Antarctic

Mindful of the pioneering work started by Emily Green Blach and Gertrud Baer in 1947 to protect the Antarctic continent from pollution and exploitation, and considering the pressure exerted by seven Antarctic claimant countries to pass this fall the Antarctic minerals bill which would allow mining with consequent environmental damage, we call on all sections to urge their governments to support the designation of the Antarctic as a WORLD PARK, under the auspices of the United Nations.

Arms Limitation, Conflict Resolution and Peace making for the Asia/Pacific

WILPF expresses concern about "new militarism" /conventional weapons build-ups in countries of the Asia/Pacific region especially conventional naval capabilities (Japan, Australia, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Thailand.) It decides to:

   a. conduct a campaign for the establishment of conventional arms limitations talks for the Asia/Pacific encouraging countries to embrace non-military security rather than power-projection and gunboat diplomacy.
   b. lobby for the setting up of culturally-sensitive conflict resolution and peace keeping institutions for the Pacific.
   c. lobby for nuclear arms control and confidence building measures to tackle the nuclear arms race in the North Pacific and the nuclear trip wire on the Korean peninsula

The Philippines - Justice for Domingo and Viernes

Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes were murdered in Seattle, Washington, June 1 1981. As leaders in the anti-Marcos movement and the US Trade union, they were engaged in building solidarity between US and Philippine workers. A civil suit is scheduled for trial in Seattle, October 16, 1989, against Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos alleging that they ordered Domingo's and Vieres murders.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at their 24th International Congress held July 15th-23rd, 1989, in Australia, supports the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes in its efforts to bring to justice all those who participated in the murder conspiracy that resulted in the deaths of Domingo and Viernes.

Biological Weapons
The Norwegian section supports the Swedish proposal on this theme with the following text added:

"In 1972 the UN Convention against biological warfare was signed by more than 100 countries. The convention covers only research on offensive weapons. It permits research on biological war means for defensive use. In reality, however, there is no clear boundary between defensive and offensive research.

WILPF fears a military build-up of genetic capacity and demands the UN to expand the Convention of 1972 to include biological weapons of all types."

**The Military Build-Up in the Northern Areas**

As we see positive and constructive steps towards disarmament in Central Europe, there is a high and increasing military activity in the Northern part of the Continent. Norway and the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean are important elements in the USA's new maritime strategy since Norway is NATO's eastern border with the USSR.

This is not only of regional importance for the Nordic countries. The Arctic Ocean constitutes a risk for potential confrontation between the superpowers, particularly as nuclear missiles are increasingly being deployed at sea rather than on land. In addition, this area is environmentally extremely vulnerable, making military activities particularly dangerous.

**Proposed actions:**

An international campaign aimed at NATO and the relevant governments from other WILPF sections and the peace movement in general is needed in order to bring about a change in this development. This campaign would be an important support for the Nordic peace organizations which try to influence their governments. However, its main importance lies in the fact that the situation in the North is a global risk factor.

The IEC and WILPF sections are asked to support these proposals:

a. Disarmament negotiations for the Northern sea areas should be started at once, and not be postponed until the CFE negotiations in Vienna have been completed,
b. The creation of a Nordic nuclear free zone,
c. Demand for reduced military activity and maneuvers in the Northern areas.

**On the Escalation of the Naval Arms Race**

The escalation of the arms race on the seas, especially in the North Atlantic, the Pacific and Indian Oceans, is extremely dangerous because of the large concentration of nuclear arms. One third of all nuclear weapons are intended for the naval force. This situation is destabilizing as the commanders of the ships in question have great autonomy to make their own, quick decisions.

The WILPF, while congratulating the US Government on the unilateral proposal to withdraw short range tactical naval nuclear weapons, urges its members to find ways and means of
approaching US Government to reconsider its decision, as the only United Nations Member State refusing to negotiate to halt the arms escalation in the seas.

WILPF decides to conduct an international campaign aimed at relevant governments demanding that naval nuclear armament become the subject of arms control talks. The ultimate is:
1. to ban all nuclear weapons at sea including sea-launched cruise missiles;
2. to ban new strategic naval weapons including the US and British Trident 11, the Soviet SS-23 and the French M5;
3. complete naval nuclear disarmament including the elimination of all strategic nuclear weapons at sea.

As an initial concrete step WILPF calls on its sections to pressure all non-nuclear coastal countries to take a stand against the nuclearization of the oceans by banning nuclear armed, nuclear and nuclear propelled ships from their territorial waters.

**Waste and Garbage Transported to Developing Countires and Territories**

WILPF reaffirms the statement of the International Executive Committee, Paris, 1988, opposing the disposal of nuclear and chemical waste in developing countries and areas.

WILPF deplores the present practice and plans for the future, of developed countries transporting their waste to territories and areas within their jurisdiction and to the developing world, such as plans to put California waste on the Marshall Islands.

WILPF asks the Japanese Government and all governments not to dump nuclear waste into the Pacific in the future.

WILPF condemns the incineration of US chemical weapons and biological weapons by the US at Johnston Atoll, a process which threatens the peoples of Hawaii, Marshall Islands and other Pacific nations.

WILPF will lobby for legislation requiring nations to recycle or treat waste they generate within their own countries. This situation is even more serious when toxic and radioactive waste in addition to garbage is disposed of in the developing countries and areas.

This Congress requests that our concerns be made known to the United Nations Environment Program and to the governments of our sections.

**Environmental Concern (Regarding Biotechnology)**

First-world countries and their multinationals have immense power and resources to spend upon research which has far-reaching effects. This can be seen already, particularly in relation to food production, energy and pharmaceutical. Genetic and bio-technology are a clear extension of this power. The detrimental effects of this kind of experimentation are not widely known, even among scientists, yet these scientists are prepared to release into the world genetically engineered organisms, for which it is impossible to measure the environmental
effects. Some scientists are furthering their research through experimentation upon women especially in third world countries.

The control over the social and economic basis in these fields is of strategic importance for humankind to survive. Measures to check in an effective way damage to human beings, destruction of the environment, and pillaging of the planet can only be taken on the basis of comprehensive political and economic principles and with a transformation of social consciousness. Women must play a decisive role in this as those concerned, and be critical observers as well as fighters for a radical vision.

This Congress Resolves:

1. To include the subject of genetic and biotechnology in the international action program and to ensure that as far as possible these problems are discussed and analyzed in the sections, and that in this process the related issues are also considered;

2. To cooperate with women and women's groups and organizations that have already dealt with the subject of genetic and biotechnology and to plan and carry out common activities with them;

3. To show the inter-relationship between the destruction of the environment, the exploitation of resources, and the exploitation and oppression of women, and to publish the results in suitable magazines;

4. Instead of appeals after individual catastrophes have occurred to develop WILPF 's own comprehensive policy which anticipates the bases of economic, social, psychological and environmental problems.

Iran

Extensive media coverage of the Gulf war has focused public attention on the situation in Iran. The odious human rights violations carried out by the Khomeini regime, as already reported by the UN Human Rights Commission, include widespread torture and execution, especially of political dissidents. According to UN published reports, 14,000 Iranians, one third of them women, have been executed, often without trial. Witnesses attest that the actual number of victims is much higher. Mothers have often been kept in prison with their children, which increases the pressure on the women to give in. Women prisoners have been raped or forced to marry prison staff before execution of virgins.

In addition to the general suppression of human rights (Press censorship, banning of free speech and rights of assembly, etc.), women suffer in many ways from the current situation. Loss of relatives as a result of the war may also mean loss of the family breadwinner. This affects women profoundly, because they have few opportunities to find even poorly paid work. Furthermore, women workers are not protected by industrial regulations. Moreover, the rights of women have been severely reduced as a result of the extension of Islamic Fundamentalism into every aspect of life. For example, every form of independent democratic women's organization is prohibited.
WILPF has a responsibility to support the securing of human rights and elimination of the death penalty. We therefore, urge the International Congress in Sydney to adopt the following resolutions:

1. To declare its concern about the situation in Iran, especially the massive recent wave of political executions, to the UN Human Rights Commission.

2. To urge the UN General Secretary, Perez de Quellar to renew his condemnation of human rights violation in Iran, at every possible opportunity and to insist on the implementation of UNO Resolution 598 by the Iranian government.

**Refugees**

This century is a century of the refugees; worldwide are 17-20 million people forced to live as refugees - 75% of them are women and children. People have to leave their homes because of civil war, terror, cruel oppression and torture. People were pursued for political, racial, religious and gender reasons. Hunger poverty and misery force people to escape. People leave European countries because they are hindered to use all their human rights. Centuries of colonial politics have brought political and economical structures, foreign cultures and new borders, ecological crises and catastrophe to the "Third World". We all are responsible for reasons and for the situation of refugees.

We therefore urge the International Congress in Sydney to adopt the following resolution:

1. To work for the improvement of the global situation of refugees - each section in their country and on all international levels.

2. To bring into public discussion the specific problem of female refugees and demand own women specific reasons for granting asylum.

**Rights of the Child**

It is resolved that all WILPF Sections should press their governments to ensure that the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child is definitely on the Agenda for the next UN General Assembly, that their governments sign the Convention, ratify and implement it.

The British Section would like to draw Congress' attention to 2 particular parts of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. Protection from economic exploitation and slavery: Children shall have time to rest and play (...) States shall protect the child from economic exploitation and work that may interfere with education or be harmful to health and well-being. We wish to support the efforts of the Indian government in attempts to release 4 million children from 'slave labour'.

2. Protection from war and military service: No child shall take any part in hostilities; children exposed to armed conflict shall receive special protection. WILPF wishes to protect children from conscription into the armed forces.
3. Children must be protected from radioactive contamination through all aspects of the nuclear power and armaments industry, including uranium mining and nuclear testing. Where this has already occurred WILPF will lobby for children to receive compensation from the governments responsible.

4. WILPF calls for the release of all children imprisoned for political reasons on South Africa.

LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND REGIMES THAT VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS

The peoples in Latin America are waging a long struggle against military governments, dictatorships and those "bad", "supposedly" elected democracies that support the weapons and arms race and a permanent violation of human rights. Also these governments are involved in trafficking in narcotics and condone with impunity military, paramilitary and death squad atrocities against the peoples.

1. WILPF calls for the immediate freedom of the political prisoners in Chile and in other Latin American countries. We oppose the intentions of militarizing Costa Rica. We urge compliance with Esquipulas II signed by Central American countries. We commend Nicaragua for respecting Esquipulas II and urge El Salvador and Guatemala to do the same.

2. WILPF stands in solidarity with all the movements of independence and freedom in Latin America, as well as with the social and political sectors that are trying to end the climate of permanent war.

3. WILPF will:
   a. encourage the people of Latin America, many of them being killed and tortured day by day in the defence of their rights and in the daily struggle for survival;
   b. work for the creation of WILPF sections in all the South American countries to strengthen links of unity and try to find ways of freedom and justice together;
   C. participate in the next tribunal to be held in Brazil in 1990. The meeting, called by Perez Esquivel (Nobel peace prize recipient), is organized against the impunity (complicity) of the governments in terrorizing their people.

For Peace in the Middle East
(WILPF Statement originally adopted at Sydney 1989, as amended by the International Executive Committee meeting at Lillehammer, Norway, July 1991)

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom reaffirms its belief that a lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through agreements among all parties involved in that conflict. We maintain support for and urge:

1. Recognition by all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to an independent state in the territories occupied by Israel in the June 1967 war;
2. Recognition by all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict of the territorial integrity and security of the State of Israel within borders based on those before the June 1967 war;

3. Negotiation of agreements to implement 1 and 2 above through an international conference on peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 38/58/C of December 1983 and with the equal participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people;

4. That the just solution of all other questions be included in the negotiations of the international conference on the Middle East mentioned under 3;

5. An end to arms transfers by all arms suppliers to all countries in the Middle East, in recognition of the fact that military power cannot lead to a just solution of the conflict in the area;

6. The establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction

**Statement on the Declaration by the Palestinian National Council**

The 24th Congress welcomes the Declaration by the Palestine National Council (PNC) of November 1988 in which it recognizes the relevant UN resolutions supported overwhelmingly by the international community, the right of Israel to exist, and denounces all forms of terrorism, including state terrorism. It calls for the convening of the International Peace Conference under UN auspices, overwhelmingly supported by the international community.

**On the Situation in the Arab Territories Occupied by Israel**

The 24th International Congress expresses its utmost shock and grave concern over the reports of the continuous violence against and harassment of the Palestinian populations, including women and children, in the territories occupied by Israel.

Since the beginning of the Intifada, hundreds of civilians, including women, children, and the elderly have been killed or tortured. Tens of thousands, including peace and human rights activists, have been wounded and imprisoned. Hundreds of peace and human rights activists, have been wounded and imprisoned. Hundreds of homes have been blown up and hundreds of families displaced. Many activists have been deported and numerous institutions closed, including charities, media and unions. The closure of universities and colleges had been maintained for the second academic year. Such policies are grave violations of human rights.

WILPF urges Israel to put an immediate end to these atrocities, terror and violations of human rights and international law against the civilian Palestinian population under it military occupation; to release all political prisoners; to close all in human detention camps such as Ansar III to allow all deportees to return home; to reopen all schools, colleges, universities, unions, charity and media organizations; and to put an end to its policies of collective punishment.
On the Israeli Peace Movement

The 24th Congress expressed its respect for and support of the Israeli peace movements for their opposition to the Israeli government's policy of oppression in the occupied territories and for their consistent struggle for a just solution of the Israel/Palestine conflict.

On Lebanon

WILPF supports the Lebanese Committee for peace and Freedom and calls upon all WILPF sections to put pressure on their governments to acknowledge and help the efforts of the Supreme Arab Committee, appointed by the Arab league, to bring forth reconciliation amongst the Lebanese and ensure the withdrawal of Israel which will lead to the withdrawal of other forces. The success of the Supreme Committee will lead to the reconstruction of Lebanon and paves the way to solve any other similar serious problems.

On Iran and Iraq

WILPF notes with great satisfaction the fortunate outcome of the UN mediation leading to an agreement to cease hostilities between Iran and Iraq in accordance with Security Council Resolution NO. 598. We urge the immediate release of prisoners from the two countries concerned.

World Energy

1. It is essential that strategies for energy supplies for the 21st century, which will profoundly affect future generations, should be formulated and co-ordinated at the global level.

2. A United Nations' Specialized Agency for Energy should be established, charged with:
   i. promoting massive research into:
      a) "renewable forms of energy"
      b) methods of saving energy and improved efficiency
      c) new forms of energy based on hydrogen, solar power and fusion;
   ii. organizing the transfer of energy technology from industrialized to developing countries;
   iii. establishing international safety standards and other criteria;
   iv. channeling funds from rich to poor countries to help finance agreed forms of energy for sustainable development

3. The Energy Agency should be responsible to an Environment and Development Security Council, to be set up in the United Nations (as recommended recently by the USSR, and by a Summit of 24 national leaders meeting at The Hague), representing all regions of the world, with powers to make and enforce international law, and to undertake or supervise the management of essential resources.

Background to the WILPF statement on energy

The industrial revolution, which has transformed the northern countries of the world in the past 200 years, and is now rapidly spreading to the countries of the south, is based on energy
derived from fossil fuels. The 2 billion people who derive their energy needs from wood are still living largely in the pre-industrial era.

But now, suddenly, the fossil fuel and the wood burning eras are simultaneously ending. Oil will run out; some estimates indicate that exploitable reserves will only last 30 to 50 years. Coal reserves are plentiful, but coal burning has suddenly been shown to be potentially catastrophic for the world's climate, since it is a major cause of the warming up "greenhouse effect". Meanwhile the cutting down of the world’s forests is depleting stocks of firewood; and the forests, when replanted must be kept intact because the trees absorb carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas, and give off oxygen; they prevent soil erosion and floods; and the vegetation of the tropical forests is the home of half the world's genetic species.

The world is therefore posed on the threshold of a new energy era. And this watershed in the availability of a resource basic to life is occurring just when the world's population is accelerating ever more rapidly,. It reached 5 billion in 1987. United Nations' projections indicate that it will double to 10 billion by the year 2050. The need for energy is escalating just when current resources are foreclosed.

In today's world, energy policy is a matter for national governments. There is no United Nations' Specialized Agency for Energy, as there are for food, health, labour, industry, etc. The functions of the 112 member state International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna are limited to the promotion of peaceful nuclear power and the monitoring of its military use in connection with the Nuclear Weapon Non-Proliferation Treaty. As the Chernobyl crisis revealed, it has not even negotiated internationally acceptable radiation standards.

The options at present in sight for the post fossil fuel wood era are:

a) economizing on energy consumption by improved efficiency; this is obviously a matter essentially for the industrialized countries
b) developing "renewables" - wind, wave, hydro, thermal solar, hydrogen sources of energy
c) further developing fission nuclear power, which at present provides about 15% of the world's electricity
d) there is at present the remote but exciting possibility of solving the world's energy problems by the development of fusion nuclear energy.

Research on Renewables

Although during the past 15 years or so considerable progress has been made in (a) and (b), much more research is needed. In the USA the Reagan Administration drastically cut federal funds for research in renewables.

Nuclear Power

A great question mark hangs over nuclear power. Should the world now turn massively to this "Faustian" source, which presents hazards of a kind which humanity has never before experienced, or should it decisively reject it as the blandishment of Mephistopheles, and concentrate on building a post-industrial way of life base on "soft" and solar energy? Opinion
is divided. A number of countries have deliberately renounced nuclear power, in some cases after plebiscites. They include: Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Ireland, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Luxembourg, the Philippines and China. Others are determined to go ahead with it. They include USSR, France, West Germany, Britain and Japan. In the most industrialized country of all, the USA, where the nuclear power industry is in private hands, no more nuclear power stations have been ordered since 1974, and many orders have been canceled; the industry may be in terminal decline.

The verdict of the Brundtland Report is unequivocal: "A low energy future", grounded on conservation of the development of "new and renewable resources" is the only "realistic option open to the world for the 21st century". The conference of high level scientists and policy makers which met in Toronto in may 1988 to discuss the climatic threat did, however, call for the nuclear power option to be "revisited".

The Deadly Connection

The nations continuing the development of nuclear power include four of the five deploying nuclear weapons. The nuclear chain of mining uranium through to the reprocessing of plutonium and waste disposal, the strategic and political decision-making of nuclear weapons are inextricably bound up with civil nuclear power production. WILPF campaigns for a renewal of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Bearing in mind the connections between nuclear weapons and nuclear power production, WILPF looks to alternative sources of energy and not to civil nuclear power production.

Need for World Energy Strategy

No topic calls more urgently and insistently for global action, through appropriate organizations, adequately funded and resourced, based on the right of all human beings to have access to adequate energy supplies to enable them to live in dignity and creativity.

RESOLUTION ON INDEPENDENCE IN THE PACIFIC

WILPF supports the struggle for independence in Tahitian Polynesia and West Papua by addressing a demand to the South Pacific Forum in order that they present these nations as candidates to the Decolonization Committee of the United Nations.

Further WILPF actively supports the struggle of Kanaky (New Caledonia) and East Timor already before the Decolonization Committee.

Further WILPF actively supports the struggles of the people of Micronesia, particularly the Republic of Belau, to extend the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement which oblige the US government to grant true self-determination. WILPF demands through the UN that the US honor all its obligations under the Trusteeship agreement.

Further WILPF supports actively the self-determination struggles of the indigenous peoples of Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Guam, the US, and Japan. WILPF also urges all sections to press their governments to actively promote this issue.
Resolution on Tahitian Efforts to Stop Nuclear Testing

WILPF supports the endeavors of wide circles of the Tahitian population to stop the nuclear testing on their region, and commends the newly established Committee on Peace and Development, Te Ra’i Hau committee, in preparing and working for a popular consultation of their people on this subject.

The Congress requests the Secretary General to follow closely through available channels the development concerning the popular consultation and to take even emergency measures as necessary in order to initiate moral and financial support from sections.

Peace Tax Fund

Modern war and structure of an up-to-date defence demand increasing resources. Indirectly we are made accomplices to the maintaining of the poverty situation in which many of our fellow men live. Resources are used for armament instead of more extensive efforts for the improvement of living conditions both in this country and in other parts of the world. We experience a conflict of conscience by obeying the laws on this point and at the same time supporting a policy which opposes what we most profoundly consider ethically right.

We therefore ask for a change of legislation, making it possible for the individual citizen to pay the percentage of the taxes which go to military purposes to a fund for peace building activities of a non-violent character. The means from this fund might, for instance, be used for:

a) confidence building contacts across the borders and across cultural, ethical and religious dividing lines,
b) information work and education, changing attitudes in order to further the respect for other people and for human rights
c) training in non-violent conflict solution,
d) work for the replacement of the military defence by a non-violent defence,
e) work for a just distribution of the resources of the world

There is at present a higher degree of openness between the Great Powers in the East and the West. The Brundtland report points out the importance of a better relationship between the North and the South. We wish that all countries in the world could contribute to detente.

The 24th Congress of WILPF, call upon all WILPF sections to press their governments for a change of legislation, making it possible for the individual citizen to pay the percentage of the taxes which go to military purposes to a fund for peace building activities of a non-violent character and be credited toward their taxes in their own country.

Corporal Punishment of Children

In many countries of the earth the use of corporal punishment in child-raising and education is still widespread. So far there are few existing studies concerning the actual extent of this practice. In spite of this there is a growing conviction among many people that this use is connected with the acceptance of other forms of violence.
Sections are to work for making national laws against corporal punishment as a method used in child-raising and education.

**War as a Game**

In what may be called an education for war, children and young people are influenced by means of toys, computer games and TV and video films. Here, war is glorified and conflicts are solved by violence at a national as well as at an individual level. The computer games and the films create an enemy concept. One may assume that this influence will be particularly strong from certain computer games that will take up to sixty hours to play. Moreover, these games require an active participation from the players, which will promote violence even more.

It is proposed:

a) that WILPF inform its national sections of this influence of toys, certain books and comic books, computer games and TV-and video films on children and young people;

b) that WILPF in the declaration of its program include that active work against war indoctrination through toys, computer games, TV and video films is an important part of WILPF'S education for peace.

**The Future of Ireland**

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom regards Northern Ireland as one of Britain's last remaining possessions over which it must ultimately relinquish sovereignty. The right of a people to self-determination is recognized by the United Nations in its Charter (article 1, Para. 2) and in subsequent General Assembly resolutions and declarations.

Prior to 1920 and during many centuries of British rule, Ireland was administered as an integral political unit. The establishment of a separate political unit in the North was contrary to the wishes of the great majority of Irish people as expressed in the last all-Ireland election of 1918. The border was an arbitrary creation which suited British convenience at the time, which allowed the imposition of one-party rule in the North, and which resulted in the denial to members of the minority community in Northern Ireland of their basic human rights.

The British Government has signally failed to protect from discrimination at all levels the minority community in Northern Ireland under its jurisdiction. It has significantly failed over the past twenty years to protect the whole population of Northern Ireland from violence and bloodshed. WILPF believes that the only way in which the people of Northern Ireland can achieve a stable, just and peaceful resolution to their urgent problems is for the British government to announce its intention within the lifetime of one government (7 years) to withdraw from Northern Ireland and to create the conditions under which the people of Northern Ireland can decide how they wish to be governed in future. An all-Ireland constitutional conference would be called which would include consideration of the present Constitution in the South. The civil liberties of the whole population would be protected under stringent guarantees. Arms held by extremist groups would be confiscated insofar as possible.
WILPF believes that, under these circumstances, with a program of gradually diminishing subsidies from the British government, the economic base of the island could be preserved and strengthened under whatever new constitutional arrangements emerged.

WILPF wishes in 1989 to re-affirm its support as promised in the 1926 International WILPF Congress in Dublin for the right of the Irish people to self-determination.

**The Future of Ireland Group London, May 1989**

"The Future of Ireland Group" was formed by the British Section of WILPF in 1987 to study and monitor events in Ireland in depth to keep WILPF members informed. It includes others as well as WILPF members. They meet from time to time to hear speakers on Ireland; in March 1988 they visited Dublin and Belfast meeting as many different groups and individuals as possible; in July 1988 they arranged a presentation on Ireland at the WILPF meeting in Paris; a conference about the Irish Sea took place in Wales, September 1988; and now the Group have drafted this statement for discussion.

**Demilitarise Namibia**

WILPF has followed with sympathy the long Namibian struggle for peace and freedom from colonial domination and scourge of apartheid. The struggle for liberation has left many wounds. Demilitarization of the country could be a major contribution towards their healing that the world community could make, considering the particular status of the country in the UN.

A demilitarization of the country will no doubt have a decisive impact on the building of a democratic, free and independent Namibia. The UN should guarantee this through the establishment of a UN force on the border between South Africa and Namibia and between Namibia and Angola.

The struggle for liberation has left many wounds. Demilitarization of the country could be a major contribution towards their healing which the world community could make, considering the particular status of the country under UN auspices.

**Environment**

The list of so-called ecological catastrophes includes acid rain, nuclear contamination, a leak in the ozone depletion, the increasing cancer rate and the growing number of environmental refugees (at present some 25 million).

For some time we have been in the situation in which the catastrophic results of traditional technologies has had to be glossed over by ever new technologies. As long as the basic principle of the prevailing natural science and technology, i.e. exploitation of and domination over nature, is not cracked open and destroyed, this spiral will go on turning while the principle of exploitation of nature, as that of women, will follow the same patriarchal patterns.
It follows that all achievement of "technical progress" rests on the exploitation of and domination over nature. The industrial use of biological and genetic technologies consolidates the existing relationship of dependence and exploitation.

The very few states and concerns capable of dealing with the immensely high cost of research and possessing the know-how, secure for themselves the control over their prerequisites for life and production; food, natural resources and energy. Controlling these resources also means controlling the people who do not possess them.

Genetic and bio-technology is a logical extension of present day power politics. The results of their use will produce an intensified reproduction of existing power relations in society. Here are only a few examples: the so-called "Green Revolution", the pharmaceutical industry, food exports from hunger countries, annihilation of self-supporting economies, multinational chemical concerns, wheat as a weapon, and monopolistic developments.

If the human race itself is to survive, political steps need to be taken, the environment cannot be considered as reproductable at will, and the areas of research and utilization of biological and genetic technologies cannot be treated as open playgrounds. The control over the social and economic bases in these fields is of strategic importance to international capital. Measures to check in an effective way the destruction of the environment and pillaging of this planet, and to stop it in the long run, are possible if they are tackled on the basis of comprehensive political and economic principles and transformation of social consciousness. Women must play a decisive role in this - as those concerned, and is critical observers as well as fighters for a radical utopia.

Congress is asked to resolve:
(1) To include the subject in the international action program and to ensure that as far as possible these problems are discussed and analyzed in the sections, and that in this process the related issues are also considered;
(2) To cooperate with women and women's groups and organizations that have already dealt with the subject, and to plan and carry out common activities with them;
(3) To show the interrelationship between the destruction of the environment, the exploitation of resources, and the exploitation and oppression of women, and to publish the results in suitable magazines;
(4) Instead of appeals after individual catastrophes have occurred to develop WILPF's own distinct political option.
(5) To introduce a statement in the next session of the UN-Commission for the Environment (Brundtland commission) with the intention to make the Commission take up the problem of Biotechnology and Women, and the use of women in the dangerous processes of genetic technology. The next session on climate problems will take place in the autumn in Hamburg.

III To ask WILPF's International Office to find suitable ways to include into the UN bodies concerned on the subject, and put forward our demand to take into account the women's viewpoint and interests in their analyses and programs.
Genetic Engineering, Reproduction Technologies, Human Genetics and Population Policies

"Human dignity is inviolable". Most developments in natural science however tend towards a dismemberment of men and nature into always smaller components. In all industrial nations we find large projects which are feverish at work analyzing the genes of men to make it available in industry and population planning and in social control.

While human genetics today is mainly concerned with the selection and eradication of life allegedly unworthy to exist, genetic engineering is intended to produce the instruments to render possible a correcting interference in the human gene. In addition, the disposability of the human hereditary material is being ensured by reproduction medicine which in the last resort reduces women and men to donors of ovum and sperm. By transferring insemination into a receptacle, the parents lose any chance of control.

Human genetics works in its various sectors to register the human genes, to define the individual gene as "good" or "bad", to apply such definition in order to select people, e.g. by the screening of work applicants, and eugenics in pre-natal diagnosis (see National Socialist Program).

It is not by accident that up to now it has been mostly women who have offered resistance to the new technologies in their various forms. Even though they have not been explicitly named by the planners, women are in most fields exclusively concerned.

Women are the objects in the whole field of pre-natal diagnosis, they have to submit to the results of human genetic examination and in-vitro fertilization. Women supply the uteruses for surrogate motherhood and the ovaries for the production of embryos for embryonic research.

Women are the objects of the programs for population planning which have at first sight humane goals, but which aim at the comprehensive organization of human societies according to the criteria of efficiency and utilisability.

Self-determination, human dignity and the elemental right of life is taken from women. But this also means that scientists, medical men, social planners, economic strategists and political leaders are dependent on the readiness of women to participate or at least to keep quiet.

This development has just such an explosive effect as has the development of new weapon technologies. Men and nature are endangered in their basic existence in a way never known before.

Congress is asked to resolve:

a) that WILPF declare its opposition in principle to the development, application and justification of genetics and reproduction technologies and advocates their prohibition and abolition;

b) that WILPF also rejects all national and international programs of population planning and human genetics when they are based on these technologies;
c) WILPF SHOULD DEVELOP CONCRETE WAYS OF ACTION against the new technologies and cooperate in this with women groups and organizations which have already critically engaged in the issues of genetic and reproduction technologies and have offered resistance to them in public (e.g. Feminist International Network of Resistance against Reproduction and Genetic Technologies FINRRAGE, Groningen, The Netherlands, founded 1984)

d) WILPF turns against criminalizing women and women's groups that advocate unequivocal challenging points of view to genetic and reproduction technologies.

e) Congress is asked to resolve: that the officers and the International Office in Geneva present this subject to the commissions and bodies on international and intercontinental levels and ask the sections to do the same on national levels, in order to press for the abolition and proscription of genetic engineering and reproduction technologies and their effects - or at least for a comprehensive control with the participation of critical women.

Resolution to the UN Regarding the Status of Women

WILPF sections are asked to write to their governments requesting that action be taken within the appropriate United Nations Committee to:

a) require the implementation of monitoring systems of the united Nations activities for their impact on women. This audit should include not only the programs specifically directed to and for women, but also the impact on women, but also the impact on women of all ongoing activities of the United Nations and its agencies;

b) to develop appropriate performance indicators so that public reporting of the United Nations and its agencies shall be mandatory on an annual basis.

We further urge WILPF sections to initiate cooperation with other women's groups within their own countries to increase the awareness of their governments for the need to support and act on this issue.