Juan O. Somavia, Chile's Ambassador to the United Nations is a Diplomat of special standing. As the head and heart of the World Summit for Social Development process, he has also cooperated closely with NGO's - here communicating with women activists, fasting in the midst of the Summit's walking hall to express solidarity with the world's poor. IFSW appointed Somavia Honorary Social Worker for his commitment to values of development and humanity, a tribute he recognised and happily accepted.

IFSW's delegation to the World Summit, from the left Nigel Hall, our Vice President for Africa, Elis Envall, President, Dr. Celia B. Weisman, head of IFSW representatives to UN, New York, Tom Johannesen, Secretary General and Gloria Lizarra de Sossa, our Vice President for Latin America and Caribbean.

The Social Summit upgrades Social Issues
President's Message

Social Work is based on Values

A few months ago, the UN Summit for Social Development was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Summit focused on three main problem areas: Eradication of Poverty, Creation of Productive Employment and Social Integration. This was a unique event in the history of the United Nations and of the world. For the first time the interest of the world - and of the media - was in a single context directed at the social issues, problems, needs and rights. This has always been on the agenda of Social Work. Heads of States and governments globally committed themselves to create the necessary conditions and the changes needed to reach these goals.

Professional social workers around the world daily meet the challenges of the Summit in their work: Poverty, Unemployment and Exclusion. The Summit also for the social workers formed a unique opportunity to reflect on our role and the motivation for social work. I believe that the profession needs to become aware of the fact that social control of people living in poverty and of other marginalised groups can not be part of professional social work. Social Work is Liberation, not Control.

As part of this reflection the IFSW is now looking into our own definition of Social Work which dates back to 1982 and into other official definitions, e.g. those of the ILO and of the Council of Europe. In this revision work we will most probably start with Values, Ethics and Human Rights as a basis for the profession. A future definition should express the idea that Social Work is not just theory and practice but to the same extent based on values.

I believe that we also must draw on the experiences of social work in South America to develop the use of pedagogical methods in individual and group social work and community work. The role of the Human Rights educator in several countries such as the Philippines is important to develop in all countries and social work contexts. We must also make use of new experiences in the development of social work in the countries in transition in Eastern and Central Europe.

I have been reached by the tragic news that our dear friend and colleague, the IFSW Elections Officer Mr. Jones Muguse has passed away on the 2nd of June, after several months of illness. We are all very grateful for his endeavours for the IFSW and for international exchange in social work. We shall all miss Jones’ unusual kindness and wonderful, joyful spirit. The IFSW and the NASW-Zimbabwe have both truly lost a great asset.

Stockholm, July 1995

Elis Envall
President

In this Edition of the Newsletter:

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Significant NGO-Position to IFSW

Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol, IFSW's former Associate Secretary General and presently heading the IFSW representation to the United Nations in Geneva was during the Annual General Meeting of the NGO Committee on UNICEF in New York in May, elected as its President.
UN Summit for Social Development: The Follow Up is the Real Test

The UN World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) in Copenhagen, Denmark, March 6 - 12, 1995 brought together over 2000 NGO's and 2800 members of the media along with 180 UN member states, of which 117 were represented by heads of state or government. After one week of negotiations, ending in a Declaration and a Program of Action set to change the global agenda for the years to come, it is clear that the Summit itself only is the starting point of a long process. The Eradication of Poverty, Sustainable Employment and Social Integration can only be achieved at a local level. While the outcome of the Summit is an instrument to support a development toward these ambitious goals, the job must be done at home.

Declaration

The WSSD, which had been prepared through 3 preparatory committee meetings in New York, produced two interrelated documents, the first being The Declaration, outlining the needs and goals for the Summit. It states that societies must respond more effectively to the "material and spiritual needs of individuals, their families and communities" and highlights the relationship between social development, social justice, peace and security among nations. As the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in his opening speech, the Summit's task is "nothing more or less than to rethink the notion of collective, social responsibility". The Declaration contains ten commitments in a framework of international cooperation, but with full respect of national sovereignty. The commitments deal with 1) creation of an enabling environment, 2) eradication of poverty, 3) full employment, 4) social, integration, 5) equality and equity between women and men, 6) access to quality education and health, 7) accelerated economic, social and human resource development in Africa, 8) ensuring that structural adjustment programs (SAP's) include social development goals, 9) increasing and/or using more effectively resources allocated to social development, and 10) improving the framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development.

Program of Action

The other document, The Program of Action, outlines policies, actions and measures to implement the principles and fulfill the commitments of the Declaration. It is divided in five chapters: 1) An enabling environment for social development, 2) Eradication of poverty, 3) Expansion of productive employment and the reduction of unemployment, 4) Social integration, and 5) Implementation and follow-up.

Advances

The commitment to eradicate poverty is one of the most significant results of the Summit, and it is the first time that political leaders have made a step like this. The recognition of the central role of women, stating that empowerment of women in society is a key pre-condition for social development provides a strong platform for progress and will hopefully be followed up at the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing this September. The commitment to promote the goal of full employment is an immense step forward. Also affirmation of the principle that social development and human rights form part of the same continuum must be counted as an advance. Reductions in military expenditure is placed surely on the international agenda. Review of SAP's in recognition of their social consequences definitely represents progress, so does the increased recognition of participation of civil society and closer coordination between the UN system and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Even if the 20:20 principle (the commitment to direct 20% of the development aid by donors and 20% of the national budget by receiving countries to social programs) did not reach further than to a voluntary status, it still may end this list of advances.

Missed Opportunities

The basic challenge of the international economy to solve the interrelation between a free-market economy and sustainable social development did not move significantly. The same can be said about the interaction between national sovereignty and global action. For bilateral debt relief no bold steps were taken, and a tax on international currency transactions (the Tobin tax) were set aside. Finally, the developing nations had to leave the Danish capital without firm commitments to have new and additional resources for social development confirmed.

IFSW at the Summit

The main goal of IFSW at the Summit was to make social work visible as a value-oriented profession. A detailed report on IFSW activities at the Summit will be made available to the international social work community. In addition to the official IFSW delegation, several member associations were present. The IFSW President had the floor in the Main Committee at the Summit, presenting social work concerns and responses. The Special edition of the Newsletter, highlighting social work contributions to social development, were actively distributed to governments, media, other NGO's and the general public, and the Federation actively participated at several caucuses as the ones on Africa, Latin America, Women and Ageing. In close cooperation with the Danish Association of Social Workers (DS) IFSW gave 5 workshops and promoted an exhibit at the parallel NGO Forum, which draw a total of 160 000 visitors in 10 days. A DS/IFSW hearing on conditions for social work in developing countries was very well visited.

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF HEALTH RELATED SOCIAL WORK

BY JOAN BARACLOUGH

This year the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) is celebrating the centenary of health related social work. A century of unbroken service to sick and disabled people began with the appointment of an almoner in 1895; flourished as part of the National Health Service between 1948 and 1974 and continues in diverse ways, as part of the statutory duties of local authorities; in hospitals, hospices, general practice, child guidance centres, day care, voluntary organisations and in caring for people at home.

In 1895 the Charity Organisation Society (COS) persuaded the Board of Governors of the Royal Free Hospital to tackle the problems of overcrowding and other abuses common in London hospitals, by creating a post of almoner; "a charitable assessor" who would determine the need of those who applied for help, referring elsewhere those who could afford to pay for their medical care and "obtaining general assistance for those whose personal and social circumstances might otherwise prevent them obtaining maximum benefit from the medical care afforded to them".

Mary Stewart - the First Almoner

Miss Mary Stewart, the first almoner, was a trained COS worker, experienced in assessing needs and accessing resources - skills still required. A woman of tact, compassion and quiet determination, she gradually overcame the suspicions of the medical staff. Assistants were appointed; volunteer helpers came forward. The experiment proved successful and cost effective. By 1903 almoners, including one man, had been appointed at other London Hospitals. They met regularly to discuss the problems and possibilities of the work and for mutual support, forming the Hospital Almoners Committee - the first professional social work association and the forerunner of BASW.

Education and Training

Education and training was regarded as a necessary prerequisite. In 1907 the Hospital Almoners Council was set up to develop more relevant education and training and to devise strategies for recruitment to the profession. The Institute, as it became, pursued a policy that Universities should provide courses, which it then approved for entry to the profession. Meantime the Institute ran its own training. It was not until 1954 that the first specialist Medical Social Work course was provided, at Edinburgh University.

International Exchange

From those early days too, knowledge and skill were developed through international exchange. Miss Anne Cummins, first almoner at St. Thomas' Hospital and the dominant figure in the profession in its first fifty years, was an innovator who enjoyed lasting links with social workers and doctors from many countries. In 1907 Miss Ida Cannon came from Boston, Massachusetts, to discuss mother and child welfare; in 1927 Mrs Kent Hughes went home determined that all Australian hospitals should have almoners and engineered the first post at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, with Miss Agnes MacIntyre, Miss Cummins assistant, as the first incumbent.

Psychiatric Social Work

With the development of psychology and psychoanalytic thought in the 1920s, several almoners began to travel to America to train as psychiatric social workers. Child guidance centres were being set up and in 1929 the Mental Health Course started at the London School of Economics. In December that year, plans were laid for an Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, which grew and in 1970 was another of the founding organisations of BASW.

National Health Service

The introduction of the National Health Service in 1948 relieved almoners and psychiatric social workers of work relating to financial assessment, so they were able to focus more on the social and emotional aspects of illness and disability, developing understanding of bereavement and loss; the value of hospice care and the effects of high tech medicine on patients and their families. The repertoire of interventive skills expanded.

Pioneer Foundations Have Endured

The early pioneers laid foundations which have endured. Their emphasis on standards, education and training, inter-professional co-operation and international exchange are as important now as they were then. Today we still have the tasks of assessing need; of managing with finite resources; of maintaining quality of service and of generating public understanding of the nature of need.

Courage, Compassion and Commitment

Health related social work in the United Kingdom has moved from being a small highly specialised service to being part of the social service provision of every local authority. We are conscious of the need to put the patient rather than the hospital first; to prevent the abuse of service users and their carers, rather than the abuse of hospitals. We are learning lessons about handling disasters on a national level as well as on an individual scale; about domestic violence and staff stress. All social workers today need some knowledge and skills in working with physical, psychiatric and sensory illness and impairment, whether they are employed in public or private services, in health or social care. We also need the courage, compassion and commitment of the pioneers.
JONES MUGUSE IS DEAD

IFSW's Elections Officer, Jones M. Muguse, Captain in the Zimbabwe National Army Social Services, passed away June 2, following a long illness. With his distinctive personality he was a dedicated colleague and a great friend of international social work.

His commendable involvement with IFSW was noted by the Army Commander at his military funeral gathering over 300 people. His body was later taken to his home in the rural areas for burial. Jones is sadly missed by all his colleagues and friends in Zimbabwe and throughout the world. African social work has lost one of its most well-known representatives. It feels empty without him.

Well Coordinated Human Rights Consultation in the Philippines

150 social workers and others involved in human rights from countries in the Asia-Pacific region met in Manila in January to take part in a Consultation sponsored by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Geneva and IFSW. The theme "Empowering People for Genuine Development Through Human Rights Education" was discussed for four days after an opening statement from Hon. Jose Ayala-Lasso, the first United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Social Workers Influence the Human Rights of Others

Hon. Ayala-Lasso congratulated the organizers for a timely initiative when we are "called upon to address the most crucial and multi-dimensional issues of our societies and help define a new future for a true and global human security". He also pointed at social workers as a profession in a position to exercise influence on the human rights of others, and that UN supported special "training of trainers" to support this position.

Continued Political Imprisonment

The Philippines in itself is demonstrating the need for enhanced focus on human rights. 80% of the population is living in abject poverty. Political imprisonment has continued since the time of the dictatorship, and a visit to some of these prisoners led to a Resolution from the Consultation for the release of all political prisoners. The Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates convened the Consultation, headed by Evelyn Balais-Serrano, IFSW's Human Rights Commissioner for Asia & Pacific.

550 met for the Lisbon European Seminar

Human Rights also dominated the European Seminar in Lisbon, Portugal in April, arranged in cooperation with ICSW. Social work was made more visible in Portugal due to the media coverage stimulated by this event, which was a big achievement for the Portuguese Association of Trained Social Workers. Much focus was given to the excluded part of the population denied the possibility to exercise their citizenship.

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Dublin, Helsinki and St. Petersburg to follow as European venues

The IFSW European Delegates Meeting, arranged in connection with the Seminar in Lisbon, accepted invitations from Dublin, Ireland to host the 1997 European Seminar and also a joint venture between Finland and Russia for the Seminar in 1999. Much interest and activity in the European region is directed at IFSW's representation at regional bodies as the Council of Europe with 34 member states and the European Union with 15. Among the core issues are the Role, Function and Training of Social Workers and involvement in the development of social work and social welfare in Eastern and Central Europe.

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News from Member Associations

Germany

Professional Associations have joined
The roots of social workers' associations in Germany are rather deep and date back to the beginning of this century. The unification of the two largest associations DBS and BSH, now DBSH (Deutscher Berufsverband der Sozialarbeiter/Sozialarbeiterinnen, Sozialpädagogen/Sozialpädagoginnen, Heilpädagogen/Heilpädagoginnen), is a true highlight. The efforts for joining hands in the quest for strengthening professional social work have been plentiful, and throughout the eras of monarchy, democracy, fascism, socialism and again democracy, they were marked by trials, successes and errors from within and without. The definition of the domain of social work, the question of who belongs to the professional group, ideological and religious interests in conjunction with private and public response to the weighty challenges in the past and will continue to be so in the future. The fusion, following the unification of Germany, is remarkable in the additional sense, that colleagues from the eastern states of Germany are again participating in these joint efforts.

IFSW Cooperation a Stepping Stone
One of the stepping stones towards the fusion was the foundation of the Coordinating Body of DBS and BSH in 1990 (DARGE) for conjoint representation in IFSW. The engagement of two groups of representatives from both associations and intensive negotiations led to the foundation of DBSH at the beginning of 1994 and the first well-attended congress and membership meeting took place in November 1994.

United Kingdom

The Queen sends her best wishes to BASW
1995 is the Centenary of Health Related Social Work in the United Kingdom (see the special article on page 4). The Queen has sent her very best wishes to BASW, which has co-ordinated a range of events and activities, including a press launch, Parliamentary Reception and a Reunion for Registered Almoners and Medical Social Workers. Special education and research programs in the field of health related social work have also been established, and a Thanksgiving service and a public lecture this autumn will lead to a Multi-disciplinary conference to examine key issues from the year. One of the aims is to stimulate social workers in health settings through caring, competent, constructive and creative social work to respond to and empower those service users, whose lives and well-being are affected by ill health, disability, trauma or loss.

USA

Social Services cut in Belt-Tightening
NASW continues to monitor and respond to developments in the government budget-writing process, of greater importance than usual because Congress is trying to work toward a balanced budget by 2002. Social services are disproportionately slated for cuts, while NASW lobbyists are urging members of Congress not to let poor people bear the brunt of this belt-tightening.

Colleague Assistance Program to help Social Workers and protect Consumers
A colleague assistance program guide for chapters is in the works. The guide aims to assist in putting together a program to help social workers who are impaired in their practice, whether through drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, or personal problems. The program is based on a 1993 Delegate Assembly call for an ethical response on this issue, aiming also at protecting consumers.

Greater Organizational Commitment to International Social Work Concerns
Dr. Jeane Anastas, chair of NASW’s Committee on Women’s Issues, has been authorized to represent NASW at the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing. She will network with other social workers at the meeting to collaborate on areas of mutual concern in issues affecting women.

3000 Social Workers to be trained on Mental Health Aspects of HIV disease
A branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a contract to NASW to develop training for social workers on the mental health aspects of HIV disease. Focus will be on preparation of social workers in a range of health, mental health and social services agencies to recognize and intervene in the psychological sequelae of HIV infection. Year 1 will deal with developing and piloting a social work program, while years 2 and 3, pending contract renewal, will focus on providing training for at least 3000 social workers. Curricula to be developed will include general information on HIV prevention, infection, manifestations and treatment, psychological factors of HIV disease, and the interaction of diverse cultures with HIV services and providers.

IFSW DELEGATION TO BEIJING ‘95
The International Federation of Social Workers has designated the following representatives to be accredited to the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing in September, 1995: Agnes Yeung (head), Hille Gosejacob-Rolf, Ann Meehan (all 3 Presidents of their associations in Hong Kong, Germany and Ireland) and Jeane Anastas, Chair of NASW’s (USA) Committee on Women’s Issues.
Hong Kong 1996

The joint World Congress of the International Association of Schools of Social Work and IFSW, July 24 - 27, 1996 is only a year ahead. The 2nd Announcement and Call for Papers have been distributed, with deadline set to October 30, 1995. The theme is "Participating in Change - The Social Work Profession in Social Development", and many participants are expected to be drawn to this major event, which will include study visits to China and Vietnam, and a Pre-Congress symposium on "Social Work in Chinese Communities". The Congress forms an opportunity for the HK social work community to consolidate what it has, look ahead and share it with colleagues globally one year before the British colonial era comes to an end, and sovereignty is returned to China. The International Council of Social Welfare will arrange its International Conference July 29 - August 3 in the same venue, and all three organizations will during a joint symposium July 28 offer a follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development.

New Zealand 1995

Many Partners to discuss Partnerships

IASSW, ICSW and IFSW, their 3 New Zealand affiliates and 9 supporting partners in New Zealand will discuss how effectiveness and efficiency in social service delivery can be promoted, and competence developed when social workers and others meet for the Asia-Pacific Regional Social Services Conference in Christchurch November 20 - 23, 1995. IFSW will arrange its 1995 Executive Committee Meeting November 17 - 19 in the same venue, the first ever in the Pacific region.

Membership in IFSW to be expanded

The organizations of the Social Pedagogues in Denmark and Norway have applied for membership in IFSW, and a postal ballot General Meeting will by mid-July decide on approval. Also the social workers in the Netherland Antilles have submitted their application for approval. The Secretary General discussed IFSW membership with Social Work associations in South Africa during a visit to the country in February, and it is hoped that a process toward membership will gain speed during this year. Albania, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Cuba, Honduras, India, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Seychelles and the Slovak Republic are other countries where social workers are in a process of discussing possible membership for their associations.

NEWS FROM NEW YORK

IFSW Team, United Nations

The World Summit for Social Development was the subject when the IFSW Team to the United Nations in New York arranged the 12th Annual Social Work Day at UN Headquarters March 21 in cooperation with the International Affairs Committee of the New York City Chapter of NASW. One of the speakers, Ana Maria Brasilheiro, Chief, Latin America and Caribbean Section, UN Development Fund for Women noted that the feminization of poverty is increasing unabated. While women form half the world's population, they work 2/3 of the world's working hours, earn 1/10 of the world's income and own 1/10 of the world's property. Both work and employment should be redefined to reflect the reality of gender roles.

Children Impacted by Apartheid

The situation in South Africa is still closely monitored by the NGO Committee on Southern Africa after democratization. UNICEF hosted a forum in February looking into the generation of scarred young people who suffer from despair and homelessness, for whom change may have come too late. Even if the majority of children do not suffer from post-traumatic stress, studies should be conducted in different areas such as the level of violence, the formation of adolescent gangs and the exposure of street children to drugs.

Expert Group on Social Welfare Strategies for Indigenous People

An Expert Group met in February to make proposals to the UN member states on social welfare strategies for indigenous people. The group concentrated a central part of its report on recognition of diversity and knowledge of the various value systems of indigenous societies as necessary conditions for a constructive dialogue.
369 FRIENDS OF IFSW

The IFSW Friends program is designed to give social workers, agencies, corporations and others supporting the social work profession and global social development a possibility to link with international social work on a regular basis. The program has now spread to 41 countries in all regions of the world, and consists of 369 individuals and organizations. If you want to know more about how to join, please contact the IFSW secretariat.

IFSW Friends
The Symbol of Professional Commitment to International Social Work

FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

IFSW thanks contributors for donations to IFSW funds

Wileen Smith, USA

IFSW will accept contributions in the form of memorials or tributes, or donations to the Jane Hoye Fund for social work development, and will acknowledge support in the IFSW Newsletter. Donations may be tax deductible in some countries. More information can be obtained from the Secretariat.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The IFSW Newsletter is open for advertisements. The deadline for our next edition in November is October 20. If you want to know more about how to advertise, please notify the Secretariat.

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NEW INFORMATION SERVICE ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

IFSW is now providing an extended information service on upcoming international conferences. A list will give you details on venues, topics, time schedules and where to obtain more information. The list is available from the Secretariat on request, and updated on a regular basis.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLINICAL DIMENSIONS OF EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PRACTICE

A Conference offered in Copenhagen, Denmark, August 19 - 20, 1995 in cooperation between Professor Dale A. Masi, Professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, PPC International and IFSW. More information from the Secretariat.

IFSW Conferences and Seminars

Christchurch, New Zealand, Nov 20-23, 1995
Asia-Pacific Regional Social Services Conference: "Partnerships that work?"

Cairo, Egypt, Feb 29 - March 2, 1996
5th Pan Africa Regional Seminar of IFSW: Social Work and Development in Africa: Towards the 21st Century - Problems and Possibilities

Hong Kong, July 24 - 27, 1996
World Conference: Participating in Change - The Social Work Profession in Social Development

Dublin, Ireland, August 24 - 28, 1997
European Seminar: Culture, Identity and Social Work in a Changing Europe

Jerusalem, Israel, July 5 -10, 1998
World Conference: Social Work on the Threshold of the 21st Century

Some of these conferences and seminars are arranged in cooperation between IFSW and IASSW / ICSW.

Diary of Events 1995

Copenhagen, Denmark, Aug 16 - 18

Amsterdam, The Netherlands Aug 30 - Sep 2
3rd European Congress of Gerontology: Ageing in a Changing Europe - Choices and Limitations

Jakarta, Indonesia, Sep 12 - 16
10th Asia Pacific Reg Conference of Rehabilitation International: Reaching the Unreached

Jerusalem, Israel, Sep 17 - 21
2nd International Federation of Ageing Global Conf.

Macau, Sep 18 - 20
International Union of Family Organisations: The Family Towards the Third Millennium

Barnaul, Altai, Siberia, Russia Sep 18 - 21
Association of Soc Pedagogues and Social Workers of the Russian Federation: Social Work in Rural Communities and Social Work Education

Cambridge, United Kingdom, Sep 19 - 22
1st Joint International Conf. of the Nat. Assn. for the Development of Work with Sex Offenders (UK) and the Assn. for the Treatment of Sex Offenders (USA)

Santiago, Chile, Sep 26 - Oct 1
International Council for Caring Communities: Better Living...Adding Life to Years

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada Oct 19 - 22
1995 North American Congress of the Family

San Diego, California, USA Oct 26 - 29
17th Ann. Symposium on Social Work with Groups

Vienna, Austria Nov 6 - 7
5th International Seminar on Families

Hong Kong, Nov 19-23
5th Asia/Oceania Reg. Congr. of Gerontology: Total Care of the Elderly - A Multidisciplinary Approach

Bangalore, India, Nov 22 - 25
Asia-Pacific Forum Symp. of Richmond Fellowship Society: Innovations in Psychiatric Rehabilitation

Jerusalem, Israel, Nov 26 - Dec 1
9th International Conf. on AIDS Education: Innovations in Multicultural Societies

Bali, Indonesia, Dec 4 - 8
7th Congr. of the World Fed. of Public Health Asns.