

International Commission for War Refugees in Great Britain

JOHN WINANT PAPERS

Box 202

Reviewed ~~PT~~ 2/13/97

*This is a good committee  
I want to see this man Gilpin*

# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

## FOR WAR REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

(BRITISH SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF CHILD REFUGEES)

(FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT: THE RT. HON. VISCOUNT CRANBORNE, M.P.)

TELEPHONE:  
MUSEUM 1468  
emp/ed

VICE-PRESIDENT  
THE RT. HON. LORD HORDER,  
B.C.V.O., K.C.V.O., F.R.C.P.

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HON. MRS. CRAWSHAY

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PROFESSOR J. C. DRUMMOND  
T. EDMUND HARVEY, M.P.  
MR. BERNARD PIKE  
MISS EDITH M. PYE

10 WOBURN SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.C.1

1st May, 1941.

H.E. the American Ambassador,  
Grosvenor Square,  
LONDON, W.1.

Dear Mr. Winant,

Thank you so much for a very kind message received through Mrs. Crawshay. Had not illness prevented me, I should certainly have written to say how very glad and thankful I was to hear that you had been appointed Ambassador, and to offer you the warmest welcome to this country.

I have just learned that there is a possibility of a visit here from Howard Kershner with whom I came to see you in Geneva. He and his wife have been in France since the occupation, and they are returning to America for a rest. He has been doing an extraordinarily valuable piece of humanitarian work there, and I hear that 40,000 children are being fed through the efforts of the American Friends Service Committee under his direction. He has been able to move freely about the country, and thoroughly knows what are the actual conditions there. There seem to us many reasons why such a visit to this country would be advisable, and I wonder whether you could spare the time to see me if I came to consult you about it?

We should be most grateful to have your advice on the question.

Yours sincerely,

EDITH M. PYE.

*Edith M. Pye*

*MR. GILPIN  
- MUSE. 0535  
MISS PYE will call  
at 4 p.m.  
Thurs. May 8-*

C  
O  
P  
Y

CABLE from Howard Kershner to Mrs. Crawshay,  
International Commission, 10 Woburn Square,

W.C.I.

23rd April, 1941.

Marseilles.

REFERRING YOUR TELEGRAM TO STURGES COULD COME  
LONDON FEW DAYS ABOUT MAY FIFTEEN IF YOU ARRANGE  
APPOINTMENT TOP OFFICIALS AND SEND INSTRUCTIONS  
VISA PLANE RESERVATION LISBON (Stop) REPLY  
MARSEILLE.

KERSHNER.

FILE

London, October 29, 1941.

Dear Mr. Pye,

The Ambassador has asked me to thank you for your letter of October 18th, enclosing an article on the question of the feeding of the small democracies. He is very grateful to you for your letter.

Yours very truly,

Jacob D. Beam  
Third Secretary of Embassy

E. M. Pye, Esq.,  
International Commission  
for War Refugees in Great Britain,  
10 Woburn Square, W.C. 1.

*73*  
JDB:akw

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MR. BERNARD PIKE  
MISS EDITH M. PYE**

**His Excellency  
The American Ambassador.**

**Ashtree House  
Horton Kirby, Kent.**

**18th October, 1941.**

**Dear Mr. Winant,**

I have not troubled you all this long time because I know of the great work you are doing and how it must entirely occupy every minute of the day, not to speak of the night.

I am only now troubling you with a note, because I think you may be interested in the enclosed article on the question of the feeding of the Small Democracies. I have written it so as to let people in this country know of the great humanitarian feeling that there is in U.S.A. about the starvation in the occupied countries and I felt that it might interest you to know that I have not forgotten our talk, although I have almost given up hope of anything being done to ring relief to the millions of children throughout Europe who are sharing with their elders the frightful consequences of war.

The generous response of your country has avoided it for our children and we cannot be thankful enough, but how truly thankful one would be if that help could be extended to the children in other countries also.

I am very glad to hear that the American Red Cross is to be allowed to continue their splendid work of milk distribution in France. I heard Mr. Allen speak at the Royal Institute of International Affairs and was very much impressed with him and the work the American Red Cross is doing.

(p.t.o.)

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MUSEUM 1488

10 WOBURN SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.C.1

I know that Howard Kershner is again back in France, but we have not heard from him since his return there. I do not know whether he managed to see you during your short visit to the U.S.A.

Please believe how grateful we all are for the way you are consistently upholding the ideals which are dear to us.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

E. M. PYE.

NON-TREASURER  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
COMMITTEE  
MR. HARRIS DICKINSON  
MR. HENRY CLARKE  
MR. J. A. COLLIER, F.R.C.S.  
MR. J. G. DUNN  
MR. G. H. HARRIS, M.A.  
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WOMEN'S  
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Vol. XXXIV No. 9

(British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom)

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET

PORTWAY, ST. MARY BOURNE,  
ANDOVER, HANTS.

OCTOBER, 1941

One Penny

Subscription 2/- per annum, post free.

**CHILD FEEDING IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.**

**An American Point of View.**

At a moment when the whole world seems about to be divided into two camps, and neutrality to be a position of the past, the scheme put forward in the United States for the feeding by a neutral commission of certain categories of the population in the small democracies now occupied, may seem of academic interest only, but people in this country ought to know of the powerful wave of public opinion in America that is backing the proposals, and giving good reason, both political and humanitarian, why such a scheme would help and not hinder the war effort, and the peace effort when the war has been won.

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD FOR THE SMALL DEMOCRACIES**

This Committee has been formed to promote a strictly limited scheme, beginning with Belgium. It claims the support of over twenty million people, more than a quarter of the adult population of the U.S.A. and states that military experts, including General Pershing and Admiral Pratt, have stated that there would be no military loss to the British or military gains to the Germans if the plan were adopted.

The National Committee embraces a membership of more than 800 men and women prominent in civic life. They represent every phase of constructive American activity. There are 2062 nation-wide volunteer committees. More than 3000 resolutions have been passed by organisations insisting that relief effort shall be made.

**REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE**

Definite requests for help have been received from Belgium, Norway, Poland, Finland and Holland, and it is stated that the proposals are supported by the exiled Polish, Dutch, Belgian governments.

**THE PLAN**

It is proposed to feed 2,000,000 starving children and 1,000,000 destitute and unemployed adults. One meal a day with supplementary food for children served through soup kitchens assures consumption on the spot. Food would be transported, warehoused and distributed under the complete supervision and control of a Neutral Commission.

The German Government must contribute all necessary breadstuffs and definitely agree to no future absorption of Belgian native food. Meats, fats, soap and special food for children cannot be obtained in Europe and must be imported. The British and German Governments must guarantee immunity from attack to all Commission Relief Ships.

No food goes directly or indirectly to the Germans; in fact 1,000,000 bushels of bread grains per month are to come from German sources. This would more than equal the amount Germany could have possibly taken out of Belgium or fed to its own army. The effect is to reduce, not increase German supplies.

Only one boat at a time would pass through the blockade. If German guarantees are not fulfilled or German food contributions not forthcoming... the entire plan would be discontinued immediately.

If Germany seized the entire stock of imported food-stuffs, maintained in Belgium at any one time, it would be less than one day's German food consumption.

Food will be supplied only to children, the unemployed and the destitute; (nursing and expectant mothers, the old and the sick). Therefore none would go to persons working for Germany.

**THE NEED**

A report from an American Quaker stated that the present ration in Germany—2100 calories a day—is distributed to each person, compared with a normal 2700. In Denmark there is more food than there is in Germany. But the Danish ration is 1300 calories a day. Norway is facing danger of "great shortage" of wheat and fodder, but Norwegians are not starving. They live on a diet of 1200 calories a day, fish is abundant, but the chance for getting cod is limited because of the lack of gasoline to reach the banks.

In Holland inhabitants live on about 1320 calories per day, excluding potatoes, cheese and chocolate.

Belgium suffers severely, with a diet of 960 calories a day, excluding meat, "which is impossible to get." In Warsaw conditions are worse, with only 700 calories a day.

**Children in Belgium**

From a report of John Cudahy, former U.S. Ambassador to Belgium:—

"In the classrooms there was a heavy apathy in the listless bearing of pale pinched-faced boys with their dark-circled eyes. The teachers said they made no attempt to maintain scholastic standards. All they attempted was to maintain a routine for the sake of order and discipline. Boys were always weary, they said. After 15 min. of mental concentration yawns would pass through the class like a breath of contagion and they would doze off to a semi-consciousness and sometimes one would faint from sheer weakness, so quietly that it was hardly noticeable. Organised sport has been abandoned, but that is no hardship for few have interest or desire to play. Many parents put their

children to bed in an effort to curb their appetite and conserve energy.

#### Report of the Belgian Red Cross

Numerous cases of oedema caused by hunger have been observed in the hospitals. Inquiry revealed that the daily ration for the majority of these patients consists of 225 gram of bread, 5 gram of margarine and a few vegetables. Expectant mothers, children and adolescents are still worse off because of the acute shortage of milk and lack of meat.

A specified survey with respect to **Children attending School** indicates that 63% get no—or scarcely any—breakfast at all; 33.5% get an inadequate noon meal, and 56% get insufficient supper. 35% of the children show a decrease in growth and weight. The children are declared weak after medical examination. The very marked deficiency in proteins and fats for adolescents during their period of growth reveals a most dangerous situation for the future.

#### The Miners in Belgium

Inquiries have been made in different collieries to find out what the miners eat in the mines. What are the results? 90% of the miners go down the pit with two slices of bread or less. Others have only raw carrots or turnips. 5% have margarine on their bread. The others have artificial honey, marmalade or sliced turnips.

#### POSSIBILITIES OF ADEQUATE CONTROL

This has been shown in a deeply interesting report received at the end of May from the Commission for Polish Relief through which 50,000 children have been kept alive for 18 months. The President states that "the work of distribution inside of Poland is entirely in Polish hands, in some communities in the hands of the Central Relief Committee and in others in the hands of the Polish Red Cross, and under direction of well-known men of integrity. This is a guarantee No. 1 for the safe distribution of these foodstuffs.

Guarantee No. 2 is that all of the original receipts of the Polish institutions come back to our office in New York. We tabulate these reports as they come to us, and so far the losses established are less than one-half of one per cent. This is actually lower than the loss on distribution of foodstuffs on domestic railways in the U.S.

The third guarantee that we have comes from the regular inspection of our American representatives who visit and check the stocks of the central food warehouses and also visit and check the feeding in various children's institutions and schools.

There is evidence also of the possibility of control from the distribution of this food in unoccupied France where American Quakers are feeding daily some 50,000 school children, and 10,000 babies from food brought into France from outside, and the Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee makes a very eloquent appeal for its continuance in face of the great need.

An interesting fact is that after Italy entered the war, food supplies had to be obtained from neutral countries. One by one these have been over-run by Germany and today, the last and only source of supply was Russia, at the time the report was written.

#### THE MOTIVE

The American Committee believes their plan to be politically sound in that it would support morale in these countries and maintain their allegiance to democratic ideals. They state that American civilisation is founded upon certain standards of Christianity which embraces compassion and mercy. If these standards are abandoned now, America will sustain a moral and spiritual loss that cannot be measured.

In June 1941 a resolution signed by 37 Senators was referred by the United States Congress to the Committee on Foreign Relations, expressing the conviction that immediate steps should be taken "to formulate some plan to prevent this impending tragedy of mass starvation," and urging that the Government of the United States in co-operation with the British and other governments concerned, to work out the setting up of systematic and definite relief.

Unfortunately since that date the situation has become worse, and from information received, it appears that it will now be more difficult to obtain the necessary co-operation from the German authorities, without which no plan can be successful.

The resolution above states that the "British Government has not as yet agreed to the proposed Belgian trial feeding" in spite of the fact that the exiled Belgian Government strongly urged its agreement and was willing to finance it.

If the British Government agreed on their side, the question of the German attitude might change also.

Is there not a great risk for the future in the present attitude towards the American plan, the risk of a starved and stunted generation of children in Europe, whose parents when they wake from their starved apathy, will be filled with hatred of all who have had a hand in bringing this about? Will not opinion in America harden against those who refuse to allow the help offered by her people to reach the bitter need, the knowledge of which is very widespread throughout the country.

It is not only America but the whole world which will sustain a moral and spiritual loss if the standards of Christianity, which embrace compassion and mercy, are further abandoned by our civilisation.

E. M. PYE.

#### RUSSIAN RESOURCES.

The German invasion of Russia was probably caused by Hitler's desire to seize her vast resources. "Mein Kampf" designates the Ukraine as the colonisation area for the German race; and just as the extermination of the Ukrainians would present no obstacle to the Nazis, if they engaged in colonisation, so the starvation of millions of Russians would not give Germany pause, if she could take corn, oil and coal from conquered territory. It is true that Russia produces more iron (equally with the United States), manganese, flax, hemp, barley, oats, wheat, rye and sugar-beet than any other country; and comes high in the list in petroleum, coal, chrome, mercury and nickel, in phosphates, cotton, silk, wool and tobacco. But she has a vast area to supply, and 170 million people to provide for, who still live on a far lower level than Western Europeans. Also, since 1932, with attacks by Japan in Siberia, and the threat of war in the West, the narrow margin above bare subsistence has had to be turned to expenditure upon armaments.

As a result Russia has not a real superfluity of almost anything but timber. She has bought machinery for industrialisation, for the mechanisation of agriculture, for plant to produce arms, by selling abroad the materials the people needed to eat and wear; and although on a long view this was the only means to improve their standard of life, that standard has, in fact, risen very little in the years of the Soviet régime.

A typical case is oil. Russia used to be a great exporter of oil, of which in 1938 the production was some 30 million tons. But the enormous increase in petrol-driven farm machinery means internal consumption of oil; in 1939 there were 875,000 tractors, harvesters and lorries in use. This means two things. Russia's export surplus of oil is rapidly diminishing; and if Germany lays hands on the main supplies in the Caucasus, the agriculture of the whole country will be so crippled that great famines will be inevitable.

Russia has been trying to disperse her industry, in particular by creating industrial centres and opening mines, in regions beyond the range of the bombing-plane. There are new manufacturing towns in the Volga Basin and Ural Mountains, and coal-mines in Siberia. But the total production of these regions is but a small proportion of Russian industry. Leningrad, Moscow, and the Ukraine basin between the Dnieper and the Don account for 75% of Russian electric power, 60% of coal, 90% of oil and similar percentages of iron, steel, and heavy industry. The Ukraine alone produces 22% of the grain of the country.

Turning to the Far East, Russia has fortified Eastern Siberia on the Manchurian frontier, established a chain of air-bases running to within four miles of American islands off Alaska, and set up an independent Far Eastern army. In the last of innumerable armed clashes with the Japanese garrison of Manchuria the Russians were victorious; and it is probable that Japan would only fall upon Russia if she were well persuaded that the Soviet was defeated in the West. The Russian Far-Eastern army was supposed to be going to be self-sufficing, fed by local colonists. But in fact both food and coal for the new industries such as iron and steel works have to be brought thousands of miles from Western Siberia. On the other hand, even if Japan seized the Maritime Province between Manchuria and the sea with its port of Vladivostock, the United States could still supply her, by air, far more easily than they can assist Europe.

The concentration of the resources of the Soviet Union in the European provinces accounts both for the policy of appeasement pursued by Stalin since 1939, and for the desperate resistance offered to the German invasion when it came. For there is little doubt that it is those resources which Germany wants; and will take ruthlessly with no regard for the life or death of the Russian people. Yet the greatest resources of all, the vast area of Russia and her enormous population, cannot be seized and taken away. Even in the worst hypothesis of Russian defeat, so large a garrison would be needed to hold down that country that the Nazis might well on balance lose more strength than they gained.

(With acknowledgments to the Bulletin of International News).

FREDA WHITE.

## INDIA — AND THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"Does this apply to India" was the pertinent question raised there when the terms of the Charter were made public. Mr. Churchill's statement in the House on September 9th that this Declaration "does not qualify in any way the various statements of policy which have been made from time to time about the development of constitutional government in India, Burma and other parts of the British Empire"—has aroused strong feeling throughout the country. Mr. Gandhi, when asked to comment said that "silence was more eloquent." Mr. Sarkar, a member designate to the Viceroy's expanded Council, has made a public statement in Calcutta. In this he has protested against the Premier's "unhelpful" attitude, which he said would make the task of the new members extremely difficult.

Mr. Churchill also said in his speech that the declarations that have been made (in regard to India, etc.) "will be found to be entirely in harmony with the high conception of freedom and justice which inspired the Joint Declaration." Yet two days later, in answer to a question, Mr. Amery stated that on July 1st some 12,000 people were in prison including some 200 members of Provincial Legislatures. Can this situation be said to be "in harmony with the high conception of freedom and justice which inspired the Joint Declaration"? A. H.

## LUNCH MEETINGS.

A series of Lunch Meetings will be held at Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1. (opposite Euston Station) on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Two further meetings in the series on **Problems of Population and Peace** will be on

**Wednesday, October 8th.** Speaker: Miss Bertha Bracey — "Migration."

**Wednesday, October 15th.** Speaker: Mrs. Barbara Wootton, M.A.—"Races, Frontiers and Peoples."

### Admission, including lunch 2/-.

Those wishing to attend must notify Miss A. Harrison, 2 Cranbourne Court, Albert Bridge Road, S.W.11 two days before each meeting. Tel: No. Battersea 2400.

Arrangements are being made for another series of Lunch Meetings as follows:—

### A Charter for Colonial Peoples.

Wednesday, November 12th — Human needs of the Colonial Peoples.

Wednesday, November 19th — Economics of the Tropics.

Wednesday, November 26th — What Path to Democracy?

Wednesday, December 10th — Challenge to Colour Bar.

Speakers will be announced later. **Please keep the dates free.**

## PENNY-A-WEEK FUND.

**REMINDER!** The note about the Penny-a-Week Fund for the Restoration and Extension of W.I.L. International Work after the War, printed in the last News Sheet, brought in some new contributors.

Don't forget to open your money-box at the end of the month and forward the contents to the Office for the first half year!

Our aim is £650.

## NEWS FROM ABROAD.

An indirect message comes from our **Norwegian** friends who send their love and have us in their thoughts. "Even at present hard times the firm belief in the final victory of the good powers binds all friends together."

In **Denmark** the Section is carrying on and issuing its paper.

From a **San Francisco** Branch comes a cutting from a paper containing the Message to Women, which we issued last year and which is printed in our Annual Report.

Our **Swedish** friends are carrying on, studying as much as possible in readiness for the day when the opportunity to act will come. The Section is doing humanitarian work and besides Study Circles held a summer meeting with other Organisations. They send all good wishes to us in England.

Our **Chairman in Switzerland** has been spending a holiday in the country with her family and writes that our two old friends at Zurich "though far from well are always full of hopes for a change in the near future." They are, as she truly says, "wonderful."

Good wishes come to us all from our President, **Miss Emily Balch, U.S.A.**

A copy of the circular letter from our Chairman in U.S.A. giving other details of our Sections can be borrowed on application to the W.I.L. Office.

## HEADQUARTERS NEWS.

**Problems of Economic Security and Social Justice.**

Arising out of a discussion of the **Roosevelt-Churchill Declaration**, the Executive Committee decided to call a one-day Conference, inviting individuals and representatives from women's organisations to discuss "The Problems of Economic Security and Social Justice" (which arise out of points 4 and 5 of the Declaration).

The Conference is to be held on Saturday, October 18th at Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1. The morning session from 10.30 to 12.30 will deal with "**Economic Security and Social Justice: National**," the afternoon session from 2 to 4.30 p.m. with "**Economic Security and Social Justice: International**."

The following have expressed their interest and those starred have already indicated their readiness to take part:

Miss Caton, Lady Eleanor Cole, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Monica Curtis, Miss Mary Gamble, Miss Jean Henderson, Dr. Rita Hinden, Miss Christine Foyle, Mrs. Hubback, Miss Sybil Morrison, Miss Jean Thompson, Miss Dorothy Woodman.

Others who sympathise but cannot attend, include: Miss B. M. Baker, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, Miss Ruth Fry, Lady Trevelyan, Miss Underhill.

In addition to delegates those wishing to attend as visitors should make application for tickets to the Secretary, W.I.L., Portway, St. Mary Bourne, Nr. Andover, Hants. 2/- all day, 1/- each session.

As regards the Roosevelt-Churchill Charter, as a whole the W.I.L. Executive endorsed the Statement adopted by the National Peace Council, on which we are represented.

## BRANCH NEWS.

**Birmingham.** News came too late for insertion in the last issue of two well-attended meetings held in July. The first was addressed by Mrs. H. Pascal on "The U.S.S.R. and the War," and the second by Dr. Maude Royden on "Women's special claims after the war."

A very successful Garden Party and Sale in aid of Branch Funds was held in the summer, at Highfield, Selly Park Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Sargent Florence, at which Mrs. Massey gave a Recital from Shakespeare and Mr. Massey read Peace poems from various Poets. The Sale realised about £2 5s. 0d.

**Glasgow.** As we go to press we receive news of a Public Meeting to be held in Glasgow at which Miss Helib T. Low is to speak on "Central Europe," to be followed by Questions, Discussion and, of course, a Collection!

**Manchester.** The Secretary writes: "Meetings have been held throughout the summer with Mr. H. D. Liem speaking on "China's Struggle for Freedom and what it means;" Dr. Cowling on "Racial Problems," and Mrs. Winifred Garnett on "The World Unity Movement." Country walks, with tea and discussion at Members' houses, have been very much appreciated, and those taking part hope very much that they will become a regular feature of future summer months. Our September meeting was devoted to the question of India and addressed by Krishna Menon. As a result of this meeting a resolution referring to the application to India of the Atlantic Declaration and to the release of Political Prisoners has been sent to the Government."

**Worthing.** The Secretary writes that arrangements are being made for a meeting in mid-October. One of the members has written a Peace Play which will be presented later in the year.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

"**The Daughters of Sheba.**" Under this title the Ethiopian Women's Work Association, whose President is The Empress, has issued a very interesting little report of the activities of Ethiopian women since the Italian invasion of 1935. The Association is continuing in being to carry on the "constructive work" which "will have to be done in the new, liberated Ethiopia." The Report can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Association, 19, Neville Street, London, S.W.7.

**Peace Aims Pamphlets.** The National Peace Council announces two further publications in its series of Peace Aims Pamphlets. In "The Present Crisis and the Spirit of Man," Mr. Carl Heath, Chairman of the World Consultative Committee of the Society of Friends, analyses the character of the contemporary crisis and urges the paramount importance of personal values in the search for a lasting remedy. In "A New Order for Germany" Mr. G. O. G. Luetkens relates aggressive tendencies in German foreign policy to the nature of Germany's economic and industrial structure and argues that a solution of "the German problem" demands a profound social change within the country which the Germans must achieve for themselves. Both pamphlets cost 3d. (postage 1d. extra) and can be obtained from the National Peace Council at 39, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

**The I.L.O. at Work.** It is cheering to get an account, with illustrations, in a pamphlet from the office in Montreal, of how The International Labour Organisation is carrying on, on the other side of the Atlantic. To quote: "Day by day, reports on social happenings in countries where these correspondents are at work come through to the Montreal centre to be filled in with material from other countries studied and reported, and made available through the Office's publications. War has not weakened this network. Rather it is now all the more important for the Office to have eyes and ears in as many different countries as possible."