



international federation of social workers

Newsletter

December 1986

Greetings from the President

It is with great pleasure that I send greetings and good wishes to all I.F.S.W. member associations. In my election presentation in Tokyo I pledged myself to work hard during my term of office to promote the aims and aspirations of the Federation. I am happy to say that the energy and enthusiasm with which the newly elected Executive Committee joined me in that task at our first meeting, signalled a vibrant approach to the work ahead.

Off to such a good start, I plunged into my new role and have already journeyed to Brussels to meet the European Region at their meeting on the 1st November and also to meet with the Asst. Secretary General Ellen Apostol. I am also happy to report that one of my first tasks which was to raise funds for a social work project in Uganda, has been successful. The Irish social workers union came up trumps and the funding requested has been secured. As it is planned to hold the next Executive in Uganda, I look forward to visiting the project at the time of that meeting.

But more work needs to be done. I have already indicated a number of developments which I would like to see and priorities which cry out for greater effort:

■ I would very much like to see the involvement of our Eastern European colleagues in Federation activities. I believe their participation would bring new perspectives to social work and it is through direct contact between people that mutual understanding and trust among countries will grow. We had the great honour of welcoming a delegation from China to the General Meeting in Tokyo this year. Let us hope that the efforts of the European Region will be fruitful in this regard and that Stockholm in 1988 will welcome a delegation of observers from Eastern Europe.

■ The issue of human rights is central to the work of IFSW and current concern over the worsening plight of social workers and their clients in many countries has been expressed through a renewed commitment to the work of Amnesty International and the Committee of Chilean Inquiry. Member Associations, in marking the International Year of Peace with a special event, have joined together in



Augusta McCabe, newly elected President of the IFSW

a new way in this public expression of social work solidarity with those suffering oppression in all parts of the world. I was privileged to join with my Irish colleagues on the 30th October in Dublin for an ecumenical service and fund-raising celebration to mark the occasion. The achievement was two-fold: the funds raised by the event were donated to the Chilean cause and greater understanding was generated about the work of IFSW.

■ Inter-country child custody has long been a special concern of mine. Following ground work in the European Community Liaison Committee, a recommendation brought forward by the Irish Association to the General Meeting in Tokyo was passed unanimously. The text of the resolution is at the end of the Newsletter.

I would like to see member Associations put pressure on their respective Governments to agree a policy on inter-country child custody cases. It is

imperative that arrangements between countries are regularised to ensure that cases of child abduction will not be tolerated by any Government and that custody orders made in one country will be enforced in another.

If your Government has no policy in this regard, then I urge you to bring the IFSW Resolution to their attention and create an awareness of this serious social problem and what must be done to alleviate it.

■ Building on the work of Charlotte Jean-Richard (our UN Representative in Geneva) and Maryann Mahaffy, the document on Strategies for the Advancement of Women is now before the IFSW. The introduction to the document makes the telling point that:

"since the majority of people in the world are women and the majority of those social work serves are women, the struggle for women's equality in the world is a basic concern to IFSW".

The strategies document is relevant world-wide. I urge member associations to get this document, study it and pursue those issues relevant to their own local situation. If you still wonder sometimes how to make IFSW "come alive" for your associat-

ion, then why not hold a Seminar on Strategies for the Advancement of Women?

The theme of the Tokyo conference was Peace. At the very heart of peace lies justice. In her plenary paper, Kay Carmichael said it like this: "Without justice you can have submission, you can have acquiescence, you can have conformity, you can have apathy. You cannot have peace".

The issues I have already referred to — human rights, child welfare and the advancement of women, are all related to justice. For me, the core of the IFSW task is concerned with justice. Justice for clients, justice for families, justice for communities. So what relevance has this for the fieldworker? A paper presented by Lars Lingaas (Norway) in Tokyo threw new light on the old question. The social worker, in helping people to solve problems, raises the underlying conflicts — often complex, often painful. In helping to resolve those conflicts, the social worker may act as an honest broker between people, agencies or communities. As a skilled mediator, the social worker can be a powerful medium for justice.

I wish to thank you for all the good wishes you have sent me for the work ahead, and I send you my very best wishes for a happy and joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Augusta McCabe, President.

IFSW Activities

As never before, IFSW is on the march guided by its newly elected EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE composed of:

Augusta McCabe (Ireland) President
Mustafa Bushaala (Libya) Vice President
	for Africa
Corazon Alma G. de Leon (Philippines)	
 Vice President for Asia & Pacific
Njal Petter Svensson (Norway) Vice President
	for Europe
Maria Milessi (Chile) Vice President for
	Latin America
Dorothy V. Harris (USA) Vice President for
	North America
Richard Ramsay Treasurer
A. Bwanika Bbaale (Uganda)	
Frances Blonden (Netherlands)	
A. Roy Bowden (New Zealand)	
Paul Dolan (U.K.)	
Suzanne Dworak-Peck (USA)	
Gayle Gilchrist James	
Yitzhak Kadman (Israel)	
Rose Marie Robertson (Australia)	
Michiko Uehara (Japan)	
Monika Vyslouzil (Austria)	

Much was accomplished by the IFSW administrative meetings in Tokyo prior to and following the high calibre 9th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on the theme:

DEVELOPING HUMAN RELATIONS AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES FOR PEACE

A greater emphasis on women's issues, continued involvement in Human Rights and co-operation with Amnesty International, the (US) Committee for Chilean Inquiry and other bodies for action on behalf of social workers who are victims of human rights violations; support for the work of the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda for the resettlement in their villages of origin of persons who had fled or been expelled during the years of internal strife, were among the many tasks entrusted to the Federation by its constituent member associations at the General Meeting.

Policy papers on REFUGEES, YOUTH, WORK WITH SELF-HELP GROUPS and CONDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES were adopted and are presently undergoing scrutiny by the Editorial Board before joining the already published documents on HUMAN RIGHTS, CHILD WELFARE, HEALTH and SOCIAL WORK AND THE COMPUTERISATION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION. Four further papers (on PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND PEOPLE-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT, STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, MIGRATION and THE WELFARE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE) are being considered and it is planned to have all twelve published in book form in time for the 1988 General Meeting and 10th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM in Stockholm, Sweden.

At their meeting in Brussels on November 1, 1986, the European Delegates made the following declaration on the violent deaths met by 5 social workers in the course of their duties:

"This Regional Meeting expresses its sympathy to the families, and its support to the Associations whose members have been killed while undertaking their professional duties. We pledge ourselves to help the responses of our colleagues based on the thinking contained in the paper 'Social Work and Violence', and sharing our experience of violence and how it is responded to."

The social workers thus killed were: Frances Betteridge, Norma Morris and Isabel Schwarz (U.K.); Jeanine Plus (France); and Amalia Levine (Israel).

The four already published IFSW policy papers (on HUMAN RIGHTS, CHILD WELFARE, HEALTH, and SOCIAL WORK AND THE COMPUTERISATION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION) are now available in German, as well as in English, French and Spanish, thanks to the efforts of our German-speaking Member Associations. The documents are in continuous demand. Among the persons and institutions who have asked for them lately are The University of Sydney, the Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work in Bombay, the Southern University at New Orleans,

and the International Library Service in Near Skipton, North Yorkshire, U.K.

The Secretaries-General, Andrew and Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol, visited Eun Sik Min, President of the Korean Association of Social Workers, in Seoul after the Tokyo meetings. The Korean Association needs strengthening and it is hoped that Mr. Eun Sik Min will succeed in convincing his Government to delegate screening and decision-making powers for the accreditation and licensing of social workers to a special body acting under the aegis of the Korean Association. The U.S., U.K., Canadian and Japanese associations have been asked to produce back-up material on the accreditation and licensing process in their countries.

Mr. Eun Sik Min is the Director of the very impressive Sam Yook Rehabilitation Center for disabled children and youth which the Secretaries-General were able to visit.

At the European Delegates Meeting in Brussels on November 1, 1986, a Working Group for Contacts with Eastern Europe was set up with Monika Vyslouzil (Austria) as Coordinator and Peter Lamming (Sweden), Nanda Loumidi (Greece) and Runa Reimavuo (Finland) as members. Apart from contacts, funding will be sought for the attendance of social workers from Eastern Europe at the IFSW Symposium in Stockholm, and the Coordinator, Monika Vyslouzil, will investigate possibilities at U.N.-Vienna to hold a seminar in an Eastern European country.

News from Member Associations

Argentina

A total of 1,370 professional social workers and social work students attended the XIII National Social Work Conference (Jornadas Nacionales de Trabajo Social) 9-11 October 1986 in Corrientes, on the theme "Defending Professional Interests". The Argentine Federation of Social Worker Associations and the Argentine Federation of Social Work Students published a joint document outlining their common interests and goals and an analysis of the country's economic crisis. The document calls for a substantial increase in funds to be allocated for higher education and advocates putting a stop to the drain of foreign exchange for the payment of the national debt, considered to be the main stumbling block on the road to the Argentine people's development.

Another common concern was the mushrooming of so-called technical training courses for "social helpers", "community workers" and similar "ersatz" professionals who aspire to functions and roles rightfully ascribed to professional social workers in their clients' best interests.

By virtue of Law No. 23.377 passed by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies on September 18, 1986, regulation of the social work profession

was introduced in the Federal District (Buenos Aires) bringing the total number of provinces where the profession is now regulated by law to 14.

Australia

A study tour of social work agencies in Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark is being organised by the Western Australian Association of Social Workers to follow the 1988 IFSW Symposium in Stockholm and the ICSW Conference in Berlin.

Belgium

U.F.A.S., the French-speaking component of the Federation's Belgian member association, started a new quarterly publication "T.A.S." (Tribune des Assistants Sociaux) in September 1986 to replace its former journal "Bip". It can be obtained from A.C.A.S. (Association Centrale des Assistants Sociaux) 24, rue de l'Abbaye, 1050 Bruxelles.

Canada

The Canadian Association of Social Workers proposed celebrating a Social Workers International Day of Peace at the General Meeting in Montreal

in 1984, and its British Columbian branch prepared the Peace Kit for the first International Day which was celebrated by many IFSW member associations on October 30, 1986 during U.N. Disarmament Week and the International Year of Peace.

Madeleine Rivard-Leduc, President of CASW, considers it natural for social workers to join peace movements and to initiate peace activities. Two peace themes and concerns prevail in Canada: "Peace and social development" and "Countering youth anxiety in this age of a nuclear war threat".

Gayle Gilchrist James, a member of the IFSW Executive Committee, was named Chairman of the (Canadian) National Council of Welfare, an advisory committee to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

The Council is composed of 21 members of whom some are chosen from low income groups and others from persons with extensive experience in social welfare. It publishes documents on social welfare issues which have great influence on the formulation of Canadian social policy. Although advisory to the Minister, the Council acts independently in its publications and its public statements.

Chile

On August 27, 1986 the Chilean Association (Consejo General, Colegio de Asistentes Sociales A.G.) officially inaugurated its Human Rights Department at a ceremony attended by Mgr. Santiago Tapia, Vicar of Solidarity, and other clerical and civil dignitaries active in the field of human rights. The Colegio also participated in a panel discussion on violence organised by the Federation of Professional Associations on July 23, 1986.

Between August and October, the Colegio's IV Social Work Congress took place in a series of regional meetings to determine attitudes, planning and action of Chilean social workers at a crucial point of their country's social and political life.

Two courses: "Methodology for social engineering" and "Adoption of professional ethics" were organised by the Colegio in 1986. The three main themes of the former were: Theoretical basis for analysis; Organisational theory; and Social structures. The latter was aimed at reformulating rules, standards and procedures for social workers adapted to conditions prevailing in the country.

Between May and August 1986, the Colegio publicly expressed

- its condemnation of further illegal measures taken against psychologist Carmen Halles;
- its solidarity with the faculty members of the Universidad de Chile who were refused access to the University where they wished to attend a meeting;
- its support for professionals who are active within the Vicariate of Solidarity;

- its solidarity with and support for social leaders detained in the course of a peaceful protest demonstration.

Ireland

Liam Tansey, Chairman of the IASW Council, reports:

"Needless to say, there is great joy in Ireland at Augusta's election and a feeling that it is very well deserved and that her Presidency will be marked by the qualities that we have, in Ireland, come to know from Augusta, i.e. dedication, consistency, enthusiasm and professionalism.

There was much celebration on Augusta's arrival from Tokyo and a little 'saki' found its way in amongst the Guinness.

On the Social Work front, most discussion has been focussed on the publication of the Report of the Commission on Social Welfare. Some parts of this document were leaked to the Press, particularly the section which recommended a basic minimum payment for all Social Welfare recipients and the estimated cost of same. As a result of this, the actual official publication of the Report was slightly dampened.

The Minister responsible even hinted that the Report might not be implemented. However, this seems to have had the effect of galvanising the various groups involved in the Social Welfare field and already a number of meetings have taken place involving many of these organisations including the Irish Association of Social Workers, in order to respond to the Report and to pool resources to press for the implementation of the changes.

I.A.S.W. commemorated the International Year of Peace with a special ecumenical service for peace followed by a reception in the residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin. The proceeds from this reception were donated to the (USA) Committee for Chilean Inquiry. IASW was particularly pleased that Prof. Dick Splane (IASSW) and his wife Verna (Canada) flew in specially from London to be present at the celebration.

The Association has been involved in lobbying Government Ministers and the Attorney General for the introduction of legislation necessary for Ireland to ratify the convention on child custody. It has also been in contact with members of the European Parliament to press for a European directive on this matter.

Ireland has now signed the U.N. Convention on Discrimination against Women which was an issue on which the Association had been lobbying for some time.

The Combat Poverty Bill has been passed by the Irish Parliament and a permanent Combat Poverty Agency is in the process of being set up. This Agency which is chaired by a social worker will be responsible for poverty projects set up in Ireland of which some would receive E.E.C. funding.

Israel

Submissions, pressure and lobbying were the various means used by the Israel Association of Social Workers to influence legislation in various fields: the aged (non-taxable pensions; an Elderly Care Law to guarantee rights and standards of treatment for elderly patients); personal social services (a blue-print of a law to replace the Personal Social Services Law of 1958 is being worked out by IASW for submission to the Government); psychotherapy (IASW is involved in the drafting of a law on the subject).

Other areas of activity comprise inter alia an Ad-hoc Committee on the Integration of Ethiopian Immigrants which includes Ethiopian social workers; a mixed Arab/Jewish Committee for the Arab Population; spadework for nationwide licensing and professional standards, classification and advancement; improvement of salaries and working conditions for social workers.

Dr. Menahem Horwitz, former Head of Probation Services, was declared "Social Worker of the YEAR 1986" and won "The Henrietta Szold Award" granted annually by IASW to social workers whose activities are characterized by innovative initiative.

A member of the Executive Committee of the Israel Association, Mrs. Lotte Saltzberger, was elected Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem.

In 1986, the Israel Association had among its guests Dr. Heinrich Schiller, President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work and Mrs. Elizabeth Fischbacher, Assistant Secretary General of the Swiss Association of Social Workers.

Italy

The Italian Association gathered signatures from all over the country for its Manifesto published in Rome in April 1986. Key words of the manifesto are:

"Social workers have many duties and no rights".

Demands include:

- legal status for the profession
- uniform training at university level
- parity among social workers as regards employment conditions in State, Health and Local Authority services
- adequate career advancement prospects according to functions and training.

New Zealand

In keeping with its bicultural practice, the New Zealand Association of Social Workers now has a

joint Presidency shared by Maori and non-Maori members. New Presidents following the elections on August 25, 1986 are Rahera Ohia and Sarah Fraser; Cathy Holland is Secretary and Meryl Dixon, Treasurer. The new postal address is:

National Executive

New Zealand Association of Social Workers

P.O. Box 365

Hamilton, New Zealand.

The New Zealand Government will set up a Royal Commission on Social Policy to review the full range of welfare, housing, education and health services. Its findings are to be published within three years.

Philippines

The Committee for Chilean Inquiry reports on the present lives of three Filipino social workers freed in 1986:

Judy Taguiwalo and her baby Indy June, born in prison, are now living in a low-cost housing project in Quezon City, Manila with

Adora Faye de Vera (32) who was shot in the legs during a military operation in 1983. Adora still walks on crutches, probably as a result of insufficient care for her fractured legs in the prison camp which subsequent operations were not able to put right. She is involved with a human rights group that is documenting cases of torture and involuntary disappearances and hopes to recover sufficiently to return to her original work involving organising and educating peasants and others at grassroot level.

The third ex-prisoner, *Adelina Estrada* (57) is living in a fishing community and is finding it difficult to cope with financial problems facing her as her family's bread-winner.

The Philippine Association of Social Workers has done its utmost to facilitate action by other groups for the rehabilitation of former prisoners. The Committee for Chilean Inquiry (see address below) sent financial help for the social work prisoners both during and after their incarceration.

(Ruth H. Wilson, Secretary, Committee for Chilean Inquiry, c/o NYC Chapter, NASW, 8th Ave., 6th floor, New York, N.Y. 10018.)

Spain

The Spanish Association of Social Workers (Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Diplomados en Trabajo Social y Asistentes Sociales) drafted a questionnaire on behalf of all other European IFSW member associations for a survey on social work practice in the Region. The survey is intended to provide comprehensive information on the status of the profession in Europe and on the extent of its influence on social policy, especially in the field of preventive and remedial measures with regard to social needs and the

allocation of resources for their implementation.

The first university social work graduates completed their studies in June 1986, and conditions for the revalidation of past non-academic social work diplomas were established in October.

Minimum fees are being set by the Consejo General for independent social workers for whom the Consejo is trying to obtain social security coverage.

Apart from its journal "Revista de Servicios Sociales y Politica Social" whose 6th issue was published in November 1986, the Consejo published a series of documents on the social services in Great Britain, Yugoslavia, Israel and the Netherlands; on social services and social service legislation in Europe; and on a model for a social card-index with an accompanying manual of guidance.

Sweden

A "Study Day for Peace" was organised by social workers and social work students on November 6, 1986 at Stockholm University. A torchlight procession and a talk by Peter Lamming on the Swedish Association's and the International Federation's involvement in peace were the crowning events of the Day.

Swedish social workers were among the 1.5 million public-sector workers who went on strike during four-and-a-half weeks for increased wages and pay parity with the private sector. The strike ended on October 31, 1986 yielding gains of a 7.4% rise in salaries and an extra SKR 300 million (approximately US\$4.3 million) to be split among the lower-salaried workers such as nurses and social workers. Taking part in the strike were the two unions SSR and SKTF who, together with the Swedish Association of Social Workers, form the Swedish Coordinating Body for IFSW Membership.

Switzerland

Coinciding with its 20th anniversary, the Swiss Association of Social Workers will host the 1989 IFSW European Seminar in conjunction with its own biennial seminar. Dates, location and theme will be determined at a later date.

U.K.

The past year has been an eventful one for the British Association of Social Workers, both in its own organisation, and in social work issues.

David N. Jones took up post as the new General Secretary on 1st July 1985 and has been busy getting to grips with both sets of problems. One result is a revised organisational structure, involving both staff and members, designed to make the most efficient use of the resources and talents available.

Membership is rising, the number is now more than 9,300 and it is hoped to top the 10,000 figure early in 1987. There is also a growing demand for the personal advice and representation service offered to members. Two tragedies involving deaths of children in the care of social service departments attracted major national publicity. BASW published its guidelines to good professional practice in child abuse, the result of two years work. These received widespread publicity, and have been adopted by a growing number of social service departments throughout the country.

BASW has become more involved in making sure the voice of social work is heard in government and parliament, putting forward submissions and legislative amendments on a number of the important changes being introduced or considered by government.

BASW has been vocal in opposing cuts in the amount of money available for social work education and training and on a whole range of professional practice and social policy issues.

BASW has undertaken a survey on child abuse in the European region and prepared a questionnaire on the topic which was circulated to all IFSW European member associations.

Responses are sought to the specific questions. They will be collated and the findings presented in a written document which, together with the already existing IFSW Policy on Child Welfare, will constitute a guideline on the urgent problem and widespread scourge of child abuse.

U.S.A.

In June, 1986, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Board of Directors established a new advanced specialized credential in clinical social work, the Diplomate in Clinical Social Work. The requirements for Diplomate status are a graduate degree from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work education, two years of full time supervised clinical social work experience, an additional three years of clinical experience, and the successful completion of a process which will include both a cognitive examination and an assessment of practice skill.

There will be a grandparenting period, lasting until September, 1987, during which all those who are accepted for listing in the 1987 edition of the NASW Register of Clinical Social Workers will be invited, if they have the additional requisite experience, to be admitted to the Diplomate without examination.

Child Welfare has been an important commitment of NASW. On March 24-25, 1986, a landmark invitational meeting co-sponsored by NASW and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Administration of Children, Youth and Families reviewed child welfare issues and reaffirmed their commitment to high quality professional

public child welfare services.

As a result of the recommendations of the March conference, schools of social work will now be able to apply for federal grants as of December 15, 1986. Funds can be used for: traineeship for students pursuing degrees in social work; in-service training for persons employed in the field of child welfare; demonstration projects of schools of social work, public agencies and professional associations; and special grants for projects which focus on the needs of Indian children.

In order to implement the recommendations of the jointly sponsored meeting, NASW agreed to create a task force to work on child welfare problems in conjunction with its commission on Families and Primary Association to develop a public information and legislative campaign with

a view to assisting NASW chapters in their efforts to achieve the necessary commitment and budgetary levels for the hiring of professionally trained social workers.

From September 11-14, 1986, over 2,000 social workers gathered in San Francisco for the NASW National Conference on Clinical Social Work where President Dorothy Harris presented an award to the eminent social work educator, author, theoretician and practitioner, Helen Harris Perlman. This was the second last of NASW's "specialty" conferences, the last being the Conference on Minority Affairs scheduled for June, 1987. After that, NASW will have an annual conference providing for specialty "tracks" within an umbrella front. The first will be NASW's Meeting of the Profession in New Orleans, Louisiana, September 9-12, 1987.

International News

Women

The following are among the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in IFSW member countries after their election in March 1986.

Ryoko Akamatsu (Japan); Marie Caron (Canada); Ivanka Corti (Italy); Elizabeth Evatt (Australia); Chryssanthi Laiou-Antoniou (Greece); Maria Margarida do Rego da Costa Salema (Portugal); Mervet El-Tallawy (Egypt); Rose N. Ukeje (Nigeria); Margareta Wadstein (Sweden).

The Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted in 1979 and entered into force in 1981. In its article 17, it provides for a committee of 23 experts (CEDAW) to be elected by States parties to the Convention to monitor progress in its implementation.

Insofar as IFSW has likewise been trying to monitor the Convention's acceptance and implementation, Associations could avail themselves of the opportunity to contact the above-mentioned members of CEDAW in their countries.

"Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000" is a condensed version of the document adopted by the UN-Decade for Women Conference last July in Nairobi published by two American women. Copies can be obtained at US\$3.00 per copy and US\$4.00 for postal charges from:

Women, Public Policy and Development Project
Humphrey Center, U. of M.
301 - 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA

Enclose a cheque or money order for the number of copies you wish to order. All orders must be prepaid. Bulk rates are available on request. A limited number of free copies have been reserved for women's groups in developing countries and they are likewise available on request.

United Nations

Dr. Celia B. Weisman, a member of the IFSW team at the United Nations in New York and Chairperson of the NGO Committee on Aging at the U.N., New York, reports:

"The U.N.'s thrust on aging is in serious jeopardy because of depleting funds and poor response to the pledging conference held in late 1985 in which only three countries contributed a total of US\$8,000 to the Trust Fund. In addition, the Unit on Aging that is part of the Vienna Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is experiencing a 30% budget cut, far larger than any other section within the Centre.

The NGO Committee on Aging at the UN in New York has continued to be interested and involved in bringing information to its members on problems of the elderly on a global basis.

Programmes of the Committee during 1985-1986 have included: health, older women, the homeless elderly, intergenerational concerns, peace and disarmament and the elderly, and drugs and drug abuse.

It is recommended that the international network of member groups under IFSW go on record as to their interest and support of aging problems.

IFSW and its member associations are urged to take the following action:

Contact their Governments and urge them to keep the issue of aging alive in the UN and to instruct their UN delegates to support:

A a Standing Committee on Aging in ECOSOC to bring concerns to the Commission on Social Development of ECOSOC;

B support the establishment of a sub-committee in the Administration Committee on Coordination (ACC);

C support the idea that reports of these two committees be included in the Social Development Report of ECOSOC.

The following Statement by the International Federation of Social Workers has been circulated at the 41st General Assembly of the United Nations in New York:

From its inception, the programme of the International Year of Peace as well as the Year itself had the full support of the International Federation of Social Workers and its 49 member associations who decided to hold their biennial International Symposium in Tokyo in 1986 on the theme "DEVELOPING HUMAN RELATIONS AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES FOR PEACE". IYP provided fresh impetus for the International Federation's long standing commitment to peace and the opportunity of instituting a SOCIAL WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE which was observed, for the first time, on October 30, 1986 by a majority of IFSW member associations who expressed the wish to turn this day into a permanent fixture.

IFSW also drafted a policy paper on PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND PEOPLE-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT for publication in 1987. It is the firm belief of the social work profession that peace and the non-violent resolution of conflicts can be achieved in time, provided unceasing efforts are made to strengthen the commitment to constructive peace of people, families, organisations and communities. It is only by a massive upward surge from the base that Governments can be induced to apply the same ingenuity presently displayed in technical and scientific research aimed mostly at defense, to the search of peaceful solutions to the unavoidable economic, social and political conflicts of the human race;

Social Workers and their International Federation remain firmly committed to the United Nations and feel deeply indebted to the International Year of Peace for its invaluable inspiration in the pursuit of a common cause.

Start planning now to attend the 10th IFSW INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM in Stockholm, Sweden, July 26-30, 1988 on the theme:

ATTITUDES, VALUES AND IDEOLOGY
IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE.

South African social worker Winnie Mandela is likely to be the keynote speaker at the opening session.

Appeals

At its General Meeting in Tokyo, IFSW decided to help the Uganda Association in its efforts to assist in the resettlement of that country's numerous village returnees.

Recommendation submitted by the Irish Association of Social Workers to the General Meeting of the International Federation of Social Workers on 27th August, 1986, Tokyo, Japan. The General Meeting supported the recommendation unanimously.

Resolution

Recognising

that the welfare of the child is of overriding importance in reaching decisions concerning his/her custody:

that the making of arrangements to ensure that decisions concerning the custody of a child which can be more widely recognised and enforced, will provide greater protection of the welfare of children:

that it is desirable, with this end in view, to emphasise that the right of access of parents is a normal corollary to the right of custody:

that it is necessary to protect children internationally from the harmful effects of their wrongful removal or retention:

Whereas

the IFSW policy on Child Welfare considers that the interests of children are often neglected in favour of those of society or their parents and has the stated aim of seeking to strengthen the child's legal position in divorce/custody cases:

IT IS RESOLVED

that IFSW member associations shall take every opportunity to bring to the attention of their respective Governments the need to establish procedures, where they do not already exist, to ensure that child custody orders granted in law in one country are enforceable in another.

The newly elected President, Augusta McCabe, lost no time on her return to Ireland from Japan to secure funds for the purchase of a station wagon as requested by the UASW to help in the work of re-uniting children separated from their families and supporting women with self-help projects.

Among the many needs of Uganda displaced persons are *clothes*, and these IFSW member associations could provide without incurring undue trouble or cost. If all member associations were to send at least one parcel containing SUMMER CLOTHES for children or adults — used clothing in good condition, new clothes or good quality rejects obtainable from some shops free or at low cost — this could amount to some fifty parcels.

PLEASE ACT early in the New Year, immediately after the Christmas postal rush!