

NEWS LETTER



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

IFSW Secretariat: 33 rue de l'Athénée, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland

July/August 1986

If you consult the little IFSW brochure (yellow for the 1984-1986 biennium) you will find that IFSW is about to celebrate its 30th anniversary since it was founded at the time of the meeting of the International Conference on Social Welfare in Munich, in August 1956.

Thus it is "IFSW at 30" that we shall be celebrating in Tokyo with a show of youthful energy and strong commitment to the aims, motivations and ethics of social work. Thirty is a good age: neither too young to be labelled irresponsible nor too old to be written off as sterile, repetitive or resigned.

Social workers over the years have retained a balance between utopian views and pragmatic action. Sometimes they have been partly instrumental in transforming some aspects of the former into the latter. Client participation and self-determination may be one of those. Could the same be true with regard to today's visions of peace, social justice and the kind of economic development that puts people ahead of figures?

In their International Federation, social workers are writing their own history which is one of increased solidarity and understanding despite political and other differences which often appear unsurmountable in other fora. It will be up to each delegate and participant to ensure that the chapter about to be written in Tokyo will be an important one. It ought to be — all the premises are in place for the success of the

9th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The theme : DEVELOPING HUMAN RELATIONS AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES FOR PEACE

The dates : GENERAL MEETING - August 25-27, 1986
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM - August 27-31, 1986

The location : KODOMO-NO-SHIRO
(National Children's Centre)
Shibuya
TOKYO

Speaker at the 1st joint IFSW/IASSW Plenary:
R.A. Akindele (Nigeria).

Speaker at the 2nd joint Plenary (Eileen Younghusband Memorial Lecture): David Woodsworth (Canada)

IFSW Plenary Lecture: K. Carmichael (U.K.)

Speaker at the Closing Plenary:
Shiro Abe (Japan)

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IFSW President Janie Thomas, visited Porto Alegre, Brazil in May 1986 to meet the numerous Presidents of Latin American Associations of Social Workers gathered there on the occasion of

the ICSW Latin American Seminar on Family and Community. She was accompanied by the Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean, Maria Solis Milessi, and on May 13, 1986, she presided a session of IFSW member and non-member associations who passed the resolution reproduced below. She was also able to meet and confer with ICSW President, Norbert Préfontaine.

Porto Alegre, May 13, 1986

CONSIDERING

- I the crisis for professional social work in Latin America exemplified by inadequate working conditions, insufficient salaries and ever more limited scope for action and work that is being queried;
- II the pressing need to come out clearly in defence of the human rights of the Latin American peoples which are being infringed by politically and economically oppressive regimes;
- III the increasing exploitation which continues to develop and adversely affect our Latin American values at social and community level as well as our families by maintaining a state of dependency;
- IV the need of support for our colleagues from Latin American countries that hinder their professional development and their contribution to a dynamic transformation of our continent;

BE IT RESOLVED

- I to provide support to social workers in Chile and Nicaragua in their respective struggles and to extend such support to the entire community of Latin American people. To our Chilean brothers and sisters in their fight against dictatorship; and to our Nicaraguan

comrades in their fight against North American imperialism;

- II to recommend the creation of a Permanent Secretariat for Human Rights within the Latin American Social Work Centre (CELATS) and its co-operation with other organisations.

Signed: Janie Thomas, President, IFSW; Carlos Pascanan (CELATS); Emilio Ortiz (Argentina); Emma Briano Berti (Uruguay); Maria Solis Milessi (Chile); Alexandrina Mandiola (Peru); Libia Cristina Santos (Colombia); Victor Farcia Toro (Puerto Rico); Osvaldo Solis (Panama); Patricia Quinteros (Ecuador); Sonia Montañón (Bolivia).

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In March 1986 the Secretary General, Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol, visited the Headquarters of the Union of Social Professions in Cairo where he met with Dr. A. Shawky and the Secretary-General of the Union. He next visited the Cyprus Association of Social Workers in Nicosia where he was able to meet with all office holders and inspect the location of the next European Regional Seminar scheduled for autumn 1987. His warm reception by Cyprus social workers bodes well for European Seminar participants.

* * *

IFSW Executive Committee member, Chief Moses I. Okunola (Nigeria), was elected to the Advisory Council of the International Academy of Professional Counselling and Psychotherapy, Inc. The Academy's address is: 2036 Blairmore Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40502.

NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Argentina

The Argentine social workers, who managed not only to keep up organisational activities under a repressive dictatorship but even to found their own national federation of associations of professional social workers in 1981, are at present establishing national regulations for social work practice and codes of ethics in all its provincial member associations.

In 1984 the Federation urged the authorities to reopen the social work departments in the universities which had been closed during the years of military rule, and to reinstate all faculty members irrespective of their political orientation.

In 1986 the Federation was able to obtain recognition of social work diplomas from the Ministry of Education and Justice and ensure adequate careers and scope of action for social workers in the public sector. The Federation maintains close links with the Argentine General Confederation of Labour through its affiliation with the General Confederation of Professional Workers.

The Federation contributed two working documents to a multi-disciplinary National Congress on the present economic situation (in Argentina), in May 1986, one on the country's foreign debt, and the other on housing policy.

Together with the CELATS, the Latin American Centre for Social Work, it sponsored, earlier in the year, a Seminar on Social Work in the Southern Region of South America on "Social and Popular Movements and Social Work" through its Buenos Aires branch, the Asociación Metropolitana de Asistentes Sociales.

Australia

On January 20, 1986, the first inaugural Grace Vaughan memorial lecture was delivered by the Hon. Brian Burke, Premier of West Australia, as part of the University of Western Australia's Summer School programme. Its title: "White Doves and Olive Branches: Towards Equality, Peace and Justice in Society". The Premier's strong views on these topics were also those that

had been espoused by the late President of both the Australian Association of Social Workers and IFSW, throughout her career as a social worker and a member of the Western Australian Parliament.

* * *

The South Australian Council on Technological Change, considering that elderly people were rejecting new technology mainly out of fear of their inability to use it, made several recommendations among which the establishment of special standards for easy operation of community based electronic devices.

The Council maintained that some technologies such as, for instance, the information technologies increasingly introduced in libraries, were causing fear, visual difficulties, embarrassment and were leading to a decrease in library usage by the elderly and an increase in their isolation.

Austria

The Austrian Association's 1986 National Conference on "Work and Social Work" was eminently successful and dealt with issues such as special problems, unemployment and ecology.

The Association is working currently on a definition of the social work profession in Austria which it hopes to adopt at its next biennial conference in 1988. It published a statement on the role of social work in the field of psychotherapy which is available but only in German.

The Association's journal continues to be well received and has increased its circulation substantially, including among members of other professions. Its next issue will be devoted to the theme: "Social Work and Peace".

Denmark

In Denmark, during recent months, much interest and debate focused on the principles underpinning the allocation and assessment of finan-

cial aid in accordance with the Social Assistance Act. For the last ten years, allocations of financial aid have been made on the basis of estimates by social workers concerning the size of the allowance to be given to a client. However, in view of the economic crisis, the reduction in public funds and the sharply increased number of persons dependent on public allowances, this system is no longer suitable.

A Bill has now been introduced by the Minister of Social Affairs linking future payments to a scale of statutory allowances which social workers deem to be far too low. They have consequently spent considerable time trying to influence the political decision making process. The hearing of the Bill will take place in autumn 1986.

Unemployment among Danish social workers is approximately 9 per cent. The Danish Association is actively promoting and campaigning for the employment of social workers also outside the public sector where they work by tradition. Trade unions have shown interest in employing social workers to help their members at a time of continuous decline in public assistance.

The computerisation of the public sector has progressed in Denmark over the last years. The Danish Association of Social Workers has been actively involved in the EDP-debate within the social area, stressing that the introduction of new technologies should be based on the requirements of social work as well as the population. Much attention is devoted to problems such as security as concerns life and property and to professional confidentiality.

Great efforts have been made by the Danish Association to ensure qualifying and adequate in-service and post-graduate training for social workers within the framework of the National Danish School of Social Work.

France

A new law on health and social services was introduced in January 1986 which greatly alters the former law dating from 1975. One of its innovations lies in the establishment in each Department of France of a Committee on Social Development

(CDDS) grouping representatives of funding sources, professionals and users of social welfare services. Although health workers are represented on the Committees, social workers are not, and the French Association (ANAS) lodged a strong protest and is continuing to fight for the inclusion of the social work profession and of representatives of agencies working in the social field.

* * *

The theme of the next ANAS Congress which should be of interest to most IFSW members provided they have a working knowledge of the French language is "To assert, confirm and define professionalism in social work". It will take place at the Palais des Congrès in Lyon, November 17-19, 1986.

* * *

Following the joint ANAS/IFSW Europe Symposium in Paris in November 1985 where French social workers met with a social worker from Bogotá, Colombia, an association called "Echange France-Colombie" was created to promote relations between professionals from both countries and co-operation between the French Association and the Colombian Foundation "PROBISOC" (Social Welfare and Development Projects).

French social workers will leave for Bogotá on a study tour in November 1986 and Colombian social workers are expected in France in April 1987.

Ireland

Liam Tansey reports for the Irish Association of Social Workers:

This year's Conference was held in Sligo, a city on the North-West coast of Ireland, situated in the beautiful scenic countryside associated with the Nobel Prize-winner, W.B. Yeats.

The theme of the Conference was "Emerging needs in Irish Social Work".

The key-note speaker, Gerry O' Dwyer from the Department of Health, stressed the importance of social work becoming accountable and cost-efficient as with all other Government services. He stressed particularly the need for proper recording, research and presentation of results. This was followed by a presentation by Patrick O' Dwyer on the various roles that the social worker fulfils in Irish society.

After the initial scene setting, there were eight workshops that dealt with specific emerging needs in Irish social work.

Since the majority of social workers in Ireland are employed by the State and since the Ombudsman's Act has been extended to include most social workers, there was an interesting discussion and presentation on the functioning of the Ombudsman's Act in relation to social work decisions. Many of the issues that arose were similar to those that arise in relation to clients having open access to their files.

A workshop presentation on the benefits of using groups in relation to all aspects of child abuse (by a group of social workers and psychologists) gave many practical examples underlining the benefits of such an approach.

Another "High Profile" group are the AIDS clients and social workers who work mainly in the hospitals felt that efforts should be made to change the hospital regime.

A much longer established problem of alcohol addiction was discussed in terms of a community-based approach to the problem, in a rural area and this was a model that could be successfully transferred to all areas of the country.

A proposal by a Government body, to deal with an increasing problem of children's disruptive behaviour in schools by opening Detention Centres, led a group of social workers to formulate an alternative approach which they expect to submit to the Government within the next few months.

Other workshops: on how to quantify the value of social work and on state registration for social

workers which has been proposed for a long time, as well as the other workshops cited above were in some way linked to a final workshop which looked at proposed new structures for the employment of social workers and for the delivery of social work services in Ireland.

New Zealand

Planning is well under way for the New Zealand Association's Biennial Conference to be held in Hamilton on the Turangawaewae Marae in late August. The major emphasis will be on social work and bicultural issues and it is hoped that the Conference will contribute substantially to several important issues — biculturalism and social work in New Zealand, accountability for social work practice, and a suitable working structure for the National Association.

Considerable interest is being shown throughout the Association in unionization. Branches and interested groups within the Association have been asked to present their views on union status for NZASW. This is seen to be particularly relevant for social workers in the voluntary sector but the matter, for the time being, is very much at an exploratory stage.

NZASW intervened successfully for some improvements in working conditions and salary levels for social workers. It is in correspondence with overseas associations who sent enquiries and wished to establish links.

The Association's regular work involving working parties, interest groups and standing committees, continues with recent submissions being presented on current legislation on topics such as the review of health benefits and government advisory task forces. NZASW continues to have regular meetings with the Minister of Social Welfare and is investigating the possibility of regular meetings with the Minister of Health.

NZASW's membership recruitment drive continues and at the start of a new financial year it is pleasing to note that membership renewals are on the increase.

Some funding was received from government sources to assist delegates to the General Meeting and Symposium in Tokyo.

Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan Association (ANTS) held various working sessions between May 10 and July, 1986 (Jornada Nacional de Trabajo) to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Nicaraguan School of Social Work as well as its own 20th anniversary.

On June 7 and 8, 1986 a meeting of Presidents of Social Workers' Associations and Directors of Schools of Social Work from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean was held in San Salvador, El Salvador. ALAETS, the Latin American Association of Schools of Social Work as well as CELATS, the Latin American Social Work Centre contributed to the meeting as promised during the 3rd Meeting of Social Workers held in Honduras in August 1985.

ANTS is planning a meeting for September 1986, of Nicaraguan social workers with overseas workers and volunteers resident in the country, to study the peace issue in Central America as a contribution to the International Day of Peace declared by the United Nations and the World Day of Peace declared by the World Federation of Labour Unions and the World Peace Congress to be held in Denmark.

Spain

The Spanish Association, Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Diplomados en Trabajo Social y Asistentes Sociales, sent an impressive report on its activities in 1985 which include, among others,

- Successful interventions for the reclassification of social workers in the Budget Law for 1986. Their status was raised to the level of other professionals of similar rank.
- The crowning of its efforts concerning academic status for social work. The first social work graduates left their universities in June 1986 and now way has opened for other social workers to revalidate their diplomas for which they will be required to present a memoir and pass an examination.
- A project to determine minimum salaries for social workers which the Consejo intends to present to its General Meeting.

- A social data collection form intended to provide reliable indicators of the needs and characteristics of the segment of the population where clients of the social services are mainly found. (This document is available in English from the Consejo or from the IFSW Secretariat).
- Several study sessions, advanced training programmes, research and evaluation projects on social needs and social welfare programmes which were carried out in collaboration with the Spanish General Directorate on Social Welfare.
- The publication of 5 issues of its journal "Revista de Servicios Sociales y Política Social" which has now a circulation of 2000.

Uganda

The President of the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda, Mr. Bwanika Bbaale, described in detail the plight of his country and the odds facing Ugandan social workers who are desperately trying to help the victims of the political upheavals of past years, mainly displaced persons, orphaned children and widows.

Uganda has a population of 13.5 million of which 70% are children under the age of 16. Ninety per cent of the people live in rural areas and the economy is predominantly agriculture-based.

Independence occurred in 1962. An elected government survived until 1971 when it was overthrown by the military forces. The regime of Idi Amin Dada killed 300,000 persons leaving approximately 1,000,000 orphans and 500,000 widows. (Uganda is a predominantly polygamous society). The military regime was overthrown in 1979 with the assistance of Tanzania. After the Tanzanian troops left, the new Government tried to suppress opposition in the country by sending unruly soldiers to areas, mainly in the south of the country, where it wished to impose political support. The soldiers proceeded to kill, rape, rob and to destroy houses. In one province, aggression in the form of cattle rustling compounded the natural threats of famine and lack of water incurring the death of many of its nomadic population. In the Luwero triangle approximately

1,000,000 people were displaced and a massive destruction of the region's infrastructure took place. A further 1,000,000 were killed leaving more orphans and widows.

Since 1980 and up till January 1986 when it took over the government, the National Resistance Movement tried to restore democracy and respect for basic human rights with help from the population in the form of an armed struggle. Since that time displaced persons returned to their original homes and villages where they are in dire need of the material listed in the APPEALS column.

Social workers have tried to assist displaced persons by providing shelter, food and clothing; orphans, by finding substitute families for them besides providing clothing and school fees; and widows, by having them trained to run small businesses and by providing shelter, food and emotional support.

Many have returned to their villages and social workers saw to it that they were given transportation as well as seeds and basic agricultural tools. As mentioned in the APPEALS column, the most urgent requirements for the returnees are blankets, clothes, school material and toys.

Social workers have been specially active in reuniting children with their immediate or extended family. For this work they are in urgent need of transport facilities, hence the Association's plea

for the donation of a twelve-seater station wagon whose approximate cost is US\$5,000.

The establishment of a training institute referred to in the APPEALS column would serve the desperate educational needs of uprooted youth of whom many had borne arms at a pathetically early age. The need of these young people to acquire skills and a trade is self-evident, and help from the international community is required to turn them into useful members of the society and to avoid that they maraud in order to survive. (Estimated cost: US\$35,000).

United Kingdom

On June 16, 1986 the BASW Council unanimously endorsed the four IFSW policy papers published so far (Human Rights, Child Welfare, Health and Social Work and the Computerisation of Personal Information).

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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GR 106 83 Athens
Greece
Tel. 8834818

Singapore Association of Social Workers
03-129
Singapore 0316

APPEALS

Uganda

The National Association of Social Workers of Uganda is appealing for funds to purchase a station wagon — approximate cost US\$5,000 — to assist with the resettlement of displaced persons in the country.

Likewise urgently needed are:

- blankets
- clothes
- school material for primary and secondary schools
- toys for children in institutions.

A more ambitious project calls for the establishment of an institute for young persons aged 16—21 who are orphans. Skills such as agriculture, animal husbandry, domestic science, masonry and others will be taught. Approximate cost: US\$35,000.

Any Association willing and able to help with funds, advice, expertise, link-up with funding sources, please contact Mr. Bwanika Bdaala and/or the IFSW Secretariat.

Colombia

Funds are still being sought for victims of the mudslide which occurred in Colombia last year. They should be sent to the President of the Colombian Association of Social Workers,

Libia Cristina Santos M.

Presidente, FECS
Apartado Aereo 1964
Bucaramanga, Colombia

Chile

The Chilean Association gratefully acknowledged contributions from the Swiss, Austrian, Spanish, Norwegian and Danish Associations and from IFSW, which together amounted to roughly half the amount required to rebuild its damaged headquarters. In a letter to the Secretary General, Maria Solis Milessi, President of the Chilean Association, notes that “the solidarity shown by the overseas Member Associations has enabled us to finance most of the repairs already carried out, which means that shortly we shall be in a position to resume full use of our headquarters”.

REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

We are sorry to announce the unexpected death in June of Jack A. Kamaiko, MSW, leader of the IFSW team at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Tribute shall be paid to this valiant colleague in Tokyo and to his untiring enthusiasm and initiative. Apart from the Social Work Day organised yearly at the United Nations Headquarters, the last on March 25, 1986, Jack will be remembered for his masterful organisation of a successful celebration of the United Nations 40th anniversary in Long Island last year written up in the November 1985 issue of the IFSW Newsletter.

Jack will be missed by all who knew him, but he believed in team work and gathered around him outstanding personalities who will continue to represent IFSW. Among them, Dr. Stephen E. Torkelsen, Chairman of the NGO Subcommittee on Homeless Street Youth and Dr. Celia Weisman, Chairman of the NGO Committee on Ageing. The new team leader is Lillian Lampkin. IFSW owes a special debt to Jack Kamaiko for having thus ensured continuity and he will best be honoured by continuing the work in which he believed and which he inspired.

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Monika Vyslouzil, IFSW Representative at UN/-Vienna, represented the Federation at the Annual Board Meeting of the European Centre for Social

Welfare Training and Research which took place in Vienna, March 24-26, 1986.

Among the suggestions made during the first two days of the meeting, she felt that some of the following proposals were of particular relevance to the profession:

- a research project on professionalisation (Italy and Observer from Hungary)
- a research project on "public care" — a new integrated approach to social and health care (Netherlands)
- greater impetus for the training of "trainers"
- a European Regional Meeting in preparation for the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, to be held in spring 1987.

Monika Vyslouzil intervened on several occasions. In her last remark she expressed regret over the emphasis on the financial aspect of any co-operation with the European Centre, stressing that IFSW, though unable to fund any research or meetings, had still much to offer in expertise since its members can draw on day by day practice and experience. She saw the possibility of valuable contribution from IFSW for the project on professionalisation where some data has already been collected in Europe, and for the European Regional Meeting where IFSW could draw information from the responses to a questionnaire that had been sent out to all its members.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Children

In the APPEALS column we published a plea from the Ugandan Association of Social Workers.

The following is an extract from information printed in Vol. 3 No.1 1986 of the journal "International Children's Rights Monitor" published by Defense for Children International:

The Kampala office of UNICEF has reported interest on the part of the newly installed authorities (National Resistance Army) in the possibility of setting up a special education programme for the estimated 1,500-2,000 children, some as young as eight, who took part in the recent armed conflicts in Uganda. While Uganda's new president, Yoweri Museveni, appears to favour a "military academy" context for the education programme, UNICEF is advocating speedy efforts to ensure the children's rehabilitation and return to civilian life. It wishes to promote the establishment of a school that would take account, in its curriculum and life-style, of the children's special needs as ex-combatants.

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The (U.N.) Working Group on the Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child hopes to finalize the Convention in 1987 when the few remaining substantive articles will be discussed: the right to enter and leave any country; freedom of assembly; sexual exploitation and harmful traditional practices. Also the implementation provisions for the convention which are probably the most sensitive and important aspect.

Of particular importance this year was the adoption of a clause which ensures that capital punishment, or life imprisonment without the possibility of release, is not imposed for crimes committed by persons below eighteen years of age. The aim of treatment of children found guilty of infringing the penal law should be their reformation and social rehabilitation.

The (U.N.) International Seminar on the ways and means of achieving the elimination of the exploitation of child labour in all parts of the world (Geneva, October 28 - November 8, 1985) helped to clarify some of the types of labour. Even so there was debate over what was employment and what was work. Eventually it was recognised that the child had the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that was likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. In this way the work of children on family farms or in traditional culturally related activities would not be prevented. The article concluded that states should provide appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure effective enforcement. The NGO draft had asked for penalties to be established by law to ensure compliance.

From a report from the Quaker United Nations Office - Geneva

Population

"Selected Demographic and Social Characteristics of the World's Children" is a U.N. publication issued in 1985. The number of children under 15 years of age in the world was estimated in 1985 to be 1.6 billion, or 34 per cent of the world's population; the number of youth between the ages of 15 and 24, is estimated to be 940 million, or 19 per cent of the world's total population. Together both groups constitute more than half of the world's population. It is further projected that by the year 2000 the child and youth populations will increase to 1.9 billion and 1.1 billion, respectively.

It is estimated that the entire increase in the world's youth will take place in the less developed regions while youth in the more developed regions should start to diminish in absolute numbers at an annual rate of 0.4 per cent. Hence, by the year 2000, between 8 and 9 out of every 10 persons under age 25 will be living in

less developed countries. It is also projected that by the end of the century 46 per cent of children and 53 per cent of youth will be living in urban areas.

*Population Newsletter Number 37
Population Division
Department of International Economic and
Social Affairs :*

Peace, disarmament and development

An econometric study by Jacques Royer: "The Long-term Employment Impact of Disarmament Policies" issued by the ILO in 1968 maintains that there is a far better way to use public money than to continue spending more and more on arms. The resources that could be devoted to improving life on earth are earmarked for what amounts to a death sentence for mankind.

Over the past 25 years, the annual global outlay for arms has gone from \$400 billion to an astronomical \$1,000 billion. The cost now exceeds the entire income of the poorer half of humanity.

The study suggests that the savings from disarmament could be diverted to developing countries to help fight poverty and stimulate prosperity on a global basis by the promotion of a sustained annual growth of 9.4 per cent in the developing market economies and of 3.7 per cent in the industrialised countries.

The study suggests further that in this manner — within a decade — some 170 million jobs could be created in the South and another 10 million in the North.

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Excerpts from a statement by H.E. Ambassador Maj Britt Theorin, M.P., at a meeting in Geneva on the occasion of International Women's Day in March 1986:

"If we want to take our own lives in our hands we must also stand up to fight this ultimate threat to our lives, in the most concrete sense of the word, which is the nuclear insanity... The nuclear arms race is too dangerous to be left to the men, to only a half of humankind.

With a few conspicuous exceptions, women are completely left out of those circles where decisions about nuclear weapons are taken. A survey recently made by some Oxford scientists showed that of the 800 most senior persons responsible for these matters in the nuclear-weapon states, two are women.

...As a Swedish woman, what comes into my mind in this context is in particular the experiences of women in my own country in the struggle for peace and disarmament. Prominent here is the role Swedish women played in preventing Sweden itself from going nuclear.

It sometimes comes as a surprise both to people abroad and to our own young generation that Sweden 30 years ago was seriously considering an own nuclear weapons programme. The establishment, and not only the military one, was committed to such a programme. It was seen as something almost self-evident... Those who opposed nuclear weapons were considered ignorant, irresponsible, yes naive.

But a determined opposition against, as it was said, "small tactical nuclear weapons", developed. Such "small tactical nuclear weapons", deployed in thousands, now constitute a major threat of war and nuclear escalation. It was at that time claimed that those weapons were so small that they would be seen as a threat by no-one, but still so important that they would deter any enemy from attacking us.

But we women rejected such illogical arguments. Against the entire establishment a popular movement against nuclear weapons grew in strength... Women took the floor at party meetings (Social Democratic Party) all over the country arguing their case to the frustration of so many of our male colleagues. As we repeated our statements and questions, month after month, year after year.

I still very much remember how strongly we felt that we were struggling for our entire future and for the future of our children to be born. The success of our struggle was complete, and those who at that time were bitter in their criticism of us are today grateful that we persisted..."

NEWS IN BRIEF

The new Secretary General of the International Social Service, Mrs. Marcelle Brisson (Canada) took office on July 1, 1986 in Geneva where she replaced Miss Audrey Moser who is well known to many of our members and to whom we extend our best wishes on her retirement.

* * *

Paulo Freire, Brazilian sociologist of world renown, compares "liberating" to "banking" education:

Banking education

Subject: the teacher

Object: the pupil

Role of the educator: to deposit knowledge (content) in "empty receptacles" (pupils supposed to know nothing)

Objectives imposed on the people (or pupils)

Knowledge is "ready-made", leaving no margin for creativity. Learning is a matter of memorizing

Liberating education

Subjects: the pupils and the teacher

Object: the world

Reality as perceived and analysed by the pupils (or the people) and reconstrued in problem form by the educator. The "content" of the curriculum is based on the viewpoint of the people (pupils)

Objectives reflecting the people's aspirations

Knowledge is queried: it should stimulate dialogue, a critical approach and creativity. Learning is a creative act.

Authoritarianism, interventionism, "manipulation", "cultural invasion"

Adapts human beings to reality

A problem means defeat

Dialogue, liberation, "cultural action"

Aims at radically changing reality in line with human needs

A problem is a challenge.

* * *

International Labour Organisation statistics show that in 1984 OECD countries experienced fewer strikes, but those that did occur lasted longer and involved more workers. There were marked increases in days lost in the United Kingdom, followed by Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany. In 26 other, mostly developing countries, there was an overall decline in the number of strikes, workers involved and days lost.

*Condensed from DEVELOPMENT FORUM
June 1986*

IASSW News

IASSW's new address in Vienna is: Palais Palfy, Josefsplatz 6, 1010 Vienna, in the heart of the city's fine, historical centre.

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During the IASSW Congress in Tokyo, Dr. Meryl C. (Terry) Hokenstad will lead a workshop on writing and reporting techniques and the development of indigenous literature. This Special Interest session will take place on August 29, 1986, and persons interested in attending this workshop can write to Dr. Hokenstad as the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA.