

6th Congress of the International Union of Students
Baghdad - Iraq 8th - 17th October, 1960.

I n t e r v e n t i o n

NFCUS, Canada

Mr. Walter Tarnopolsky.

Mr. Chairman, fellow students and student leaders! As the Observer of the National Federation of Canadian University Students I convey to you fraternal greetings. Before coming to the body of my "intervention" permit me first to thank the G.U.S.I.R. for their excellent accommodation and conference facilities and their hospitality; and on behalf of Canadian students, permit me to convey congratulations to all students Iraq who took part in bringing about the downfall of the dictatorship of Nuri Said.

Since I am here as an Observer, I will try to be brief and to limit my comments to two topics arising out of the Report of the E.C., for I think that we are still discussing the E.C. report.

First, let me refer to the twin evils of imperialism and totalitarianism which face many students in the world and which, because they are inconsistent with freedom of education, with student liberties and with university autonomy must concern all students everywhere. I use the two terms imperialism and totalitarianism together because they both involve the use of overwhelming force to suppress liberty and to destroy human dignity and free thought. The only difference between these twin evils is that imperialism involves control from abroad, while totalitarianism may exist within the country with or without foreign interference. As Canadian students, we believe that the university community must be autonomous and free from government interference; we believe in man's right to knowledge and the free use of it, and we believe that knowledge and education must serve truth and humanity, and not only the government or the state. It is for these reasons that we have supported at successive International Student Conferences and at our own national congresses resolutions condemning racialism, imperialism and totalitarianism.

It is in this light that we have, within the limited means at our disposal, opposed racial segregation in South Africa, French suppression and brutality in Algeria, Portuguese imperialism in Goa, Angola and Mozambique, British actions in Kenya and Cyprus, the Batista dictatorship in Cuba, and Said dictatorship in Iraq, American domination in Puerto Rico and segregation in the country itself, to mention only a few. There were many others of a similar nature that we have supported. To the extent that the Report of the E.C. covers these same points we concur.

However, these were not the only suppressions we have condemned. There were others, others which are not referred to in the E.C. Report. The Report of the E.C. says nothing about Tibet. There has been fighting. Students have died. Why? The same thing is true in Hungary. If students have died, surely the IUS should concern itself and say who killed whom and why. On the basis of sources which satisfied us we have our own opinion. Perhaps the IUS has different ideas, why doesn't the E.C. Report say anything?

We have heard criticism of the International Student Conference for its so-called "slanderous resolution about East Germany. I have that resolution here. Most of it consists of quotes from East German sources! Let me read a few.