

Executive Committee Meeting - Edinburgh, Scotland

1. According to our constitution we have come together for the annual meeting of the Executive Committee.

It is not the first time that the Executive Committee is meeting in Great Britain, and also some of the people on the Board have changed since - according to the constitution - we would like to say, that we all feel at home in your country. Thanks to Mary Windsor and to Hugh Sanders with whom we have become so familiar throughout the years.

1. I am sure that all of you ~~will agree that our meetings in~~

Manila, the Permanent Council Meeting, the Executive Committee Meeting as well as the 2nd Symposium have become a full success. It was not only the very warm hospitality and the kindness of the Philipinos, the superb organization and the outstanding professional work that was displayed in that conference, it was also the great co-operation and the readiness of all participants in sharing responsibility in that world wide meeting.

In spite of the urgent social needs that became even more evident by the taifun that flooded the country whilst we were there, we got the impression, that the minister of the social welfare department and the social workers working closely together with him were the most efficient and capable people to cope with that tremendous burden that the majority of the population has to carry.

The report of the conference has ~~just~~ arrived, just in time to draw your attention to that most attractive and comprehensive book which includes the speeches and the reports of the discussion groups. With all its details it reviews the proceedings of the conference in a very intensive and true manner, and for those of us who have had the pleasure to take part in the conference it brings back happy memories. The report is in English, so we do hope that many of our English speaking colleagues will be able to purchase the report and I also hope, that other National Associations <sup>will</sup> translate some of the content because it may give their members a profound base for discussion. We owe gratitude and deep respect to the National Association of Philippine Social Workers, therefore please allow me to congratulate their board members on behalf of all of you for that fine document. I feel extremely grateful for that report because it gives evidence of the high quality of the symposium and at the same time it compensates for other publications that should <sup>have</sup> been done by IFSW.

You will also find in the Manila report all those country reports that were sent in for last year's conference. I do hope that for the present year the various member associations have responded as

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well in sending in short reports which should be used for the News letter.

As you all know, IFSW is one of the three editors of International Social Work and it would add to the acknowledgement of professional social work if our member Associations would send in articles for publication. We may come back to that point later.

3. Like it has been in the years before, my communication with members was mostly performed by means of correspondence. The extend of correspondence has grown immensely during the last year. It was mostly concentrated on the following:

- a) inquiries about IFSW - its constitution and its aims
- b) the future of the secretariat
- c) the registration of IFSW in Switzerland
- d) the proceedings of the last symposium
- e) preparations for the next conferences in Edingurgh and in The Hague
- g) the Jane Hoyer bequest
- h) the financial situation of IFSW
- i) correspondence with other international organizations

There was also close contact by correspondence to all 3 Vice Presidents and to member countries who had sent representatives to former IFSW meetings. That is to say whenever members take part in IFSW activities they maintain contact with us. But there are still some members whose real interest in the federation has not yet come to life. I do hope that through closer regional contacts we may more easily reach some of these members.

During the year I had personal contacts with representatives from South Africa, Austria, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

With the representative from the National Department of Social Welfare and Pensions in Pretoria, who came to see me in my office in Berlin, I had a chance to explain to him the suspension of the National Association of South Africa. A short report on this will be given later.

With Ingrid Gelinek, the President of the Austrian National Assoc. who came to see me in Berlin, we discussed vividly the question of active participation of members in national as well as in international professional organizations. As it is still a very hard job to attract especially young social workers to take active part in their national association we thought that it is useless to complain but rather should start to search for the reasons that prevent social workers from taking responsibility and from keeping more interest in the association. There might be several reasons to be found in the social worker himself, there might be several others that remain in the association. It might well be that we need a very new structure and a very new orientation within most of the National Associations. I should like to refer to the paper presented by Nelson Jackson at the Manila conference which to my mind contains several very interesting aspects that need to be discussed and evaluated intensively by the national associations. Early in December I met the Vice President and the Secretary General of the Netherlands National Association. There has been an extended discussion around the next conferences in The Hague in 1972. We will hear a report on that discussion later, but let me just mention that I regret very much that none of the Netherlands Association is present to day. That seems to me another indication of the financial dilemma which most of the associations still have to face.

When Catherine Chuard, the President of the Swiss Association and member of our Ex. Com. came to Berlin in June our discussions were mostly centered around the many troubles we have in receiving the money from the Jane Hoey bequest. With that we <sup>became</sup> got aware of the very different laws in different nations, which causes us many difficulties in getting the money that is needed terribly. We also had discussions on the future of the secretariat which according to a resolution made by the Permanent Council in Manila

that the matter should be prepared by a working party which the President should call together. There was general understanding that all preparations in regard to the future of the Secretariat should be handled by democratic participation.

As much as I was in favour of calling together such a working party I must confess that I never could find the time throughout the last year to do so. On the other hand it is again a financial problem to come together with representatives of national associations on behalf of IFSW inbetween conferences.

In February I sent a short questionnaire via the three Vice Presidents to all member countries and we received twenty answers. An evaluation of these twenty answers will be given later.

We owe great respect and gratitude to Catherine Chuard who made it possible that IFSW is now registered in Bern, Switzerland. The registration was extremely important in connexion with the money of the Jane Hoyer Bequest. Catherine Chuard and Nelson Jackson have done their utmost in securing that money for IFSW. However as we shall hear later all their efforts have not yet led to full success. Nevertheless I shall take the opportunity to thank both of them on behalf of all of us for that strenuous piece of work.

Before closing my report I should like to thank again Nelson Jackson who has accomplished the largest amount of the year's correspondence, and who has carried most of the work that helps IFSW to grow not only in membership, but also to become a meaningful instrument in international professional social work.

I should also like to express my thanks to Miss Marie Louise Cornaz who represented us so successfully at the European offices of the United Nations. We shall hear her written report later. Unfortunately we have heard from Miss Cornaz that she will not be able to represent IFSW further, that means that we must look for a successor who will be able to do the job with the same efficiency, experience and knowledge

and success. That will indeed not be easy, and I shall look with an open eye to our delegates from Switzerland to help in that respect. The contact to other international bodies is of tremendous importance to IFSW in the regional as well as in the central office because on the one hand it keeps us informed and up to date and on the other hand it makes us known to other related organisations.

Of the same importance we regard our relationship to ICSW and to IASSW. Here I should like to thank Etienne Chouffier and Catherine Chuard who acted as representatives during the ICSW regional meeting in Paris last March, and I should like to thank Marie Teresa Greggo de Ruiz who represented us as well at the last IASSW meetings in Manila.

*I should like to close that short report with the hope that during our Executive meeting here in Edinburgh we will be able to concentrate ourselves to the various problems included in the Agenda and come to conclusions that will help us to strengthen the Federation and its common work to day and in the future.*