INTERNATIONAL NEWS

One of the highlights of this year has been my participation in the U.S. National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) European Chapter’s annual Symposium held in Germany in June. Invited by the Executive Board (Europe) to address the assembly on the work of the Federation, I also participated in a roundtable discussion with other international agencies, which included the International Social Service, the National Voluntary Service Agencies and the American Red Cross. On all counts, it was a most valuable and productive engagement.

The organisation by the Executive Director, Dr. Larrie Wanberg and his team, was superb. The mix of serious business and good fun was just right. The participants came from the four corners of Europe and brought together a wide range of trans-cultural social work experience which made for a rich tapestry of shared interests. It was particularly encouraging to find such an enthusiastic and receptive audience interested in the work of the Federation and this energy reflects the significant development in international affairs coming from the NASW in Washington.

The setting for the 1987 Symposium was a restored castle located outside the little town of Colmberg, not far from Frankfurt. In a charming gesture to mark the occasion, and in keeping with the setting, an award was initiated — with full ceremony! — to recognise contributions to social work at international level. Among those to be conferred with the honour of membership of the ‘International Social Work Guild’ were Frances Chase (former President of the European Chapter), Jerry Coolbaugh (outgoing President), Marcelle Brisson (Secretary General of the International Social Service), and to my considerable delight, myself, as President of the International Federation of Social Workers.

The NASW European Chapter has an important contribution to make to the work of the IFSW and I look forward to our growing co-operation. It was a great pleasure to meet such a lively and vibrant group and to know that plans are already well advanced for a big attendance at the IFSW 1988 gathering in Stockholm. A warm welcome awaits this new network of colleagues interested, willing, and able to share our common cause.

Augusta McCabe President

(European Chapter) Award Presentation
Presenting an Award for service to International Social Work, Dr. Larrie Wanberg, Executive Director of the European Chapter NASW (right), congratulates (from left), Marcelle Brisson (ISS); Frances Chase (NASW); and Augusta McCabe (President, IFSW).
IFS kim Secretary General, Andert Mouraviieff-Apostol, visited the headquarters of the National Association of Social Workers in Silver Spring, USA in early April for fruitful discussions with the Executive Director, Mark Battle, centering largely on a twinning programme for some NASW branches with several of the Federation’s weaker members and on other fields of international collaboration. A long working visit with Eileen McGowan Kelly, NASW Special Assistant for International Affairs, further strengthened practical co-operation for the future.

Two weeks later, the Associate Secretary General, Ellen Mouraviieff-Apostol, in New York for the General Meeting of the NGO Committee on UNICEF and the NGO Forum which preceded it, was able to meet with the IFSW team at the United Nations in New York and with the Chairperson of the NASW International Affairs Committee, Dorothy A. Faller.

Another useful meeting with the Chairperson, Co-Chair and Secretary of the Committee for Chilean Inquiry (Sol Gorelick, Phyllis Grunauer and Ruth Wilson, respectively) took place at the NASW New York Chapter office. Much ground for ever closer collaboration in the future was cleared and procedures laid down for maximum effectiveness in our mutual endeavours to assist and support colleagues who are detained or persecuted on account of opinions held or expressed, or for non-violent actions that grew out of such convictions.

The highlight of the Associate Secretary General’s stay in New York was undoubtedly the Fourth Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations on April 28, 1987, jointly sponsored by the IFSW Delegation to the United Nations, the NASW New York City Chapter and its Social Workers for Peace and Disarmament group, and by the NASW Westchester Chapter.

The sessions were chaired by G. Winifred Kagu and Stephen E. Torkelson, the latter having also acted as Moderator for one of the NGO/UNICEF Forum sessions, apart from making a presentation on “Street Children” to the UNICEF Executive Board on April 30, 1987. Lillian Lampkin, who heads the IFSW Delegation, paid a moving tribute to the late Head and initiator of the Social Work Days, Jack Kamaiko. Excellent presentations amongst others by Dame R. Nita Barrow, Representative of Barbados to the United Nations, John Plate, Chief of the Development Analysis Branch of the U.N. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, and Mark Conolly from CHILDHOPE, Guatemala, provoked vivid interventions from a lively audience of approximately 200.

Ellen Mouraviieff-Apostol was able to speak on the Federation and on the 10th IFSW Symposium scheduled for July 1988 in Stockholm.

The IFSW Executive Committee will meet in Dublin on 27-29 July 1987. A full agenda includes preparations for the 10th Symposium in Sweden in 1988 (Social Workers World Conference); deliberations on the Federation’s future structure; and the revision of the Code of Ethics.

• For news concerning the 3rd Pan African Conference in Kampala, Uganda on 16-21 August 1987, see under Uganda; and for the European Regional Seminar at Larnaca, Cyprus on 5-8 October 1987, see under Cyprus.

• The Joint APASWE/IFSW — Asia Regional Seminar on ‘Integrating Social Work Teaching and Practice to meet Community Needs’ will take place, as announced in our last Newsletter, in Djakarta, Indonesia, on 19-23 August 1987.

• Another Officer of the International Federation of Social Workers has been honoured in her own country. This time the news concerns our Vice-President for Asia and Pacific, Corazon Alma G. de Leon, who was appointed Assistant Secretary for Field Operations, Department of Social Welfare and Development by Corazon C. Aquino of the Philippines.

Miss Corazon Alma G. de Leon Thru: The Honourable
The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development,
Quezon City.

• As announced in our last Newsletter, a mixed meeting on Human Rights and Social Work Training took place at Strasbourg on 8-10 April 1987, under the aegis of the Direction of Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

Five experts from Australia, Cyprus, France, Spain and the U.K. met with 20 social workers and 13 social work educators from 19 countries in Europe and one representative from Japan. IFSW was represented by Etienne Chouffier and IASSW by Vera Mehta while Paul Dolan from the British Association of Social Workers acted as Rapporteur.

Problems related to Human Rights were discussed in several workshops which considered them in the framework of:
• children and families
• elderly persons, physically disabled persons, prisoners and migrants
• mentally disabled persons — refugees, gypsies, and marginal groups.

The Council of Europe wishes to revise some of its former resolutions in the light of changes and developments of the last decade and encourage member states to promote human rights through special scholarships, a Social Work Charter, and case studies. Users as well as dispensers of social services should be involved in a close scrutiny of aspects of human rights in social welfare, and seminars on the subjects should be organised by and in member states.

Two principal objectives remain: to integrate the provisions of the Convention on the Protection of
Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in national legislations, and to introduce, where and whenever possible, human rights training in schools of social work curricula.

- Monika Vyslouzil, IFSW Representative at the United Nations/Vienna, is grateful for material on "The Family" sent to her by various member associations. In her capacity as Task Force Coordinator of the NGO Committee on the Family, she circulated a questionnaire to all IFSW members requesting their views on the advisability of the U.N. proclaiming an International Year of the Family; on the thrust and programme they deem advisable for such a Year; and on substantive input they would be willing and able to communicate to it.

Please complete this questionnaire and return it to Monika Vyslouzil in Vienna before 30 September 1987, as requested.

- Contacts have been established with social workers in Hungary and Poland and steps are being taken to forge formal links.

News from Member Associations

Argentina

The Argentine Federation of Social Workers (FAAPSS) issued two strong statements to the national and provincial press on the occasion of the near-insurrection by military forces in April 1987, speaking out clearly in defence of democracy and the state law.

Australia

The second Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture was held on 19 January during the 1987 University of West Australia Summer School. Dr. Dale Spender, Visiting Fellow, University of London, delivered an entertaining and thought-provoking lecture: 'A Fair Start: Social Justice and Women's Heritage'. The next Memorial Lecture is scheduled for 18 January 1988.

Chile

The Colegio de Asistentes Sociales (Chilean Association) is organising a Latin American Seminar on Social Work and Human Rights in Santiago, Chile on 24-26 August 1987. This event, in which other Latin American social worker associations will participate as well as bodies such as the Chilean Commission on Human Rights, the Vicariate of Solidarity, the Ecumenical Fraternity of Churches, and others, aims to examine concepts, define social work perspectives, exchange experiences and methodologies, and establish the groundwork for a Latin American Commission for the Defense of Human Rights.

Messages of solidarity and support from other associations will be helpful as proof of international backing for the efforts of our Chilean and Latin American colleagues. Financial contributions towards the modest costs of the Seminar (approximately US$2,770) will be much appreciated. IFSW approached foundations in the U.S. on behalf of its Chilean member to request funding.

The Colegio's Human Rights Department prepared a report on the situation of social workers and their Colegio in regard to human rights which will constitute part of an overall report on human rights from the Chilean Federation of Professional Associations to be submitted to the United Nations.

From it emerges that two social workers were executed under the present régime; nine were detained or disappeared (three social workers and six students); and four were expelled from the country. Numerous cases of social workers who had been victims of repression, detention or threats during the past year were likewise listed in the report.

Columbia

Please note that the correct address of the Colombian Federation of Social Workers is:

Federación Colombiana de Trabajadores Sociales (FECTS),
Apartado Aéreo 54992,
Medellín, Colombia,
Tel: 254-35-73.

The President, Luz Marina Villa de Yarce's telephone numbers are; 245-16-29 (office) and 238-86-37 (home).

FECTS celebrated the profession's 50th anniversary in Colombia in 1986.

A special publication honouring the founder of the first school of social work, María Carulla Soler, who had trained as a social worker in Spain and modelled her school of social work on the Chilean experience, describes historical perspectives as well as present social work trends in the country. It provides an inspiring insight into a highly motivated and sophisticated profession and an excellent, albeit poor social worker association.
Cyprus

The 8th IFSW European Regional Seminar will take place at Larnaca, Cyprus (Palm Beach Hotel), on 5-8 October 1987. The opening ceremony on Monday 5th October will be followed by a reception. The programme will begin on Tuesday 6th October with the Keynote Address by Mr. Takis Konis, Director of the Department of Social Welfare Services in Cyprus. Other speakers include Mrs. Myriamni Papa Onisiforou, Chair, Cyprus Association of Social Workers, Paul Dolan (United Kingdom), Mr. Javier J. Charroalde Vallés (Spain), Monika Vyslouzil (Austria) and Dr. John Triseliottis, University of Edinburgh. The programme also includes workshops, plenary sessions, professional visits and a number of social events including a 'Cyprus Night'.

You are invited to become better acquainted with social conditions and concerns in one of the least known, most beautiful and hospitable corners of Europe.

For information and registration, please contact:
Organising Committee for European Seminar,
P. O. Box 5419,
Nicosia, Cyprus.

Ms. Annitta Verma, telephone 357-2-40/2228, 40/3584.

Denmark

Carsten Andersen reports:

Two features characterise the debate on social welfare and services in Denmark in which the Danish Association of Social Workers involved. The first concerns the change, as of 1st July 1987, with regard to pension-related benefits which will become fixed and no longer be subject to means testing. The other is the realisation of politicians that social welfare and services are not just a matter of payment of benefits but also of preventive measures and activities in localities and districts, capable of bringing about a strengthening of the social network.

The two changes are interrelated and this is important for social workers in Denmark who now want to concentrate on field work. The transition will not be easy.

The Finance Minister and local politicians wish to cut social budgets. Consequently, there will be pressure on social service authorities and departments to reduce staff in accordance with the new administrative structure. The Danish Association is taking steps to launch plans for field work activities, and one of them concerns the publication of a pamphlet intended for local politicians in which field activities and the importance of professional support are fully explained.

Apparently a number of conservative politicians are under the impression that a social network is bound to develop by itself once people realise how important it is. Thus they believe, for instance, that by cutting budgets for child care facilities, they will induce parents to set up their own child care services and playground facilities and to look after each other's children. The Danish conservative government is pursuing very similar policies to those adopted in Britain.

Unemployment among social workers in Denmark is on the decline. Firstly, because social workers are increasingly finding jobs in private organisations, unions and job centres, and also, because the number of social work students has decreased, this being yet another problem on which the Association is focusing attention.

Finally, the Danish Association is preparing a programme for 15 social workers from Third World countries in connection with the 1988 Social Worker World Conference in Stockholm. We hope to be able to convey to these 15 colleagues the basic idea of a Danish social worker's working day.

France

The French Association (ANAS) carried out an interesting survey among participants of its 1986 Congress. The methodology: a 35 point questionnaire distributed to 500 social workers.

Of the social workers who responded:

24.6% were employed by the central government
21.4% were employed by states or counties (départements)
2.1% were employed by local authorities (communes)
24.9% were employed by social security institutions
11.7% were employed by various associations coming under law 1901
10% were employed by industry or commerce
5% were employed by other employers.

Nine-tenths of all participants were holders of at least a basic social work diploma while 27% held higher degrees. The majority (67%) earned between F.Fr. 70,000 and 129,000 p.a. (approximately US$ 11,475 to 21,150). Affiliation to a professional association (33.1%) exceeded membership in a trade union (24.6%) with 11% of the replies indicating double affiliation. Affiliation to either was substantially higher among older social workers, the highest percentage pertaining to the "over 59" age group of whom 60% belonged to a trade union and 90% to a professional association, while among social workers aged under 30, only 20% belonged to either.

Ireland

- The IFSW statement on child custody was sent to Government Ministers and Members of the European Parliament.
Victoria Somers, who is our new President, while on a private visit to Nairobi, visited the President of the Tanzanian Association of Social Workers. On behalf of the IFSW she also visited the Ugandan Association.

Peig Murphy, who was on a private visit to Nigeria, met the newly elected President of the Nigerian Federation of Social Workers and is in correspondence with him about their big need for professional training.

Michelle Clear, recently returned from Nicaragua, spoke to our International Committee about the current situation there, with particular reference to social work.

Joe Moran has continued to be busy with human rights work.

Catherine O'Rourke presented a paper at the Seminar on Human Rights and Social Work in Strasbourg.

A Swedish social worker, Karin Grieve (working in Ireland) will receive the new Swedish Social Work Journal and translate as appropriate for IASW.

IASW decided at the AGM in May to elect a Vice President for International Affairs.

IASW has overseen the production of the last two issues of the IFSW Newsletter.

Our Association has decided to give free membership to Irish Social Workers whilst they are working as volunteers overseas. IASW also decided to undertake payment of Tanzania’s fees to IFSW.

and once more appeals to its colleagues in IFSW for material.

At the initiative of ISASSW, social workers, journalists, politicians and others gathered for a study on the relations between the media and social welfare services, thus honouring the memory of a journalist who died one year ago and who had specialised in the coverage of welfare activities. Other recent study days were held on: The Future of the Family in Society (Schools of Social Work); The Abused Child: Adoption of Children with Special Needs; Community Alternatives for Institutional Arrangements; and The Future of the Israeli Personal Social Services.

Japan

The 1986 Tokyo Conferences on Social Welfare which included the IX IFSW Symposium proved to be forceful catalysts for a bill on licensing and registration for social workers which was presented in early spring 1987. An earlier social service worker accreditation bill, proposed in 1971, was shelved after a nation-wide debate failed to settle a number of issues and to secure much needed support from the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Korea

Please note the new address of the Korean Association of Social Workers: C.P.O. Box 1278, Seoul, Korea, telephone: 777-9121. The new President is Suk San Kim, MSW, who was elected in March 1987.

Libya

The Libyan Association of Social Workers (LASW) participated in a meeting of heads of departments of social welfare and care for disabled persons organised by the Libyan Social Security Fund in January 1987. The meeting evaluated current programmes and projects of the departments and their agencies; considered the role of social workers in society as well as their adequate training and the problems that confront them in their work; stressed the need for social research and the study of societal phenomena, and endeavoured to define priorities for both; decided to hold the 3rd Conference on the Family in Toubruk in the summer 1987.

LASW participated in the 6th Arab Social Security and Social Insurance Seminar held in Tripoli on 13-18 April 1987, as well as in various other social work and social welfare activities and seminars held in and by social institutions and centres in Libya during May 1987.

LASW will participate in the 3rd Pan African Conference of Social Workers to be held in Kampala, Uganda on 16-21 August 1987.
LASW invited the following persons to visit Libya and its social agencies:

Mrs. Janie Thomas, former President of IFSW.
Ms. Corazón Alma G. de León, IFSW Vice President for Asia and Pacific.
Mr. Peter Lamming, President of the Swedish Association of Social Workers.

The Arab Federation of Social Workers (AFSW) is preparing its Fourth General Conference which is scheduled to take place in Damascus, Syria, later this year. The Federation’s Secretary agreed to participate in the IFSW 3rd Pan African Conference of Social Workers in Kampala.

Luxembourg

Three representatives of the Luxembourg Association of Social Workers and Hospital Nurses are members of the Higher Council on Social Welfare (CSAS) created when the guaranteed minimum income was introduced in the Grand Duchy by virtue of the law of 26 July 1986 (Art. 36). One of CSAS’ main functions is to determine social needs and proposed ways and means to satisfy them. The three members are: Valy Marques-Gomès-Béringer, Marie-Flore Scholtes and Nicole Speicher.

New Zealand

The New Zealand Association of Social Workers has, over the last 10 months, carried out structural changes and is operating under a new philosophical approach in line with its present bi-cultural constitution and direction.

A Hui by Maori social workers for Maori social workers took place in April 1987 and was the first gathering of its kind. Accountability was its main concern.


Plans for the remainder of 1987 include contributions to the Royal Commission on Social Policy, and holding a Conference for Health Social Workers.

Nigeria

The Nigerian Association of Social Workers held its 9th Annual Conference/Workshop on ‘Mobilisa-

tion in Rural Development: The Role of the Social Development Worker’.

The workshop emphasised the importance of the role of women and social development workers in the mobilisation process, stressing that the latter required adequate training and material resources to discharge his/her responsibilities. Close cooperation between the rural communities and local and State governments was an important factor, and the provision of sufficient funding from the Federal Government, an imperative.

The workshop noted that social development services had not so far been given an adequate share of the nation’s financial resources, and urged the authorities at federal, state and local levels to recognise and rectify this situation which was having a crippling effect on urgently needed social development programmes and projects.

Switzerland

A Code of Ethics for Specialised Educators for Marginal and/or Sub-normal Children is a ‘first’ for that profession and an important step in its development.

“A Child at any Cost? — New Forms of Parenthood” is the theme of the Swiss Association’s Professional Seminar to be held in Bern on 10-11 September 1987. Although few social workers are at present concerned by this complex societal development, the Association feels that serious thought needs to be given to various aspects, including the psychological consequences for children born of artificial fathers and problems connected to multiple births, as triplets, quadruplets and even quintuplets are born instead of the one desired child. Undoubtedly, professional know-how will have to be adapted to the new reproductive technologies.

Thailand

The address of the Social Workers’ Association of Thailand: Mahidol Building, Rajivithi Road, Bangkok 10400, has not changed but the telephone number has, and is now: 245-9361. The Association’s present Secretary-General is Miss Sripen Thanadhatkam.

Uganda

Six African Member Associations and other non-members will consider an important theme in the present context of Africa: “Social Work Practice in Social, Economic and Political Crises” at the 3rd Pan African Conference to be held in Kampala,
United States of America

The National Association of Social Workers’ four practice commissions have begun their third year of operation following a most encouraging and productive beginning. The commissions, on health and mental health, on family and primary associations, on education, and on employment and economic support, guide all association work and policy formation in their respective fields of practice. NASW members choose the commission with which they wish to be identified, based upon which one best suits their needs.

- **Commission on Health and Mental Health**
  - has endorsed NASW membership on the steering committee of the National Health Care Campaign (a broad-based, consumer oriented coalition advocating access to quality and affordable health care.
  - led a campaign against government regulations which threaten to seriously weaken social work standards in hospitals throughout the country.
  - taken the lead in educating the clinician and the public about the psychosocial aspects of AIDS.

- **Commission on Family and Primary Associations**
  - has galvanized efforts to send out ‘legislative alerts’ on proposed family service legislation and submitted comments to the U.S. government agency involved in the formulation of a nursing home survey.
  - monitors developments in the child abuse and neglect field, is a member of the National Child Abuse Coalition for which it prints and mails a legislative newsletter, and hosted a reception at the Seventh National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

- **Commission on Education**
  - has strengthened its links with other organisations in order to achieve its purpose on serving social workers in schools, special education programmes, and early childhood education services. The Commission’s staff director was elected co-ordinator of the National Alliance of Pupil Services Organisation, while leaders also collaborated with the National Education Association in development of Operation Rescue, a national campaign to help children stay in school. NASW contributed a statement to the projects ‘Blueprint for Success’, which sets forth the essential elements of successful dropout prevention programs.

United Kingdom

BASW General Secretary, David Jones, was recently a member of a delegation that met with the Prime Minister to discuss the co-ordination of government policy for children and families. Follow-up meetings are planned.

The BASW AIDS Project Group held its first meeting recently and now is pressing ahead with its heavy workload.

Mike McCarthy, BASW Assistant Secretary (Policy Document) says:

The formation of the Project Group is an immediate response to important motions on social work which people with AIDS unanimously endorsed at the 1987 Annual General Meeting at Bournemouth. It is also a long considered, and perhaps overdue, development in work the Association has undertaken around the AIDS issues over the last two years.

It is important to state firmly and unequivocally that the establishment of the Project Group is seen by members, officers and staff alike, as a determined effort to bring together the policy and practice implications of AIDS and seropositivity for social work and the personal social services in such a way that a clear and practicable statement of the social work role might helpfully emerge. There has been considerable concern and pressure both within the Association and from those who look to it to lead and articulate the ‘social work view’, for guidelines on working with people with AIDS and those who are HIV positive. And there are pressures upon the Association to organise appropriate study and training events.

It is expected that the Group will meet four or five times between May and October with, perhaps, two or three of these one-day sessions fused together to comprise a residential working seminar.
Commission on Employment and Economic Support
- started its work by establishing pay equity and parental and medical leave as legislative priorities.
- oversaw completion of NASW’s national survey of occupational social workers which identified a profile of social workers practising in the occupational area and which as a by-product provided a network of 500 occupational social workers which will form the core of resource file for commission operations.

International Association of Schools of Social Work
Gleaned from the IASSW Newsletter comes the interesting information that a ‘World Guide to Social Work Education’ has been compiled by Dr. Vijaya Rao. It provides basic information on the educational systems of 79 representative schools of social work, in 61 countries and including national associations of schools of social work. It is a revised edition of an earlier ‘World Guide’ and reflects the situation of social work in the early 1980s in all geographical regions.
Order from IASSW, Palais Palfy, Jasefs Platz 6, 1010 Vienna, Austria. Price US$20.00.

Forthcoming Meetings
Social Workers World Conference

IASSW EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP
European Regional Seminar

ICSW 14th European Regional Symposium

Human Service Information Technology Applications
(HUSITA) The First International Convention, Birmingham, September 7-11, 1987. Contact: HUSITA 87, CASW Ltd., P.O. Box 52, Stourbridge DY8 3NN, U.K.

International Association for Community Development
International Colloquium ‘Community Development and Industrialisation’, Taipei, Taiwan, 2-7 November, 1987. Contact: IACD, 179 rue du Débarcadère, 6001 Marcinel, Belgium, Tel: (0) 71/432072.

International Union of Family Organisations