

REPORT ON THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE I.U.S. HELD IN BAGHDAD
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INTRODUCTION

In line with its policy ever since 1948, when NFCUS first entered the arena of post-World War II international student affairs, NFCUS sent an Observer to the Sixth Congress of the I.U.S. in Baghdad. It was my privilege to be chosen in that capacity and I want to thank NFCUS and its Executive for their confidence in selecting me.

It was my original understanding that, as had been the custom in previous years, NFCUS would pay part of my transportation costs, the portion London-Prague return, and that the I.U.S. would pay the remainder. Upon arrival at Baghdad, however, I was informed by the I.U.S. technical staff and by Mr. Pelikan, that NFCUS would pay the whole amount. In the ensuing confusion it was finally settled that the I.U.S. would advance the money required to return me to my wife and studies, and that at a later time the question of who would stand the cost would be settled between the I.U.S. and N.F.C.U.S. To whoever finally paid my transportation costs, my sincere thanks.

At this point I should like to thank the General Union of Students of the Iraq Republic for the excellent facilities they provided, and also to thank the very capable and genial manager of the hostel in which we were housed and fed, for his hospitality, which was of the traditional Middle Eastern variety, for his thoughtfulness and his warmth.

We were housed and fed in a very comfortable and attractive new student or youth hostel which had been opened only some weeks before. The Congress sessions and the grand and lavish opening reception were held at Ammanah Hall and its gardens. Before the Revolution of 14 July 1958 this sumptuous building was used by the King for embassy parties and receptions and was thus ideally suited for seating very comfortably some 300-400 participants, and for giving them adequate room for resting, lounging, conversing, and presumably for contemplation.

BACKGROUND

Basing my justification on the fact that there is no point in repeating what is available in existing publications, I will not recount the history of the international student movement since 1945. I would strongly suggest, however, that without at least reading the brief background material available in the report on the IVth I.U.S. Congress at Prague, it is difficult to understand a report on an I.U.S. Congress today. Furthermore, the whole of that report should be read because it marked, in my opinion, the high point of I.U.S. compromise with our own viewpoints, a compromise which has since disappeared.

The very excellent and penetrating report prepared by Dave Peel, who was the NFCUS Observer at the Vth I.U.S. Congress at Peking, must also be read because it shows very clearly the growing departure from the spirit of Prague" if so it can be called. Since Dave and I were both at Prague, both our reports tend to refer back to that Congress as the baseline for comparing affairs in the I.U.S. as they are today.

Referring then to the reports of the IVth and Vth Congresses let me quote a paragraph from each which perhaps best and most briefly summarizes the state of each of those congresses.