

Women's Action Comm.
for Lasting Peace
1946-49

Hickman

I read your letter &
the minutes of the meeting
with much interest.

In answer to your questions
I think the Com. should
accept the trusteeship for
former Japanese mandated
islands with the modifications
as outlined.

I do not think there is
any use in urging the more
ideal arrangement of U. N.
bases for collector security.

I do not think that it
will be possible at this time
to achieve more than an
improvement for power work

understanding regarding the
use of the veto.

I have not yet decided
whether the Inter Bell &
Rights should set goals
to be worked toward or
establish minimum standards
which nations could bind
themselves to put into immediate
effect.

The Pan American proposal
is being considered, ~~but~~
with all others & some
improvements may be possible.

I have no lights to throw
on the developments in the
Atomic Energy Commission
I should wish for
developments as regards
the control of

WOMEN'S ACTION COMMITTEE FOR LASTING PEACE

Associate of American Association for the United Nations

To unite American women to work for full participation by the United States
in the United Nations in order to build a world of peace and justice under law.

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Natl. President
Mrs. Norman deR. Whitehouse

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1 EAST 37TH STREET
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

El dorado 3-3142

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt

89 Washington Square
New York 23, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We were very sorry that you were not able to attend the recent meeting of the Consultants of the Women's Action Committee. We would like, however, to have the benefit of your advice concerning our policies,

Enclosed are the minutes of the meeting and also our unrevised policy statement. We would appreciate your comments. We would particularly like to have your advice on the following:

- 1 - Should the Women's Action Committee accept the present situation as inevitable and support the proposed trusteeship agreement for former Japanese mandated islands with modifications
 - a) of the amount of area included as strategic?
 - b) of duration of the agreement limiting it to the period until the United Nations have developed collective security further?
 - c) of urging that the agreement for the "captured" islands should limit strategic areas as much as possible?

Should we urge the more ideal arrangement of United Nations bases for collective security?

- 2 - Do you think that at this time it will be possible to achieve more than an informal five power understanding regarding the use of the veto? If so, what would you suggest?

- 3 - Do you think the International Bill of Rights should set goals to be worked toward or establish minimum standards which nations could bind themselves to put into immediate effect?

Would you approve the Panamanian proposal? This proposal includes the generally accepted regular freedoms

*Y
Feb*

*How
is it done*

*I have not
yet decided*

WOMEN'S ACTION COMMITTEE FOR VICTORY AND LASTING PEACE

Fourteen National Member Organizations

- ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION MILLS COLLEGE
 - GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
 - HADASSAH, THE WOMEN'S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, Inc.
 - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN, Inc.
 - NATIONAL BOARD OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
 - NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
 - NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS
 - NATIONAL ORDER OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS
 - NATIONAL WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE OF AMERICA
 - THE GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY, U.S.A.
 - THE NEEDLEWORK GUILD OF AMERICA, Inc.
 - THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 - WOMAN'S DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE, BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH
 - WOMEN'S DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS
- ALSO MEMBER CLUBS AND INDIVIDUAL WOMEN: SPONSORS AND GENERAL MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S ACTION COMMITTEE FOR VICTORY AND LASTING PEACE

ABOUT 10,000,000 WOMEN

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, INC.
WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
WOMEN'S CLUBS
WOMEN'S CLUBS OF AMERICA, INC.

KNOW ME YOU

of speech, religion, assembly, etc.; also certain legal freedoms such as freedom from detention and right of trial; also social and economic freedoms such as right of education, right to work under reasonable conditions, right to adequate food and housing, ownership of property and social security; and finally, protection against arbitrary discrimination because of race, religion or sex.

*Get her into here
considered with
all other things
importance of
the process*

4 - Have you any light to throw on the developments in the Atomic Energy Commission? *How*

In the control of atomic energy, shall we uphold:

- a) international ownership or control of uranium and thorium?
- b) international production of fissionable material?
- c) the inspection of plants producing commercially atomic energy?
- d) the licensing of material beyond the dangerous stage?
- e) punishment of infraction of the treaty agreement?
- f) elimination of the veto in cases of violation of the treaty agreement?

*How
was for
disclosure*

Sincerely,
Emily Hickman
(Dr. Emily Hickman)

KH:rf
Encl.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

22

M I N U T E S
of the
CONSULTANTS' MEETING

Held Saturday, November 16th at the residence of Mrs. Norman deR. Whitehouse.

The following points were discussed with a view to revising or adding to the items on our policy list:

1 - Trusteeship - The recently published U. S. Trusteeship Agreement covering the former Japanese mandated islands was discussed at length. Some present were disappointed that the agreement called for virtual annexation of a large island area under military control, without even inspection of the bases by the United Nations. It was questioned whether the whole area need be considered as one strategic area. It was also felt that while the United States was acting within the letter of the Charter, she was setting a dangerous precedent in taking full advantage of the strategic area provisions. One person stressed that this country should have given leadership towards the establishment of United Nations bases. However, it was pointed out that that fight was lost at San Francisco under pressure from our War and Navy Departments.

It was conceded that we could not hope for anything better at present than an agreement embodying protection of the rights of the nations and military protection for ourselves. It was hoped that the picture might change when agreement was finally reached as to what contingents and military installations were to be put at the disposal of the Security Council.

It was agreed that the Women's Action Committee should reiterate its support of the Trusteeship principle and at the same time point out that one nation trusteeship of strategic areas does not constitute real collective security.

In connection with the present Trusteeship Agreement, it was agreed that we urge that:

- 1 - If possible the United States should limit the strategic area to specific islands instead of designating the entire region as a strategic area.
- 2 - That the present agreement be limited in duration and subject to alteration as the United Nations developed an adequate system of Collective Security.
- 3 - It was also suggested that in offering trusteeship agreements for other "captured" islands, the United States be urged not to designate all as strategic areas.
- 4 - It was suggested that Mrs. Whitehouse contact Chester Williams with a view to obtaining an appointment with Dr. Gerig and Mr. Dulles to discuss the Trusteeship Agreement.

II - The Veto - It was agreed that the Women's Action Committee should favor a re-interpretation and limitation of the use of the veto involving a change in methods of procedure rather than a revision of the Charter. It was felt that the most that could be hoped for at present would be some sort of informal agreement between the Big Five.

III - Post-WWII

1 - Food - While we are now urging the acceptance of the LaGuardia proposal for a Food Fund, those present felt it better to state our policy in more general terms, because there seems little chance that the Food Fund will be accepted. We therefore agreed to urge that the United States make as generous and as well-planned a contribution as possible wherever the need is great, regardless of political considerations.

2 - Refugees - It was agreed that the Women's Action Committee should urge that the United States join the IRO and take an active part in the resettlement program. This will involve enlarging our immigration quota and providing adequate facilities to implement the quota.

3 - Palestine - It was felt that the Women's Action Committee should not take a stand on the Palestine question.

IV - IHO: It was agreed that the Women's Action Committee should work for United States participation in the World Health Organization. It was feared that in the new Congress there might be serious opposition even to this measure.

V - Economic Measures: In view of the trend of public opinion and the probable attitude of the new Congress, the meeting agreed that the Women's Action Committee should give particular attention to the following measures for economic cooperation:

1 - IYO - Full support.

2 - Repeal of Trade Agreements Act - full support.

3 - Increase of funds for Export-Import Bank - full support.

4 - IHO and IYO - In view of the fact that the problem is so complex, and in view of the fact that delicate negotiations are now underway, it was felt that the Women's Action Committee should not try to take a stand with regard to commodity agreements, but merely support the goal of increased production and adequate distribution and the improvement of agricultural conditions in all countries.

VI - Free Exchange of Information: Full support of any program that the United Nations can agree upon.

VII - Bill of Rights: There was considerable discussion concerning the Panamanian proposal and the likelihood of its adoption. Some of the group felt that Russia was beginning to feel the effect of world opinion, while others were less hopeful. All agreed that it would be a slow process.

VIII - Admissions of New Members: It was felt that "the war effort" should not be a determining factor in considering the requests for membership. After considerable discussion concerning the meaning of "peace-loving States," etc., it was agreed that it might be best for the Women's Action Committee not to take a stand on this subject.

IX- Atomic Energy: In view of the fact that compromises would probably have to be made in order to achieve agreement with Russia, it was the sense of the meeting that the Women's Action Committee should not limit itself to support of the Baruch plan; rather the Women's Action Committee should support any plan which will incorporate the goals already set down in our policy statement, i.e. a system of international control including international production of fissionable materials, licensing and inspection.

There was some discussion of the United States formula for eliminating the veto as set forth in Memo No. 5 presented to the Atomic Energy Commission on July 18th. It was felt, however, that this Memo was too complex to be covered in our policy statement.

It was suggested that those not able to attend the meeting be informed as to the consensus of opinion and be asked to give their comments and advice.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Laidlaw Backus,

BRIEF SURVEY OF HIGH POINTS IN ACTIVITY:

In 1943 we started our program with an appeal to the Senate to "endorse at once the principle that the U. S. accept its full responsibility for participating with the United Nations and nations of like mind in a system of Collective Security."

Since then we have consistently supported every measure for collective security before Congress. Our members are kept advised of such Bills through information in the Backlog, and through "Calls to Action" - postcards asking them to write to their Representatives in support of specific bills vital to international cooperation. In addition, the Committee has sent special messages to key leaders in Congress, and has sent limited "Calls to Action" to State Chairmen and leaders of the Women's Action Committee, and to women who are constituents of members of Congressional Committees when action in those committees is pending. "Calls to Action" were sent out in support of 12 or more measures before the 79th Congress, all of which were finally adopted and crippling amendments were successfully opposed.

POLICIES:

The Women's Action Committee for Lasting Peace rejoices that the United Nations has been legally established by fifty-one nations to function in international affairs according to the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

This is the foundation upon which a lasting peace may be built. But it is only the foundation. Much remains to be done. The following concrete points have been adopted by the Women's Action Committee as its program of education and action.

I. - FULL SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS:

In order to insure that the United States fulfill its responsibility to the United Nations the Committee urges that the United States:

- a. Work for the strengthening of the United Nations by using this Organization as much as possible and by supporting the fullest exercise of the powers of the United Nations as established in the Charter,
- b. Look for its security to the growing strength of the United Nations.

Obligations already accepted by the United States:

1. Granting power to our delegate on the Security Council.
2. Acceptance of Compulsory Jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

Goals still to be reached:

3. Negotiating a prompt agreement with the Security Council relating to the size and character of the armed forces which we will make available to preserve international peace.
4. Negotiating Trusteeship agreements and the incorporation of newly acquired strategic bases into the Trusteeship system as provided in the United Nations Charter.

II. - FULL PARTICIPATION IN ALL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE GREATEST VARIETY OF FIELDS.

Obligations already accepted by the United States:

1. Membership in the International Labor Organization,
2. Membership in the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
3. Membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization,
4. Membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
5. Membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization,
6. Renewal of Trade Agreements Act.
7. Appropriations to UNRRA.
8. Granting of the British Loan,

Goals still to be reached:

9. Contributing to the continuation of the work of UNRRA by the United Nations after UNRRA expires.
10. Membership in the International Health Organization.
11. Membership in the International Refugee Organization.
12. Establishment of an International Trade Organization to provide for commercial cooperation on a multilateral basis.
13. Provisions for the free exchange of information among nations.
14. Drafting of an International Bill of Rights.

III - CONTROL OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

Obligations already accepted by the United States:

1. Domestic control as provided for in the McMahon Bill,
2. Membership on the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission,

Goals still to be reached:

3. Establishment of a system of international control to prevent use of atomic energy in national weapons of war; and to provide for the international ownership of uranium and thorium; for the international production of fissionable material for atomic energy, with sale of denatured material to licensed plants and for international inspection of such plants.