



## **Physicians in the anti-atomic peace-movement of the 1980s - the German section of IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War)**

During the last decade of the cold war the wide-spread peace-movement concentrated its forces on the protests against the consequences of the NATO-Double-Track-decision of 1979 and created a large number of different initiatives, coalitions and organisation. The project focuses on the German IPPNW as an example of an organisation walking on a fine line: On the one hand it was part of the public movement and on the other hand it was an exclusive association just for approbated physicians. Therefore, IPPNW played an important role both as a supporter of civil-society interests and as a professional scientific community. The study focuses on German IPPNW as a mediator or translator in the political and scientific conflict about nuclear arms policy during the early 1980's in West and East.

The political conflict in the FDR after the NATO-Double-Track-decision and its prospect of the deployment of atomic weapons was closely linked to the wide-spread fear of war developing to an apocalyptic level. Like a think-tank IPPNW created simulations and scenarios of nuclear war, for example the so called "Ulm Szenario". The physicians used their scientific knowledge about medical implications of a nuclear explosion to compose complex settings of war damages, fall-out and its consequences for health and environment. At the same time IPPNW was also part of the new discipline of "peace-research" which aspired to transfer the statements *against* atomic-rearming into constructive arguments *for* a culture of peace. So the project will ask what kind of ideas and concepts of peace were popularised by prominent IPPNW-members?

IPPNW was founded in 1981 by American and Soviet physicians and their close alliance, but earlier initiatives date back to 1962. As a result of the first IPPNW-congress in 1981, physicians in other countries came together to operate under the international banner of IPPNW, whilst still focusing on their own national issues. The West-German IPPNW was founded in 1982; at the same time the GDR-government decided to create an East-German

IPPNW-section. On this background the research will highlight the relationship between the two German IPPNW-sections, another will focus on contacts, conflicts and exchanges between the West-German and both the Central Office and the American affiliation of IPPNW in the United States.

Besides a complex research into the organisation the study will reveal the time-bounded dimensions of politics, mentality, science and social life and its mutual dependence with stakeholders of IPPNW and their commitment to prevent nuclear-re-armament in Europe.

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