

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

EXEMPLAIRE
COPY

223
N°

ENGLISH ONLY
1st February, 1962

NATO CONFIDENTIAL
WORKING PAPER
AC/52-WP(62)8

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

TRENDS AND REPRESENTATIVITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF STUDENTS (IUS)

Note by the German Delegation

In view of the recent efforts of the IUS to obtain consultative status within UNESCO, it seems appropriate to focus attention on this association.

2. This paper tries to shed some light on the methods applied by the IUS and on the lack of representativity of about one-third of its member organizations. The information given might contain useful arguments against the admission of this organization to UNESCO. Referring to NATO documents AC/52-WP(60)42/1 and AC/52-WP(60)42/2 further comments are given below:

3. The enumeration of 54 countries in document AC/52-WP(60)42/1, paragraph 2, may lead to the conclusion that all those countries sent official delegations, that the delegations of all countries listed were equally representative of their student unions and that all delegations represented had the same status during the Baghdad Congress. Such a conclusion, of course, would not be correct. On the contrary, ever since 1950, when the pro-Western student organizations had withdrawn from the IUS to form the ISC, the Executive Body of the IUS became more and more dominated by the representatives of the Soviet bloc. Thereafter Western student organizations only participated in the work of the IUS as observers.

4. Furthermore, as pointed out in document AC/52-WP(60)42/2, paragraph 1, there was a distinction between full and associated members on the one hand and visitors and observers on the other. It is true that observers were allowed to take the floor and even to submit proposals. Nevertheless, the picture suggested in document AC/52-WP(60)42/2, paragraph 4, might be too illusive. In reality, the Czechoslovakian Chairman of the Baghdad Congress (JURI PELIKAN) managed to place speeches of Western observers at

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the very end of the meetings, when everybody was waiting for the adjournment. Besides, it was not without risk that some of the Western students took the floor to defend Western positions. To give a clear idea it might be worthwhile to quote from the records that the Canadian observer, Mr. TARNOPOLSKY (National Federation of Canadian University Students), warned the members of the Baghdad Congress not to look for evil on one side only, i.e. to blame the capitalists and colonialists for all political trouble. He suggested that imperialism and totalitarianism should be looked upon in the same way. The suppression of students in Tibet and Hungary had to be taken into consideration, too. Peace could not be based on hate campaigns directed against the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

5. These remarks caused a number of delegates of Cuba, Red China, Hungary, Panama, the Soviet Zone of Germany, Puerto Rico, West Africa and Rumania personally to attack Mr. Tarnopolsky in a most rude manner. The Chinese Delegate e.g. called him "a running dog of imperialism" and told the assembly that as from the mouth of a dog there can never grow beautiful ivory, so from his lips never can come a good word. The representative of the Cuban students asked the Canadian observer he should not forget to fight for Canada's independence first, since Canada was still under British and American rule, and the representative of the Soviet Zone students said the language of Mr. Tarnopolsky was that of the cold war and sounded like the speeches made by the Federal German militarists.

6. Similar personal attacks were made against the British observer Mr. WATSON (National Union of Students) and Mr. KONIECKI (German observer of the Liberal Students Union International) after they had taken the floor to defend the Western view. The Chairman even tried to question the credentials of Mr. Koniecki. One of the delegates of the Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany moved that Koniecki be excluded from the meeting. It should be noted in this context that Mr. Koniecki was kidnapped a few months later, in January, 1961, during a stay in West Berlin. He was subsequently transported to Prague, where he was accused of espionage and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. The Chairman of the Baghdad Congress, Mr. Pelikan, played a somewhat dubious role in this affair. So we are forced to conclude that an observer at IUS conferences runs very considerable risks indeed. Besides, it is rather doubtful whether observers of Western countries can exercise any influence on the results of such a conference. If they submit a proposal which is not endorsed by the Executive Body of the IUS, the Chairman will always find procedural means to push such a motion aside. If, on the other hand, they do not reply to all the customary accusations against Western colonialism and militarism, their silence is interpreted as consent. So the only valuable contribution that can be made by Western observers are private talks with delegates of non-committed countries outside the assembly.

7. According to statements made by the IUS, this body listed some 39 full members and 10 associated members in 1960. Examining more closely the current list of full members, there are several groupings into which they may be divided. For some of the organizations, comments have been added to their representativity.

(A) STUDENT SECTIONS OF COMMUNIST NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Albania : Union de la Jeunesse du Travail d'Albanie,
Seccion Etudiante

Bulgaria : Student Council of D.Y.C.L.

Czecho- : Student Council of Czechoslovak Union of
slovakia : Youth (CSM)

East : Free German Youth (FDJ), Student Section
Germany

North : Korean Students Committee
Korea

(B) NATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Bolivia : Confederación Universitaria de Bolivia (CUB)

China : All China Students Federation

Cuba : Federación Estudiantil Universitaria (FEU)

Hungary : National Committee of Hungarian Student Organizations

Iraq : General Union of Students in the Iraqi Republic
(GUSIR)

Japan : All Japan Federation of Students Autonomies
(ZENGAKUREN)

Meda- : Association des Etudiants d'Origine Malgache
gascar : (AEOM)

Mongolia : Union of Mongolian Students

Poland : Polish Students Association (ZSP)

Rumania : Union of Students Associations of the Rumanian
People's Republic (UASR)

Sudan : Khartoum University Students Union

Venezuela : Federacion de Centros Universitarios (FCU)

Vietnam : Union Nationale des Etudiants du Vietnam (UNEV)

(C) UNDERGROUND AND EXILE ORGANIZATIONS

- Jordan : General Union of Jordanian Students (GUJS)
Palestine : General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS)
Iran : Teheran University Students Federation

The Teheran University Students' Association's address, according to a mimeographed list distributed by IUS, is c/o IUS Prague. It is this organization which has sent Mr. Sadaati Babak (Secretary-in-Charge of Anti-colonial Department) to the IUS Secretariat.

(D) OVERSEAS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- West Africa
and Equatorial
Africa : Fédération des Etudiants d'Afrique Noire en France
(FEANF)

- West Africa : West African Students Union (WASU)
The West African Students' Union is an organization with headquarters in London. It has unfriendly relations with the National Unions of Students of Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and sometimes quotes its membership as a figure greater than the number of West African students studying in England. It is not considered representative.

- Cyprus : Union of Cypriot Students
The Union of Cypriot Students is a minority and unrepresentative organization with its headquarters in London. In a report to the last NUSAS Congress the letter signed by three members of a Research and Information Commission team which studied the Cyprus situation was quoted as follows:

"We regret very much our inability to reach this Group in London. We sent them a letter to the address on their letterhead, stating the date of our planned stay at their letterhead address. We tried to trace them by telephone. By the end of our stay, it had been impossible to find any trace of the Union of Cypriot Students at its given address."

The Group does exist in some form, however, and is expected to be one of several organizations taking part in a meeting to form a representative union of Cypriot students.

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- Guadeloupe : Association Générale des Etudiants Guadeloupéens (AGEG)
- Guiana : Union des Etudiants Guyanais (UEG)
- Kamerun : Union Nationale des Etudiants du Kamerun (UNEK)
- Martinique : Association Générale des Etudiants de la Martinique (AGEM)
- Togoland : Association des Etudiants Togolais en France "Jeune Togo"

(E) MINORITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Burma : All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU)
The All-Burma Federation of Student Unions is representative of only a section of Burmese students and gets most of its members from high schools. It is not identical with the Rangoon University Students' Union, which is probably the most representative group.
- Mexico : Confederación de Jovenes Mexicanos (CJM),
Sección Estudiantil

IUS claims two member organizations in Mexico, one of which is the student section of the Confederación de Jovenes Mexicanos and the other the Federación Nacional de Estudiantes Tecnicos. The representative National Union, which is not an IUS-member, is the Confederación Nacional de Estudiantes which was recognised as the National Union of Students for Mexico by the 3rd Latin American Congress.
- Nepal : Nepal National Federation of Students
The Nepal National Federation of Students is a minority organization in Nepal. The representative organization (representing 5,600 out of 8,000 students) is the Inter-Collegiate Students' Union.
- India : All-India Students Federation (AISF)
The All-India Student Federation is a barely existent organization which has admitted its own unrepresentative character by urging the formation of a representative national student organization in India. It accepted the fact that an all-India federation of local student unions could be the only united national platform of the Indian students and decided to work for the same. It

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also accepted that "the AISF was at present the organization of all Communist, progressive, nationalist and independent socialist students". In regard to its membership, the federation "decided to recruit its membership from the best talent among the students from every sphere of activity, educate and organize them to become model workers for mass work among the students and in the service of people". It also commended its specific rôle as a political youth organization by deciding "to study, discuss and publicise socialism and carry forward its rich anti-imperialist heritage by becoming the leading organization of progressive Indian youth". (Quotations from "New Age" Communist Party weekly, 18th January, 1959). The AISF has claimed at various stages membership campaigns on an all-India level since 1954. Small groups of Student Federation supporters belong to the Indian Communist Party at a number of university centres, but the total number of such people may not exceed a few thousand. Even if the AISF claim in regard to membership were to be taken at its face value, the AISF would be considered an unrepresentative minority organization in terms of the total number of students in Indian universities which at present stands at 1,000,000.

The representative national student association in India, based on student unions with compulsory membership, is the National Council of University Students of India (NCUSI) which represents the majority of university student unions and the majority of university students in India and this is officially recognised by the University Grants Commission (the official body which deals with the administration of Indian universities) as the representative organization of Indian students. NCUSI was recognised by the Ninth International Student Conference as the National Union of Students from India. It may also be significant to point out that the Executive Committee of the all-India Federation at its meeting held this summer welcomed the formation of NCUSI, expressing the hope that it would emerge as a fully effective national student organization on the Indian student scene. The question of AISF's membership as a representative body has never been examined in the IUS Congress since 1946 when AISF was accepted as a member organization in IUS.

(F) ORGANIZATIONS PROBABLY UNREPRESENTATIVE

Ecuador : Federacion de Estudiantes Universitarios del Ecuador (FEUE)

The ever-changing situation in Ecuador makes it hard to pinpoint one representative group at any moment. The IIIrd Latin American Student Congress gave status to one group but it is unlikely that there is at the moment one representative organization.

Lebanon : Union Générale des Etudiants du Liban (UGEL)

Lebanon is another country in which it has been traditionally hard to fix one group as representative. Since 1954, there have been a number of groups, all with similar names, which have claimed to be representative with more or less justice. The representative group at the moment is the Union Nationale des Universitaires du Liban which was recognised by the 9th ISC as the National Union of Students of Lebanon. Union Générale des Etudiants du Liban, which IUS claims as its member has certainly no claim to real representativity.

(G) NO INFORMATION OBTAINED ON:

French West

Africa : Union Générale des Etudiants d'Afrique Occidentale (UGRAO)

Nicaragua: Centro Universitario de la Universidad Nacional (CUUN)

Puerto

Rico : Federacion de Universitarios Pro Independencia (FUPI)

(H) AS ASSOCIATED MEMBERS ARE LISTED:

Algeria : Union Générale des Etudiants Musulmans Algériens (UGEMA)

Ceylon : Ceylon University Students Federation (CUSF)

Chile : Union de Federaciones Universitarias de Chile (UFU)

Haiti : Union Nationale des Etudiants Haitiens (UNEH)

Honduras : Federacion de Estudiantes Universitarios de Honduras (UNEH)

Liberia : Liberian National Student Union (LNSU)

Morocco : Union Nationale des Etudiants du Maroc

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Pakistan : National Union of Students of Pakistan (NUSP)
Sierra Leone : Students Representative Council, Fourah Bay College
Tunisia : Union Générale des Etudiants de Tunisie (UGET)

As regards Pakistan, however, the National Union of Students of Pakistan which IUS claims as its member was officially dissolved towards the end of 1958. Even before the dissolution NUSP had issued the following statement on the question of its supposed affiliation with IUS:

"The two individuals from Pakistan who attended the Congress did so without the knowledge or authorisation of the NUSP Executive. The "affiliation" undertaken by these individuals (to the IUS) is accordingly null and void."

The claim made by Sadaati Babak, one of the Secretaries of the IUS, in one of his reports, regarding the 65 "countries" which "participated" in the Peking Congress hinges on two things:

- (a) that one includes as "countries" those unrepresentative groups listed above, and
- (b) that one lists among "participants" many observers which did not face a test of representativity to achieve "observer" status, some representative groups hostile to IUS's partisan activities and a variety of other groups.

8. These groupings show that the IUS is mainly backed by the Soviet bloc and Latin America organizations. It is barely represented in European and Asian countries. Nevertheless, its influence within the non-committed states is of considerable importance. Since the IUS shows a very strong trend to fight against colonialism and the so-called neo-colonialism (economic aid to underdeveloped countries) a number of student organizations in Africa and Latin America are very much inclined to follow the IUS rather than the ISC. These students are very much impressed by the opportunity to take the floor at both the Peking and Baghdad IUS conferences for an unlimited time and to dwell on the suppression they suffered under colonial rule, the difficulties of their countries' economic situation, etc. The Chairmen of IUS conferences allow this procedure regardless of the subject under discussion. During the ISC conferences, on the other hand, it often happened that owing to the more restricted procedure, modelled according to democratic parliamentary rules, speeches of that kind were cut short. Furthermore, during the last years IUS has considerably increased its efforts to grant a large number of scholarships to students of non-committed countries. In the first place it is the Soviet-occupied Zone which has been very active in that respect.

9. As pointed out before, the Executive Body of IUS is strictly dominated by Soviet Bloc students. They are represented as Chairmen or rapporteurs. The 6th IUS Congress in Baghdad had the following 5 committees:

- (a) on international co-operation of students,
- (b) on students' efforts for peace,
- (c) on the fight of student organizations against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism,
- (d) on student activities as regards democratisation and reformation of education, culture, social assistance, travelling, sports and journalism,
- (e) revision of the IUS statutes.

10. To illustrate the result of IUS conferences, the text of the "resolution for a peaceful solution of the German question" is given below:

Considering the fact that:

in the German Federal Republic the old militarist and Fascist forces hold important positions in the state, the economy, the judiciary and the army;

the Bundeswehr of West Germany under the Command of former Hitler generals, responsible for the crimes committed against students and peoples during the Second World War is being equipped with atomic weapons and thus has become an extreme threat to the peace of the world;

the influencing of certain sections of West German youth and students by militaristic and revanchist ideas has been increased to a great extent;

the situation in West Berlin is an abnormal one, and leads to constant provocations and tensions;

due to the dangerous militaristic and revanchistic development in West Germany a serious threat to world peace has been created.

The Congress protests:

against the development of militarist and Fascist forces in the German Federal Republic and against the fact that the principles of the anti-Hitler coalition and of the Potsdam Agreement are not being carried out in Western Germany;

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declares itself:

for general and complete disarmament in Germany and for a militarily neutral Germany;

for the withdrawal of both German States from NATO and the Warsaw Pact; for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from German territory;

for the conclusion of a peace treaty with both German States;

for carrying out the Potsdam Agreement in the whole of Germany;

expresses its solidarity:

with the struggle of the students of the German Democratic Republic to preserve peace, against militarism and the danger of an atomic war;

with the students and professors in West Germany who are working for democracy and against the revival of the militarist forces and against the atomic arming of the Bundeswehr;

with the endeavours of the German students for a peaceful solution of the German problem and for a peaceful reunification of Germany to become a unified, peace-loving and democratic state;

appeals to the students of the world:

to support in every way the students in both German states in their struggle for general and complete disarmament in Germany, against militarism and revanchism, for a peaceful solution of the German problem;

charges the Executive Committee:

to support the International Seminar on the Peaceful Solution of the German Problem, that will be held at Humboldt University in Berlin in November 1960;

to publish a brochure on the development of militarism and fascism in West Germany, drawing the attention of students of the world to this grave threat to peace;

to furnish current information to member organizations of the IUS, as well as to other student organizations, on the developments in Germany, and to take appropriate measures for supporting the struggle of the German students.

OTAN/NATO,
Paris, XVIIe.

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