

“ War-mongering ”

Early in the Conference the Polish delegate introduced a lengthy motion which began with a preamble “condemning energetically all war propaganda,” and continued, “The Conference appeals to the Organization of the United Nations to undertake such legal steps which would put the free flow of ideas exclusively at the disposal of the support of the friendly co-operation among nations, and which would paralyse the activities inimical to that co-operation.” There was a lengthy discussion on this motion, the Polish delegate maintaining in essence that “the work of UNESCO cannot be divorced from politics.” His chief opponent, the leader of the United States of America delegation, argued, “UNESCO should be the last Organization to stumble into the pitfalls of censorship, repression, and restriction. Here is the essential difference. One line of the Polish resolution makes compromise impossible.”

After a series of resolutions and counter-resolutions had run the gamut of committees and sub-committees, the General Conference finally passed the following resolution :—

“ SOLEMN APPEAL AGAINST THE IDEA THAT WAR IS INEVITABLE

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“ The representatives of Education, Science, and Culture, meeting together at Mexico City at the UNESCO General Conference :

“ AWARE of the responsibilities imposed upon them by the Constitution of the Organization to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law, for human rights, and the fundamental freedom of the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language, or religion ;

“ CONCERNED at the dangers to peace resulting from currents of thought conducive to the idea that another war is inevitable ;

“ TROUBLED by the indifference, resignation, and even calm acceptance which such currents of thought meet in certain sections of public opinion ;

“ ADDRESS a solemn appeal to all who are concerned for the dignity of man and the future of civilization, particularly educationists, scientists, artists, writers, and journalists throughout the world ;

“ ADJURE them to denounce the pernicious idea that war is inevitable ;

“ To act as the mouthpiece of the conscience of the nations, refusing collective suicide ;

“ To combat, by every means in their power, surrender to fear and every form of thought or action which may threaten a just and lasting peace ;

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“ WHEREAS the General Conference of UNESCO has adopted unanimously the resolution initiated by the French delegation appealing to educationists, scholars, artists, writers, and journalists throughout the