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#SPECIAL INFORMATION REPORTUnited Nations-Sponsored World Youth Assembly

The U. N. -sponsored World Youth Assembly, after a loud and argumentive nine-day history, ended on 17 July 1970. The conference, attended by some 650 delegates from approximately 130 nations, was undoubtedly a major disappointment to many moderate diplomats. The conference was so completely dominated by delegates from communist states and their sympathizers that this conference, the first sponsored by the U. N. , will probably also be the last.

Interestingly, the Russians were initially opposed to the concept of a world youth conference. After the plan was approved, however, the Russians wasted no time in organizing all world forces from the left. By contrast, western-oriented and uncommitted national delegates were naively trapped in the political manipulation of the world communist movement. Observers believe that generally speaking the major engineering job of the conference was handled by professional young leftists from the Prague-based International Union of Students and the Budapest-based World Federation of Democratic Youth. Although participants were supposed to be 25 years of age or younger, a number of the east block participants were recognized professionals who had learned their tactics at past youth festivals in various communist capitals. Many of the communist so-called youth delegates were pressing 40 years of age.

The conference was highlighted by denunciation and by delegate walkouts, not to mention cat-call and hissing tactics during various sessions of the conference. When the western or noncommitted delegates walked out the result was merely one of face-saving dignity. When the communists walked out, however, it was always at a critical time designed to prevent valid votes on key topics.

Some of the noteworthy events and products of the Youth Assembly were these: The delegates were treated to a tour of the worst of New York's slum areas; they further had the opportunity to hear an address by Jarvis Tyner, long-time CPUSA youth activist and present.

chairman of the fledgling communist youth organization, the Young Workers Liberation League; in a post assembly meeting one of the assembly committees sent a telegram to Northern Ireland's Bernadette Devlin, deploring her recent imprisonment on charges of inciting to riot; the assembly condemned all fascist regimes including Greece, Spain and Portugal; it called for the abolition of the big power veto in the U.N. Security Council; it demanded the withdrawal of Israelis from occupied Arab territories; it called for the admission of Communist China to the U.N.; it called for the establishment of a democratic state in Palestine; and it demanded the immediate cessation of American aggression against the Indo-Chinese people and the withdrawal of American troops and the recognition of the right of the people of Indo-China to determine their own destiny without foreign interference. As an afterthought (an amendment by the Israeli delegates), the assembly, after heated wrangling, also demanded that the Russians leave Czechoslovakia.

It has been reliably reported that the American delegates to the assembly were, by and large, ineffective. The communist forces succeeded in securing most key votes in outside committees by the simple act of summoning sympathizer strength from other meetings in time to cast a vote.

In summary, the assembly in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the U.N. was an absolute fiasco and international communist propaganda forum in which the western delegates played it straight and observed the rules and the communist governments made sure that nothing would be left to chance. In a number of cases, ambassadors coached from the sidelines and some diplomats actually participated as delegates. As the assembly ended, Secretary General U Thant praised the participants for "your behavior and spirit of cooperation."