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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL/ [ ]

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
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The following propaganda bulletins of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), written in English and dated 14 July 1953, were mailed in Berlin to the Peace Committee, Gang Tengah 29, Djakarta, [ ] the address of the Sentral Organisasi Buruh Seluruh Indonesia (SOBSI). The bulletins indicate a WIDF address at Unter den Linden 13, Berlin W 8; mailing envelope bears the return address of R. Brehmer, Berlin W 8.

14 July 1953

PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER  
DEMAND THE RELEASE OF 20 INNOCENT WORKERS  
ACCUSED IN THE "MATSUKAWA CASE"

1. On 17 August 1949, American and Japanese authorities using forged evidence arrested 20 railway workers, among whom was one woman, and charged them with responsibility for the derailment of a train.
2. Following over 20 trials held at the Fukushima Local Court these workers were proved innocent. Despite this, the Presiding Judge Nagao sentenced 5 of them to death, another 5 to life-imprisonment and the remaining 10 to terms of imprisonment totalling 95 years.
3. The unjust sentences aroused Japanese and world public opinion to demand their immediate release and forced a re-examination of the case. However the same sentences as before were announced.

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4. In the open trial in May this year, documents were produced showing the extent of the movement for the release of the accused workers. The documents collected by the National Support Council in Japan showed that 318,000 individuals, 1,172,000 people from 116 trade unions and other national organizations, 16 parties and democratic organizations and 113 local organizations have demanded their acquittal. Demands for their release are also reaching Japan from organizations and individuals in many countries.
5. The 20 accused workers will undergo their last trial at the end of July. Japanese and all other liberty- and peace-loving people must prevent the execution of the sentences against these innocent workers. The fascist-like conspiracy against peace and democracy must be stopped.
6. The Women's International Democratic Federation representing 140 million women in 66 countries, has forwarded the following telegram to the Higher Court in Japan: "On behalf of millions of women from 66 countries we firmly demand the release of 20 innocent workers accused in Matsukawa Case."
7. Protests and demands for the release of the 20 unjustly accused Japanese workers should be sent by telegram to the following addresses:

Shigerua Yoshida,  
Premier Japanese Government,  
Tokyo, Japan.

Teijiro Suzuki, Presiding Judge,  
Sendai Higher Court, Sendai,  
Miyagi Prefecture, Japan.

14 July 1953

WOMEN OF THE WORLD MUST ACT NOW  
FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE IN KOREA

8. The announcement that agreement had been reached on the thorny question of the repatriation of prisoners-of-war in Korea was hailed by the peoples of the world with hope in their hearts that the bitter fighting would soon be at an end.
9. The exchange of the prisoners was proceeding. Many had already returned to their homes when news came that the outlaw Syngman Rhee had defaulted on the agreement and had increased provocations including the forcing of thousands of prisoners into his puppet South Korean army.
10. The truce talks have been delayed and fighting, now in its 4th year, still goes on. The whole world is shocked and demands an immediate cease-fire.
11. The United States official pretences disclaiming responsibility for the actions of Syngman Rhee will deceive no one as long as American planes continue to bomb North Korean cities and villages and to kill innocent women and children.
12. World press comments indicate the widespread disquiet with which the action of Syngman Rhee has been received. In Britain, conservative newspapers like The Observer and the Daily Mail have strongly condemned the recent provocative acts committed by Syngman Rhee to prevent the armistice.

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13. The WIDF has sent the following telegram to Pak-Den-Ai, President of the Union of Democratic Women of Korea, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Korean war: "The WIDF in the name of hundreds of millions of women in 66 countries sends sisterly greetings pledges intensify our support for your heroic 3 year struggle for the future of your children and independence of your country. We pledge to continue to fight for an armistice in Korea based on agreements already arrived at. The actions of the people will force those who want to continue the war to abide by the negotiated agreements and establish peace. Long live the heroic Korean women! Long live Peace!"

Women of the World

14. The fact that the cruel and unjust war is continuing against the Korean people is unbearable to us all. It must stop. Peace in Korea is an essential first step to peace throughout the world. We must impose it. Actions have already been undertaken.

The Women of Britain Have Answered the Call

15. Led by Mrs. Monica Felton, the National Assembly of Women organized a big demonstration on 25 June, the third anniversary of the brutal war against the Korean people. Wives and mothers of prisoners-of-war in Korea, mothers of conscript sons and hundreds of peace-loving women demonstrated in the streets of London, demanding a cease-fire in Korea and the return of their menfolk. Many carried petitions with hundreds of names collected from people in the factories and the streets where they lived. They went to the House of Commons to see their Members of Parliament and demand that the war be ended, insisting that if the United States Government hesitates, then the British Government must take the initiative. Messages of support for the action of the women were sent from many trade union branches including the London branches of the Electrical Trades Union.

In U.S.A.

16. On 25 June in Washington D.C., a conference was held, attended by leading personalities in the Trade Union and Peace organizations, which issued a declaration to President Eisenhower insisting that he must listen to the voice of the people who want an end to the terrible war in Korea.

In Japan

17. In Tokyo on 25 June a big rally was held at which resolutions denouncing Rhee's sabotage of the Korean armistice and demands for an overall peace in Asia were passed. A parade followed this rally in spite of close surveillance by the Japanese police. Action took place in several other towns in Japan on that day.
18. Let us organize continuous actions to force our governments to take the steps necessary to end the Korean war and to recall all military forces immediately to their own countries.

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