



IFSW



NEWSLETTER

No. 1 - 1993



*HUMAN RIGHTS
ALWAYS A SOCIAL WORK CONCERN*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What do we want IFSW to be doing in 6 months? 1 year? 5 years?

Nurturing our unique organization is essential if we are to realize a vision of social policy, social development and practice that can make a difference to our Associations, our profession, and for society worldwide.

To position IFSW to have a dynamic global influence now and into the 21st century, we must:

- * Strengthen and increase our membership and services
- * Broaden our partnerships and interorganizational relationships
- * Build our fund-development capabilities including Friends, grants, and other projects
- * Maximize our public relations and communication opportunities

I am pleased to report that the Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Executive Committee and Secretary General have been working with me tirelessly to achieve our goals. Together, we are:

- * Revitalizing internal and external policy positions
- * Actualizing human rights through our Commission
- * Collaborating with and addressing Associations, United Nations and other international bodies
- * Engaging in co-operative efforts with IASSW and ICSW
- * Institutionalizing development by linking individuals, agencies, corporations and others with IFSWs humanitarian goals
- * Reaching the global public through mass media while updating internal communication

I am very optimistic that our diverse and talented members have the motivation and capacity to enable IFSW to realize its full potential. Together we can do it.

Los Angeles, April 1993

SUZANNE DWORAK-PECK
PRESIDENT

A NEW NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to present a new IFSW Newsletter to member associations and other contacts worldwide.

As you can see, this would not have been possible without the contributions from our readers. We hope that even more associations and others will contribute to future editions. It would never have been possible without the tremendous work laid down in the development of the Newsletter by my predecessors Andrew and Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol.

The Newsletter looks different than before, but we hope you will find the contents as informative as it used to be, and that it will continue to represent as well a source of information on international social work as a channel between our member associations and others.

The "new look" is not final and may be developed further in our next issues. Any comments, ideas, suggestions from our readers are as always most welcome, and I look forward to work with you in this and other IFSW matters.

Oslo, April 1993

TOM JOHANNESSEN
SECRETARY GENERAL

A DAY IN SARAJEVO

*In my dreams I go among
the ruins of the old part
of town looking for a bit
of stale bread.*

*My mother and I inhale
the fumes of gunpowder
and imagine it to be the
smell of pies, cake and
kebab.*

*Then a shot rings out
from a hill nearby.
We hurry, although it is
9 o'clock and we might
be hurrying towards
"our" grenade.*

*Then an explosion rings
out in the street of
dignity. Many people are
wounded - sisters,
brothers, mothers, fathers.*

*I reach out and touch a
trembling injured hand.*

I touch death.

*Terrified, I realize: This is
not a dream.*

*It is just another day in
Sarajevo.*

Edima Suleymanovich,
12 years old, wrote this
poem as part of the
therapy Children in
former Yugoslavia are
receiving for war trauma.

Reproduced from the
UNICEF Publication
"First Call for Children".

Front Page: LMJ

The photo, taken in
December 1992, shows
Carl Bucher's group of
figures "The Petrified" in
the central courtyard of
The International Red
Cross and Red Crescent
Museum in Geneva.

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IFSW-NEWS - AFRICA

GHANA

Student Inauguration

On 22nd November 1992, the Ghana Association of Students of Social Work was inaugurated at an impressive ceremony at the University of Ghana, Legon. The student body seeks to interact with other students of social work. The current President is Mr. A. K. Owusu. The function was chaired by Mr S.O. Komierter, IFSW Vice President for Africa.

School Child Health Programme

The Ghana Education Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, and other sector Ministries and Departments launched the Greater Accra Regional School Child Health Programme on 10th December 1992. The programme involves School Health Coordinators, Social Workers and School Social Workers who monitor and educate school children, parents and the community to help

- o maintain basic sanitation in the environment
- o develop positive thought towards environmental preservation
- o be aware of destructive illnesses like AIDS, STD, Leprosy etc.
- o be aware of Guinea worm disease, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and guard against them
- o develop nutrition programme for schools

The programme is currently being established in all the regional and district capitals in Ghana. Its general objective is to extend School Health Service to 50% of all schools by 1994.

To Somalia for the UNHCR

Mr. E.Q. Blavo, President of the Ghana Association of Social Workers, left Ghana in the middle of December 1992, to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia.

Swiss Twinning Partner

In January 1993, Mrs. Sylvia Brigger-Mensah, a Swiss Sociologist on a private visit to Ghana, called on the Executive Committee Members of the Ghana Association. She held fruitful discussions on an impending visit of members of the Swiss Association to Ghana next November.

Visit from Black American Social Workers

GASOW is making preparations to receive visits from members of the American Association of Black Social Workers.

They will arrive in Ghana in August 1993. Their itinerary will take them to Cape Coast Castle and traditional Healing homes. Later on, they will hold a seminar on the theme "Preserving the Black Family".

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe for a while has been threatened by economic hardships and natural disasters. This combination has increased poverty and vulnerability of the poor forcing children from school to work. As a result child labour has become a wide spread phenomenon in Zimbabwe.

Concerned about the problem, the Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, requested ILO's technical assistance on the elimination of child labour.

The NASW was invited to contribute towards a National programme of action and was represented by Helen Tapfumaneyi, The National Organizing Secretary and IFSW Executive Committee member.

The participants noted that Zimbabwe ratified the United Nations's Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) hence had an obligation to protect children from exploitation. The participants also noted that though the ultimate goal was abolition of child labour in Zimbabwe it was agreed that this goal was unattainable at the present moment and recommended:

- o Free and compulsory Primary School Education
- o Minimum ages of admission to work set at 14 years and minimum age of 12 years for light work carried out under regulated conditions, and higher minimum set at 16 years for admission to hazardous employment
- o Provision of legislature and sanctions to govern conditions of employment and the establishment of a child labour unit to monitor its implementation

NASW has committed itself to act as a pressure group to see this programme of action realized.



From "Africa's Children, Africa's Future" OAU/UNICEF

MORE AFRICAN ASSOCIATIONS IN IFSW?

The Pan-African Social Workers Association met in Washington D.C. during the IFSW General Assembly last July in order to encourage more National Associations from Africa to join IFSW and its African Regional Branch. Social Workers from Benin, Egypt, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe were present. The continent was divided into three major zones and the following were appointed responsible for coordination of the membership drive: Mr. Adb El Monseff H. Hozayen, Egypt (Northern/Central), Dr. Julius Ola Ojesina, Nigeria (Western) and Lt. Col. Helen Tapfumaneyi, Zimbabwe (Southern/Eastern).

A regional, annual fee of USD 50,00 was accepted in addition to the fee to IFSW, and plans were made for the fifth Pan-African Social Workers Conference, to be held in Egypt. Dates will be confirmed and communicated later. The communication within the region will be given in the three main languages English, French and Arabic.

NORTH-AMERICA

USA

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in the United States is enthusiastically responding to renewed government interest in social work and social services under the leadership of President Bill Clinton.

National health care is a major priority both for the new Administration and for NASW. Last year, NASW drafted national legislation for a universal, single-payer system which was introduced in the United States Senate. This year, NASW is part of the working coalition of organizations seeking this approach to health care. The Administration has indicated support for more modest changes in our current health care system. Resolution of these differences is likely to occur over the next few months.

Welfare reform and family preservation

Also at the top of policy priority lists for both the new Administration and NASW are welfare reform and family preservation. We would be very appreciative of any information our counterparts in other countries could send to us on these topics. We are particularly interested in how other countries have established policy incentives and supports for moving people from welfare to work.

Family leave legislation

We are delighted to report that the United States has enacted family leave legislation. The law requires employers of 50 or more workers to grant up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave per year for the birth or adoption of a child; for the care of a seriously ill child, spouse, or parent; or for a serious illness of their own. NASW has worked to enact this legislation for many years, and last year it passed both houses of Congress, but was vetoed by President Bush. It was the first piece of legislation to be signed by President Clinton who took office on January 22, 1993.

The social work profession grows

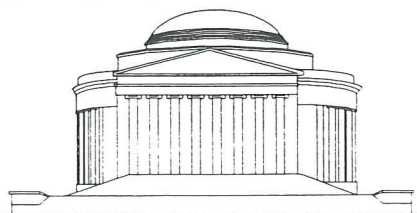
The social work profession in the United States continues to grow, especially at the bachelor of arts level, yet the profession faces increasing challenges to its role in the social services arena. Many state and local organizations permit persons not trained in the profession to fill social work positions, and salaries for social workers remain unacceptably low.

Annual Leadership Meeting

In April, NASW's national office welcomes the leadership of its 55 chapters to Washington D.C. for the Annual Leadership Meeting. This forum provides an opportunity for the national office and chapters to collaborate and share information.

The Delegate Assembly

In August 1993, the national office will host the Delegate Assembly, which is the primary vehicle for establishing policy. Through this forum, elected representatives from each chapter meet every three years to debate policy issues and set priorities for the upcoming three-year period.



EUROPE

REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

The days since the Washington Elections have been to a great extent concerned with administrative tasks, setting up some basic communication systems, drawing together the Regional Development plan, setting up a Regional account, organising the European Delegates meeting in Brussels in November and providing the first two copies of Update - an information sheet for members in the region.

The New European Executive elected at the Brussels meeting, - Eila Malmström (IFSW executive), Eli Ben Gera (IFSW executive) and Maria Teresa Abrantes Avila (President EC liaison committee) represent one of the goals of the Development Plan which is to strengthen links between IFSW, the European Region and the EC liaison committee. The first meeting will take place in Paris in April at the kind invitation of the French Association. The Executive will meet with Council of Europe Representative Marie Therese Paillusson and UNESCO representative Anne Dauvergne together with representatives for the EC liaison committee. One focus of the meeting will be identification of ways to work together internally and externally as representatives. The European Region comprised of a large and varied membership poses challenges for communication and representation. The deliberations of the Paris, April meeting will be shared with European Delegates at the Debrecen meeting in late August.

European Seminar in Hungary in August

Since Brussels I have had the great pleasure to be present at the Spanish Associations's Congress in Barcelona and at a planning meeting for the next European Seminar in August in Debrecen. This Seminar is probably the most exciting and pivotal yet to be held in the European region. Many workshops are being presented by Eastern European colleagues. A special meeting will be held with members and those yet to be members from Eastern Europe with the intention of identifying further ways in which IFSW can co-operate with developing Social Workers needs in these countries. Early booking is advisable for the Seminar. In the meantime ideas and help in any form will be welcomed in relation to the special meeting.

European Seminar in Portugal in 1995

The venue for the 1995 European Seminar will be Lisbon, Portugal, April 23-27. The Spanish and Irish Associations have offered their support to this seminar. Joint venture seminars may well be the path to the future. Evaluation of the Norwegian/Hungarian co-operative endeavour at Debrecen should provide direction.

Closer links to ICSW and IASSW

Closer links are being established with sister organisations ICSW and IASSW at European level. It was good to meet Jan Ording (VP Europe ICSW) and Teresa Rossell (IASSW Europe) in Brussels and I look forward to developing these contacts.

A Great Honour

It is a great honour to serve as VP Europe. I look forward to building on the foundations laid by my predecessor Paul Dolan and to working with our new President Suzanne Dworak-Peck and our new Secretary General Tom Johannesen, their attendance at our Brussels meeting was greatly valued.

EILIS WALSH

IFSW-NEWS - EUROPE

DECLARATION ON ANTI-OPPRESSIVE PRACTICE AND RACISM

Europe is currently faced with the most extraordinary explosion of racism and re-emergence of ethnic conflicts and anti-semitism seen for almost 50 years. Social work cannot and is not unaffected by these significant events.

We as social workers have to recognise that we need to put our own house in order and challenge our own racism and support anti-racist practice. We need to restate our own principles of ethical conduct and take these into our practice and our international documents.

This region of IFSW must:

1. Reassert the value and uniqueness of each individual regardless of race, gender, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, age or disability.
2. Recognise that social structures and professional practise might reinforce exclusion and individual oppression.
3. Restate that social work associations have both a professional and moral duty to speak out and eliminate all forms of individual oppression.
4. Encourage social work associations in the region to reflect these beliefs and attitudes against all forms of discrimination of minorities in their membership and staff as well as delegations to regional and international meetings.

Endorsed unanimously.

**EUROPEAN DELEGATES MEETING
BRUSSELS, 21 NOVEMBER 1992**

NORWAY

The Norwegian Association of Social Workers (NOSO) was integrated with the two Associations for Social Pedagogues at the associations' congresses last november.

The main purpose of the new organization is to strengthen the trade union work concerning salary negotiations and working conditions, social policies and international solidarity work. But all three associations will remain as professional associations. The new organization (FO) has over 10.000 members and The President of FO is Ms. Oddrun Remvik - former vice president of NOSO.

The new President of NOSO is Ms. Lene Bakke.

FINLAND

General Assembly on November 13-14, 1993

The General Assembly of the Finnish Association of Social Workers will be held on November 13-14, 1993. The Assembly will elect president for the next three year period and adopt policy papers on social policy, on working conditions and payment policy and on organizational development in FASW.

The Rapid Growth of FASW Continues

By the end of 1992 the association had 8 279 members. The increase was about 10 per cent. Over 90 per cent of all members are female.

Seeking New Channels in EC

Finland is seeking EC membership. Due to find channels for influence, FASW is member of ECAS, European Citizen Action Service. This spring, FASW is seeking membership in Public Service International (PSI), which is the trade union center for public workers. PSI has an European organization, EPSC, which has a status in EC. Active membership in three organizations. IFSW, PSI/EPSC and ECAS, may give a wide scale view and opportunity to work for the needs and benefits of social workers in EC.

Organizational Development Programme

The organizational development programme which started last year on the board level is continuing on the member level. More than 150 members of FASW will take part in a three part development programme in five groups.

The aim of the development programme is to find new and efficient ways to fulfill the mission of FASW: to work as a trade union and as a professional association, as well on local and Finnish level as on European and global level.

PORTUGAL

Three conferences have recently been arranged together with colleagues from other professions on the following topics: "The Maastricht Treaty", "Migration and Human Rights" and "AIDS and Social Work"

Out of the four schools of Social Work three are offering training on "Human Rights and Social Work", one of them in cooperation with the Portuguese association.

All schools have engaged themselves in the efforts towards mutual recognition of Social Work Diplomas within the European Community.

THE GREEK ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SOCIAL WORKERS

has engaged itself in the present conflict on the use of the name Macedonia by one of the new republics emerging from the former Yugoslavian Federation.

Having worked to heal the wounds after the Second World War in the northern part of Greece known as Macedonia, they are concerned that the development may represent another threat to the peace in their part of the world.

Readers wanting to obtain more material from the retired Greek social workers can write to Kassiani Panoutsopoulou, Pontou 32 and Xenias, Athens 115 28.

IFSW-NEWS - EUROPE

IRELAND

Referendum on divorce

Divorce may become a reality in Ireland within the next few years. The new centre-left coalition Government has announced that a referendum on the introduction of divorce will be held in the spring of 1994.

The last attempt at the introduction of divorce, in June 1986, ended in a surprise defeat for the government of the day, after earlier polls had shown a majority of the electorate in favour. One of the factors in that defeat was judged to be the uncertainties which opponents of divorce pointed to on the issue of the succession rights of a divorced wife and children.

The announcement of the new referendum has also stated that the actual text of future divorce legislation will be published *in advance* of the referendum, in other words people this time will know exactly what they are voting for.

Report on the Status of Women

This announcement was made at the publication of the report of the second Commission on the Status of Women, described by *The Irish Times* as "the first substantive report for more than 20 years on women in Ireland".

The Report makes 200 recommendations drawn from 600 submissions from every area of social, political and economic life. It calls, for instance for an equal rights amendment to be introduced into the Irish Constitution to prohibit all forms of discrimination based on sex.

There has been heated discussions in Dublin over the recent decision of a top class sports club, the Fitzwilliam, to continue barring women from full membership. Opponents of the ban point out that many powerful and influential men may be members of the club, and may be taking a prejudice against women into their public decision making, as judges, politicians or whatever.

Referendum on abortion

In another referendum vote, in November last, Ireland voted to permit abortion in circumstances where life, as opposed to the health, of the mother would be put at risk by the continuation of the pregnancy. The electorate also voted for two further Constitutional amendments designed to make it legal.

- a) for people in Ireland to receive information and counselling in relation to abortion, and
- b) for women to travel out of Ireland to have an abortion

These last points may seem like basic rights to many readers worldwide, but the right to information on abortion has not existed in Ireland up to now, and the right to travel was found to be absent in the so-called X case in early 1992, when the Attorney General issued an injunction preventing a 14 year old rape victim from travelling to Britain to have an abortion.

17 % of the Irish unemployed

Ireland has a new coalition government since December last. The coalition is formed of members of the Fianna Fail party, and of the Labour party which had the most successful general election in its history, securing over 32 seats in the 166 seat Dail (parliament).

The programme for government, planned for implementation over the four years to 1997, includes a raft of initiatives designed to tackle the serious unemployment situation (over 300,000, or more than 17% of the labour force), and the slow down in the economy.

There is to be a substantial public housing building programme, for example, designed to relieve the crisis in accommodation, while at the same time getting people back to work. There is also a considerable amount of legislation planned on various aspects of social reform, of which the divorce referendum mentioned earlier is just one example.

10% devaluation

Ironically, all of these plans have been threatened by the forced devaluation, by 10% of the Irish pound, at the end of January, which will add considerably to the interest charges on Ireland's foreign debt. The devaluation became unavoidable because the Irish economy is still so closely linked to that of the United Kingdom. Thirty per cent of Ireland's exports go to the U.K., so although the Irish economy is reckoned to be in far better shape than the of large neighbour, the speculators on the currency markets saw that the Irish punt could be forced into a corner.

FRANCE

La commission internationale s'est engagée dans la rédaction d'un mémento à l'usage des travailleurs sociaux et des stagiaires, sous forme de fiches pratiques sur les grand thème de politique sociale et sur la place du travail social dans ce cadre. Travail difficile étant donné les grandes différences de structures. Premières traduction envisagées: anglais et hongrois. Délai: deux ans.

Le congrès annuel de l'association a eu lieu à la Baule avec la participation de nombreux acteurs sociaux étrangers italien, hollandais, hongrois, canadien et anglais. L'atelier Hongrie a porté sur l'étude de cas présentée par Geza Gosztonyi lors du congrès de la FIAS à Washington. Les interrogations ont porté sur la place du travailleur social dans la société: au service de qui? du pouvoir ou des usagers, et pour quelle citoyenneté?

L'exécutif de la région Europe a accepté la proposition de l'association française d'organiser sa réunion à Paris, par commodité, les 15, 16, 17 et 18 avril 1993.

The International Commission has engaged itself in making information sets for social workers and students on social policies and social work issues. The work is expected to last for two years, and the first sets will be available in English and Hungarian.

A number of social workers from countries like Italy, The Netherlands, Hungary, Canada and United Kingdom participated in the last National Congress. Mr. Geza Gosztonyi from Hungary presented a study on the basis of the World Assembly in Washington, D.C. 1992, and the discussions concentrated on the role of the social worker in society.

The European Executive will be hosted by the French association for its meeting in Paris in April 1993.

IFSW-NEWS - EUROPE

ISRAEL

The ISASSW marked up an achievement in December, when the only amendment to the Budget for 1993 that was approved, was that for a significant addition to the funds for social rehabilitation in the government's Project Renewal for urban areas. The association had led a campaign together with the leaders of the residents of the neighbourhoods and development towns and the community social workers employed there, to increase the funds for projects for children and youth, the old, single parent families, new immigrants and others. And, in spite of the opposition of the Minister of Housing, the campaign targets were achieved and a substantial sum ear-marked for the community projects.

Finally a Minister for Labour and Social Welfare

After some months with a caretaker minister and some years before with only a deputy minister, the Prime Minister has appointed a Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.

The new minister, for many years the chairperson of the parliamentary committee on labour and social welfare, has entered office and begun to work energetically, generally with the approval of the ISASSW.

Violence against social workers

The new Minister and the Secretary General of the Israeli Federation of Labour were the guests of the recent two-day meeting of the ISASSW plenum committee.

The meeting discussed a proposal for a new Code of Ethics and debated the topic of violence against social workers in the light of the recent slaying of four workers in a Jerusalem mental health clinic by a patient, armed with a pistol he had received legally for his work as a guard!

Hungarian visitors

A group of twelve social workers from Hungary has paid a week's study tour of Israel. The leader of the party Mr. Geza Gosztanyi, President of the Hungarian Association of Social Workers, expressed the complete satisfaction of all the group with the high standard of the tour and how much it encompassed in so short a time.

SWITZERLAND

A period of changes

At this time the Swiss Professional Association of Social Workers (SBS) is facing a period of changes. It is aware that it should improve its image and its identity, further participation of its members and clarify its action. In consultation with its individual members the responsible bodies have set up a new statement of the Association's aims, policy and programme suggesting new structures as well.

Twinning Programme

In 1990 the SBS accepted a Twinning programme with GASOW, the Ghana Association of Social Workers by sponsoring their IFSW membership fees for 3 years. The group decided that furthering professional exchanges should be the main challenge for such a programme. One of the means was financing the presence of Ghana delegates to the General Assemblies in Buenos Aires and Washington, D.C. Both sides are preparing for a study trip to Ghana, hoping that this will provoke an exchange trip to Switzerland.

European Economic Space - EES

As the SBS only has the status of observer in EC matters, we were hoping that the EES Agreement might open up a way for direct participation. The Swiss population did not decide so on the crucial referendum on 6th December 1992.

There were various reasons in favour and others against acceptance being influenced by different rural, urban and regional views and by different political, economic and cultural interests. Universities, youth, social workers and other groups have been aware that not only economic factors were involved by the agreement, but also those like free circulation of persons and services, cooperation in research and education, protection of consumers and improvement of social insurance.

It is a fact that we have not yet become "citizens of Europe", but we still continue our active participation in European matters, especially with regard to professional areas as the coordination of curricula of Universities and the recognition of diplomas. We keep in mind that a great number of socio-political problems and challenges affecting other European countries are ours as well.

IFSW LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

An active and energetic Liaison Committee met in late November 1992 to evaluate, discuss and develop the social policy situation in the European communities. Part of the meeting was a consultation with representatives of the EC.

The situation in Europe is presently not exactly bright and outspoken concern for the situation of refugees, migrants, children at work was expressed in a very direct and frank dialogue with the representatives of the Commission.

A special area of interest - and an area where both social workers and the Commission seem to share the same priorities although goals and methods might vary - was the exclusion of large groups of the popu-

lation from the labour market and social security systems.

The Liaison Committee shall continue to put a special focus on these issues. Although the main interest of the Liaison Committee is the European Communities it is important to establish a willingness to a dialogue with organisations and other parts of the IFSW outside the European Communities.

President Kurt Eriksen and Secretary Jan Beagley left office and appreciation of their contributions was expressed. New President is Maria Teresa Abrantes Avila and Niels Hjelm Veirup will be the secretary.

LATIN-AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

CHILE

Seminario Nacional de Trabajo Social con Familias y Menores en Riesgo Social

Con participación de Asistentes Sociales del país que se desempeñan en esta área, se realizó este Seminario en Octubre ppdo, en Santiago. Se abordaron temas en relación a la Política Nacional acerca de menores con riesgo social, a la Legislación en relación a la problemática del menor, a la visión de la familia contemporánea, a los desafíos del Trabajo Social hoy en Chile.

Además se presentaron experiencias del Trabajo Social con menores en Chile. Expusieron Sociólogos, Psicólogos, Legisladores, Directores de Servicios, representantes del Ministerio de Justicia, UNICEF, Abogados y Asistentes Sociales.

Encuentro Nacional por la Formación en Servicio Social - Noviembre 1992

Con el propósito de analizar y reflexionar sobre la formación de futuros profesionales, conocer el marco jurídico vigente de la educación superior chilena y el propuesto por el Ejecutivo, y sus consecuencias para el desarrollo del Servicio Social en Chile, el Consejo General convocó a este Encuentro.

Participaron representantes de las Escuelas de Servicio Social del país, de los Consejos Regionales del Colegio de AA. Sociales y de los Centros de Alumnos de la Carrera. Presentaron interesantes ponencias Asistentes Sociales docentes y autoridades de la Educación Superior. El evento contó con el patrocinio del Ministerio de Planificación y la Asociación Chilena de Escuelas de Servicio Social.

Diplomado en Desarrollo Organizacional

Mediante un acuerdo suscrito con la Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Administrativas de la Universidad de Chile, un grupo de 22 Asistentes Sociales de Santiago, obtuvieron en 1992 su Diplomado en Desarrollo Organizacional, que les permitirá incrementar el nivel de eficiencia de la acción profesional en esta importante área.

Proyecto de Capacitación y Desarrollo Gremial

En el año 1992 se inició la extensión de este Proyecto financiado por el Sindicato de Trabajadores Sociales de Suecia a nivel nacional, mediante un convenio suscrito con el Consejo Regional Santiago, en el cual se inició este proyecto, por gestión realizada por sus dirigentes. En una primera etapa seis Consejos Regionales pudieron acceder a jornadas de estudio y otras actividades contempladas en el proyecto.

Intercambio con Dinamarca

En el año 1991 se inició el programa de intercambio de Trabajadores Sociales, con la estadía de dos Asistentes Sociales chilenos en Dinamarca, becados por la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales de Dinamarca, con la cual el Colegio suscribió un convenio. En 1992 recibimos la visita de una Trabajadora Social danesa. En el presente año viajará a Dinamarca otra Asistente Social becada.

Actividades Gremiales

Permanente ha sido el interés del Colegio por recuperar la calidad exclusivamente universitaria de la carrera, la que se perdió en virtud de la normativa impuesta en el año 1981. Para tal efecto ha planteado su posición a las autoridades de gobierno, universitarias y parlamentarios, a la vez que ha participado en comisiones integradas por docentes y estudiantes de la carrera.

El Colegio ha participado activamente a nivel de organismos gubernamentales, como el Ministerio de Justicia, en el cual integró la Comisión interministerial para abordar la problemática de la minoridad y en el Ministerio de Salud, en comisiones para analizar y hacer propuestas relativas a la política de salud, programas específicos, situación profesional y laboral de los Asistentes Sociales de este sector.

Para Mayo el año en curso el Consejo General ha convocado al VI Congreso de Asistentes Sociales, en el cual se abordarán temas de interés general como la Familia, Regionalización y Desarrollo Local, la Mujer, entre otros, y dos temas específicos de gran relevancia para el futuro: el diseño de un Proyecto de Colegio que responda a los requerimientos actuales y futuros del gremio y las reformas al Estatuto de la organización, que debe adecuarse al proyecto de Colegio que se acuerde.

Comunicación

En los años 1991 y 1992, el Colegio, a través de su Departamento de Comunicación, editó los dos primeros números de la Revista del Colegio. Esta publicación ha permitido satisfacer una sentida necesidad de contar con un medio de información y formación para los Asistentes Sociales. El aporte obtenido del Fondo Jane Hoey, de la FITS, contribuirá a financiar la edición de los próximos números.

With participation of social workers from all over the country a seminar was arranged in October 1992, approaching the realization of the National policy for minors at risk, legislation concerning minors, attitudes of the present day families, and challenges for social work in Chile.

The National Board invited to a meeting in November 1992 to analyse and reflect upon the education of future professionals, the present jurisdiction concerning higher education and the consequences for the development of social services in Chile.

The Chilean Association of Social Workers have twinning relationship with the associations in Sweden and Denmark involving mutual study visits and other inter-association development.

In 1992, 22 Social Workers obtained a Diploma in Organizational Development from the University of Chile.

The Chilean Association has spared no effort to achieve the re-establishment of Social Work Education at the exclusively academic level abolished by decree in 1981.

The VI National Congress in May will discuss important Social Work issues like Family Policy, Local Development and the Status of Women in Society.

The first editions of the Journal of the Association were published in 1991 and 1992. This important work is now being supported by IFSW's Jane Hoey Development Fund.

IFSW-NEWS - ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

Change in National Executive

The Australian Association of Social Workers Ltd has recently had a change in the membership of the National Executive with Brian Woller from Western Australia retiring from the executive after many years of service and Dr. Lesley Cooper after one term. The new executive members are:

National President: Di Gursansky, South Australia
National VPs: Vivienne Llewellyn, Hunter NSW,
Ralph Hampson, ACT and Joe Calleja, Western Australia.

National Conference

The 23rd Biennial conference of the Association will be held from the 27th to 30th September 1993. The theme of the Conference is "Social Work - Making an Impact, Shaping the Future" and it is hoped that many social workers from the Asia/Pacific region might attend.

Membership

The membership of the Australian Association continues to grow and as at January 31st 1993 there were 3165 members. This represents about a third of the estimated number of social workers in Australia.

Competencies Project

The work of the Competencies Based Standards for Social Work and Welfare continues and it is anticipated that the draft standards will be available for validation in March 1993.

Branches and Twinning

For some time now the Australian Association has been investigating the possibility of Twinning with countries in the Asian/Pacific region. At this time negotiations are underway with the Philippines in relation to this matter.

SINGAPORE

The Singapore Association of Social Workers has changed its place of business to:

Family Resource and Training Centre, Blk 324
Clementi Ave 5, #01-209 S 0512, REPUBLIC OF
SINGAPORE, Tel: (65) 778-7922, Fax: (65) 778-0609.

The President 1992-93 is Mrs. Janet Yee and the Representative to IFSW is Dr. Tan Ngoh Tiong.

KOREA

We warmly welcome the Korean Association of Social Workers back to full membership in IFSW. Prof. Yoon-Gu Lee is now the President, and the address is: Social Welfare Building, 427-5 Kongduk-Dong, Mapo-Ku, SEOUL 121-020, KOREA, Tel: (82) 2-716-5770, Fax: (82) 2-704-9789.

KUWAIT

After the liberation of Kuwait on February 26, 1991, and the return of normal life, the Parliamentary elections took place in Kuwait on October 5, 1992. The first National Assembly session of the Seventh Legislative Term was held, and the following Committees have been formed for the first time in Kuwait since the adoption of the Parliamentary System in 1963. These are the Committees:

A) Committee for P.O.W.s and Martyr Families Welfare

This Committee is concerned with the aim of following-up and trying to return the P.O.W.s who are still captured by the Iraqi regime, who violated rights of brotherhood, neighbourhood, religion, all heavenly laws, traditions and laws of countries, codes of the civilized nations that are now at the beginning of the 21st century. It is well known that the cause of P.O.W.s - 850 prisoners, mostly Kuwaitis - worries the whole Kuwaiti society, the Amir, the Government and the people. In every occasion, Kuwait requests all peace and security loving powers to practice pressure on the Iraqi regime to apply the United Nations resolutions - including the return of P.O.W.s to their countries and families.

B) Committee for Environment Affairs

Its objective is to preserve the environment, its safety from pollution and freedom from epidemics and diseases. Meanwhile, it cares for increasing the agricultural lands to be cultivated, besides keeping the balance of the sound environment for the good and welfare of the human being. This step has been taken after it was realized that the environment in Kuwait was destroyed by Iraq by setting fire on more than 700 oil wells while withdrawing its defeated forces in February 1991.

C) Committee for Defending Human Rights

This Committee was formed to preserve human dignity and respect against any abusiveness or tyranny which might affect citizens' basic rights in a society characterized with Liberty, in all actions within the legal limits and the society's norms, habits and traditions.

Seminar

The Association of Social Workers intends to hold a three-day seminar from April 19, 1993 on "Social and Psychological effects on the Kuwaiti Personality at the End of the Iraqi Aggression". A number of dignitaries and associations in Kuwait have been invited to participate in this seminar.

It is hoped that resolutions and recommendations of the seminar should be presented to all specialists and to whom it concerns in the state and those who are concerned with such issues that affect our life and society. The outcoming viewpoints will enlighten and direct our society in its movements towards advancement.

SRI LANKA: SOCIAL WORKERS WORLD CONFERENCE 1994

The Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers is busy preparing for the IFSW International Symposium to be held in Colombo July 9-13, 1994. The International Planning Committee will meet in Colombo in May 1993. Watch for the "Call for Papers". Beginning now, Papers may be sent to the Secretariat.

Please observe page 12 in the Newsletter for more details.

IFSW TEAM - UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Many parts of the world remain in unstable condition, and the priorities at the UN continue to be peace and conflict resolution. Concern now focus on the extent to which human rights violations can threaten international peace and security. Although there is ongoing concern for the respect of national sovereignty, any increased action on human rights violations is guaranteed to agitate countries which consider interpretation of human rights as purely internal matters.

Preventive diplomacy should be applied to the human rights arena. Constructive and expanded dialogue is needed to focus attention on refugees and displaced persons.

10th Anniversary of Social Work Day

With this background, the IFSW team has planned Social Work Day at the UN for Tuesday, March 23, 1993, with the theme being "A Global Challenge: Ethnic Conflict and Humanitarian Issues". Since this occasion will be the 10th anniversary of Social Work Day, there will be a tribute paid to the late Jack Kamaiko, the founder of this wonderful program to bring social workers of this area into the UN.

Mr Jan Eliasson, former Ambassador from Sweden and currently Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian affairs will be the main speaker giving an overview of ethnic conflicts and humanitarian issues. Ms. Elisabeth Lindemayer, Senior Officer, Dpt of Peace-Keeping Operations will discuss Somalia: A Case Example of attempted Conflict Resolution. Suzanne Dworak-Peck, President of IFSW, will offer Conclusions and Humanitarian Implications for IFSW.

WESTERN GUEST AT CHINA'S FIRST NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS CONFERENCE

China has joined the world of social workers and their first National Conference took place in Xian in October 1992. For the Western Guest Mr. Øyvind Tutvedt (Norway) it was interesting to note how similar this conference was to a western conference. Themes like the relationship between theory and practice, strategic planning etc was discussed. And at the noisy lunches and dinners old friends met and new friendships started.

The CASW was founded in July 4, 1991 and has now 300 members. All are not trained social workers, but all are working in the field as social workers.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) is closely linked to the association. The minister, Cui Naifu, is the President of CASW, and the permanent secretary of the MCA is the Secretary General of the CASW. At the 1992 IFSW General Assembly in Washington the CASW was accepted as member of the IFSW.

More Money to Social Work

The Vice President of CASW praised Deng Xiaoping in his opening speech for speeding up the economy. This development will make it possible to finance civil affairs and social work and better resolve social problems. In order to develop social work, the Ministry has established "The Research Center for Social Work Education". This center is training social work educators and does research on social work training.

NGO Committee on UNICEF

Rose S. Rosen reports that UNICEF is continuing to reach out to developing countries with projects in protective nutrition, primary health care and basic education of mothers, and children. UNICEF's major trust is to eliminate gender disparity in education which still persists and is a major cause of economic and social hardship in many countries.

Member Associations are urged to develop team approaches with other NGOs and government in such areas as: AIDS, reduction of infant and child mortality by aggressive screening in health clinics, aggressive strategies of immunization, and awareness education in nutrition, sanitation and environmental risks to child development.

NGO Committee on Peace and Disarmament

The 47th General Assembly of the UN ratified the third legal instrument to limit weapons of mass destruction. 138 nations co-sponsored the proposed chemical weapons convention. The signing ceremony took place on January 13, 1993 in Paris, and was endorsed by 143 nations. The Convention bans production, use and stockpiling of chemical weapons and applies to all such weapons existing.

The Committee is planning a 3,5 day forum entitled Disarmament, Peace Building and Global Security to be held April 20-23, 1993, during the meeting of the UN Disarmament Commission.

More News from UN, N.Y.
in the next Newsletter



Vice President Yan Mingfo of the Chinese Association of Social Workers is Vice Minister of Civil Affairs. He started his career as Russian interpreter for Mao Zhedong. To the right: Mr. Øyvind Tutvedt

Demand for Social Work Education

China did have social workers before the 1949 revolution. However, during the period between 1952 and the end of the cultural revolution in 1976, social work as well as psychology and sociology were not taught at the universities. China will need many colleges to meet the demand for social work education. Today a lot of people do social work without knowing that it is social work.

Mr Tutvedt is a member of the Chinese Council for Social Work Education and Social Research and has lectured at several colleges in China. His article, to long to be published in full, is obtainable from the Secretariat.

In memory of Mary Windsor

The last autumn IFSW was saddened to learn of the passing away of its well-loved former President, Mary Windsor, who held that office in our Federation from 1976 to 1980, presiding over our General Assemblies in both Tel Aviv (1978) and Hong Kong (1980).

Mary Windsor was elected President by the General Assembly in Puerto Rico in July 1976 after long years of experience as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the British Association of Social Workers. She had previously been a highly respected and popular figure as a senior official at London's prominent Paddington Hospital.

During her term of office Mary travelled extensively as roving ambassador of the Federation. Although speaking no language but her own native English, her innate gift of communication won many friends for IFSW, whose membership increased by 25 per cent during her term. It was her firm contention that no national association of social workers was worth its salt if it did not have an active and influential committee for international affairs.

In her first term she visited Canada from coast to coast, South Africa and Chile where the military dictator was visibly shaken by her outspoken criticism of his methods and indifference to human rights in her forceful pleas in the name of IFSW on behalf of his imprisoned and exiled victims. In Canada her persuasive personality contributed in no small measure to the revival of CASW activity with the help of Dr. Dick Splane of Vancouver. Within a short time CASW had become one of IFSW's most important supporters and given our Federation a Canadian President and a Treasurer, both of Alberta. The seeming impossibility of amalgamating South Africa's white, black and mixed-race associations into a single national body led her to recommend South Africa's exclusion from membership. She also paid well-remembered visits to Australia, Ireland, Israel and Hong Kong.

On retirement Mary went back to her London hospital work and even learned and became expert at deaf-and-dumb sign language. She will be sadly missed by her many friends and colleagues.

ANDREW MOURAVIEFF-APOSTOL
HON. PRESIDENT - IFSW

MORE FRIENDS OF IFSW

20 new Friends have joined IFSW so far this year, giving a total of 69 from 12 different countries. As you know Friends are an opportunity for individuals to link with the vital policy and practice initiatives with which IFSW is engaged.

A campaign will be launched in the near future, asking the member associations to designate a person as primarily responsible for the recruitment of Friends. The follow-up responsibility will be a task for the Secretariat. The Newsletter will follow the development of the Friends program in its editions, and the July issue will give a closer presentation.

To be an IFSW FRIEND, please contact the Secretariat now!

ANDREW AND ELLEN MOURAVIEFF-APOSTOL



resigned as Secretary General and Associate Secretary General by the end of 1992. Luckily they are still serving IFSW as Honorary President and Representative to UN in Geneva.

20 big boxes with files from 1928 to 1992 left the Geneva office late December headed for Oslo, where the new Secretary General Tom Johannesen has re-established the IFSW Secretariat.

Ellen and Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol worked together with Tom Johannesen in Geneva during three intensive sessions in November and December 1992 to ensure a smooth transition.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH HIV AND AIDS

RESPONSE FROM WHO AND THE
UK GOVERNMENT TO IFSW RESOLUTION

The IFSW General Meeting in Washington, D.C. passed on a resolution demanding that all governments remove travel restrictions for persons with HIV. In an answer from the World Health Organization of January 12, 1993 to the resolution Dr. Dorothy Blake, the Deputy Director for the Global Programme on AIDS, states:

"The WHO Policy on Human Rights and AIDS is clear: WHO is opposed to discrimination against HIV infected persons or persons with AIDS. The 41st World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA 41.24 in Geneva on 13 May 1988 - Avoidance of discrimination in relation to HIV infected people and people with AIDS. Among its provisions, WHA 41.24 urges member States, ... (2) to protect the human rights and dignity of HIV-infected people and people with AIDS, and of members of population groups, and to avoid discriminatory action against and stigmatization of them in the provision of service, employment and travel ..."

In an answer to the British Association of Social Workers of November 1992, the UK Secretary of State for Health, Virginia Bottomley, states:

"The UK endorses the view of the WHO that HIV entry related restrictions are ineffective and that there are no good public health reasons for imposing them. In the development of its policies on HIV and AIDS, the Government has consistently tried to discourage discrimination, including discrimination against HIV infected foreign nationals who wish to visit or reside in the UK. We believe that there is no good public health reason to exclude such people from the UK, since the virus is already present amongst the UK population."

Later in her letter, the Secretary of State for Health writes: *"If other countries seek to impose HIV related entry restrictions, the UK Government and its EC colleagues play an active role in trying to persuade them not to do so."*

IFSW SEMINARS 1993

Debrecen, Hungary August 22-24 - IFSW's 11th European Seminar on

POVERTY IN THE EUROPEAN HOUSE - CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL WORK

"The poor are both very similar and very different throughout the world, but they should be fellow citizens. The European House is becoming a reality, though we are not sure about all its characteristics. The recession and conservatism endangers the achievements of the social welfare system and professional social work".

Keynote address:
State Power and the Power of Poverty
Plenaries:

1. Poverty is beautiful, The Escape from Stigmatizing Consumer Society - the Green Way or the Highway
2. Poor Europe, the Poors of Europe - A comparison between Regions
3. Crisis Management or Long Term Strategies
More than 70 workshops are provided from all over Europe. Field visits to Romania, Slovakia or Ukraine. Social Programs and reasonable accommodation. The Seminar fee is at its lowest if you register before May 1.

1994

Colombo, Sri Lanka July 9-13

THE SOCIAL WORKERS WORLD CONFERENCE
Sri Lanka is getting ready for the IFSW International Symposium 1994 focusing on

THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION: A FAMILY UNITED IN TROUBLED TIMES

Post Conference Study and Sightseeing Tours, Exhibitions.

The first brochures were distributed February and Call for Papers will be out soon. You may send your papers to the IFSW Secretariat.

Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers plans a warm welcome for social workers, educators, researchers, planners, policymakers and administrators from all over the world. Family members and companions are welcome too.



Dr. Dudley Disanayake, the President of the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers and Member of the IFSW Executive Committee, will be the host of the IFSW World Conference in 1994.

DIARY OF EVENTS 1993

Linz, Austria May 3-6 - "Neue Wege der Prävention und Krisenhilfe für Kinder und Familien". The Seminar language is German.

Bonn, Germany May 9-14 - 9th Congress of the International Council of Homehelp Services - ICHS: "Help and Care tailored to individual Needs - Informal Support - Family Support - Formal Support Systems".

Moscow, Russia May 25-29 - Our new member association, the Association of Social Pedagogues and Social Workers, hosts an International Seminar on "Historical Roots, Modern Problems - Prospects of Social Work". Among the themes are "Social Work in the Conditions of Market Economy" and "Social Work as Science and Art".

Krakow, Poland June 7-10 - "Privatization and Socio-economic Policy in Central and Eastern Europe".

San Francisco, USA June 23-26 - "The Fifth International Conference on Social Work and AIDS: "Building Bridges - Caring for the Caretaker".

Budapest, Hungary July 4-9 - XV Congress of International Association of Gerontology.

Dublin, Ireland July 25-31 - 8th International Foster Care Conference: A Journey through Fostering.

Stockholm, Sweden August 9-13 - Conference of The Council of International Fellowship - CIF on how the Welfare should be organized in the future.

Chiba, Japan August 23-27 - Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health: "Mental Health: Towards the 21st Century - Technology, Culture and Quality of Life".

Dublin, Ireland September 26-29 - IV Congress of the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation: "Towards a Better Future for the Mentally Ill.

Turin, Italy November 11-13 - The European Regional group of IASSW offers a Seminar on "Social Work Education for a Changing Europe".

Valletta, Malta November 28 - December 2 - World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family: "Promoting Families for the Well-Being of Individuals and Societies".

More information is obtainable from the organizers of the different events or from the IFSW Secretariat. Please inform us if you know about other events.

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

One of our Representatives to UN in Vienna, Rosa Logar, is working on Human Rights focusing on women. She can be reached at:
Spengergasse 61/17, A-1050 VIENNA,
AUSTRIA, tel. (off.): (43) 222-55 08 20