



INTERNATIONAL GROUP: Delegates from (L. to R.) Spain, Iceland, U.S.A., Denmark, Nigeria and Italy at the World Youth Conference held in London in October and November of last year. BELOW LEFT: Herbert Williams (Australia), who has been visiting New Zealand, speaking at the London Conference.



PEACE VIA YOUTH FRIENDSHIP?

World Organisation Secretary Visits New Zealand

Mrs. K. Hookham (Britain) and Svend Beyer-Pedersen (Denmark).

We interviewed Mr. Williams in Wellington, and heard from him what the Federation wanted to do, and what he was doing in New Zealand. The Dominion had been represented at the London conference, he told us, by Eric Switalla, of Christchurch, then a Sub-Lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm.

"I'm just here for 12 days," he said, "trying to contact young people's organisations, and hoping to learn something about your rehabilitation scheme so that I can tell our youth organisations in Australia—and eventually those in other countries—what you are doing here. Rehabilitation of young people who were involved in the war is one of our chief interests, and we want to organise help for young displaced persons, war orphans, and so on.

Work for Peace

"Our major function is to work in the interests of world peace through youth friendship and understanding. Questions I've been getting the best reactions on in New Zealand so far are things like proposals for the 'adoption' by youth organisations here of similar groups or even towns in the devastated countries—to help them with books, sporting equipment, etc.; for the formation of correspondence clubs; and for developing the use of films, magazines, and discussion groups to spread knowledge of the youth of other countries."

At the London conference, Mr. Williams told us, there was an effective delegation of Russians, who were "very representative of the different types of Russian youth groups—sporting, student, cultural, trade union—and there was an observer from the Berlin Youth Committee, a man who had been a youth leader before Hitler came to power, and who had been in Dachau and Auschwitz afterwards. Italian youth organisations were also affiliated, a body representing 920,000 members in Indo-China, the Union of Czech and Slovak Youth (a million members), and so on. Four official languages were used—English, French, Spanish and Russian."

Festival in France Next Year

After going back to Australia, Mr. Williams will go to America, and then to France for the World Youth Festival scheduled for next July.

"I want to see many New Zealanders there," he said. "We'll have many thousands of young people, I hope, and pavilions for the display of all the activities of youth—the arts, drama, music, sport, handicraft. It will last six weeks, and it will follow immediately after the Boy Scout Jamboree and International University Games, so that there will be a whole summer of youth gatherings in France. We're already discussing joint participation and ways of linking up the three."

ONE of the three secretaries of the 10-month-old World Federation of Democratic Youth, which claims to represent 30,000,000 affiliated youth of 64 nations, is Herbert C. Williams, an Australian aged 26, who has just made a quick tour of New Zealand to excite interest here in the Federation and its aims. He was a transport driver and youth organiser in Australia during the war and was sent to London last year to represent Australian youth at the first conference of the Federation, which was called by the World Youth Council, established by 28 nations in London in 1942. Three secretaries were appointed by the conference last November, and Mr. Williams is one. The other two are

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