

**STATEMENT OF WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS CONCERNING WITHDRAWAL OF THE CIO**

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

With the decision of the majority of the CIO Executive Board to

withdraw from the World Federation of Trade Unions, CIO officials

openly abandoned the cause of anti-fascist world labor unity associated

with the leadership of the late Stanley Hillman and the former ally militant

and progressive policies of the CIO. The CIO is now at one with the

reactionary AFL leadership in their campaign against the united

world labor movement.

The WFTU now, as at the time of its origin, represents a mighty

anti-fascist and pro-peace force in the world, providing the best means

for workers to unite their efforts for ever improved social and economic

conditions.

The campaign of CIO and AFL officials against the WFTU has been based

upon gross misrepresentation. In alleging that the Soviet Union dominated

the WFTU, the CIO and AFL hide the fact that the Soviet Trade Union, in a

spirit of conciliation, accepted for itself 27 million members the same

number of representatives on the governing bodies of the WFTU as was allowed

the CIO and the Canadian Congress of Labor combined, with less than 7 million

members.

An example of the CIO officials' attempt to turn the WFTU into a

political instrument for the promotion of U. S. State Department policies

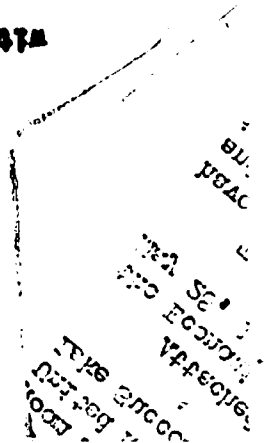
was the insistence by CIO officials that the WFTU support the Marshall Plan.

In spite of the fact that the majority of the Executive Board opposed the

Marshall Plan, they did not insist upon voting it down, but instead agreed,

for the preservation of unity, that it should be tabled and that each national

center should be free to take whatever position it wished. Thus, the CIO



Officials consistently ignored the fundamental rules of democratic trade

unions in the attempt to impose their views and objectives on the majority

of the WFTU - who nevertheless were always willing to compromise. Thus, the

CIO officials violated the dictates of the WFTU Constitution which guarantees

the autonomy of the trade union movement in every country. They sought to

turn WFTU away from the basic economic aims into a reactionary political

instrument, in violation of its Constitution, which provides that the WFTU

must organize the common struggle of trade unions of all countries for

progressive improvement of wages, hours, working and living conditions of

the workers.

The WFTU struggles, and will continue to struggle, for international

trade-union unity and for the defense of the interests of all workers.

In spite of the CIO officials' splitting tactics, the WFTU is already

accomplished much for the world's workers: In the United Nations it has

defended trade-union rights and the rights of women for equal pay for equal

work; it has intervened for democratization and generalization of Germany

and Japan; it has assisted the trade unions in colonial and under-developed

countries and it has organized the international solidarity of workers in

the struggles such as those of the American seamen in 1946 and the seamen

and longshoremen in 1948.

More than 70 million organized workers throughout the world are now

represented by the WFTU. The WFTU continues and will continue to grow.

The Second World Congress of the WFTU, which will open in Milan, Italy

at the end of June, will be a demonstration of the strength and unity of the

World Trade-Union Movement. Its program and its activity and the millions of

members will give a decisive answer to the would-be splitters of the World

Trade-Union Movement.

Before, during and after the Congress, conferences or preparatory

committees will be held to create the following Trade Departments:

metals, textiles, leather and hides, houses and furniture, season and

longshoremen, miners, transportation, communications and radio, agriculture

and forestry, petroleum, and food. These Trade Departments will be further

demonstration of the strength of the WFTU and will broaden its activities

for economic cooperation and social progress.

The officials of the CIO and AFL who seek the disruption of the world

labor movement injure the interest of the world's working people in a most

critical period in the struggle for economic well-being, democracy and peace.

Moreover, in this disruption, the CIO and AFL officials act against the

interest of American workers as they face the growing problems of mass

unemployment, the oppressive burdens of great war budgets and the growing

animosity of employers and the reactionary Congress against the American

labor movement. It is in times such as this that a militant world labor

movement is most urgently needed to act in the common interests of all

workers who seek jobs, freedom and peace.

The WFTU is committed as always to a policy of uniting labor movements

of the world in the struggle for broader economic and social gains for all

workers and for peace, and against exploitation, war and fascism.