

4. GENERAL TRENDS IN THE STUDENT WORLD TODAY

In order to limit the range of this heading we shall discuss only what appear to be the three essential forces in today's student world: the development of the ISC, the communist influence and world student unity.

Development of the ISC

This has already been dealt with at length. The expansion of the principles of cooperation to take into consideration the role of students in emerging nations is definitely a milestone of the international student movement. This has meant an acceptance of the fact that Europe and North America are no longer the majority influence in world affairs but that the "new countries" have emerged as the real majority and that their needs and aspirations must be considered on a par with ours. By maintaining basic restrictions on the scope of its action, the ISC has ensured that it will not become a political platform but will remain primarily concerned with student interests.

In view of the unfortunate but very real split in the student world it is essential that the ISC achieve the maximum effectiveness. Not because it forms one bloc as opposed to another - 70 countries can hardly be called a bloc - but because it definitely represents the free and independent as opposed to those bound to a creed of sectarian principles and policies.

There is strong pressure from within to transform the ISC more and more into a political platform. However, we believe that the optimum compromise can be achieved and that universal principles of cooperation can be upheld.

The Communist Influence

There is no doubt that international communism seeks to enroll university youth in the furtherance of its aims. Whereas the proletariat can provide the physical arm of the Communist Revolution, students can be the intellectual arm - and this is indeed an important fact to bear in mind.