"Johann Philipp Becker, [*International Trade Union Organization*]." *Workers Unite!: The International 150 Years Later*. Ed. Marcello Musto. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014. 143–144. *Bloomsbury Collections*. Web. 26 Apr. 2023. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.5040/9781501302367.0032>>.

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Johann Philipp Becker, [*International Trade Union Organization*]³⁰

Considering,

That the struggle of labour against capital is neither local nor national but a social problem embracing all countries in which modern society exists;

That there is an international understanding among capitalists for the exploitation and oppression of the working class, and that for this reason the workers' efforts at resistance have failed because of the lack of solidarity among workers of different occupations within the same country, and of fraternal union among the working classes of various countries;

That the principle of solidarity enjoins workers to help one another everywhere;

That the emigration or exporting of labour power from one country to another necessarily increases competition among workers in the latter country;

For these reasons, the General Council of the International Working Men's Association submits to the various resistance societies (trade unions) of all countries the following plan for ways of organizing to expand the activity and prosperity of trade unions in all countries.

All (resistance) societies of a particular trade in a country shall meet to elect a central executive for their country.

³⁰ This passage is an excerpt from the summary of resolutions adopted at the 'centralist' IWMA Geneva Congress (1873). They were published on 24 September, in the biweekly of Leipzig *Der Volksstaat*, with the title *Vom Der Kongress der Internationalen Arbeiterassoziation*. Its author, Johann Philipp Becker [1809–86], was editor of *Der Vorbote* and a key leader of the IWMA of which he was a tireless organizer in Switzerland and Germany. Delegate to the London Conference of 1865 and to all IWMA Congresses, he was also the promoter of the 'centralist' IWMA Geneva Congress (1873). The full version is in PI, IV: 222–4.

In so far as the laws permit it, all these executive committees shall maintain permanent communications with one another through the intermediary of a general executive council, so that they are always in touch with the real state of the trade and of labour in all countries.

Funds shall be raised and controlled by the executives of the various countries, to help members of the union in case of need wherever that may be, and to cover the expenses of the general executive council.

All the central executives of the various trades in each country shall meet for mutual assistance in the event that a particular trade does not have the means to continue the struggle against its exploiters.

In the event of relocation or migration, each member of the international union shall enjoy the same rights in his new country as those enjoyed by members of longer standing in that country.

Each member of any international society who has to leave his country for political reasons shall receive the same support in the new country as that which was due to him in the country he has left.

As far as possible, these international unions shall prevent, through a central executive, the import or export of labour power under contracts relating to strikes, emigration and immigration.