

IVth Congress Report:

During the ten years of its existence the I.U.S. has changed the concentration of its attacks, either through official publications or at Council or Congress meetings, three times. First, the barrage of criticism was levelled at Fascism, then it switched to the West and the I.S.C., and now at colonialism. The last change is most welcome, and is perhaps one of the biggest changes in I.U.S. policy in recent times. The NFCUS Observer at the Congress were pleased to note that no longer was the West blatantly attacked, that no longer was abuse heaped upon themselves, and that no longer was there indiscriminate, unfounded, unjustified criticism of the International Student Conference, all of which had occurred at least from 1948 to 1954 and to a lesser extent even to the summer of 1955.

Vth Congress Report:

All thought of student co-operation or unity, which in retrospect seems to have been, along with colonialism, the major issue of the Prague Congress, was pushed hurriedly to the background in Peking. What everyone talked about there was that grand old cliché, "the fight for peace." This sounds commendable and very much like something with which we could wholeheartedly agree, until it becomes clear that the "fight for peace" (itself a delightful contradiction in terms) is really the "fight against imperialism."

The IUS says it will co-operate with anyone on the problems and issues facing the students to-day. It goes on to say that the main problems facing students is the fight for peace, which is surely the basic problem and hence should be the basis for student unity and co-operation. To join in the fight for peace and thereby co-operate with us, you must express solidarity with everyone who is attacked or oppressed by the forces of "imperialism", you must act to ban nuclear weapons, you must protest to governments on their international policy, and so on. The argument is simple - peace is the basic interest of students, hence it must be the basis of co-operation.

The Vth Congress, as I will try to show in the following pages, continued its attacks on colonialism, but now all the various objects of attack are jumbled together and colonialism is attacked as being a product of "militarist and imperialist circles in the United States," and concurred in by the "imperialist lackies" in the ISC. The I.S.C. is not attacked as such, because too many of the members are now from Asia, Africa and Latin America, and since they could not possibly be called either imperialists or "imperialist lackies", the IUS leading lights now talk of the "positive" and the "negative" forces in the ISC. They say that unfortunately, COSEC is still controlled by the "negative" forces, which of course, are "lackies of the American imperialist and militarist circles." In the concentration of hatred on the United States there was practically nothing said about the empires of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, or Great Britain, except incidentally to any attack upon the United States. When the delegate from Outer Mongolia made his main intervention and could not stretch the facts to the point of attacking the United States for interfering in the affairs of his country, not to be outdone, he criticized it for ignoring his country.

Opening Plenary

As happens at all congresses and conferences, this one opened with plenary sessions, adjourned to commissions, and re-assembled in a final plenary to adopt resolutions prepared in commissions, to adopt the financial report, and to hold elections. The big difference from congresses as we know them is that opening plenary took five full days. This consisted of speeches or "interventions" as they are