

# Workers Solidarity Alliance

## U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

### REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY TO THE 9th Convention of the WSA

Dear comrades:

Greetings and good wishes for a productive convention. Below please find the WSA International Secretary Report. The current International Secretary (IS) took office 1/1/92 and this report is reflective from that month forward.

It has been an extremely busy period and there never seems like there are enough hours in the day—and money in the pocket—to carry out the IS tasks. These tasks are also being carried at the same time as I carry out the tasks of E.European Working Group coordinator, local WSA activist and union militant as well. Yet the work is rewarding and I hope that it has helped advance the interests of the WSA internationally. And I can't help but to stress that our international activities are very important in this day and age and the strategic importance our Section can play in the world today.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

The IS has maintained correspondence with the IWA Secretariat and has sent the Secretariat regular mailings on labor struggles, both in the USA And around the world.

Correspondence and exchange of publications has been maintained on a, more or less, regular basis with the following IWA Sections: 1. DAM (UK) 2. ASF (Australia) 3. NSF (Norway) 4. CNT (Spain) 5. CNT (France) 6. USI (Italy) 7. COB (Brazil) 8. FORA (Argentina) 9. FAU (Germany)

Irregular correspondence/exchange of publications exists with the other IWA Sections. None whatsoever exists with the Japanese Workers Solidarity Mvt.

In regards to correspondence/exchange of publications with Eastern Europe there has been a crossover of work between the IS and EEWG. Solidarity messages to E.E. are now sent out in the name of the WSA. For a full report, see the EEWG to this Convention.

Concerning Asia, there's little contact with any unions or libertarian groups, although attempts have been made to open up lines of communication with the independent Kokuroo union in Japan and the independent Congress of Korean Trade Unions. Same with the Korean Federation of Anarchists. Too date their has been no such luck in our efforts.





On the African continent we infrequently receive communication from two libertarian socialist groups in Nigeria. At the present there's no tangible South African contacts within the workers' movement. We've also tried to make contact with the Ghana Trade Union Congress.

In regards to Latin America, we are in contact with two anarchist groups in Chile and one in Peru. We are attempting to establish contact with a third group in Chile and Gustavo will be in direct contact with all three groups while he's over there. Mention should also be made of the contact, established at the IWA Congress, with a member of the Bolivian "Union Workers Group" (GTS). The GTS is a rank-and-file movement inside the Bolivian Workers Central (COB) which is striving to regain its militant and democratic past. Regular and tangible contact is also attempting to be established with the Metal and Miners Union of Peru. WSA has sent letters of solidarity with the FNTIMP and in protest against State repression against the union as requested by our Peruvian comrades. It should be further mentioned that we are trying to develop tangible ties with the Independent Syndicalists of Paraguay, COSI.

Further on Latin America, there's periodic contact and exchange of publications with the GEAL group in Uruguay (pro-IWA), the Federation of Argentinian Libertarians (FLA), Union of Bankworkers of Guatemala (STGB), Federation of Uruguayan Anarchists (FAU) and libertarians in Venezuela.

On behalf of the WSA, the IS, has to date, written several letters of solidarity on behalf of two libertarian prisoners in Spain; worker militants in Iran; two young anarchist prisoners in Russia; support for a group of workers who are under repression in Bielrus and support for Japanese railworkers facing continued repression by both the State, the employer and against privatization.

Greetings have been sent to the IWA Congress (on behalf of the National Committee) and to both the DAM and FAU upcoming congresses.

The IS has further maintained contact with individuals in Canada and anarchist, libertarian socialist and syndicalist organizations in Ireland, France, Italy, Greece, Switerland, Spain, New Zealand, Britain, as well as a number of domestic contacts.

### INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

#### 2nd Inter-American Meeting, Sao ,Brasil

Mention at this time should be made of the proposed IWA Inter-American conference which was scheduled for March 1992. This was cancelled because most of the invited organizations, ourselves included, could not afford to send delegates to Sao Paulo, Brazil. At the IWA Congress this Inter-American conference was re-scheduled for the end of October 1992. Details to follow. The WSA has been urged to send a delegate and arrangements can be made for a partial subsidy for airfare. This needs to be considered at the WSA Convention.



IWA Health Workers Conference, Milan, Italy

Due to financial reasons the WSA could not attend this conference. We did, however, send greetings. A report appears on this conference.

IWA XIX Congress, Cologne, Germany

Both Ginger and I attend this Congress. Ginger and I also prepared our report to the Congress as well. While separate reports will appear elsewhere, let me say that I thought the making of new contacts and solidifying old ones were probably the highlight of the Congress.

I did speak at a public meeting organized on the second night of the congress. There were probably 50-60 people in the audience. I spoke on the situation of American workers. Other participants included comrades from Russia, Ukraine, Brasil, Argentina, Bolivia, Spain and the IWA Secretariat.

After the congress Ginger and I travelled to Frankfurt at the request of the local FAU group. Besides the many local FAU comrades we met and made friends with, we spoke at an informal public meeting attended by about 12 people.

At the request of the IWA Secretariat, Tom and I prepared a report on the IWW for the Congress. Copies of that report will be available at our convention and upon request by any WSA member so requesting it.

Lastly on the congress, one night the DAM, FAU & WSA met informally to discuss our perspectives on building economic workers' organizations such as industrial networks, specific industrial branches and/or unions. This meeting, while far too short in length, was productive since it brought the smaller sections, with similar conditions, together to discuss how to go about organizing economically. One can only assume that such a discussion, if it can be sustained, may allow the smaller Sections, including the NSF, closer together,

ENGLISH LANGUAGE IWA DISCUSSION BULLETIN

At the congress the WSA and DAM discussed the possibility of disbanding this publication. As most of you know, the ELDB was supposed to act as a bulletin where the three english language Sections (ASF, DAM, WSA) could discuss various matters on a quarterly basis. To date this project hasn't really taken off. Despite the failure of the original idea, some members of the FAU expressed interest in expanding the base of participants. The NSF may also be interested and if so maybe we can get the project again off the group. All concerned participants will be polled on this idea shortly.

IWA DUES

A proposal raised at the IWA Congress is to raise the dues per member by \$1 per year. This item must be discussed at our convention, as well as put to a membership vote. The IWA is in dire need of funding its work and we must consider the fact that the per capita dues has not been raised in decades.

There is much to do in the future and WSA can, as said before, play a very important role in what has become a highly inter-connected and internationalized world.

Yours for a world without bosses,

  
Mitch M., WSA International Secretary  
May 1, 1992. New York. New York



# I.W.A.-Conference of Health Workers/ Milan January 1992

On January 25/26, 1992 the first I.W.A. Conference of the Health Workers took place in Milan, organized by USI Milan and I.W.A.-secretariat. Delegates from CNT Spain, CNT France, NSF Norway, the former WWU Germany (health workers organization which made a great factor in the basis movement in the health sector in Germany some years ago), Switzerland and, of course, USI Italy took place in the conference. As special guests, we had two delegates from Mongolia, who participated in the meeting. The delegations from Russia and the Ukraine unfortunately have not been able to attend the conference, although highly interested, partly due to visa problems, partly due to an unforeseen strike in the health sector in Russia, starting exactly at the beginning of the conference.

During two days, the delegates informed on the situation in the health sector in their country and their special problems. The main aim of the meeting was a comparison of the international development and an detailed exchange of experience of how to fight as a union for better working conditions as well as a more human health system in general. After the discussion, the international delegates were invited by the local union branch of USI to visit a hospital and a factory for medical instruments in Milan. Per invitation of the CNT, one of the Mongolian doctors went to Spain for meetings with health workers in Valencia and Barcelona and the National Committee of the CNT.

The exchange with the two delegates from Mongolia was of special interest, as they had finished only a few weeks before their first strike in Ulan Bator as a newly formed independent union. This had been a "wild" strike of one week, carried out by the workers themselves, with the participation of about 1.000 workers. The guests from Mongolia were impressed to learn that there exists an international movement following the same ideas of what they had done spontaneously.

The conference decided to maintain a permanent contact and exchange and to organize the next international meeting in about one year. Coordination and preparation:

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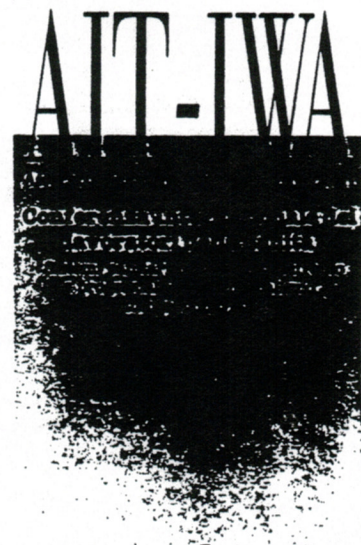
For more detailed information about the conference, preparation material and minutes, please contact the new coordination.

IWA-Secr.

Milano  
 Sabato 25 gennaio  
 Domenica 26 gennaio  
 1992  
 dalle ore 9  
 alle ore 19  
 presso la  
 Sala Consiliare  
 Comune di Milano  
 Viale Tibaldi, 41  
 Milano

Iniziativa culturale  
 e teatrale presso  
 la sala USI  
 Viale Bligny, 22  
 Milano

organizzato da:  
 USI



partecipano:  
 USI Italia  
 NSF Norvegia  
 CNT Francia  
 WSA U.S.A.  
 NSF Russia  
 NSF Giappone  
 FORA Argentina  
 COS Brasile  
 CNT Bulgaria  
 CNT Spagna  
 DAM Gran Bretagna  
 COS Bolivia  
 KSPS Ucraina  
 KMT Mongolia  
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