

These unions have met almost yearly since that time - the Ninth International Student Conference was held in Switzerland from August 21st to September 2nd, 1960 - and the number of national unions participating has grown steadily from the original 20 to the present 70.

Briefly stated, the essential principles of the ISC are as follows:

- a. Participants must be the freely elected leaders of their national unions and representative of the majority of the students of their country;
- b. The Conference is neither a permanent "union" nor an "organization," but simply a meeting ground for students of the world;
- c. Any action by the Conference must be based on the "Principles of Cooperation" (see appendices 1A and 1B) adopted at each Conference, and will only be concerned with problems that directly affect students.
- d. All actions will be universally adaptable and devoid of partisanship.

These principles are fundamental and have never been altered since the inception of the Conference. However, the growth of the ISC from a European to a worldwide assembly of students has naturally brought about an evolution in the nature of the problems with which it must deal.

The activities of a European and North American student union are essentially "syndicalist." These unions are concerned with the material welfare of their students, with educational opportunities, scholarships, and the like. The student in these countries is but a part of a well-educated community and his role in the political life of the nation is relatively minor. A basic principle of these unions is that of "apoliticism," which can be understood to mean abstention from any partisan or one-sided political activity, or abstention from any political activity whatsoever.

However, the problems of students in underdeveloped areas are quite different. In most Asian, African and Latin American countries, students are the major educated group within the community and are therefore at the forefront of social reform. In most of these countries it is the genuine responsibility of the student to undertake what we would call "political"