



international federation of social workers

# Newsletter

Secretariat: 33, Rue de l'Athénée, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel. (22) 47 12 36, Fax: (22) 46 86 57

March 1991

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The guns are almost quiet in the Gulf but the desolation and wreckage of human lives remain.

IFSW rejoices with its Kuwaiti members that they can once more call their country their own. It sympathizes with the sufferings of the Kuwaiti people and that of neighbouring countries, mainly Israel and Saudi Arabia. It also extends its sympathy to its erstwhile member, the Iraqi Society of Social Workers and to the Iraqi people.

The International Federation of Social Workers reaffirms its commitment to non-violent means of conflict resolution. It remains convinced that most conflicts have their roots in social, economic and political injustices and that peace can only be built on justice and solidarity. Any moves towards international co-operation must take into account all peoples' aspirations to a life with dignity.

To the many members of our profession who will be active in much needed rehabilitation work in the region, we offer our support — professional and material — within the limits of our financial capacity.

Let us remember that we said in our Declaration on Ethical Principles in Social Work that «social work is inconsistent with direct or indirect support for individuals, groups, political forces or power structures which suppress fellow human beings through the use of terrorism, torture or similar brutal means»; in our International Policy on Human Rights, that «everyone has a responsibility to the community, the nation, and the world to contribute his or her personal energy and commitment to obtain the fullest achievement of human rights»; and in our International Policy on Peace and Disarmament, that «IFSW will continue to collaborate with individuals, organizations and movements active in promoting peace and disarmament, irrespective of their political, social and economic orientations and historical background, subject only to consistency with IFSW's accepted support for non-violent methods of conflict resolution».

Remembering is the first step, the next one is acting. Let us do that now, each in our own sphere, or reach out from it to where the need is greatest.

*Gayle Gilchrist James  
President*

## NEWS FROM THE IFSW SECRETARIAT

The Secretary General and the Associate Secretary general visited the USSR January 10th-22nd, 1991 as guests of the Soviet Government with a view to preparing for eventual membership in IFSW of a USSR association.

Accompanied by Mr. Arkadii Nekrassov, Head of the Foreign Ministry Humanitarian & Cultural Relations Department, who attended the Xth and XIth International Symposia in Stockholm 1988 and Buenos Aires 1990, discussions were held on ways and means of establishing a national social service throughout the country with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Russian Republic Deputy Minister of Social Supplement, the Moscow City Council and the

Moscow Patriarchate. With enthusiastic support from all the national press, it was agreed to set up a coordinated budget and start 3-year courses on social work at a number of universities with prominent teachers from overseas social work faculties. A first step will be a two-week course in Moscow given by professors of Goteborg University (Sweden) for persons already active in the social field.

The Secretary General has received an invitation to visit the Ministry of Civil Affairs in the People's Republic of China in connection with the Chinese Association of Social Workers' application to join the IFSW.

In February the Secretary General attended a meeting on HIV/AIDS held by the Austrian Association of Social Workers in Vienna and renewed discussions with Mr. Nekrassov on the implementation of the USSR project during the Session on Social Development at the UN Vienna Centre.



## IFSW MEETINGS

The International Federation's **Eighth Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations (Headquarters, New York)** was held on Tuesday, March 19, 1991 on the theme: «GLOBAL UPHEAVALS: SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FAMILY». A full writeup of this important event will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The **1991 meeting of the IFSW Executive Committee** will be held at the Cresta Oasis Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe, July 29th, 30th, 31st, the Committee's first meeting in Africa since 1974. Members needing accommodation are urged to inform the Secretariat in Geneva by May 1st of the dates of their intended arrival in Harare and accommodation required. The current exchange rate is US\$1 = Z\$3. Credit cards are accepted.

## SEMINAR IN ASIA, 1991

The 11th Asia/Pacific Regional Seminar will be held from 21st to 24th August, 1991 in Hong Kong. The topic is «**Ecology and Deprivation — Implications for Social Work**».

This seminar is being organised by the Hong Kong Social Workers Association, the Asian Pacific Association for Social Work Educators, and the International Federation of Social Workers (Asia & Pacific). The Hon. Sec. of the seminar is a member of the IFSW Executive, Mr. Paul Lee. Papers are being called for now.

For further information, contact the Hong Kong Social Workers Association, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, FAX (852) 3110175.

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## SEMINAR IN EUROPE, 1991

Do not forget the 10th European Seminar, 3-5 September 1991 at the Hospitality Inn, Glasgow, Scotland on «**Love, Law and the Child**».

Contact: British Association of Social Workers  
Scottish Office  
28 North Bridge  
Edinburgh EH1 1QG  
Tel. 031 225 4549

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## WORLD ASSEMBLY, 1992 ON «IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION»

This important event is the International Federation of Social Workers' XII International Symposium combined with the NASW (USA) 1992 Conference and the International Congress of the International Association of Schools of Social Work. It is

co-sponsored by the Council on Social Work Education, the Interuniversity Consortium for International Social Development, the U.S. Committee of the International Council on Social Welfare and the Council of International Programs.

International Exchange Activities will start approximately eight weeks before the Assembly and involve social welfare policy makers, educators and practitioners from economically developing countries in educational activities, short placements in government and private agencies, speaking engagements and media interviews in the US. Cultural exchanges focusing on approaches constitute one of the subjects planned for pre-Assembly workshops. Visits to specific community agencies are also foreseen.

The Assembly is expected to attract some 5000 participants who will gather in Washington, D.C., July 18-22, 1992.

## NEW IFSW MEMBERS

The national associations of social workers of Niger and Poland have been admitted to membership of the International Federation of Social Workers by postal ballot of the IFSW General Meeting. The constitutionally required quorum of members' votes having been received by the closing date, March 5th, 1991, showed that voting in favour of both applicant associations was unanimous.

IFSW extends a warm welcome to its 53rd and 54th member.

## NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

### ARGENTINA

La Federación Argentina de Asociaciones Profesionales de Servicio Social ha llevado a cabo en el mes de Diciembre de 1990 la Asamblea Anual de la Institución, no solo para evaluar los efectos altamente positivos que implicó el desarrollo en Agosto del 90 de la Conferencia Mundial en Argentina, sino en consecuencia fortalecer nuestra organización a nivel país desarrollando una estructura regional que permita una mayor democratización y un grado más efectivo de participación. En el plano internacional hemos concretado acuerdos con el «Consejo Internacional de Bienestar Social», hemos participado en el diagnóstico del Cono Sur para CELATS-ALAETS y hemos enviado una propuesta para Latinoamérica a los colegas españoles, para desarrollar seminarios regionales de capacitación.

La apertura al mundo por parte de nuestra organización nos pone en el compromiso de colaborar con instituciones hermanas de todo el mundo, habiendo ya recibido importantes aportes de Ecuador, Puerto Rico y Brasil.

*At its Annual Assembly in December 1990, the Argentine Federation of Associations of Professional Social Workers evaluated the beneficial effects*



*of the August 1990 Buenos Aires World Conference, and endeavoured to strengthen the organization at the national and regional levels with the aim of facilitating a more democratic structure and increased participation.*

*Activities at the international level included agreements with the International Council on Social Welfare and collaboration with CELATS and ALAETS in the field of social work education. A proposal was also submitted to the Spanish Association involving regional training seminars in Latin America. Outreach to other associations has brought valuable contributions from Ecuador, Puerto Rico and Brazil.*

## AUSTRIA

The Austrian Association's stand on currently proposed legislation was made known to the Austrian Government. It concerns bills on Hospitals and Nursing Homes and on Indebtedness and Debt Collection.

The text of the former does not recognize social work as a profession, ignoring the fact that social workers have been employed in hospitals and nursing homes for decades where their services are needed and valued. In nursing homes for the aged, for instance, psychological and pastoral care alone are not sufficient.

The Association also pointed to the excessively low minimum income in the country as one of the main reasons for the steep increase of unpaid and unrecoverable debts.

## CANADA

The First National Social Work Week in Canada was held March 11-16, 1991. In a message to this event, Canada's Prime Minister called the social work profession demanding and challenging, and commended Canadian social workers for their tireless efforts to enhance the quality of life of the nation.

At the outbreak of the war in the Gulf, the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) wrote to the Prime Minister expressing a two-fold concern: Canada's long-established role as negotiator and peace keeper might be jeopardised by its swift joining of the Coalition's military action, and the difficulty of limiting warfare to the originally designated site. Overall, CASW urged the Government to «work diligently for the establishment of a peace process that will lead... to the achievement of peace in the Middle East». CASW also asked the Government to acknowledge the enormous human suffering already inflicted and to try to alleviate it.

## DENMARK

«Social Work - a Central Discipline» was the slogan for the Danish Association's annual meeting of the Committee of Representatives in December 1990.

The slogan indicates the profession's active collaboration with numerous other professions, and its contacts well beyond the social welfare sector in areas such as health and education.

In Denmark efforts are under way to unite a number of trade unions representing teaching and education, within as well as outside the welfare sector, into one large trade union organisation.

The slogan underlines the Committee of Representatives' attitude in this matter, namely that the Danish Association of Social Workers and its 6000 members are not keen on this merger at the present time. With their special training, Danish social workers do not consider themselves members of a profession affiliated to teaching.

At the same time, the Committee views improved training for social workers as a priority, and has embarked on a joint project with social welfare training institutes to put this priority into practice. Work is also proceeding on a pilot project for an advanced social welfare/social work diploma.

The afore-mentioned projects will enable training institutes to add a research component to their curricula, thus satisfying a long-time ambition of Danish social workers.

## FINLAND

In 1990, the Finnish Association of Social Workers witnessed a 10% increase in its membership which now stands at 6776. Many students have joined recently, and a breakdown of members based on levels of education shows

- 1,100 members holding an advanced university degree
- 2,400 members holding a basic university degree
- 1,700 members trained in schools of social work
- 1,400 student members

\* \* \* \*

The Finnish Association set up a special working group to scrutinise professional work performed in the social welfare system with a view to defining social welfare professions and their required qualifications. One of the working group's aims is to separate social work performed by M.A. degree holders from the tasks entrusted to less qualified professionals with an average training of 3-4 years.

The working group, whose report is due by the end of August 1991, purports to legitimise social work and social service professions.

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Recession has set in, causing unemployment and cuts in social service budgets. The first to suffer are the aged and the disabled.



One in every three vacancies in social work remains unfilled due to budget cuts or is filled by unqualified personnel causing difficult working conditions for qualified social workers. Clients are adversely affected.

The Finnish Association is demanding resources for social services and social work, and also supports municipal directors of social welfare who make similar demands.

The authorities, on the other hand, are trying to lower the required qualifications for social work from M.A. to B.A. degrees.

## FRANCE

Les assistants sociaux français sont toujours mobilisés par le problème de l'homologation de leur diplôme au niveau licence (baccalauréat plus trois années d'étude). Le Ministère de la Solidarité ne s'est toujours pas prononcé, mais le groupe constitué après la grève de mars 1990 a demandé le réexamen du dossier.

Par ailleurs, l'homologation selon la Directive du Conseil de la Communauté Européenne (89/48) pour la libre circulation des travailleurs ayant trois années d'étude après la fin du secondaire a été accordée le 4 janvier 1991. Les assistants sociaux français relèvent donc de cette directive. Le Ministère ne voit pas de rapport entre les deux situations, car d'un côté il y a revendication pour un niveau universitaire alors que la directive européenne s'adresse à des professions avec un niveau de trois années d'étude, universitaire ou pas.

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La Commission travail organise des Journées d'étude les 17. 18. 19 juin 1991 sur le thème «Mouvement du monde professionnel, réponses du service social».

La Commission polyvalence prépare pour octobre 1991 deux journées sur le revenu minimum d'insertion: «L'insertion et les assistants sociaux». Ces journées accueilleront l'Association belge des assistants sociaux, une comparaison avec le minimex étant proposée.

La Commission déontologie étudie la Déclaration de la FIAS sur les principes éthiques en travail social qui devrait remplacer le Code international de déontologie de la Fédération. Une réponse officielle sera fournie, mais l'association française s'oppose formellement à ce remplacement, estimant que le Code de déontologie propose un ensemble de règles à appliquer concrètement et paraît avoir un intérêt juridique plus pratique.

Un groupe de réflexion sur l'action des assistants sociaux confrontés à leurs employeurs et à la justice en cas de maltraitance d'enfant vient d'être créé.

La Commission internationale examine les possibilités d'échanges d'assistants sociaux avec la Hongrie suite aux premières propositions de la Grande

Bretagne et du Danemark dans le cadre du programme TEMPUS-CE. Des financements seront recherchés du côté de la Délégation à la mission interministérielle aux Pays de l'Est. La Commission est aidée dans cette tâche par Arpad Ajtony, sociologue d'origine hongroise qui a des contacts sur place.

*The French Association's is pursuing its efforts towards the recognition of the social work diploma at university level. While the French Government accepts the E.C. Council's Directive (89/48) concerning the free circulation of professionals with three year post-secondary school education and training, it does not recognize any link between that directive (which does not presuppose university training) and French social workers' demand for a higher standing for the profession in France.*

*Various study sessions are being prepared: on «Shifts in the Professional World: the Social Work Response» in June 1991; The Minimum Income and Social Work» in October 1991.*

*The Ethics Commission is considering the IFSW Declaration on Ethical Principles in Social Work and is not in favour of accepting it as a substitute for the existing International Code of Ethics.*

*A working group on social workers' stand and action on issues of child abuse in their dealings with employers and the law has been created.*

*The International Commission is studying the possibilities of exchanges for social workers from France and Hungary based on initial proposals from the U.K. and Denmark within the framework of the E.C.'s TEMPUS programme.*

## IRELAND

In Ireland, the beginning of 1991 has seen inter-country adoption, in particular Romanian adoption, become a controversial issue. It is now the focus of much media attention. The Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) has welcomed the introduction of legislation in the Dail, the Irish Parliament, which it hopes will set a framework for such adoptions. IASW has lobbied for services in this area to protect the interests of children, natural parents and adoptive parents and will be active in responding to the proposed legislation as it goes through its various stages.

Another piece of legislation, the Children's Bill 1988, is now in the hands of our legislators. This Bill is intended to replace the Children's Act 1908. It is indeed long awaited and IASW, through its Child Care Committee, has been responding in detail to the Bill.

The IASW holds its Annual General Meeting and Conference in Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on 2nd, 3rd and 4th May. The conference theme is «Policy Practice and Research in Social Work».

The IASW Conference and Seminars Committee will host three conferences between now and the



A.G.M. The title of the first is «Order from Chaos - Responding to the Human Dimension in Major Disasters». The second will be run in association with the Department of Social Studies, Trinity College Dublin, and is entitled «Inter-Country Adoption and Post-Adoption Work». The third will be on «Social Workers working with Dementia». Additionally, social workers in psychiatry have just had a major conference on «Social Policy and Mental Health».

The IASW launched a major recruitment drive and hopes to attract many more social work colleagues to participate in the development of the Association in the 1990s.

### ISRAEL

The Israel Association of Social Workers, as the whole country, lived through dramatic times during the 1991 Gulf war. Under frequent missile attack, all tried to live normal lives, despite the casualties (dead and injured) and the thousands of damaged homes. Hundreds of families, including four social workers, were forced out of their homes as they collapsed. The economy of the whole country is severely strained.

In areas hit by missiles, social workers worked day and night to help people and families, particularly in centres established for the homeless. Social workers have also set up information and coordination centres, including one in the IASSW office, to help and advise the public. Such emergency work affected every-day services and caused clients to suffer.

Now that the war is over, IFSW is certain that all services have been resumed in their usual, caring way.

### KUWAIT

With peace and independence now restored to the people of Kuwait, the Secretary General has expressed the feelings of joy and relief of the IFSW President, Officers and IFSW members to the President of the Kuwait Association of Social Workers, whose temporary headquarters he set up in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia until it becomes possible to return to Kuwait. The day after the cease-fire, Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol called on the Kuwait Association's Secretary General and his family who had been caught by the invasion of their country as they were proceeding via Switzerland last August to the IFSW XIth Symposium in Buenos Aires, and have had to remain there ever since. He requested Mr. Khaled al-Shafan to ascertain the fate of Kuwaiti social workers during the conflict and inform IFSW of any way in which it could render assistance to them as they set about reconstructing their lives and work. A report on this issue will hopefully be presented in the next Newsletter.

### MAURITIUS

The Association of Professional Social Workers of Mauritius and their members were particularly

pleased with the visit in January 1991 of Dr. Lynne Healy, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Connecticut, USA. As Executive Director of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Dr. Healy visited the island in the context of a linkage between the universities of Mauritius and Connecticut. Various meetings focused on present and ongoing concerns and problems, and revealed coinciding views on the consequences of urbanisation, industrialisation and modernisation which will call for social workers' increased intervention in the family. Mauritian social workers were also keenly interested to learn about social work practice in the United States.

There has been anxiety among social workers about repercussions of the Gulf war on inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations in Mauritius' multi-racial society. The island has a tradition of harmonious religious coexistence among Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists which it wishes to preserve. Mauritian social workers therefore pray that peace be restored. «Om Shantih Shantih, Shantih» (Sanskrit words for Peace).

### PORTUGAL

The Ministry of Education consulted the Portuguese Association of Trained Social Workers (APSS) on the application of the E.C. Council's Directive on the free circulation of independent workers in Europe approved on 21.12.1988 (89/48) and published on 24.1.1989.

APSS is presently discussing with the Government the transfer of social workers in the technical category to the advanced technical category created by law. It is thus finalizing its long fight for a proper recognition of the social work diploma which presupposes 12 years of schooling and 5 years' studies at the Higher Social Service Institutes of Oporto, Lisbon and Coimbra, and for the rightful civil service status for social workers as Higher Social Service Technicians.

Having thus achieved some of its major external objectives, APSS is turning to its internal organization and to in-depth consideration of social work and social work interventions.

Several working groups were constituted: to revive the association's journal; to establish an ongoing training programme to consider ethical issues and the Code of Ethics as well as socio-economic and political changes in Europe and in Portugal in the 90s and social work interventions best suited to meet emerging needs; to organize the V Joint Meeting of Portugal and Spain for 120 Social Service Technicians in Funchal, Madeira, in October 1977; to deal with information on social work, seminars and meetings and existing bibliography. A further group will be set up to study the IFSW International Code of Ethics and the Declaration adopted in Buenos Aires in 1990.



## **SRI LANKA**

At its National Conference held 1st and 2nd March 1991 in Colombo, the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers formally announced its offer to host the IFSW World Conference in 1994.

The twinning programme between the associations of Finland and Sri Lanka is working well. SLAPSW's 2000 handmade greeting cards sold in Finland for US\$ 1,200, and the Sri Lanka Association plans to use its (small) profit to pay its IFSW 1991 dues. Eila Mäström, President of the Finnish Association and an IFSW Executive Committee member, visited SLAPSW together with another Finnish delegate February 11th-17th, 1991. They promised to return and to send further Finnish social workers to Sri Lanka.

## **SWEDEN**

Registration/certification for social workers is in the air, i.e. Parliament, where a bill to this effect is being proposed. However, it is not likely to be debated until later in the year.

## **U.S.A.**

The national health care plan developed by NASW is ready to be introduced into Congress after a cost analysis projected that the plan could save \$ 200 to \$ 300 billion a year at the turn of the century. The NASW plan would replace the existing combination of private and public health insurance, which excludes about 13.5% of the U.S. population, with a single-payer health care system for all U.S. residents. Social workers see the evidence of inadequate health care in their day to day practice, and NASW is the first national organization to present a detailed national health care plan with an analysis of its cost.

Social workers played many roles on the home front during the Persian Gulf war. Among the most important were counseling soldiers' families, leading support groups, and staffing crisis hotlines. NASW issued a statement calling attention to the following concerns: separation of mothers from children to go to war; economic problems for the families of persons called from primary jobs; families in the Gulf states who had been forced to leave their homes; fear of terrorism; fear of reprisals and discrimination of members of ethnic groups; death and injury caused by war. The statement called on social workers to use their expertise to ease the strains on families affected by the war.

NASW developed a new means of disseminating its research, policy information, and other information, conveniently and at low cost ... on CD-ROM. This tiny disk, called «Social Work Abstracts Plus», contains more than 23,000 abstracts and citations of published social work literature dating from 1977 through the present. In addition, the complete

Sixth Edition of the NASW Register of Clinical Social Workers, material on the legal regulation of social work, bibliographies and position papers will be on the disk.

## **INNOVATION IN SOCIAL WORK TRAINING**

The NGO Committee on Aging at the United Nation in New York, through IFSW/UN team leader Dr. Celia B. Weisman, has made it possible for two students from the Columbia University School of Social Work to participate in its meetings and in United Nations NGO briefings as part of their field work. Weekly supervision is provided by a social worker on the Committee.

The IFSW representatives in New York are also exploring the possibility of having a graduate student attached to their team, thus opening the door to a new development in international social work education.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY (1994)**

A very successful seminar of the Vienna based NGO Committee on the Family was held 7/8 February 1991 in Vienna. Well known speakers from South and North, including former UNICEF Director Aida Gindy, Pierre Dionne (Canada) and Prof. Matskovsky (USSR) approached family issues from various perspectives, and a panel consisting of individual family members, mostly unrelated to organizations, was a first participatory exercise involving the international year's target group. Two young people on the panel voiced their expectations and concerns in a moving manner, but the absence of children was a reminder of the restrictions of a formal conference room setting.

One of the important objectives of the seminar was the mobilisation of NGO's to urge their Governments to establish national commissions or round tables on family issues which, in turn and in conjunction with NGO's, would plan and implement family-related programmes.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

The 1991 session of the Commission on Human Rights was eminently fruitful and made good progress on a number of issues.

In view of the IFSW Human Rights Commission's great interest in Guatemala, and the Federation's link with Indian Rights activist Rigoberta Mechu Tum, whom IFSW successfully nomi-



nated for the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 1990, IFSW noted with satisfaction that «the Commission deeply deplored the serious violations of human rights which occurred in Guatemala in 1990, in particular the increase in extrajudicial executions, abductions, torture, enforced disappearances, attacks and threats, which had created a climate of intimidation and fear, and urged the Government of Guatemala to initiate or intensify, investigations aimed at identifying and bringing to justice those responsible for acts of policies and programmes relating to the situation of the indigenous populations, taking into account their proposals and aspirations, to enable them to enjoy fully their fundamental rights and freedoms.» The Commission extended the mandate of the independent Expert and decided to consider the matter further at its 48th session (in 1992).

Concerning the **International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993)**, «the Commission recommended that the specialized agencies, regional commission and other organizations of the United Nations system in their consideration of the contributions that they can make to the success of the Year, be guided by how their operational activities could most effectively contribute to the solution of problems faced by indigenous people and how indigenous people could play an important role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of project which may affect them».

IFSW/UN New York team member G. Winifred Kagwa reported on a Study undertaken by the United Nations and its consideration by the NGO Committee on Human Rights (New York) on the advisability of the UN starting to draft a Convention against religious intolerance. The Convention was intended to strengthen the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief which was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly in 1981.

For various reasons, including lack of UN staff and financial resources as well as insufficient political will, the Study concluded that this was not the right time to start drafting the Convention.

## CHILDREN

At the first meeting of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in February, the following experts were elected to the Committee on the Rights of the Child which will oversee the implementation of the Convention.

**Europe:** Mrs. Marta Santos Pais (Portugal); Mr. Thomas Hammaberg (Sweden); Mr. Youri Kolosov (USSR).

**Africa:** Mrs. Akila Belembaogo (Burkina Faso); Mrs. Hodra Badran (Egypt); Mr. Swithun Tachiona Mombeshora (Zimbabwe).

**Asia:** Mrs. Flora Corpuz-Eufemio (Philippines).

**Latin America & Caribbean:** Miss Sandra Prunella Mason (Barbados); Mrs. Maria de Fatima Borges de

Omena (Brazil); Msgr. Bambaren Gastelumendi (Peru).

Member Associations concerned with child protection and welfare could discuss them with the Committee's member in their country. Such close involvement of social workers at national level will not only enhance the work of the Committee but also enable social workers to make their experience, suggestions and warnings known to Governments and to the relevant United Nations organs and agencies involved in the promotion of children's rights.

Member Associations could also greatly assist the work of the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission on Human Rights in 1990 to consider matters relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including the problem of the adoption of children for commercial purposes.

The report and recommendations of the Rapporteur, Mr. Viti Muntarbhorn (Thailand) were accepted by the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights on 28 February 1991. Well documented individual cases of children who are or have been victims of human rights violations such as sale, prostitution, pornography and adoption for commercial purposes, would greatly facilitate Mr. Muntarbhorn's mission. Associations could either signal or, preferably assemble evidence of, such violations and send it to the IFSW Secretariat in Geneva for transmittal to the U.N. Centre for Human Rights and, ultimately, to Mr. Muntarbhorn.

## UNCED

The PreCom Meeting in Geneva from March 18 to April 5 will further advance preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which will take place in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. UNCED is now referred to more commonly as «The Earth Summit».

The findings of the August 1991 Hong Kong Seminar on «Ecology and Deprivation» will be the first IFSW contribution to UNCED apart from the efforts of IFSW team member at the U.N./New York, Bert Weinert, within the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. One of the Committee's conclusions is that women have traditionally sustained resources whereas men have expended them.

## REFUGEES

Mrs. Sadako Ogata (Japan), former Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Studies at Sophia University in Tokyo and former Representative to the Commission on Human Rights and Minister at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, took up her new post as U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees on February 1, 1991.

## POVERTY

According to the World Bank, over one billion people live in poverty which is defined in the Bank's



World Development Report as an income of less than US\$ 740 a year. To combat it, the report recommends generating income-earning opportunities for the poor, and providing the poor with basic social services especially primary health care and primary education.

### **DISARMAMENT**

Willeen Smith of the IFSW team at the U.N./New York is active within the NGO Committee on Disarmament which strongly supports the United Nations' efforts to amend the Partial Test Ban Treaty. If successful, the amendments will be binding on 118 nations, thereby overcoming the resistance of those countries who want to maintain their dominance in nuclear power.

Willeen Smith suggests that IFSW member associations encourage their governments to support negotiated amendments to extend the impact of the Partial Test Ban Treaty.

### ***UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO IFSW MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS***

#### **«The Welfare State: Transition from Central Planning to Market Approaches»**

Date: June 3-6, 1991

Venue: Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest, Hungary

Organisers: Boston Graduate School of Social Work in collaboration with The Institute of Sociology and Social Policy at Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary and the Hungarian Academy of Science

Registration fee: \$ 300 before May 1, \$ 350 after May 1

For further information, contact: Dr. Demetrius Iatridis, Conference Organiser, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167, Tel.: (617) 552-4041, FAX (617) 552-3199

### **XIII International Congress of Eurag 1991**

Theme: «The Older Generation in Europe - their Political, Economic and Socio-Cultural Potential - Today and Tomorrow»

Date: June 11-14, 1991

Venue: Congress Centre Davos, Switzerland, Tel (081) 43 51 35, FAX (081) 44 61 11

For further information, contact: EURAG, Schiedgasse 226, 1 St., A — 8100 Graz, Austria, Tel (0316) 872-30088, FAX (0316) 872-3019

### **1991 ICSW Asia & Pacific Regional Conference**

Theme: «Environmental Protection and Social Development - Role of Non-Governmental Organizations»

Date: August 26-31, 1991

Venue: Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, Hong Kong

Organiser: Hong Kong Council of Social Service  
For further information, contact: International and Regional Affairs Department, Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 11/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, Tel. (852) 866 429 92, FAX (852) 865 49 16

### **International Colloquium of the International Association for Community Development («IACD»)**

Theme: «Associative Movements in Community Development»

Date: October 14-18, 1991

Venue: Marcinelle (Charleroi), Belgium

For further information, contact: IACD, 179, rue du Débarcadère, B- 6001 Marcinelle

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