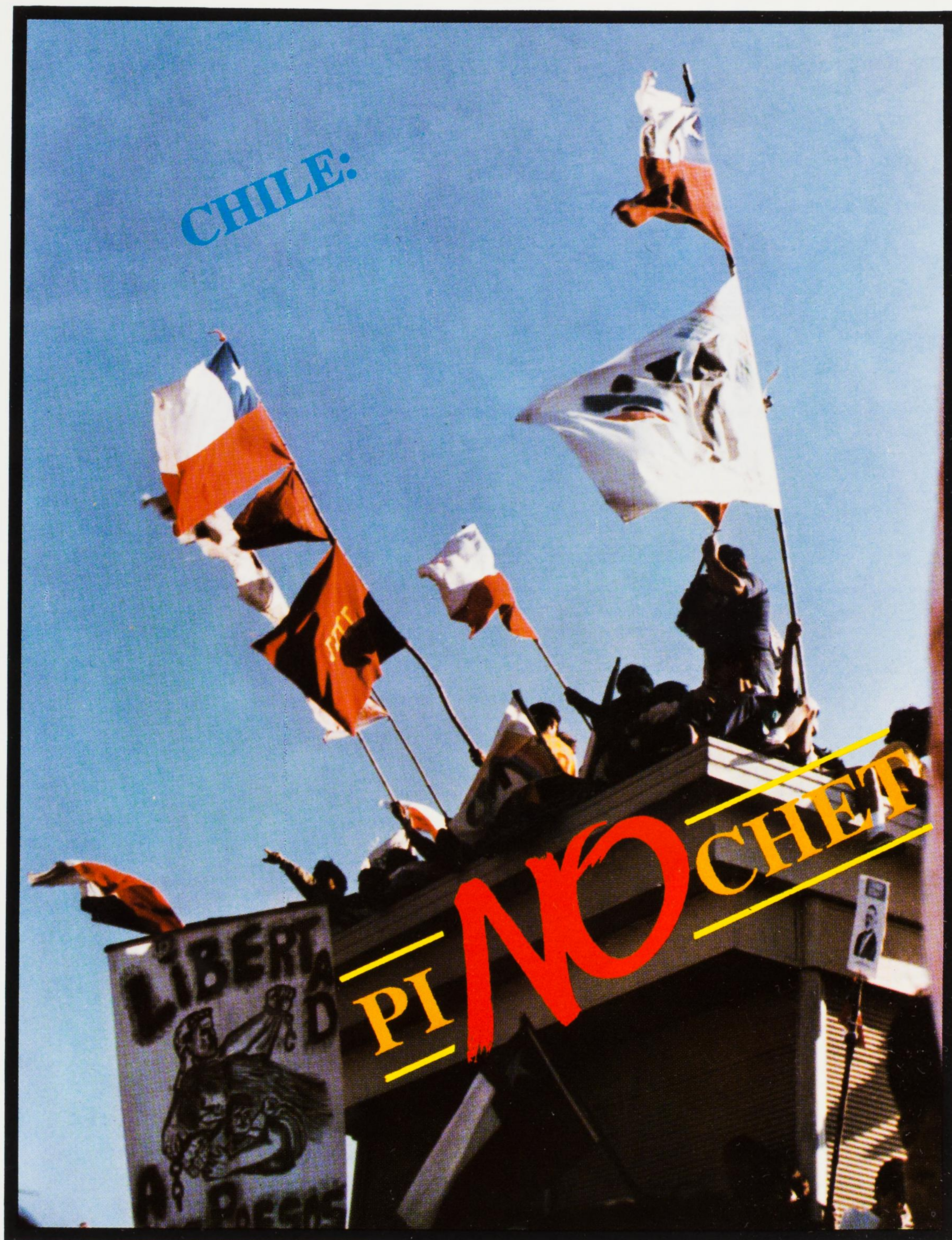


ISOLATE APARTHEID

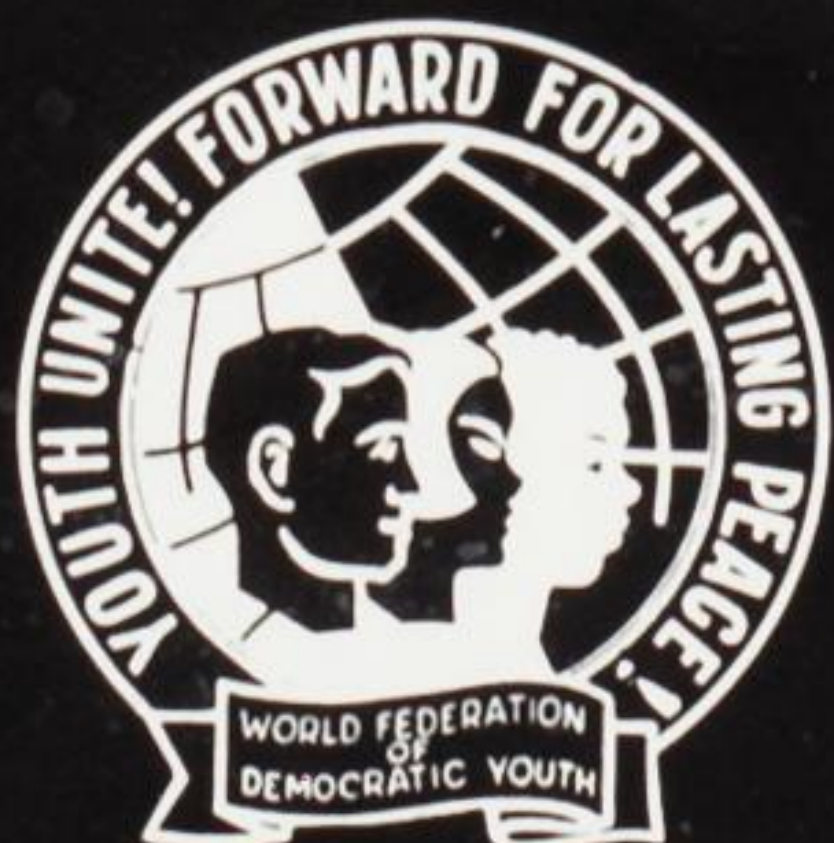


WORLD YOUTH

1988
5.



WFDY/SIVSAJ
"AUGUSTO CÉSAR SANDINO"
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SOLIDARITY BRIGADE
OF COFFEE HARVESTERS



**HANDS OFF NICARAGUA!
NICARAGUA MUST SURVIVE!**



Editorial board:

U. BROCKMEYER
(GDR)

S. BROSTROM
(Denmark)

L. CARDOSO
(Portugal)

V. GEORGAKAKIS
(Greece)

B. GRÄSSLER
(GDR)

A. KOVYLOV
(USSR)

R. LÓPEZ
(Colombia)

W. MASRI
(Lebanon)

A. B. MUSA
(Sudan)

C. DE NEGRI
(Chile)

M. T. RAJAJI
(India)

H. TEIXEIRA
(Brazil)

T. UDVARHELYI
(Hungary,
responsible editor)

M. HORVÁTH
(Hungary, photo editor)

T. KISS
(Hungary, art editor)

* * *

Unless specially mentioned, articles appearing in the Magazine do not necessarily represent the opinion of the World Federation of Democratic Youth. Reproduction is authorized, but the source "WORLD YOUTH" should be mentioned.

* * *

Editorial and general
offices: Ady Endre
utca 19. Budapest II.

Correspondence
"WORLD YOUTH"
1389 Budapest, P.O.B.
147, Hungary. Tele-
phone: 154-095. Ca-
bles: DIVSZ, Buda-
pest. Annual

subscription:
US \$ 10 or equivalent
Single copy US \$ 1
Eng. sz. III/IFJ (7)
1976.

WORLD YOUTH

1988
5.

IN THIS ISSUE:

INTERVIEW WITH GYÖRGY SZABÓ,
GENERAL SECRETARY OF WFDY.....2

"NO" DAY.....4

HISTORY OF THE FESTIVALS.....9

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE
OUGHT TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY.....13

THE HISTORICAL JUSTIFICATION OF
THE REVOLUTION IS STRENGTHENED.....15

UNITED FRIENDS OF EUROPE.....17

THINKING AND ACTING

COMMITTED TO THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY

Perhaps the first question should not be put to you, as the decision about your assignment to the post of the General Secretary of WFDY was not taken by you. The previous change in this post was made at the EC Meeting of WFDY in Havana in 1984. What were the conditions which led the Communist Youth Union of Hungary (KISZ) to nominate a new representative some months before the EC Meeting in Kiev?

— In my opinion personal changes do not necessarily have to be connected with constitutional events of the Federation. The tasks presently facing WFDY make it essential to carry out these changes flexibly.

One factor which contributed to this decision, of course, was the promotion of Vilmos Cserveny, the previous general secretary, in mid-September to a responsible post in the Hungarian diplomatic corps.

Another factor which influenced the decision and underlines the importance of the forthcoming EC was that the time required for the preparatory process of the EC had to be considered. And as the remaining period seemed to be enough for a new general secretary to get involved in the preparation of the EC meeting, my organization was able to take the responsibility of carrying out this change.

In connection with personal changes I'd like to mention that the standard of the work of the Bureau members greatly determines the relations inside the Federation and at the same time the way it is judged from outside, one could say, its image.

It is widely known that Hungary has decided to carry out significant social and economic reforms in the course of building socialism. I'd like to know whether the new representative of KISZ has received his mandate accordingly. Will the implementation of the decisions on the renewal of WFDY, adopted at the last Assembly in Budapest, be accelerated?

— Concerning the connection between the reforms in Hungary and my new function, I think the dynamic political life existing in my country and the fresh ideas emerging from our society will help me a lot. Like many of my compatriots, I will try to see the world as it is, and seek to find solutions, even original ones, if they are needed to solve our problems.

My organization, the CYU of

Hungary, is trying to gain a greater role in the shaping of policy and of socialism in the country. This intention requires the thorough renewal of its programme and organization. True, in the course of such changes one has to make great efforts and sometimes there are failures, too, on the way. So we have experiences (both good and bad) in the field of innovation. I think these can help my work in WFDY as well.

We have to follow the different new developments in the world in a way that is different from before, that is, more flexibly, otherwise we may lose the chance to influence the outcome of the events.

I consider that one of my most important tasks is to increase the feeling of responsibility and commitment to the present and future of our organization, to achieve an attitude in which the readiness to give dominates in the relation towards WFDY.

WFDY exists for the member organizations and this means that their demands determine our programme and tasks. That is why, as general secretary, I would like to serve the realization of the common will of the member organizations because in my view this post means a commitment to the will of the majority.

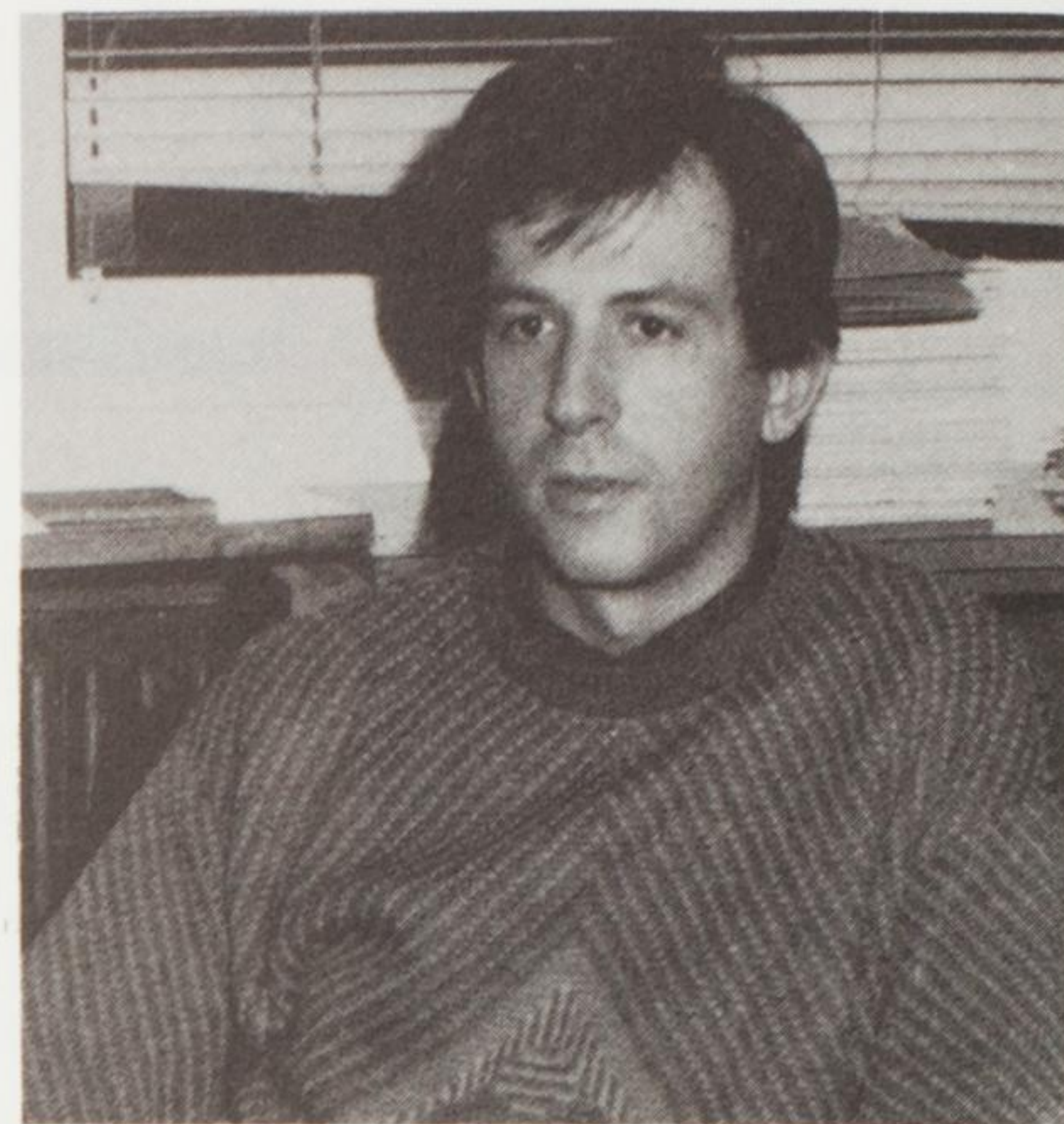
As to my mandate, its most important part is precisely as it was put in your question: to contribute to the implementation of the decisions of the Budapest Assembly which are still timely and are the guidelines for our further development.

I would really like to help in this but all I can hope is that my efforts will result in the acceleration of this process because basically it depends on the member organizations.

Can one say about WFDY that it is a world federation of 'youth'? Shouldn't one rather say world federation of the 'leaders of youth'?

— No, one shouldn't. Our constitution, programme and objectives correspond to the interests of youth. In addition to the safeguarding of peace and of the basic human values, to solidarity, we pay special attention to the questions concerning the rights of youth, too.

But we cannot be satisfied because our programme does not deal with all the vital concerns of young people. We



must identify these problems which they face in their everyday lives, which they think they cannot solve without help, and incorporate them into our programme. It would make our organization much more attractive.

I could put your question in another way, too: whether WFDY is really a 'world' federation and my answer would be positive in this case as well and not only because of the more than 300 member organizations we have the world over but because in our programme problems of youth in every region of the world are included.

But I must add here, too, that the interests of the youth of the developing countries need further support, they should be reflected to a greater extent both in our documents and in our everyday activities.

Of course, there is a problem, that the events organized by WFDY quite often are the gatherings of the leaders of the youth movement, but if the leaders properly represent the interests of the members of their organizations this question cannot arise.

Naturally, in the future we ought to put more emphasis in our policy on providing opportunities for more and more young people to meet and get in touch with each other.

Someone who has been delegated to a position by an organization naturally has to represent its policies. But this does not mean, of course, that there is no scope for personal ideas in the course of the work. What were your personal objectives when you took up your work in WFDY?

— One mustn't be afraid of new or unaccustomed or even surprising solutions. That's why I consider it most important to be open to new ideas and to be ready for continuous development and renewal.

But first, as any new initiative requires a thorough grasp of the situation, I'd like to get fully acquainted with the operation of the Federation. Facing reality can often be painful when one does not

get what one expects, but it will not change my approach.

I think as general secretary I must take into account the interests of the community in accordance with my personal beliefs. These beliefs are based on the conviction that the progressive youth of the world need a much more modern world federation than WFDY is at present. So in practice in trying to help develop and renew our Federation I represent the position of my organization at the same time.

What role can the EC Meeting in Kiev play in the process of the renewal? By the way, don't you think we attach too much significance to the constitutional events? Even if the documents adopted are good and they are adopted unanimously, if the participants—and here let me mention once more my preoccupation about the world federation of the 'leaders of youth'—return home and there is no change in the work of the member organizations it means WFDY is not changing, just the content of the papers.

— Constitutional events have a central role in the decision-making process of democratic organizations and from this point of view it cannot be said that we overestimate their significance, on the contrary: they do not have as much priority in our work as they should have!

The second part of the question is linked with the old practice that a decision is made somewhere 'at the top' and all that remains is to execute it 'right down the line'. WFDY was not created for this purpose. That's why it would not be correct to seek the reasons for our shortcomings among the ways and means of execution. The real solution could be a new kind of relationship among the member organizations. We have to strengthen the bases of a system in which the initiatives of the member organizations are assisted and supported, perhaps, to use a new term 'internationalized'. In return they could do more for the popularization of the Federation during their work.

I'm sure that many of us will think over at home what we heard and experienced during the EC. I'm convinced that this Kiev meeting will be a real exchange of thoughts, facing reality, characterized by frankness and by the courage of young politicians. And if this proves to be the case, then the Executive Committee Meeting in Kiev will be one of the most significant events in the history of WFDY.

We are witnessing the improvement of the international atmosphere, of the Soviet-US relations, the increasing role of the UN in the settlement of different regional conflicts.

How far can these phenomena increase the scope of action of our Federation? What changes do we have to make in the pursuit of our policies amidst these new developments? Because it has been quite clearly established and decided that we have to, but how? Are there any concrete ideas?

— The increasing role of the UN in solving the different conflicts of the world is a favourable process.

The more active role of the UN has increased our scope of action too, I think, because it has demonstrated that the world needs the activities of the different international structures. The deepening global problems and the demand for solving them together supposes and needs the existence of such organizations.

In this situation there are new possibilities for our work. For example in the field of cooperation with other international and regional youth organizations. The basis for it, beside our significant results in this field, is the realization of the fact that the young people of the world because of their age, their common problems, their place in society are more connected to each other than they are divided by their differing ideologies.

It could be our common responsibility to work for a future, that is, a youth-oriented society, in which no decision which might bring short-term results but could bring more harm on the long run can be taken.

So I think the possibilities exist. How we can make use of these opportunities now depends on us, on WFDY. The most important task is to find and to define exactly the youth related aspects of the tremendous problems of today's world. Our scope for action could really be increased if we strengthened our work as a youth organization. The interests and ideas of young people can be promoted and represented most effectively and consistently by youth organizations and I believe this is the path WFDY has to follow.

I referred to the UN in the previous question; let me do so again. We have heard many times that the United Nations is facing financial problems. How about WFDY? Usually we are tactfully silent about this problem; apart from troubling financial reports to ECs and Assemblies there is no mention of it in public. But let me put this question: What is the financial situation of WFDY? Won't the broader scope for political actions be restricted because of diminishing funds?

— This contradiction is unfortunately already a problem of the present. Only a

handful of the member organizations pay the membership fee and if we consider that as an average it represents some hundreds of US dollars per year per organization, I think, this gives some idea of our (and their) difficulties.

This is a vicious circle. The member organizations are paying increasing attention to how their efforts, their financial contributions, with which they want to help the activity of the Federation, are utilized. But on the other hand without sufficient material means the Federation cannot respond appropriately to the justified demands, that is, to give concrete, tangible help in the noble ideal of solidarity.

Finally one more question, under the pretext of a similarity rather than a parallel. The previous general secretary also began to work in WFDY one year before a Festival: what do you expect from the next World Festival of Youth and Students?

— Undoubtedly, the Festival will be an outstanding event of next year. The expectations are very high. Personally, I'd like the Festival to confirm the need for the youth of the world to come together and have an open conversation about their tasks and cooperation. I expect that the spirit of the discussions, the readiness for action and colourfulness characterising the Festival will be similar to the previous ones. The basis for my confidence is the advancement of the preparations. The hosts have done and are doing tremendous work to ensure favourable political and technical conditions for our youth gathering.

Additionally, there is a great need for a discussion about the future of the festival movement itself and with this a process of reflection about the preparation and organization of the festivals could begin.

As before, it is of great significance for the participants to be able to get acquainted with the life and the youth of the host country. This can further enrich the experiences of the festival movement and at the same time it can be valuable for the hosts, as well.

I consider it very important that the venue will direct the attention of the participants to the situation of the Asian continent and to the activities of the Asian youth organizations.

It will be of particular importance that the participants will have the chance to get to know the situation on the Korean peninsula and learn about the efforts for the reunification of Korea.

Tibor Udvarhelyi

On October 5th, the Chilean people said "No" to Pinochet. The dictator's ambition of remaining in power till 1997 as president of the republic came up against the rejection of almost 56 per cent of the 7.4 million Chileans who had registered to vote. Although the victory of the "No" in the plebiscite does not mean that democracy has been restored to the country, it does mean the beginning of a difficult period of transition towards democracy; the first step towards the reopening of the "broad promenades along which the free man will walk" as was foretold by Salvador Allende.

Our editor, Bernd Grässler, was in Santiago on October 5th. Here are his first-hand impressions of that day.



"NO" DAY

Santiago, October 5. - It is a sunny spring morning. On Compañía street where my hotel is located something usual is missing - the noise of traffic which is constant on working days. I look out the window and notice people in Sunday dresses making their way to a school which is located on the same street. A women's polling station has been set up there - men and women still vote separately in Chile.

While I wait for C., a comrade from the "Jota", the Communist Youth, they start broadcasting from the polls on TV. On Channel 13, the Catholic University Channel, there are some shots of the National Stadium. Even at these early hours, there are already long queues waiting for the polls to open.

I remember now the photos of the same stadium fifteen years ago: men behind wire fences, awaiting an uncertain fate, some of them caught by the camera, maybe for the last time in their lives, before disappearing forever.

These memories arouse emotions which are not in tune with what is going to take place today in Chile: a plebiscite - the most ancient form of democratic expression. The plebiscite has been convened by the same regime that in 1973 overthrew the democratically elected president and government of Chile, that "bathed democracy in blood" (as Pinochet himself recognized) and that has governed with dictatorial force since then.

The explanation given by the opposition for its participation in this unique action is valid: within the context of a dictatorship you must make full use of any space you can get to further the struggle for democracy. But, in this case, is the space enough? Can the electorate overcome the fear instilled in it by the repression? Can it discern the real intention of the official propaganda aimed at making people afraid of the possible chaos the "No"

victory would bring? Will the propaganda space and the measures for the supervision of the plebiscite that have been won from the government be sufficient, including the presence of hundreds of foreign observers? And, finally, will the government acknowledge the victory of the "No" if it happens as has been predicted by all serious independent surveys? There are quite a few questions here.

C. arrives and I notice he is full of optimism. He tells me Radio Cooperativa had begun that day's broadcasts at midnight with the songs "Pronto venceremos" (Soon we will overcome) and "Cambia, todo cambia" (It changes, everything changes), and that this radio station was the most popular in Santiago as well as the closest to the opposition's policies.

As we walked through the central part of the city on our way towards the press centre of the "No Command" we encountered only a few men in uniforms. Of course, the majority of the 24,000 soldiers and "carabineros" (police) deployed through the capital city were concentrated in the popular neighbourhoods and slums.

It is not until we approach O'Higgins Avenue that we start noticing a lot of men in uniforms. On this Avenue, one of the main traffic arteries of Santiago, are concentrated many of today's key places: the National Institute, where the authorities of the regime will vote; the headquarters and press centre of the "No Command", an entity which groups 16 opposition parties; the "Libertador" Hotel, where the United Left and Communist Party are trying to hold their press conferences, and the government headquarters in the "Diego Portales" Building, where there is an ultra-modern press centre from which they expect to disseminate the news of the "Yes" victory no matter what.

By pure chance and a little bit of journalist's luck, we passed by the National Institute just as they are expecting here the man who, according to the official propaganda, has sufficient conditions for being not only the "sole candidate" but the "No. 1 elector" too: Augusto Pinochet Ugarte.

It is 10:50 when the presidential caravan arrives. The bodyguards jump off their cars to open the way for the dictator through a group

LET HIM HONOUR HIS WORDS!

The Chilean people were elated after Pinochet's defeat at the polls and were quite amused at the publication of an answer he had given a few months before during an interview. It was spotted by a journalist who was reviewing the original publication of the interview in the **November 19, 1987**, issue of "QUE PASA" magazine. The reporter's question and the general's answer were the following:

Q.: Mr. President, have you ever considered the possibility of a NO victory in the Plebiscite?

A.: What can I say? I think this would be like the case of a man whose friends, wife and children told him that his performance as a friend, husband and father had been the worst and that they did not want him. What has this man left? What can he do but pack his bags and leave..."

Chileans are now waiting for him to honour his words.

PINOCHET'S "ECONOMIC MIRACLE"

On the basis of two positive - but isolated - indicators of the Chilean economy, i.e. the relatively low rate of inflation and the growth of exports, the official propaganda refers boisterously to the "economic miracle". A miracle which does not really exist, as is demonstrated by the following data on the basis of various well-known serious studies.

	1970	1987
Annual economic growth rate	4.4%	2.6%
Foreign debt	9 billions	20 billions
Public expenditures:		
education	100%	76%
health	100%	64%
housing	100%	74%
Unemployment rate	6%	13%
Underemployment rate	17%	36%
Purchasing power	100%	85%
Population not covered by social security benefits	25%	40%
Consumption per inhabitant (goods and services)	100%	92%
Consumption of:		
wheat	100%	84%
milk	100%	84%
sugar	100%	89%
rice	100%	81%
meat	100%	79%
Housing deficit	563,000 houses	1.1 million houses
Percentage of poor families that do not meet the minimum level of nutritional requirements, according to international standards	17%	47%

of journalists and a few dozen followers. Some applause and sporadic cries of "Chile-Pinochet" are heard when the greying general dressed in a civilian suit, and trying to appear like the "father of the people", turns towards the TV cameras. He gives the impression of confidence in his victory. Could it be true that the actual results of the manipulated surveys have been hidden from him? Could it be that Pinochet is not only the "sole candidate" and the "No. 1 elector" but also the first victim of his own triumphant propaganda?

It seems an irony of history that the same Pinochet who during a decade and a half has, by means of violence and intrigue, defeated all attempts to overthrow him, is now in danger of falling into a trap set by himself with the boundless arrogance of power?

At 11:30 a.m. we are at the modest press centre of the "No Command": the first press release given at 11 a.m. reported that there had been a massive turn-out in all polling stations. Patricio Aylwin, spokesman of the "Command" and leader of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), denies the charge that the opposition was responsible for the blackouts that affected broad areas of Chile last night. "The "No" supporters are not responsible for the blackouts that have occurred in the last few days. The real culprits are trying to frighten the people because they themselves fear the results of the electoral act..."

The leader of the Communist Party, José Sanfuentes, is even more outspoken on the situation during a press conference which took place a little later in the nearby "Liberador" Hotel, saying: "The blackouts have been caused by the regime itself, there is no doubt about it, just as it is responsible for the apocryphal false edition of the newspaper "El

Siglo", and the distorted information disseminated throughout these days about the positions of the communists and other opposition forces".

The CP press conference has been called at short notice by word of mouth. This was a security measure, because the communists are still the favourite target of the repressive forces. Just the other night, the regime detained two officials of the CP under the pretext of carrying out subversive activity - this happened by "mere chance" on the eve of the 5th and just on time to report about it in one of the main TV news programs.

José Sanfuentes reaffirms that the Communist Party - the strongest left-wing party -

The "No. 1 elector" arrives



is ready to place all its influence at the service and defense of the "No" victory. Although the CP does not belong to the "No Command" - some members of the "Command" believed the CP's "people's rebellion" policy envisaging the use of violence did not comply with their requirements - it maintains permanent contact with the "Command".

After the press conference was over, we made a brief tour of the central part of the city. Nowhere could we find the "riots" reported by the official propaganda. The soldiers in front of School No. 1 on Compañía Street were bored and doing nothing, except to help an elderly person find the right electoral roll or aid someone who had fainted because of the long hours standing in queue in the sun to vote. The only thing we could observe was that Chileans were voting in an exemplary manner, they were "re-encountering their democratic traditions" as was pointed out by many different politicians. Following the recommendations of the opposition, the majority of the voters returned home as soon as they cast their vote. This was done with the aim of forestalling any incidents or provocations.

What is discussed among the opposition in these few moments of peace is the question of how to react in the case the government announces the first results, manipulated in favour of the YES, and their followers come out to celebrate "their victory" in the streets. There is the rumour that the Christian Democrats are in favour of staying home no matter what, while the communists advocate an early joyful celebration by the "No" supporters because there is no doubt that the "No" will win.

The nearer the closing time for the polling stations draws, the greater the tension. The "carabineros" make themselves visible. Around 5 p.m. we went with a few friends to the working class neighbourhood of San Miguel to observe the counting of the votes there. Although the guards at the polling sta-

tion - sailors dressed in elegant blue uniforms - were astonished by my GDR passport, they let us in after searching my photographic equipment.

Here at the parish school of San Miguel more than seven thousand persons have voted. Some of the electoral roles have closed after concluding their 9-hour schedule. Under the strict control of the representatives of the different parties the votes are counted. The presence of representatives from the different parties here was one of the preconditions of the opposition for participation in the plebiscite. There are representatives of the opposition today at all the polling stations in of the country, performing a very difficult task considering the harassment and abuse they may be subjected to by some local officials of the regime. Moreover, because according to Article 8 of the Constitution, all Marxist parties are prohibited, only the three parties of the opposition considered legal can carry out this task: the PDC, the Humanist Party and the Party for Democracy. The latter party was set up by centre-left forces to participate in this plebiscite. Its leader is the charismatic socialist, Ricardo Lagos. The network of representatives is the "source" from which the "No Command" receives data for its independent count.

There can be little doubt that in San Miguel the voting will be quite favourable to the "No". As we leave the polling station we notice the voting is in favour of the "No", 18 to 10. But San Miguel is well known to be left wing. How would it be in other parts?

When we returned to the centre we heard the first results compiled by Radio Cooperativa. The trend is clear: the "No" is gaining headway.

One of the so-called popular actions carried out by General Pinochet before the plebiscite, aimed at getting more votes and improving his image abroad, was the signing of the UN and OAS Covenants against the use of torture. The following letter was written by a Chilean political prisoner as a response to Pinochet's action. The letter was published in the October 10 issue of "Cauce" Magazine and in many other Chilean publications.

LETTER TO MY TORTURER

General Pinochet has just ratified with his signature the United Nations and OAS Covenants against the use of torture.

This means, in practice, that there will be no more torturing in Chile. A question therefore comes to my mind: What will happen to my torturer? The guy who was beating me, threatening to kill me and applying electricity to my body a year ago. Today - at least in theory - he sees his way of life in danger; terror and death, conditions inherent to his life and work, are denied to him by this paper.

Will you be able to continue living without the heart-rending cry, the pain of another, the burned flesh? Perhaps the burden of normal behaviour is too much to bear. Perhaps you will renounce your former "stimulating work" and with the fruit of all you stole from mine and many other people's homes you can start a security business, and thus contribute to the development of free enterprises.

But, at the end, if things do not work out as well as they should, you can always resort to the PEM or the POJH, even the PIMO. (1)

After Minister Buchi's statement that Chile could export ideas, I thought of suggesting this line of work to you, but I believe it would be an unfruitful effort.

But, do you know? I have the impression you will never really be without a job as long as the dictatorship exists. You will continue in your field, because in spite of the wonderful reality the regime is trying to present, little has changed, and nothing will really change with a plebiscite that is essentially anti-democratic and was conceived, structured and controlled by your chiefs. As you said while torturing me: "This is a war between us and the 'Manuel Rodríguez' Patriotic Front." Maybe you are more realistic, more dramatically realistic than vast sectors of the opposition who believe we are at the threshold of democracy.

General Pinochet has said "there can be no democracy without justice", and it is precisely because of this that I believe he will never leave power. I do not know where you are now, but I just wanted you to know that there is a beautiful Nicaraguan song in which the victim tells his torturer: "My personal vengeance will be your children's right to schools and flowers." I? I do not know how to sing...

Tito Tricot

Sociologist and Political Prisoner

(1) Emergency relief programs for unemployed

VISIT TO THE MOST FAMOUS NEIGHBOURHOOD IN SANTIAGO

"La Victoria" sang of victory

The inhabitants of "La Victoria" neighbourhood celebrated the victory of the NO in the plebiscite until five in the morning of the following day. They held a veritable carnival on its streets and avenues in which thousands of people participated. This is how Eduardo Valenciano, one of the leaders of the Santiago Urban Dwellers Movement, related it to me.

As we approached the area that afternoon, after a 15-minute drive from the central part of the city, the first thing that we noticed was the mural paintings. The clear and colourful message they conveyed, even from a distance, was that the dictatorship could not expect to find a friend there.

The second impression which simply confirmed the first, was caused by the names of their streets: Karl Marx, Mariategui, May Day, Liberty, Ramona Parra, Unidad Popular, just to mention a few. It is no secret that the left-wing parties enjoy great support and sympathy among the people who live here.

At least 80 per cent of the electorate in "La Victoria" voted against Pinochet, estimates Eduardo, who welcomed us at "La Victoria" cultural centre. It is a modest house which belongs to the church. The bullet holes on the walls show that not even this house was left untouched by the police raids,



especially during the protest days of 1985 and 1986, when "La Victoria" became famous for its fighting spirit.

"We have always had good relations with the priests who have come here to show with deeds their decision to side with the poor on behalf of the church," Eduardo explains. Later on he points out to us the house where the French priest was assassinated last year.

What is the situation of the ordinary citizen in the midst of Pinochet's "economic miracle" which is cited even by some foreign newspapers? "The only miracle here is how we and

In the narrow hall of the press centre of the "No" at 240 O'Higgins Avenue, the journalists gather, because their professional instinct tells them that this evening's news centre is not in the government's majestic press hall, located directly on the other side of the street, but right here. Many journalists carry as I do, two cards in the same plastic holder: one issued by DINACOS, the government office, and another by the "No Command" marked with a very visible "No". This is a detail which illustrates a situation that seems somewhat schizophrenic because during these days in Chile you sometimes feel as though were in two different countries: the "Yes" country and the "No" country.

In the midst of growing expectation somebody suddenly turns up the sound on the TV set. It is 7:30 p.m. With a delay of more than an hour and a half, the government announces its first count. The figures come from 79 polling stations which seem to have been very well chosen. While information is flowing in from everywhere reporting the advance of the "No", this result based on less than 1 per cent of the votes gives a very curious lead of three thousand votes to the "Yes".

The journalists here shake their heads incredulously at the news and whistle sporadically at it. Of course, on the one hand, this is what was expected, but on the other, it is really incredible to see the insolent way the government tries to fool the whole country, not to mention the foreign observers and journalists.

The question now is what is going to happen? Are the "Yes" supporters going out into the streets to celebrate "their victory"? The most surprising thing is that according to our observations, nothing is about to happen in the streets. There seems to be only one ex-



planation: even the "Yes" supporters are not convinced by the figures presented by the government, considering that almost all radio stations are constantly reporting the information received from their correspondents in all the polling stations of the country saying that the vote counts place the "No" ahead.

All those present feel that a reply from the opposition is required. The "Command" Secretary's announcement that the opposition's count will not be given until 9 p.m. is greeted with a storm of whistles. So the "Command", which wanted to present its first results on the basis of half a million votes counted, decides to bring forward its announcement and presents it on the basis of 200,000 votes. 58.7 per cent for the "No", 41.3 per cent for the "Yes". The joy among the journalists who sympathize with the "No" is

tremendous. But at the same time there are many questions. Will there be two results, the government's and the opposition's? Then what? Rumours are recalled about a possible "self-coup" carried out by the regime which would have unforeseeable consequences for the whole country. It is clear now that a lot depends on the regime's internal struggles taking place behind closed doors. A real indication of these internal struggles is the continued silence of the government. The second result was announced for 8:30 p.m. and it is half an hour overdue now. For the first time, it seems to me to be worth visiting the government press centre which is only 50 metres from here.

I take advantage of my official card and enter the "Diego Portales" building. The place was built during Allende's government

our children are able to survive at all day after day," replies Eduardo.

There is 70 per cent unemployment in "La Victoria" if we consider as employed those who participate in the infamous Minimum Employment Program (PEM) of the regime. In comparison with the years before the military coup, the loss of purchasing power has considerably reduced the consumption of foodstuffs. **"Although there was a great demand for goods in the 'better' neighbourhoods some days before the plebiscite due to the fear of chaos, there was no boom like that here. But that was due more to the lack of money than to the level of awareness,"** says Eduardo.

There are 6,400 families living in "La Victoria" today. Many of them participate in what they call "common pots" or "collective shopping" to organize their food. For a while they were even able to give each child under seven a cup of milk daily thanks to solidarity aid from France. They jointly manage and distribute the little they have.

Another problem they have faced together are the evictions, and the cutting of power and water supplies that happens when people are unable to pay the bill. After the first evictions in 1977/78, Committees for the Homeless were set up which attracted the attention of public opinion with spectacular actions, such as the burning of the houses, blackouts and pots-and-pans demonstrations, that forced the regime to renegotiate the debt. The Urban Dwellers United "Coor-

dinadora" which was created in 1975, distributed leaflets with instructions on how to "hook-up" on the power lines to get electricity in spite of the cuts, and connect to the water supply system as well. But the main objective, the cancelling of the debt, has not been achieved yet.

"We did not achieve the cancelling of the debt even on the eve of the plebiscite when Pinochet was carrying out some popular measures," Eduardo said with a certain irony. Nevertheless, the urban dwellers movement has become a form of exerting social as well as political pressure on the regime. **"We, urban dwellers, have taken part in all social confrontations with the regime that have taken place so far,"** said Eduardo with visible pride.

With the same determination the inhabitants of "La Victoria" oppose Pinochet today, they identify with the time of the popular government of Salvador Allende. Although the Chilean in many cases adopts a critical attitude towards those "1,000 days of the Unidad Popular", focussing on its mistakes and irregularities, the people of this area cherished it as the only time in their lives they were treated with respect and an attempt was made to incorporate into society these people living on its fringes.

The concrete structure of a big hospital on which work began during Allende's government and was stopped immediately after the military coup stands in "La Victoria" as a monument to those times.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY PINOCHET FOLLOWERS

"Today we have to choose between good and evil. Either we choose what is good according to God's laws or we choose the Devil, which is evil."

*Admiral Toribio Merino,
member of the Junta*

"Communist Yankee"

What the "Yes" supporters yelled at the American Ambassador, Harry Barnes, because of his criticism of a possible postponement of the plebiscite.

"I believe what has been done for the Chilean people has been as much as was ever done before and the truth is that there have been many ungrateful people."

*Mrs. Elda Fornet de Matthei,
Wife of General Matthei*

"I never thought this could happen, after my father and mother have wholly dedicated fifteen years of their lives to the most deprived people."

*Luca Pinochet,
the dictator's daughter*

to welcome thousands of delegates attending an UNCTAD Conference. It really has all the conditions required for a victory celebration. But at this time and place, there is no triumphant spirit; instead, there are gloomy, nervous and preoccupied faces among the regime's officials and apologetic journalists. It can be felt here too that the moment of truth has finally arrived.

In the almost empty press hall, the stars of Chilean TV, that has shown only one face during the whole day – the "Yes" face – are getting bored. Many of the politicians supporting Pinochet who have felt pleased throughout the day making optimistic forecasts from this same hall, have vanished now. It is a "funeral atmosphere" that we have here now, says a Chilean colleague and friend of the daily *Festin Mapocho*. In the midst of all this, the government's spokesman appears, two hours late, to announce the second result which still gives the lead to the "Yes". However, it has been considerably narrowed.

My Chilean friend tells me that rumours have been leaked about various right-wing politicians, who supported the "Yes", and, as it seems, have declared their willingness to acknowledge the "No" victory, which must really be overwhelming. This information is verified later when we return to the other press centre, "our press centre", and we watch on



TV a discussion between the spokesman of the "Command", Patricio Aylwin, and the leader of the National Renewal Party, Onofre Jarpa, on the future of the country. Jarpa repeated several times that he was discussing on the basis of an eventual victory of the "No". Everyone knows what this means: Jarpa is the leader of the strongest of the eight parties. Anyone who listened attentively to what they were saying, in the midst of all the enthusiasm in the hall, probably noticed that there is a certain understanding between Aylwin and Jarpa regarding some things which may have greater importance in the near future.

It is recognized that "what the country really needs now is peace", which is contrary to any sort of popular mobilization. It is also agreed that the "non-democratic" forces have to be excluded from future negotiations, and it is not difficult to guess which forces this refers to. Furthermore, although Patricio Aylwin now represents the PDC and not the "No Command", many Chileans must feel ill at ease with the great friendliness with which these two politicians treated each other and precisely at this time. But it is not the time for meditation. Everything is happening now, one thing right after the other. At 10:30 p.m. the "Command" announces the most recent count on the basis of 1.6 million votes: 55 per cent in favour of the "No". A little later, in a surprising manner, Pinochet appears on TV for the first time since casting his vote. He made a brief statement that made everybody's hair bristle: that he was seriously considering the situation due to clashes be-

tween civilians and the armed forces right in the centre of the city. It is a dangerous moment. It is clear that the dictator is thinking of resorting to already tested methods to give the army the pretext to move in. However, this evening it has no response.

At midnight, the "Command" presents its third result on the basis of 3 million votes, with 58 per cent in favour of the "No". Considering this clear trend, many journalists went out with the aim of carrying out a spontaneous demonstration in the vicinity of the "Command" press centre but it is impeded by the "carabineros" who threaten to use water cannons and tear gas. A few minutes before 1 a.m., October 6th, comes the culmination of this long night: the Head of the Air Force, Fernando Matthei, arrives at La Moneda, where he has been called by Pinochet for a meeting, and states before the TV cameras: "In my opinion it seems the "No" has really won; at least, for me, this is quite clear." It is clear now that the internal struggle within the regime on this issue has been settled. It is not only Matthei who is speaking at this moment, but the majority of the followers of the regime who are abandoning the sinking ship. Thus, when the government officially acknowledges the victory of the "No" at 2 a.m., it is simply fulfilling a formal duty, nothing else.

Meanwhile, demonstrations have already begun in the streets expressing our joy. "Happiness is coming" was the "No" campaign's slogan, that the regime tried to ridicule many times. Now that happiness has finally come. It is here.

Bernd Grässler

HISTORY OF THE FESTIVALS

1ST WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

1947

PRAGUE



"THE YOUTH IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF PEACE BY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE RENEWAL OF ITS COUNTRIES."

ATTENDED BY
17,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
71 COUNTRIES

2ND WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS

1949

BUDAPEST



"YOUTH, UNITE!
FORWARD
FOR A LASTING
PEACE,
DEMOCRACY,
THE NATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE
OF PEOPLES
AND A BETTER
FUTURE!"

ATTENDED BY
11,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
90 COUNTRIES

3RD WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS

1951

BERLIN



"YOUTH, UNITE
AGAINST THE
DANGER OF A
NEW WAR,
FOR A LASTING
PEACE!"

ATTENDED BY
26,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
104 COUNTRIES

HISTORY OF THE FESTIVALS

4TH WORLD
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH AND
STUDENTS

1953

BUCHAREST



"FOR PEACE
AND
FRIENDSHIP!"

ATTENDED BY
30,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
111 COUNTRIES

5TH WORLD
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH AND
STUDENTS

1955

WARSAW



"FOR PEACE
AND
FRIENDSHIP!"

ATTENDED BY
30,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
114 COUNTRIES

6TH WORLD
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH AND
STUDENTS

1957

MOSCOW



"FOR PEACE
AND
FRIENDSHIP!"

ATTENDED BY
34,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
131 COUNTRIES

HISTORY OF THE FESTIVALS

7TH WORLD
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH AND
STUDENTS

1959

VIENNA



"FOR PEACE
AND
FRIENDSHIP!"

ATTENDED BY
18,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
112 COUNTRIES

8TH WORLD
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH AND
STUDENTS

1962

HELSINKI



"FOR PEACE
AND
FRIENDSHIP!"

ATTENDED BY
18,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
137 COUNTRIES

9TH WORLD
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH AND
STUDENTS

1968

SOFIA



"FOR
SOLIDARITY,
PEACE AND
FRIENDSHIP!"

ATTENDED BY
20,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
138 COUNTRIES

HISTORY OF THE FESTIVALS

10TH WORLD
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH AND
STUDENTS

1973

BERLIN



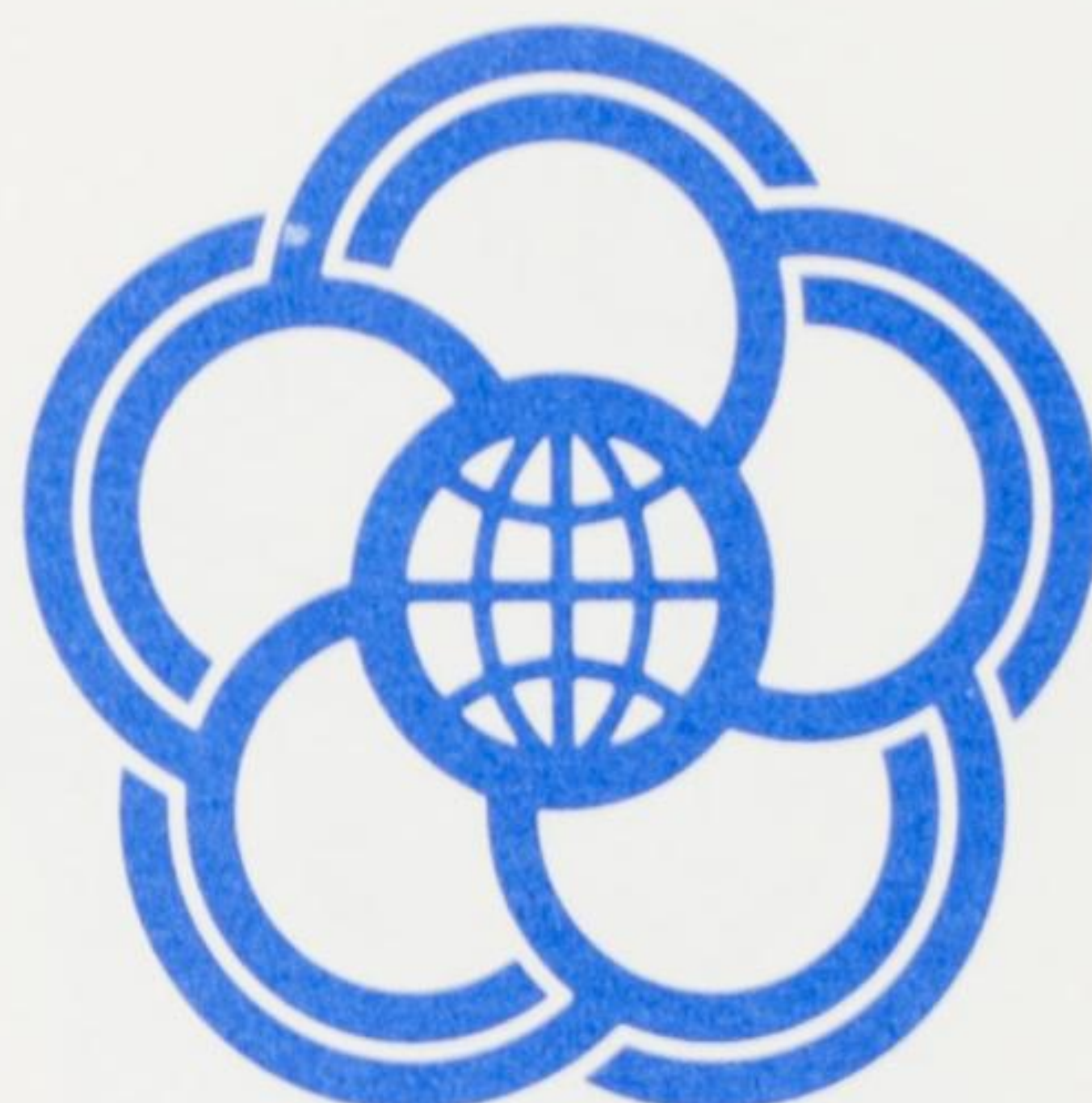
"FOR ANTI-
IMPERIALIST
SOLIDARITY,
PEACE AND
FRIENDSHIP!"

ATTENDED BY
26,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
140 COUNTRIES

11TH WORLD
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH AND
STUDENTS

1978

HAVANA



CUBA'78

"FOR ANTI-
IMPERIALIST
SOLIDARITY,
PEACE AND
FRIENDSHIP!"

ATTENDED BY
18,500 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
145 COUNTRIES

12TH WORLD
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH AND
STUDENTS

1985

MOSCOW



XII · МОСКВА · 1985

FOR ANTI-
IMPERIALIST
SOLIDARITY,
PEACE AND
FRIENDSHIP!"

ATTENDED BY
20,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
157 COUNTRIES

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE OUGHT TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY

This article is part of the result of a trip made by WFDY journalists from the 12th to the 30th September to Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea. In the next issue of World Youth we intend to publish the other materials on the trip.

Interview with Menh Thuy, first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh CYU in the district of Poulo Kon Lon Island in Ho Chi Minh City.

During breakfast Gabi and I were discussing the progress of our work in Vietnam. We already had a great quantity of valuable material, the result of the different meetings with students, workers, youth activists and journalists, but we both had one doubt. Did we really know a young Vietnamese person? What did we know about their way of life outside their working places and schools? We didn't have clear answers. So we decided to find one that same day. To open our eyes and conduct a rather more personal interview. During the 120 km which separate the district of Kon Lon from Ho Chi Minh City, we talked about what it meant to us to be in this country of heroes, and we talked about these heroes, who are such simple people, never speaking about what they did during the liberation war. During our journey through the rice paddies and the sun-drenched forest with a temperature of 30°C, I thought about the autumn we would find on our return to Europe. And I recalled all the terrible photos of burnt out houses, of children running without clothes, escaping from the bombs and the bullets, I remembered the demonstrations of solidarity with Vietnam, and the political songs of my childhood started to sound softly as though they had become part of the sun reflected in the rice paddies.

In the offices of the youth tourist centre, the scene of a plate of fruit that was accompanying us during all our visits and meetings in Indochina and the typical Vietnamese green tea were waiting for us. They welcomed us and we started the meeting. I liked her appearance, a little timid but expressing freshness and



confidence. Without consulting Gabi, I began by expressing our interest in interviewing her at the end of the meeting. She didn't answer and we started to work.

During the meeting we put the most provocative questions we had asked in this country. She answered precisely and promptly; sometimes when we didn't understand she repeated the answers or made them clearer with examples. Often she smiled and sometimes her face showed concentration without disturbing, even for a moment, her freshness.

At the end of the meeting I repeated our request to make this interview. She blushed and refused, but we didn't accept. So she agreed to return at one o'clock in the afternoon as she had something to do.

She was very punctual and rescued us from sweltering office to take us near the beach and invite us to coffee that was very sweet and very cold. I think she didn't like the presence of the tape-recorder but she soon began to talk.

W.Y.: We are interested in knowing more about you, about your life, your role as a young girl in Vietnamese society, in the process of the building of socialism. How long have you been working with the Communist Youth Union?

— I have been working for the cause of the Communist Youth Union since I was twelve years old. Of course I was not an actual member of the Ho Chi Minh

CYU; I was only active in the work. This means that I was working close to the CYU but not as a member. We must remember that at that time my homeland was engaged in the liberation war and that's why I joined the student movement.

W.Y.: What was the life of a student like during the time of the puppet regime in South Vietnam?

— There were different types of students. Some of them were from very rich families with very good living conditions, but the majority were the children of very poor families. We had to face many difficulties during our daily life, which is why we very soon started to take part in the activities in defence of our country, for the liberation of our country. I remember that at that time we had a very strong movement against the militarization of education, especially in the university. We had two alternatives before us; either we were forced to become part of the puppet army or we joined the revolutionary bases.

(Her apprehension had passed and it was clear that she was now more in charge of the situation and during the translation she offered us more coffee and cigarettes.)

W.Y.: What was the most important change in the life of young people after the total liberation of Vietnam?

— I think the most important change is

that now we can study and work in peace and we now have a clear picture of the future that lies ahead of us. Before we knew nothing and the future was a question that we preferred not to raise.

E.: What was the fundamental motivation that led you to join the Ho Chi Minh CYU?

— If I consider why it was that I dedicated my life to the cause of the Ho Chi Minh CYU, I must say that at that time I was twelve years old and my country was suffering because of the war. I myself saw the loss of countless human lives; people had nowhere to live, there were many orphans and families couldn't be happy. I felt that I had to do something to contribute to the happiness of my people and that is why I began to take part in the youth activities.

That was a period in which our society was full of injustices. Many children had to work to survive, some of them cleaned shoes for the Americans, others did far more difficult work and in both cases it was quite common for them to receive no payment at all. I didn't know anything about communism or socialism but I saw that the CYU was courageously facing all the injustices of our society.

W.Y.: Could you describe one of your normal working days? (*She laughs at the question.*)

— Oh, that's a very difficult question. For the activists of the CYU there are no fixed working hours. If you want I can tell you my program for today.

I got up at 5 o'clock in the morning, after half an hour of exercises I prepared breakfast for my family and at seven I was already in my office for a meeting with the delegation of our district which will take part in the Festival of Soviet-Vietnamese Friendship. From eight till

nine I had a meeting with the department of the CYU which deals with the schools and universities of the province, because tomorrow I will have a meeting with the Party Committee to discuss the programs for the new school year. At nine in the morning it was your turn. Because the delegation of WFDY journalists was late, I took the opportunity to meet the committee dealing with pioneers and children. We are preparing the State Festival for Children which will take place at the middle of the autumn.

At two in the afternoon I'm going to have a meeting with the Association of Young Scientists and Technicians of the province.

E.: I would like to know what you do during your free time. What kind of music do you like? Where do you go to amuse yourself in the evening?

— Well, I'm young cadre which means that I have very little free time. But after my working hours I like to go to the pioneers' club or to the youth club to enjoy the programs. Sometimes I go to the cinema, I also like to write articles for the publications dedicated to youth and sometimes I have to prepare my program for the next day or for the next week.

W.Y.: Did you finish your university studies?

— I graduated from the University for Youth Activities. I have also studied social sciences in the school of the Free German Youth in the GDR.

E.: What do you think about your role as a woman in political life? Do you have any difficulties in political work? And not only in your political life, but also in your normal life in Vietnamese society?

— The biggest problem in relation to my political life is not being able to meet the

demands of the young people of our province, especially because of the lack of time. I would like to have more time to be far better acquainted with the situation of youth, to visit their circles in the city; I should like to know clearly and concretely how they think and then I could act correctly in my position.

E.: I was thinking more about your situation as a woman.

— I must say that my family hardly affects my political work at all. It is a small family, only my husband and I. He is also a youth cadre and he fully understands my responsibilities. When I don't have a lot of work I like to prepare special meals, but in general we eat in a restaurant.

W.Y.: Does your husband help you with the housework? Does he cook or clean sometimes?

— Not only that, he also does the washing.

W.Y.: If you think about the world, what is the first idea that comes to your mind?

The first concern that comes to my mind is what to do to give everyone the possibility to have a happy life; the second — a most terrible thing — is my concern over the danger of a war.

We drink our third coffee, the tape-recorder is no longer turned on and I take out my camera after the first two photos during our first meeting. We are not speaking now as interviewer and interviewee, but like simple friends trying to know each other better. She asks about the situation in our countries, the struggles of our youth and about WFDY.

She tells us about the day when she was imprisoned by the puppet army and how she was able to take the opportunity of a carelessness of her guards to escape, adding: not all the young people in my country had this opportunity, most of them did not survive these experiences. It is my wish that no young person from any country should have to live through such an experience, and if they do, then that they have the opportunity that I did, not only to escape but also to add something every day to the victory obtained by their people.

She said good-bye to us and left on her motorcycle just as a torrential downpour began and a curtain of rain made her seem almost illusory for us.

W.Y. = World Youth: Freddy Fernandez
E = Elan: Gabriele Bober



THE HISTORICAL JUSTIFICATION OF THE REVOLUTION IS STRENGTHENED

INTERVIEW WITH DONALD MENDEZ, SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE '19TH JULY' SANDINISTA YOUTH

Donald, how could we assess the present developments in the life of Nicaragua?

– The present situation is characterized by the desperate attempts of the Reagan Administration to end the revolutionary process in Nicaragua before the conclusion of his presidential term, that is on 1st of January next year, 1989, when he has to hand over the White House.

However, despite the fact that Reagan has demonstrated his readiness to negotiate certain situations of military tension in different parts of the world, such as the talks on the medium-range missiles in Europe, all the peace negotiations it has carried out with the USSR, or the case of Angola where talks have started to find a way out of the conflict in the region, we do not see the same stand as far as the Sandinista People's Revolution is concerned. He persists in pursuing a policy of destruction. Reagan has staked his personal prestige on the commitment to end his term in office with a "settled bill" with the Sandinista People's Revolution. At all events, these eight years of resistance by the Nicaraguan people to the mercenary aggression have taught us to persevere, to struggle even in conditions of technical and financial disadvantage. In my opinion, this has consolidated the Nicaraguan people's conviction and feeling that it was due to the imperialist presence in Nicaragua, the four US interventions in Nicaragua, that a military dictatorship was installed to represent the US interests. The effects of these 45 years on the Nicaraguan people are the factors which have taught us that imperialism is the cause of our ills; these eight years have confirmed the decision of the Nicaraguan people to defend their revolution.

In recent months, Reagan has devoted nearly 740,000 dollars to financing the political parties acting in Nicaragua as a civilian counter-revolutionary front, as well as to financing the daily "La Prensa" which has served as mouthpiece of the US embassy towards the

Nicaraguan population; it has also been financing private broadcasts which have played the same role as "La Prensa" in the benefit of the policy of aggression of the USA; it has even been financing the Catholic Church hierarchy in Nicaragua.

For many years now, we have been denouncing the fact that the CIA is financing these sectors, but it is worth mentioning that recently it was the President of the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, Jim Wright, who stated this to the domestic and international media in the US.

Nowadays we see that the reaction is having problems in justifying to the Nicaraguan people its links with the Central Intelligence Agency, which is financing and organizing the counter-revolutionary bands criminally murdering the Nicaraguan people. Naturally, this means that the historical justification of the Sandinista People's Revolution is strengthened in our peace endeavours in the Central American area.

In view of the possibilities of a change in the US administration, how do you think this will be reflected in Nicaragua?

– I think that experience shows us that it is always risky to try to forecast the international policy of the United States, especially because good sense is not a characteristic feature of that country, so anything can be expected from them. I mean that it would be idle speculation to try to make predictions in this respect. But we do not have hopes that any new administration in the USA, whether Democratic or Republican, will have a more realistic stance towards the Central American region.

The basic differences between Democrats and Republicans are differences of form. We think that in general there is consensus on thwarting, by all possible means, the process or progress of the Sandinista People's Revolution. We think that whatever the administration, it will have to understand that the military solution is not a

feasible one in the case of Nicaragua and that a negotiated solution must be reached in the region.

When we speak of a negotiated solution, we mean that we are ready to discuss the US national security interests in the area they claim are affected by the Sandinista People's Revolution, and then to reach an understanding with the US on the independence, self-determination and sovereignty of the Republic of Nicaragua. What I want to say is that it is possible that we engage in a frank, direct dialogue in which the mutual interests are ensured. After all, the Sandinista People's Revolution does not think that it is threatening any US interest whatsoever.

But something that is not negotiable at any time is the ability of the Nicaraguan government to make its own decisions and to decide as well who are its friends, to define its policy and to decide to strengthen the country's constitutionality in accordance with the will of the Nicaraguan people. This is not a matter of negotiation. This is not to be decided by any kind of pressure from US imperialism.

We expect that, in case of the victory of a Democratic candidate, in the case of a Democratic administration, new paths will be opened in the US for dialogue and understanding. If the new US administration opts for the continuation and deepening of the war of aggression, the Nicaraguan people will also be prepared to resist its attacks and to come out victorious. Of course, with the peoples' international solidarity, on which we have always been able to count.

Let us look at things more specifically from the youth angle: in your opinion, to what extent does Nicaraguan youth contribute to this struggle?

– I wouldn't say that the Nicaraguan youth contribute: they are the ones who are waging this struggle. Actually, 84 per cent of the Nicaraguan population is under 39. This means that not only the military defence but also the economic

defence of the country, the social projects of the Revolution rest on the shoulders of the Nicaraguan youth.

As a youth organization, the Sandinista Youth is preparing itself to confront the ideological war too which is expected in the coming months. What is usually called "a war of low intensity" by imperialism, is intended to undermine the Nicaraguan economy, to make it collapse and, by multiplying the social and economic problems of the country, to weaken the Nicaraguan people's will. That is, to starve us into surrender, to subject us to hunger and poverty to bring us to our knees.

This policy and this "war of low intensity" are not having the effects expected by the US administration. This is shown by the recent elections – just to give an example – of the Secondary Students Federation, where the candidate of the Sandinista Youth for the National Chairmanship of the Students Federation received 95 per cent of the votes, leaving only 5 per cent for the coalition of the right-wing political parties which also aspired to that post.

For us, this, besides being symbolic, is of great political significance since these youth of secondary schools are the ones who go to the war front to defend the People's Revolution, even at the risk of their lives.

In our National Assembly, to be held in November, we are going to discuss the work of our organization in order to further strengthen the participation of the Nicaraguan youth in every task of the revolutionary process. We will submit a short- and middle-term plan. In the situation in our country it is not possible to undertake long-term programs since it is still very difficult – as I have just told you – to predict what course developments will take in the Central American region, particularly in Nicaragua.

In our National Assembly we will start the discussion on what tasks the Nicaraguan youth would have to carry out in circumstances of peace, since we have the hope and the confidence that sooner or later we will win.

In this respect, especially in direct relation with your visit to WFDY headquarters, and in view of the approaching WFDYEC meeting, what aspects of this work are related to WFDY, particularly for next year?

–I think that WFDY's responsibility and commitment for strengthening the capacity of resistance of the revolution-

ary and progressive youth in Central America and particularly the Nicaraguan youth, has to be determined by the World Federation of Democratic Youth itself.

It is not up to us to say what the responsibility of WFDY is, but I can tell you what our expectations are. We hope that the world youth will be able to multiply their efforts for neutralizing the effects of the war of aggression in the Central American region, to the same extent as imperialism's investments for destroying the Sandinista People's Revolution.



I have here important data which it is worth analysing: the amount invested by Reagan in the war of aggression – which has been estimated at 15.6 billion dollars – would be enough to pay the Central American foreign debt in its entirety. Or, at least 2,200 development projects could be carried out, 840 hospitals and 630 schools could be built, instead of destroying and killing.

On the other hand, the defence spending in 1981 – to take a year for reference – amounted to 24.4 per cent of the country's budget, while in 1987 it reached 46.3 per cent.

At present this proportion is even higher, over 50 per cent of the country's budget, which is equivalent, at the same time, to 32.1 per cent of the GNP of our country; this means that a third of all services and goods production of the country is going to the defence of the Revolution.

This strategy and this war of attrition imposed on us have really succeeded in lowering the educational level we had reached with the National Literacy Campaign. Illiteracy has increased by nearly 10 per cent in the period since the Campaign in 1980. By the end of the

Campaign we had succeeded in bringing down illiteracy to 13 per cent, but now it is practically 23 per cent. The level of unemployment has increased as well.

In the field of health programs dealing with the complications of typical diseases of Latin American children, and therefore of Central American children too, there has also been a deterioration resulting from the economic and social erosion caused by the war imposed on us.

In these days of exchange and work with the organizations that are represented in the Bureau of WFDY, we have discussed and proposed a solidarity campaign in the context of the International Fund for Nicaraguan Children and Youth, a Fund we are now launching with the aim of countering the influence of the war by financing some very important projects, particularly the project we are now discussing with the WFDY Bureau, the campaign: "Lighting for the students of Nicaragua" aimed at repairing 2,570 schoolrooms, benefiting first of all students in urban areas.

The member organizations could be involved in this campaign in different ways. Some organizations may contribute with the material needed, ranging from electric cables and switches to lamps, that is, from the most basic to the more technical elements needed to equip the schoolrooms which at present are not used by the students due to the lack of lighting. The students attending evening courses are most affected by this situation. More than half of the students in Managua are attending evening courses; they are young workers who are improving their general education by participating, after their working hours, in the educational programs promoted by the Revolution in evening courses.

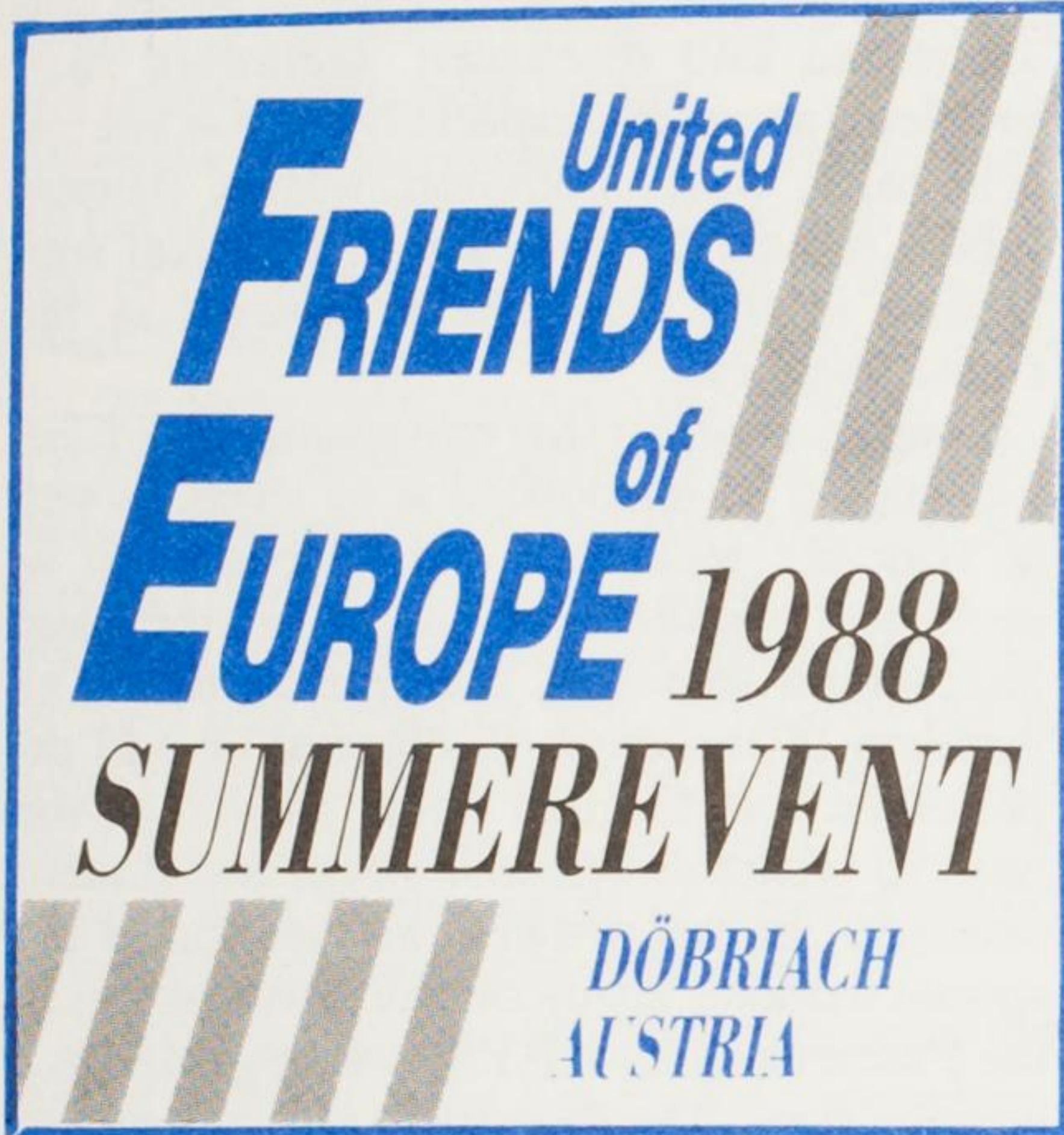
In this context I would like to point out another important fact, namely that by the year 2000 42 per cent of the country's population will be under 14. This means that Nicaragua will be a country basically of children and adolescents. It is therefore of vital importance to train the present generation in order to take in hand the economy and the cultural and social development of the country by that time.

We hope that the EC will be able to discuss this proposal of ours and take a positive decision, a militant one in this sense, at its coming meeting to be held in Kiev, USSR.

Hugo Teixeira

UNITED FRIENDS OF EUROPE

Summary of the Discussions



REPORTS ON PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

The session was opened with an introduction by Dirk Drijboms (IUSY). Dirk did not intend to give another overall review of the political situation in the world, but rather to concentrate on some topics which could be considered important for the discussion in the camp and the workshops. He said that the recent peace events (i.e. the International Conference on Nuclear Weapon-free Zones held in Berlin/GDR, the 7th END Convention in Lund/Sweden) have shown that there is an ongoing discussion on peace in Europe which requires our attention.

Starting from our common desire to live in a Europe which is totally free from all nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction he mentioned three points which are important for the further discussion. Firstly, he underlined the importance of the INF agreement, stressing that it must not be the end of the disarmament process, but must be followed up. Secondly he predicted that the policy of dialogue will lead to a suspension of confrontation. Thirdly he stressed that the disarmament process and the policy of dialogue leads to a reduction of regional conflicts, as can already be observed in different regions of the world. The ongoing process of changes in the Soviet Union that has brought the question of democracy to the centre of public attention has opened a discussion on the future of democracy in Western Europe as well. The current discussion on the future role of Europe in international relations has to be closely linked with the struggle for a new concept of defence which strives to move beyond the bloc concept. It is in this light that the future of the peace movements has to be discussed, particularly the question of the means the peace movements can use to influence the governments and exert further pressure for the continuation of the disarmament process. When discussing this, we have to be aware that détente in Europe is inseparably linked with

the further improvement of North-South relations. Cooperation cannot be seen solely from an European angle but requires a wider approach. Finally he expressed the hope that the discussion in the workshops would help us to formulate in even more concrete form what each of us can do for peace and disarmament when returning home.

After Dirk's introduction Anne Lindh (LSU), Thomas Brandner (DEMYC) and Vladimir Frangiria (WFDY) made concrete proposals for the content of the workshops. Since everybody agreed with their proposals it was decided to have the workshops with the following themes (working titles):

1. Military aspects of peace and disarmament
2. Non-military aspects of peace and disarmament
3. Shape of our common European home.

WORKSHOP 1

The working group dealt with different issues related to disarmament, especially the elimination of strategic nuclear weapons, the SDI programme, chemical and conventional weapons, a global comprehensive nuclear test ban, the concept of common security, the prospects for the disarmament process, and so on.

Participants underlined especially that due to the rapid proliferation of nuclear weapons and their growing sophistication, the danger of the annihilation of mankind in a nuclear holocaust has become very real. This fact proved that the question of nuclear disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons is of the utmost importance for all people, peace movements, political organizations, governments, and so on. It also became clear that substantial progress in the questions of nuclear disarmament and the strengthening of security for all cannot be made without breaking out of old stereotypes in international relations and approaches towards these problems.

In this connection the participants stressed that the conclusion and the ratification of the INF Treaty was a reflection of a new approach in this field and opened the way for further steps in nuclear disarmament. It was pointed out in the discussion that despite the fact that only around four per cent of all nuclear weapons will be eliminated by this treaty, it has great significance from both the military and political aspects for the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons.

In the context of continuation of the global nuclear disarmament, questions of a 50% reduction in strategic nuclear arms and realization of the SDI programme were tackled. The majority of the participants underlined that the two issues are deeply interlinked. The realization of the SDI programme, which in practice cannot be subjected to any reliable verification

measures, would trigger a new round of the technological arms race, transferring it into space, and its offensive character would allow one side to achieve first-strike capability and break the existing strategic balance. It was also pointed out that security systems for all nations, based on trust and cooperation, should replace other military concepts, based on the logic of military deterrence.

Great attention was paid during the discussions to the achievement of disarmament in other fields, especially conventional and chemical weapons. It was underlined that in this process the new approaches and political will are of utmost importance. In this regard the participants supported the proposal to compare the military doctrines of WTO and NATO with the aim of converting them to serve solely defensive purposes. It was also said that this division is an artificial feature in the historical development of Europe and that youth organizations should contribute actively to the promotion of cooperation, the increase of mutual confidence and trust, and the elimination of enemy images and the old way of militarist thinking.

The prospects for disarmament in Europe and different disarmament measures were discussed widely in the working group. The participants stressed the necessity to proceed with the negotiations on limitation of conventional armament, especially to study and to eliminate existing asymmetries in different types of weapons. The majority of the participants underlined the importance of different disarmament and confidence-building measures in this regard, such as the creation of nuclear weapon-free corridors, chemical weapon-free zones, zones of mutual cooperation and trust, and so on. These measures have both military and political significance. All military budgets must be reduced in order to create funds for solving all-European problems, such as those of the environment.

It was stressed by the participants that the role of public opinion and especially the opinion of youth in the struggle for peace and disarmament is growing. In this context they pointed out that the cooperation and different common or parallel actions among young people in Europe should be developed (as examples, they discussed the Next Stop Nevada and the Olof Palme March initiatives).

WORKSHOP 2

This workshop was attended by more than 50 participants from different political and non-political national backgrounds. It held a very lively discussion which stemmed from the recognition that the discussion is not only about disarmament or the absence of war. It became clear that it is important to go into further discussions and raise the question of the link between disarmament and development in the AEYSC activities.

The participants pointed out that this question affects all countries and that there is a direct connection between these two issues. There was only one participant who did not agree with this point of view.

In this regard the transfer of material, human and scientific resources from military to human purposes was said to be very important although it does not solve all the problems.

Mankind has two possibilities:

- either we continue with the arms race which means increasing the danger of a nuclear holocaust and aggravating all the social and economic problems;

- or we opt for the socio-economic development for all nations on a just and global basis, where people can decide upon their own independent development.

In this regard, such questions as North-South cooperation and the need for the establishment of a new international economic order were raised in different approaches, including ideas for possible practical contributions to the solution of both specific and structural problems of the developing countries, abandoning the Euro-centrist approach but stressing the role that they can play in this regard.

The role of young people and their political organizations in this field was stressed too, and in particular the solidarity between the European youth and young people in need. The role of the FRAMEWORK for AEYSC in this field was discussed, and the idea of a so-called creativity bank or a bank of practical ideas with regard to future activities was raised.

All in all we had a constructive and useful discussion in this workshop and we are looking forward to the next one.

WORKSHOP 3

The participants discussed issues related to the concept of Europe as a common home as well as problems for cooperation on our continent. In the course of spontaneous, frank and constructive discussion, different approaches to the idea in question were reflected. The participants also presented different aspects of the reasons for the present divisions in Europe (ideological, political, military, economic, religious, cultural, historic, etc.).

Despite different views and opinions, the participants recognized the concept of Europe as a common home, as an attractive, far-reaching idea, the implementation of which could lead to positive results.

Expressing their deep concern over the present situation in Europe, they exchanged opinions on both the obstacles and possibilities of further promotion of the idea of cooperation, mutual understanding and trust. Different views in this regard were presented and discussed.

Several participants stressed their conviction that discussion on the issues of cooperation and disarmament is inseparable and should be followed in pragmatic terms by the politicians. The participants discussed different proposals

on nuclear, chemical and conventional disarmament in Europe, recognizing their importance for the process of détente and cooperation. Concrete ideas in this regard were presented by the representatives of the different organizations.

With reference to the idea of the re-orientation of military doctrines (non-offensive character of armed forces, etc.), the participants presented different opinions on military service.

The participants urged the governments to spare no efforts for development of many-sided cooperation in Europe. They stressed the necessity of such cooperation, particularly in solving problems faced by European countries (environmental, economic, etc.). They expressed their opinion that further development of youth contacts will play a very important role in European cooperation as a whole. In this context they stressed that the full introduction of the Interrail system could encourage progress in this regard.

The participants underlined the importance of bilateral and multilateral youth cooperation both for education for peace and for further promotion of confidence and understanding.

The participants in the meeting expressed their willingness to continue the dialogue and exchange of views and opinions during mass events or thematical meetings organized within the Framework of AEYSC.

(Recorded by WFDY)



Alfred Gusenbauer, President of Socialist Youth of Austria, delivering his opening speech

REPORTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

WORKSHOP 1

A lively discussion took place in the working group focusing on international aspects of the environmental issues and the cooperation among youth and student organizations in this field. The participants agreed that environ-

mental problems, as part and parcel of the global problems, have no regard for either national or political borders, so joint efforts are needed in protecting the environment. A broad spectrum of environmental issues was identified and discussed, including such problems as energy, especially nuclear energy, acid rains, water pollution, wastes, demographic trends, the increase of chemical substances in the atmosphere, changes in the ozone layer, etc.

It was pointed out that environmental education should be introduced at all levels, as well as concrete measures and actions, such as ecological brigades, eco-camps, bilateral and multilateral seminars, eco-cruises, etc. The problem of exchange of information and experiences was touched upon, as well as the need to create an effective youth and student network. In this respect, the creation of the special working group on the environment in the Framework for AEYSC was regarded as a positive step. The discussion also referred to the intertwining of the global environmental problems and development, pointing out that one of the positive effects of stopping the arms race could be the rechanneling of finances for environmental protection. In this respect the participants supported the idea of the creation of an international environmental fund. Other questions raised by the participants included the free exchange of technologies for environmental protection, the reduction of energy use, raising environmental consciousness, finding concrete mechanisms for influencing the decision-making bodies on environmental issues, etc. A lively discussion with a number of pro and contra arguments on the use of nuclear energy took place too. The participants supported the idea that concrete treaties should be signed between governments on environmental problems.

A number of concrete examples of national experiences in the work on the environmental field were shared as well.

The participants agreed that the wide range of problems concerning the environment should be discussed in the future AEYSC events too.

WORKSHOP 3

The participants of the workshop concentrated their attention on a number of ideas and proposals from the so-called "Brundtland report": "Our common future" which is the first more or less comprehensive study on the interconnection of development and the environment. None of the organizations disagreed with the main points of the report. They consider that the proper development of modern society is impossible without preservation of the environment in all fields. It was stressed that the ecological situation is the most alarming and critical in Europe, but that there are also many problems in other parts of the world. The waste problem in particular was mentioned as an example of the incorrect approach of certain European countries towards nature.

They stressed also that there is a clear need for active work on "environment-safe" new technology and promotion of the various

scientific achievements all over the world. Third World countries must not receive outdated technology which is not able to protect the environment in an effective way. The possibilities of renewable energy must be explored and adopted with more vigour.

It was the common opinion that there is a need for the broad and world-wide ecological education of the young generation first of all, at all levels. Developed countries should actively assist the developing countries in this work.

It must be understood that we should invest more money into environmental protection and various resources should be used for that. In this connection the idea of a world environmental fund that would be able to finance major projects all over the world, was welcomed. The need for the transfer of resources from the military area to the needs of environmental protection was especially underlined.

The participants also positively evaluated the idea of creation in the future of a comprehensive environmental security system which could involve efforts of the governments, NGOs and research organizations from all continents. They agreed that there is now a clear need, especially in Europe, for the creation of "supranational" ecological legislation with clearly defined responsibility of each country for possible damage. It was underlined that countries must present authentic data on the environmental situation and give adequate warnings in case of any ecological disaster.

It is essential to find a just and effective solution to the demographic problem in the Third World because without it proper development of the Third World cannot be achieved.

REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS (Excerpts)

WORKSHOP 1

The first working group dealt with the issue of fundamental human rights. Discussion centred around the meaning of human rights, trying to find new concepts and a theoretical approach to the matter.

We agreed on the following points:

There is an interrelationship between political and social human rights: one category needs the other and together they further develop each other.

Freedom of choice was seen as important because it results in pluralism which is necessary for a good society. But there are different ways of achieving this: by means of different political parties, different trade unions and different societal associations.

Democracy, defined as the right of people to decide on their own affairs and their own political and societal systems, is crucial. Yet there are different ways to accomplish this; for instance, by means of one party or by means of various parties. The participants did not agree about the best way.

Freedom to participate demands a free and equal flow of information. Right decisions can only be made on the basis of correct information. On the global scale this creates the need for a new international information system. It was also brought up that development of a good society needs feedback between the state and the people.

We considered the right to a clean and safe environment to be one of the basic rights. We should not limit the fight against pollution to the political or economic system, but must try to achieve pollution control by a variety of means.

Freedom of speech and the right to education were also seen as essential human rights.

WORKSHOP 2

When are human rights violated?

The implementation of the Helsinki Final Act

The group was divided into five smaller groups under the following sub-topics:

- current problems in the CSCE process
- civil rights in Europe
- political participation
- social and economic rights
- human rights for young people.

The discussion in the smaller groups can be summed up as follows:

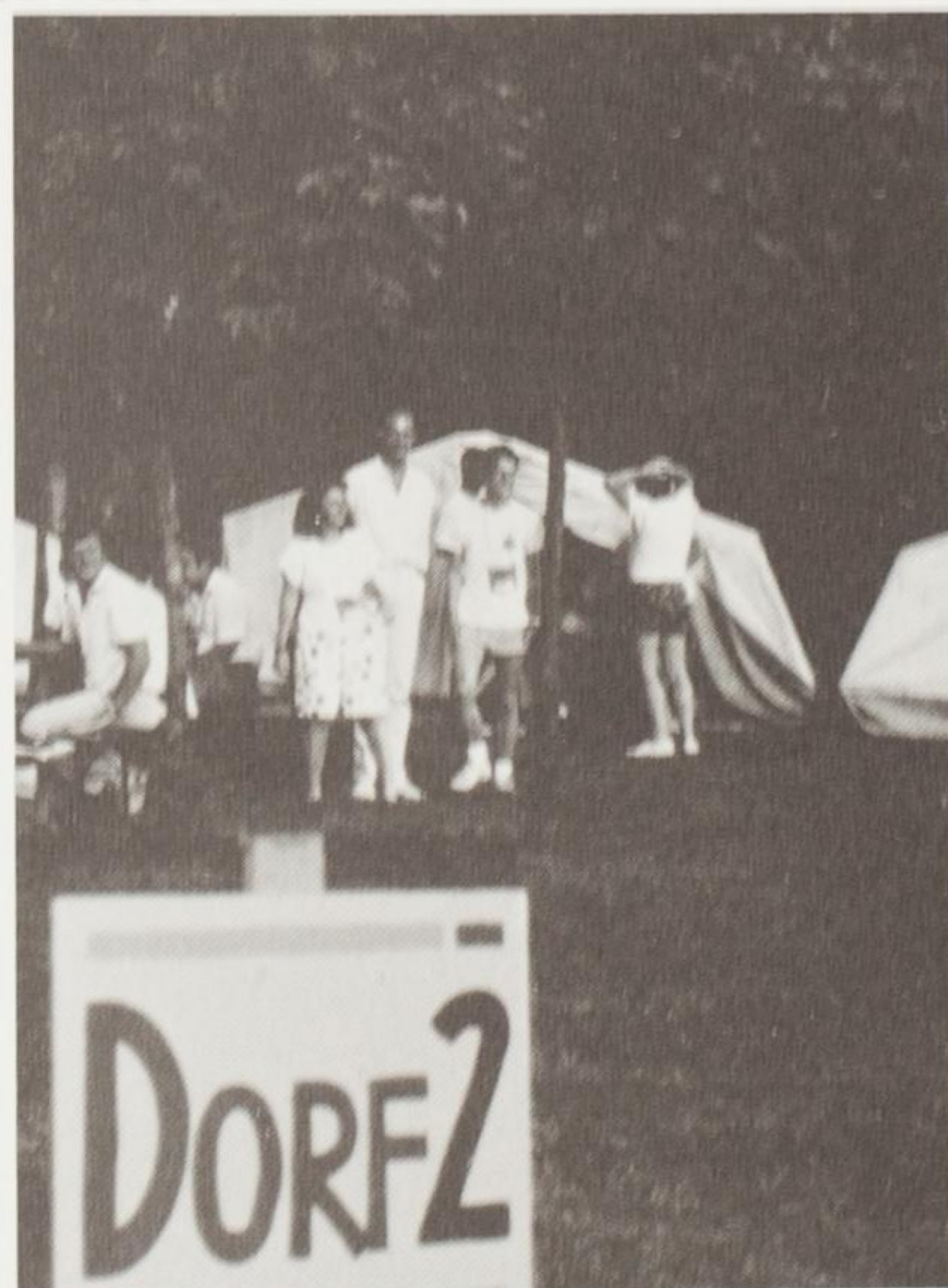
CURRENT PROBLEMS IN THE CSCE PROCESS

The group mentioned that the third basket of the Helsinki Final Act dealing with human rights has always been quite problematic.

The process concerning the third basket has been very slow. The proposal of General Secretary Gorbachev to have a meeting of experts on human rights is on the table in the Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting. The participants agreed that this kind of meeting should be held.

It was also agreed that the participation of the non-governmental organizations in the discussion of human rights should be recognized.

It was also taken up that humanitarian aspects should be strengthened and upheld within the disarmament process. At the moment the main responsibility of the disarmament process is carried by the "super powers" but the other countries should be involved, too. This group put forward a proposal for that the next consultative meeting all the reports and proposals made by the AEYSC Framework should be sent to the national representatives in CSCE meetings in order to get them to devote attention to the problems of young people in Europe.



POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The group first discussed the relationship between human rights and political participation. It was found that freedom of opinion plays an important role in political participation.

Then a look was taken at the political structure and the influences of participation. There are certain perspectives for participation in solving the political problems within parliaments, but there is still a lack of an adequate mechanism and political structures within the parliaments, and thus the effective exercise of the human right to express a political will is restricted. It was also mentioned that interest in political elections has decreased, and in order to raise the voting percentage it is necessary to implement the human right to freedom of opinion.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

The group discussed how to increase the social and economic welfare of citizens in European societies.

All the participants agreed on these points:

In order to increase productivity and to guarantee the right of the citizens to express themselves freely in any field (including the economic field) the right to self-enterprise must be recognized within the legislation and the system each country has chosen. At the same time the governments and other social bodies (trade unions, associations of buyers, etc.) have the right and the duty to control and plan the economic field, production and the market in order to re-balance the differences between advantaged and disadvantaged citizens, and to defend such priorities as: the right of all citizens to see their practical needs

satisfied, but also the need for a proper education to be independent from any kind of pressure, to apply their knowledge and carry out their projects, to develop their personality in full.

Guarantees have to be provided for citizens who are not able, for any reason, to take part in the economic process, to make them able to exercise their political and social rights and opportunities in the same way as other people. These could take the form of unemployment benefits, assistance for students, and contributions to the information on new technologies. Profit and productivity must not become the sole or even the most important priority.

The opportunity of citizens to exercise any right - human, social, economic, political - is only one aspect of the crucial point of democracy, which is reaching the highest level of participation and power-sharing among all citizens. A threat to any single right endangers all the other rights and freedoms, and democracy as a whole.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

It was agreed that the respective organizations within the AEYSC Framework should unite their efforts concerning human rights for young people. Mention was made of such rights as the right to education, to a job, etc. It was suggested as an example that the Framework could strive to contribute to the creation of a centre of academic rights/student rights. It was proposed that the centre could have the following four functions:

1. to formulate a common concept
2. to follow up the implementation of academic rights

3. to work as a mechanism through which common requests could be voiced to governments of the respective countries and to the UN

4. to establish a network of lawyers, who could give legal help for those who are having problems concerning human rights.

The importance of establishing similar projects addressing the problems of other social groups within the younger generation was emphasized as a possible issue for further deliberations of the AEYSC Framework.

WORKSHOP 3

We had a constructive discussion and reached consensus on the Helsinki Final Act and the UN Charter as a list of the basic and social human rights. However, there was difference over such points as freedom of travel, phoning, writing and reading, sufficient food, employment, the emancipation and equalization of women and underprivileged social groups. There was also consensus on the view, that culture and human rights are connected. It was pointed out that human rights and social abilities cannot be linded. The argument that the Third World cannot afford democracy is wrong. For example there was a bad social and economic situation in France at the end of the 18th century, but they also had the first free election in 1792.

There was also discussion, in which different points of view were expressed, on the self-determination of states, especially as concerns national security. Participants discussed the oppression of national minorities. We discussed economic, cultural and political discrimination against women, racist oppression, especially apartheid in South Africa, and the problems of several ethnic, cultural and religious minorities.

What international organizations do about such situations was an unanswered question; in one group there was consensus that international sanctions against certain states have no economic effect, while the other group renounced only boycotts and especially in Europe. But there was consensus that such forms of oppression violate human rights.

Finally we agreed that we as young people have the obligation to promote dialogue, as speaking and discussing is the only way to ease the political situation.

(Recorded by DEMYC and SNT)

(The quoted documents are not officially adopted papers of the event, they are interpretations of some participating organizations - The Editor)

