The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom welcomes the designation by the United Nations of the 1970s as the Disarmament Decade and the Second Development Decade.

We believe that both development and disarmament are essential to world peace, and that the prospects of disarmament would be increased by improving the United Nations machinery for the peaceful settlement of international disputes so that countries could begin to see this as a reliable substitute for the resort to arms.

**Disarmament**

We urge a new approach to the problems of disarmament by taking specific urgent first steps:

- Complete nuclear disarmament, and
- Complete ban on research, production, stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons.

**Military Pacts**

We urge the dissolution of all military blocs and the abolition of all military bases. We propose the convening of an international conference to discuss the abolition of all such pacts and bases, and the establishment of systems of security based upon international guarantees under the authority of the United Nations.

**Arms Embargo**

We reaffirm our conviction that armaments sold or given to nations in areas where armed conflicts are threatening or in progress exacerbate the situation and make peaceful settlement more difficult. We urge an embargo on the supply of arms to all parties in such tension areas.

**China**

We affirm our policy of support for the seating of the People’s Republic of China in the United Nations Security Council, the General Assembly and all other organs of the United Nations. China should also be invited to participate in the disarmament talks at Geneva. Disarmament questions and other world problems cannot be resolved without the active participation of the People’s Republic of China.
Vietnam

We are appalled by the continued destructive actions of foreign troops in South East Asia, and by the suffering of the Vietnamese people. We stress the imperative need for the withdrawal of all foreign troops by 30 June 1971. We ask our Sections to pressure their governments to withdraw all support of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime and of US intervention in South East Asia.

Middle East

We accept the United Nations Resolution of 22 November 1967 and urge the governments concerned to expedite its implementations.

We stress the importance of the administration of the occupied territories being conducted according to the relevant international conventions with particular reference to the conventions on human rights. We welcome the resumption of negotiations among the parties concerned, through the good offices of Dr. Gunnar Jarring, special representative of the United Nations’ Secretary-General to the Middle East.

Europe

We welcome the recent bilateral treaties between the Federal German Republic on the one hand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People’s Republic of Poland on the other as significant political developments and as important first steps toward decreasing tensions in Europe. Since the solution of the German problem is essential to European security, we recommend as further steps:

- Recognition of the two sovereign German States and the special status of West Berlin

- Association of both German States with the United Nations and all its Specialized Agencies on an equal basis
- Convening of a conference on European security to determine the concrete conditions needed for realization of tension in Europe and to negotiate an agreement on disarmament.

Development

We must work to diminish the gap between the rich and the poor countries and between rich and poor in each country.

There is no substitute for self-help. Each country should be enabled to use all its resources, including manpower, for the benefit of all its people. This means effective employment, and the prevention of exploitation of the weak by the strong. Foreign
aid must be given with the understanding of the real needs of the recipients, and provisions must be made to ensure that it reaches those who need it.

Techniques used in industrialized countries may not be relevant. Loans should be interest free and long term, and no form of aid should be tied. The terms of trade should provide non-discriminatory preferential treatment for primary products. The products of the developing countries should have free access to markets.

**Overpopulation**

There is an immediate need to curb pollution and depletion of natural resources. There must be a drastic reduction in the rate of population increase, both in the more affluent nations where the per-capita rate of consumption and waste is highest, and in those developing nations in which the increase in population presents the greatest obstacle to rapid development.

**World Revolutionary Movements for Social Change**

A society that is military and exploitative generates movements for rapid change towards social justice. It is a human right to resist injustice and to be neither silent witness nor passive victim of repression. Although we affirm our belief that violence creates more problems than is solves, we recognize the inevitability of violent resistance by the oppressed when other alternatives have failed.

The WILPF has a duty to study and work towards developing methods for the effective use of non-violent means; to analyze the structure of power in society and the use made of it; to engage ourselves actively in non-violent movements for change.

**Public Violence**

We deplore the increasing use by police of violence and CS gas in crowd control and urge that greater emphasis be placed on training them in the use of non-violent techniques.

**Education**

Every culture has contributions to make to the world. We must develop sensitivity to common feelings, needs and aspirations, thus ruling out any discrimination on grounds of race, color, sex and religion.

The early years of childhood are crucial, since this is when prejudice and social values begin to be formed. We ask UNESCO to produce a children’s edition of the "Courier".

We recommend that Document 15/C/5 of UNESCO International Education Year 1970 should be used as the basis of continued action. Special emphasis should be
placed on Item (c) XII, “Promotion of ethical principles in education, especially through the moral and civic education of youth, with a view to promoting international understanding and peace”.

DISARMAMENT

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting at Congress at New Delhi, India, 28 December 1970 to 2 January 1971

Deploiring the ever-increasing expenditure on defence and the consequent diversion of vital resources so urgently needed to solve the growing problems of world poverty, disease, illiteracy, and the pollution of the environment.

Believing that, in view of U Thant’s statement “... The world now stands at a most critical cross-roads. It can pursue the arms race at a terrible price to the security of the world, or it can move ahead towards the ultimate aim of general and complete disarmament ...”, and that this ultimate aim must be emphasized again and again, and be given the greatest publicity

Calls on all governments to approach the problem of disarmament in a new spirit and work towards general and universal disarmament by taking two specific first steps:

- complete nuclear disarmament
- complete ban on research, production, stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons.

COLONIALISM AND MILITARY PACTS

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting at Congress at New Delhi, India, 28 December 1970 to 2 January 1971

Considering that

- Colonialism is an absolute violation of the Charter of the United Nations and in direct contradiction to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Portugal as a consequence of its NATO membership is offering the establishment of military bases for this alliance in its overseas dominions;
- The membership of countries in such military blocs is weakening and impending the fulfillment of the United Nations;

Deeply concerned about

- The risks of war, resulting from these facts:
- The disregard shown for United Nations resolutions;
- The human degradation taking place in so many places in the developing world;
The complicity in these facts, brought upon the citizens in all countries of NATO;

Urges in accordance with former Congress resolutions directed against forming military blocs, that WILPF Sections in the NATO countries press their governments to convene an international conference to discuss the dissolution of NATO and other military pacts and the establish systems of security based upon international guarantees under the authority of the United Nations.

CONFLICT IN VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting at Congress at New Delhi, India, 28 December 1970 to 2 January 1971

Believing that the Geneva Agreement of 1954 should be the basis for a peaceful settlement.

Appalled by the continued destructive actions of the USA in South East Asia particularly the escalation of the USA bombing in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam.

Anxious over the continued sufferings of the Vietnamese people.

Noting that numerous proposals advanced by various Vietnamese groups suggest that the announcement of a definite date by which all USA troops will be withdrawn will facilitate the cessation of hostilities, the release of prisoners of war and the setting up of an interim coalition government to supervise free and democratic elections for South Vietnam.

Urges the withdrawal of all foreign troops on or before June 30, 1971 and asks the President of the United States of America to announce that all troops will be withdrawn by or before that date.

Calls upon all WILPF Sections to pressure their governments to withdraw all support from the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime and from USA intervention in South East Asia.