

The Welsh Centre for International Affairs: A Decade of Development

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THE WELSH CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: A DECADE OF DEVELOPMENT

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In October 1983 the Welsh Centre for International Affairs is ten years old. In those years the Centre has:

- (1) served as a co-ordinating and administrative centre for international campaigns in Wales;
- (2) formed practical links with international bodies such as the United Nations, the EEC, the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth Secretariat, and hosted three major UN Conferences for the United Kingdom;
- (3) organised over 1,000 visits to schools and given more than 50,000 children an insight into international affairs through projects, competitions, conferences, talks and curriculum development;
- (4) pioneered the first general certificate examination course introduced throughout the United Kingdom in development education;
- (5) organised voluntary workcamps in local communities in Wales for hundreds of young people from many countries of the world;
- (6) placed 60 British volunteers overseas in 1982;
- (7) raised over £120,000 during International Year of the Child in 1979 and during International Year of Disabled People in 1981, to support the work of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- (8) provided the headquarters for the UK Freedom From Hunger Campaign;
- (9) held annual Anniversary Meetings addressed by leading statesmen including two Prime Ministers; and
- (10) published special studies of important international issues.

Origins of the Centre

From the mid-sixties, a growing need was felt by those associated with the organisations at the Temple of Peace to establish a Welsh Centre for International Affairs. The first Lord Davies of Llandinam had built the Temple some thirty years before to provide a focal point and a symbol for the concern of the people of Wales for international peace. It had become the home of the League of Nations Union, a voluntary organisation which urged the use of the League of Nations machinery and collective security to preserve peace and thwart the expansionist aims of Hitler and Mussolini. By the standards of voluntary organisations, it was widely

supported, though its financial base was always inadequate and vulnerable.

Its post-war successor, the UN Association, did not attract the same level of support. Manifold are the reasons: the fact that the League of Nations had been virtually a European body with Britain playing a leading role as contrasted with a UN organisation which, with decolonisation, seemed to be increasingly dominated by Third World countries, with a second division Britain very much on the receiving end; fears, however unfounded, of Soviet domination of the UN; the growth of vigorous new single-issue voluntary organisations like Oxfam and Christian Aid; social changes in Britain itself to which the older voluntary organisations found it difficult to adjust; the rise of TV and its effect on the traditional branch meeting. All these played their part.

These factors pre-occupied those involved in the work at the Temple of Peace. They were conscious of the significance of Lord Davies' unique gift of the Temple of Peace to the Welsh nation and of the long tradition of the "peace movement" (though not necessarily pacifist) in Wales of which they were now the custodians.

By the end of the sixties it was widely felt that this tradition was in danger unless something were done. The UN Association, short of members and money, was still expected to provide the lead for Wales' response to such international campaigns as International Co-operation Year (1965), Human Rights Year (1968), and the 25th Anniversary of the UN (1970), on quite inadequate government grants. The Temple of Peace was also the centre for such successful international fund-raising campaigns as UN Children's Fund Year (1954), World Refugee Year (1960), and the Freedom from Hunger Campaign (1962).

The breakthrough came in 1970 when, with UN Association backing, the idea to establish a Welsh Centre for International Affairs was formally adopted by the Committee set up in 1970 by the then Secretary of State for Wales, Mr George Thomas MP, to mark the 25th Anniversary of the UN. This ensured the support of those organisations on the 25th Anniversary Committee; the Welsh Office, local authorities, the University of Wales and Colleges of Education, MPs, Trade Unionists, industrialists, the Churches, political parties, the media and voluntary organisations. This Committee was to become the Standing

Conference of the Welsh Centre, and significantly extended the range of organisations associated with the Temple of Peace.

By 1973 after a vigorous fund-raising campaign, the Welsh Centre for International Affairs was officially opened by Lady Tweedsmuir, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Its main objective was defined in its constitution as “to foster among the people of Wales, by every appropriate means, a conception of national obligations to world interest and a sense of loyalty to the international community”.

The Structure and Financing of the Centre

As Wales is a small country, with limited resources, it was essential that the Welsh Centre should not become separate from and in competition with those organisations which had sired it. The concept was that of an umbrella organisation, with a confederal structure. This has meant that it does not propagate views of its own on international issues which has enabled it to bring people of widely divergent views together in debate. The organisations already based at the Temple of Peace, and which devoted themselves fully to international affairs—the UN Association, the Council for Education in World Citizenship-Cymru (CEWC), the Freedom From Hunger Campaign Wales, the UNA (Wales) Trust (now the UNA (Welsh Centre) Trust), together with the David Davies Memorial Institute (a London-based foundation of Lord Davies)—made up a core Committee, the Co-Ordinating Committee of the Centre, which was responsible for day-to-day matters.

The chief officer of these organisations (with the exception of the London-based David Davies Memorial Institute) became the Director of the Welsh Centre. The Standing Conference meets annually in October, receives the annual Report and is responsible for formulating general policy. Its heterogeneous and busy membership makes frequent meetings inopportune; rather the Director consults and involves the appropriate members whenever practical collaboration or advice is needed for implementation of general policy decisions.

While the administrative headquarters of the Welsh Centre were in the civic centre of the nation's capital city, Cardiff, it was realised that the Centre would not truly be a Welsh Centre unless it developed meaningful activities in different parts of the country. In place of the branch structure of the League of Nations Union days, the new national structure was based upon local authority areas.

The funding of an independent international institution is a perennial problem and financial planning and fund-raising is a necessarily continuous and obsessive pre-occupation. Over the years the Centre has attracted funds from a wide variety of sources; endowments, local authorities, contracts with international organisations, special fund-raising events and personal subscription, with sparse central government support. But most of these funds are never guaranteed and require an intensive annual effort. Only some 25% of the annual budget comes from guaranteed sources and some £50,000 has to be raised annually. There have been several fund-raising campaigns in the last decade, climaxed by the present 10th Anniversary Appeal headed by the former Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr George Thomas MP, who had been so involved in the founding of the Centre as Secretary of State over a decade earlier.

The Centre's aim has been to create an endowment fund whose interest would meet the core costs of the Centre, leaving the staff to concentrate on implementing the Centre's policies. This aim would have been much nearer realisation if it were not for the devastating inflation of the 1970's.

In any attempt to assess the effectiveness of an organisation, it is necessary to consider the resources that the organisation has, both in cash and in kind, which have a not inconsiderable influence on its performance. In the ten years of the Centre's history, it has had a Director who also serves as Secretary of the Welsh National Council of the UN Association, the UNA (Welsh Centre) Trust, the Council for Education in World Citizenship-Cymru, the Freedom From Hunger Campaign for Wales, and of the United Kingdom Freedom From Hunger Campaign. There is also an Assistant Director whose current responsibilities are the 10th Anniversary and UNICEF Appeals. The Council for Education in World Citizenship has an Assistant Secretary, funded on an annual basis by local education authorities, who is responsible for the day to day work of the Council. From time to time this core is added to by the appointment of "temporary" staff with specific responsibilities, when special funding can be obtained. Presently, there is a Development Officer, funded by the MSC, who is responsible for building up a resource centre, and an International Service Officer, funded by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, responsible for the workcamp side of the programme. There is no guarantee that these grants will be renewed after one year. Financial uncertainty has led to a rapid turn-over of staff, with the resultant unsettling effect on the Centre's

development. Since 1973 there have been five Assistant Directors, four Assistant Secretaries of CEWC-Cymru, and four International Service Officers. This lack of continuity has meant that the Director has had to be excessively pre-occupied with day-to-day issues at the expense of more strategic and long-term objectives.

The Activities of the Centre (1973-83)

1 *The Work in the Schools*

The Council for Education in World Citizenship-Cymru has organised in the past ten years, over 1,000 visits to schools and given 50,000 children an insight into international affairs through projects, conferences, talks and curriculum development. A notable first was achieved when an Alternative Ordinary (AO) Level course in World Development was accepted by the Welsh Joint Education Committee in May 1982. This was the first examination in the General Certificate of Education to be introduced throughout the United Kingdom in development studies. The target group is the 16+ age range. It offers a coherent programme for Sixth Form General Studies and can extend the range and attraction of courses offered at such tertiary centres as technical colleges. Putting such a course into operation makes considerable demands on CEWC's resources, coming in addition to CEWC's more traditional programme. With no funds available to employ a member of staff solely for this purpose, the work has been shouldered by CEWC's Assistant Secretary in addition to her normal CEWC duties.

Another recent development has been an extension of CEWC's work in the primary sector. A National Conference "Its Our World" for primary teachers, was held in Llandrindod Wells in 1982, to co-ordinate work done in Wales in development education with the Schools' Council/Rowntree World Studies 8-13 Project. Sixty delegates were present including many local authority advisers. There was considerable interest in following up the ideas discussed. Clwyd and Gwynedd, for example, are to introduce the 8-13 Project in their schools. A further Conference (or Conferences on a more localised basis) is being planned.

The more traditional Sixth Form work is dominated by an annual National Residential Conference. This attracts some 70 pupils from every local education authority, while day Conferences for Sixth Form and Middle Schools are held in different parts of Wales, together with mock assemblies, simulation exercises and various forms of competitions.

The backbone of CEWC's activities has been the support of the local education authorities who provide the finance for the employment of the Assistant Secretary. Consequently, CEWC attached much importance to being active in all the counties of Wales as is evinced by the 100 or so visits to schools the Assistant Secretary makes each year. The importance of this grass-roots contact, though unspectacular, with practising teachers, cannot be over-exaggerated. It keeps them in touch with developments of which they may otherwise be unaware, both in the sphere of projects and with literature and other sources of information materials.

Changes have occurred which now place a greater burden on the shoulders of the Assistant Secretary. In the past, teachers were active in area CEWC-Committees and organised their own Conferences. Today, this is becoming more difficult. Organisational responsibility for the Conferences is increasingly falling on the headquarters in Cardiff with all the extra administrative demands which that entails.

The late Lord Goronwy-Roberts, then Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and later President of the Welsh National Council of the UN Association, wrote in the 1977 Annual Report "I have been particularly impressed by the way in which the Centre has sought to involve the youth of Wales in its work. . . I would not maintain that youth has all the answers, but I am a staunch advocate of involving the generation of tomorrow in the affairs of today". (*Welsh Centre 1977. P4-5*).

2. International Service

In addition to its work in the schools and amongst industrial apprentices through CEWC-Cymru, the Welsh Centre, through the UN Association International Service, has become a centre for the development of projects both for British youth overseas and for teams of international volunteers coming to Wales. The programme consists each year of some 14 camps of three weeks' duration, with over 140 international volunteers coming to Wales, and the placement of some 80 volunteers from different parts of the United Kingdom in camps abroad. (The Welsh Centre became the clearing house for the whole of the United Kingdom after a contraction in the services of the UN Association in London). All the volunteers pay their own fares.

In 1982, volunteers came to Wales from 14 countries; Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary,

Ireland, Lesotho, Morocco, Spain and Turkey. (Up to 1981, there was a regular interchange with Poland). The volunteers work on a wide variety of projects so that many sectors of the community benefit directly from its work. In 1982, projects ranged from gardening and decorating for old people, taking disadvantaged children on holiday, conversion of an old school into a community centre, creating a safe enclosed garden for hospital patients, repairing a children's playground, landscaping a picnic area and holiday playschemes for children of working parents. The workcamps aim to promote international understanding through the medium of service, to enable people to encounter and understand different cultures, to provide opportunities for young people to become aware of and understand international problems through direct contact with people from other countries, and to assist in community development by acting as a means to stimulate new ideas and projects.

Often, with the involvement of the local community, permanent local associations have developed as a result of the pioneering work done by the international service programme, examples being Voluntary Community Service and the Adventure Playground Association in Cardiff and the Rhydyfelin local committee formed to organise all-the-year round children's events which grew out of an International Service playscheme.

As a result of these developments, the Welsh Centre, through the UNA International Service, co-ordinates its activities with other workcamp organisations on both a British and international level. The recent Director of the International Co-ordinating Committee of International Voluntary Service, which works from UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, applied for the post as a result of working at the Temple of Peace.

To be self-financing, International Service must quadruple the number of camps. This year, backing has been received through the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and an expansion programme is being carefully planned.

3. Other Activities for Young People

The potential of the Welsh Centre, in the field of young people, has in fact been quickly recognised. In December 1973, two months after its official opening, the Centre was invited to organise the United Kingdom Youth Preparatory Conference, sponsored by the UN Fund for

Population Activities, for the UN World Population Year Conference in Bucharest in August 1974, at which the Centre was represented.

When 1979 was designated by the UN General Assembly as the International Year of the Child (IYC), the Welsh Centre was called upon to form and administer a Welsh Standing Conference of over 30 organisations. They participated in many projects including the United Kingdom Young People's Parliament in London. A site for a holiday Adventure Centre for handicapped children was provided in the Pembrokeshire National Park. Conferences were held in Abergavenny, Mold, Bangor and Carmarthen. Funds were raised for a UNICEF project in Lesotho described below.

4. *Overseas Aid and Development Education*

A sign of the growing recognition of the Centre outside Wales came in 1977 when, with the impending closure of the United Kingdom Freedom From Hunger Campaign office in London, a request was made to the Welsh Centre for it to become the home of the Campaign. The transfer was completed in 1978 with the responsibility of administering projects of over £500,000 in India and Africa. This was also a fitting tribute to the efforts of the Wales Committee of the FFHC which had raised some £600,000 since its inception in 1962 and had sponsored over 50 projects in 30 countries.

Recognition of the part the Centre had been playing in acting as a national forum on overseas development issues came in 1974 when the Welsh Centre became the national body for Wales on the United Kingdom Voluntary Committee for Overseas Aid and Development (VCOAD), the Committee which co-ordinated the relationship between the Ministry of Overseas Development and Britain's major overseas development organisation.

In 1976 the Director of the Welsh Centre was invited by the Minister of Overseas Development to be a member of a working party preparing a report on the future United Kingdom structure for development education and information for non-governmental organisations, while in 1977 he was invited by the Minister to be one of twelve members of the newly-formed Advisory Committee for Development Education which was responsible for the allocation of the Government's development education fund.

The Centre has also formed an Advisory Committee on Development Education and Information as a co-ordinating point for the activities in Wales of organisations interested in overseas development. In a small country like Wales, public confusion and irritation could be caused by a plethora of organisations working completely independently of one another and perhaps duplicating resources. The benefits have been seen in such projects as the joint promotion of CEWC's AO Level, the proposal to appoint a Welsh Centre Fellow in Development Education at University College, Cardiff, and in the appointment of a common representative to the International Broadcasting Trust which works in co-operation with TV's Channel 4.

5. *The Promotion of an Informed Public Opinion*

Contributors to the Annual Reports of the Welsh Centre such as Lord Harlech, Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Mr Nicholas Edwards MP, Mr John Morris MP and Mr George Thomas the Speaker, have all stressed the importance of public opinion in a democracy and its influence on major international developments. As Lord Harlech said in 1976, "In democratic societies, government policies, whether at home or abroad are circumscribed by the support and understanding they can attract from the general public who voted them into power. This is why it is so important that we maintain a well-informed public opinion, and that is why the world of the Welsh Centre for International Affairs is so important at the present time. . ." (*Welsh Centre, 1976 P.4.*).

Issues covered by the Welsh Centre at Conferences and meetings have included: the Middle East, Conflict—the Problem of Containment and Peaceful Resolution with special reference to Cyprus and Northern Ireland, the US Bicentennial, Human Rights, East-West Relations, African affairs, problems of the Far East and Vietnam. In addition, a focal point of the Centre's year is the Anniversary Lecture each October, on an important issue of the day, which is addressed by a distinguished guest speaker.

Dominating issues of the past two years have been the Brandt Report and issues of arms control and disarmament. The Brandt Report was discussed at Conferences in Cardiff, Pontypridd, Cwmbran, Swansea, Colwyn Bay and Newport, while Special Paper No 7 of the Welsh Centre (1980) discussed "Disarmament, Security and Development (with special reference to the Brandt Report)".

Issues of disarmament, arms control and security were discussed in 1981 in meetings in Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Tenby, Llanelli, Pontypridd and Cwmbran and in 1982 at meetings in Cardiff, St Asaph, Bangor and Colwyn Bay. In 1980 Field Marshal Lord Carver delivered the Annual Anniversary address of "Nuclear Weapons in Europe", and the Centre's Special Paper No 8 (1981) was devoted to "The Prevention of War in Europe". The plans for 1983 include meetings in Cwmbran, Bangor and Deeside, Bridgend and Swansea, with visits to the Welsh Centre by Mr Denis Healey, Mr Michael Heseltine MP, The Secretary of State for Defence, and Dr David Owen.

6. *The UN Dimension*

It was the Welsh National Council of the UN Association more than any other organisation which was responsible for the formation of the Welsh Centre and support for the principles of the UN Charter has been implicit in all the Centre's activities. The importance of this was reaffirmed by Sir Anthony Parsons, the then United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN in his contribution to the 1980 Annual Report. "The need to maintain peace and security in an inter-dependent world is just as great now as in 1945. So too is the need to pursue the UN's goals in the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian fields, and to give all countries a universal forum in which they can voice their concerns and find a hearing for their grievances. . . The Welsh Centre for International Affairs can be justifiably proud of its role in increasing international awareness within the Principality and encouraging public debate. We in the United Kingdom Mission are extremely grateful for your support." (*Welsh Centre, 1980. P.4*)

The Welsh Centre co-ordinated the activities in Wales for the UN International Women's Year (1975), responded similarly to the UN International Year of the Child (1979), actively participated in the UN International Year of the Disabled (1981), organised Conferences for the UN's Development Decade and Decade for Women, on the UN Law of the Sea Conference, including a major Conference in Swansea in 1975 in conjunction with the David Davies Memorial Institute on "The Conflict of the Uses of Waters off the Western Coast of the United Kingdom", on the World Food Conference at Rome which the Director attended in 1974 and subsequent food issues involving the EEC and the Commonwealth, culminating in a National Conference to mark the first World Food Day in 1981 and on world energy and resources.

Contacts through reciprocal visits and lecture tours throughout Wales have been established with UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation, the World Bank, F.A.O. and the UN Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO). The Secretary-General Emeritus of the World Meteorological Organisation, Sir Arthur Davies, has become an Hon. Consultant of the Welsh Centre and greatly assisted contacts with UN Agencies. A recent initiative has been the formation of links with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The contact with the World Bank led to a major national Conference in June 1977 attended by some 80 delegates representing industry, the unions, financial institutions, agriculture, environmentalists, universities, government departments and many voluntary organisations.

The Centre has encouraged the visits to Wales by our representatives at the UN. Every United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN since 1964, with the exception of Sir Donald Maitland, whose UN tenure was extremely brief and the comparatively recently appointed present Ambassador, has visited the Centre. Close contact has also been maintained with the United Kingdom headquarters of the UN Association in London and with the UN Information Centre in London, whose Directors visit Wales from time to time.

7. Contacts with Other International Organisations

Links have been developed with other international institutions. The EEC is represented on the Standing Conference of the Centre and leading EEC figures have spoken at Centre Conferences, while European themes have featured prominently in the annual International Residential Conference for Students in Industry as a result of the involvement of students from European countries.

Another European institution with which very practical contacts have been established has been the Council of Europe. In November 1980, following a visit by the Director to Strasbourg, a meeting was organised at the Welsh Centre on the European Convention on Human Rights, which attracted over 100 delegates representing a wide variety of interests; the law, local authorities, the medical profession, industry, the unions, the health service, the Universities and higher education, the police and a wide range of voluntary organisations. This was followed in November 1982 by a second Conference on "The European Court". It was directed particularly at practising lawyers who might be called upon to advise clients who wished to bring applications before the Commission and

attracted 80 delegates. Senior representatives of the Council and its Human Rights Directorate visited Wales for these Conferences. Relations have also been developed with the Commonwealth Secretariat and senior representatives have visited Wales, including the Deputy Director, Sir Peter Marshall.

8. *Publications and Information Services*

Special Papers have been produced by a variety of experts on issues such as; The UN Conference on Human Settlement, The Future of the Seas, The Future of United Nations Peacekeeping, National Conference on Major World Economic Problems in Conjunction with the World Bank, the Development Resource Centre in the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, an Introduction to Agrarian Development in the World Economy, Disarmament, Security and Development (with special reference to the Brandt Report), The Prevention of War in Europe, and The Fiasco of Detente and its Lessons. Special articles have been produced on the situation in Poland, on nuclear issues, and the second Brandt Report.

In 1979, a book by Mr Goronwy Jones, the Hon Research Consultant of the Welsh Centre, "The United Nations and the Domestic Jurisdiction of States", was published in conjunction with the University of Wales Press and a special index of expert speakers in Wales on Development Issues has been produced.

To back up all these various activities, plans are under way to expand the Information/Resource Centre in the foyer of the Temple of Peace. Over 60 publications and reports on all aspects of international affairs from the United Nations, regional organisations and from other sources will be available, as well as a selection of films and slides. A press-cuttings service is maintained.

9. *Support for Humanitarian Causes*

Side by side with its educational work on overseas development issues, practical support for the humanitarian aims of the UN is expressed by fund-raising for the work of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), which the Wales Committee of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign administered from the Welsh Centre also supports.

Some £200,000 has been raised in the past ten years for projects in many parts of the world. UNICEF has estimated that £50 saves the life of

a child. Thus the £200,000 raised through the Centre has saved the lives of 4,000 children.

RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

Basically, the Centre has developed along the lines envisaged at its founding in 1973, and described in some detail above, serving as:

- (1) a NATIONAL FORUM where people and organisations in Wales can study and exchange ideas on international affairs and plan activities designed to promote world peace, human rights and international understanding;
- (2) a CLEARING HOUSE for receiving and passing on information about international organisations and organisations interested in international affairs;
- (3) an AGENCY for promotion in Wales of education in all aspects of international affairs;
- (4) a FOCAL POINT for the humanitarian work of the United Nations agencies and for other projects designed to help developing peoples to improve their conditions of life; and
- (5) a CENTRE for the development of international service projects, both for Welsh youth overseas and for teams of international volunteers coming to Wales.

A sixth objective dealt with research, which so far has not been amongst the Centre's top priorities, though secondary research has gone into the Centre's Special Papers. More could possibly be done in conjunction with academic institutions if resources were available. Proposals to establish a Welsh Centre for International Affairs Fellow at the Education Department, University College, Cardiff, in conjunction with the Centre's Committee for Development Education and Information, are a tentative step in this direction. Assessments are made at regular intervals of the Centre's policies and progress by the Co-ordinating Committee, and no reason has yet been adduced fundamentally to alter the Centre's main objectives.

Consideration is being given to the possibility of establishing county committees to be more responsible for the initiation of activities in their areas, though the administrative and organisational implication for the small headquarters staff are being carefully looked at. Efforts too, are being made to involve the business community, including international firms based in Wales, more closely in the Centre's activities. It cannot however be over-stressed that all developments are closely related to resources available. Rightly, a tight financial policy has always been

followed with no deficit budgeting and consequential inroads into the reserves.

In assessing the work of the Welsh Centre, it is essential to remember that it is a voluntary organisation and depends not on authority but on good-will for its implementation of its plans. Thus the best laid schemes can be thwarted by factors over which it may have no control. But given this caveat, the performance of the professional staff should be rigorously judged, with regard to their administrative efficiency, their policy advice and their appreciation of what can or cannot be achieved given the resources available.

It would be naive to think that an organisation the size of the Centre would be widely known to the 'man in the street', when, at election time, the majority of people cannot identify many 'famous' politicians despite saturation TV coverage. It does not seem unreasonable, however, to make the modest claim that through its contacts with a wide variety of organisations and individuals throughout the Principality, the Welsh Centre has promoted greater understanding of international affairs and mobilised public support for humanitarian causes. George Foggon, the experienced Director of the International Labour Office for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, wrote in the 1981 Annual Report that "the vital task of the nations of the work is to work together to free mankind from hunger and distress, dependence and oppression. These aims cannot be achieved in a single generation." What the Centre has tried to do is to provide a "window onto the world" so that the people of Wales could have an opportunity of participating in a wide variety of ways in the most important international developments of the day.

It has been interesting that there have been enquiries from both Scotland and Northern Ireland about the structure and work of the Centre and it would seem to be the sort of institution which many in those countries would like to establish.

With its widely representative Standing Conference involving such a broad cross-section of national life, the Welsh Centre is a unique foreign affairs institute in the United Kingdom. It embodies a national tradition of international interest and concern, symbolised in its splendid headquarters. It has given people in Wales the opportunity to respond to the greatest challenges of the day, and the measure of that response is as Arnold Toynbee has reminded us, what a healthy civilisation is all about.

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