

# NEWS LETTER



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

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

March/April 1986

Only just over four months to go until the Tokyo meetings! The Organising Committee in Tokyo is working under extreme pressure, and pressure is likewise starting to build up at the Geneva Secretariat.

Associations wishing to have particular subjects taken up at the General Meeting should submit them to the Secretariat as early as possible. And those who have not done so already, must communicate proposed names of speakers and chairpersons at Symposium workshops to their respective Regional Vice Presidents at maximum speed.

Excellent keynote speakers have been located for the Symposium and an exciting programme set up for the joint ICSW/IASSW/IFSW field visits. Our Japanese hosts are offering 30 scholarships for Third World participants, mainly for the ICSW Conference, but some will hopefully be available for candidates presented by IFSW.

The Secretary - General of the United Nations will send a special message to IFSW/IASSW, which may be conveyed personally by Mr. Viacheslav A. Ustinov, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs. Ms. Robin Ludwig, Chief of the Section for Non -Governmental Organizations

and Academic Institutes at the International Year of Peace Secretariat, who spoke to the General Meeting in Montreal, will be with us throughout the Symposium.

As preparations are gathering momentum, the Tokyo meeting promises to be another highlight for IFSW. Come if you can! It will be fully worth the effort and the expense. And REMEMBER:

It is 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  
SYMPOSIUM -  
August 27 - 31, 1986

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

And while we are preparing materially, mentally and every way for TOKYO 1986, some of our colleagues are already hard at work to ensure the success of our 1988 Symposium in Stockholm. The following message has been received from our Swedish future hosts:

The Swedish Coordinating Body for IFSW membership wishes to report to you on the latest developments concerning the 10th International Symposium to be held in Stockholm, July 27 - 31, 1988.

The financial grant from the Government (\$300,000) which will stretch over three years starting July 1986, is now being proposed to the Parliament.

The Swedish Body is in the process of adopting a charter for a «Foundation for the Social World Congress 1988» which it plans to establish.

The Foundation's first meeting is about to take place and its members are Officers of the Body. Four committees will be established:

- *the Organizing Committee*
- *the Programme Committee*
- *the Promotion Committee*
- *the Third World Seminar Committee*

A first announcement will be widely distributed in June 1986.

The contact address is:

Peter Lamming  
c/o HCK  
P.O. Box 36033  
S-100 71 Stockholm, Sweden  
Tel: 840 300

## IFSW Regions

### Africa

Dr. Chuab Y. Adem, member of the Editorial Board of the IFSW Newsletter of the African Region and Mr. A. Massoud, Administrative Secretary of the IFSW African Region, are touring Africa to visit member and would - be member associations in order to strengthen the Region and encourage increased affiliation in IFSW. A further and important purpose of their visit is to promote attendance at the Symposium and General Meeting in Tokyo. In the course of their tour, the IFSW representatives will also gather material for the next issue of the African Regional Newsletter.

\* \* \*

The proceedings of the Second Regional Conference of the IFSW African Region which took place in Benghazi, Libya, April 21 - 23, 1985, have been published in English and French, along with the Conference's final recommendations, and are available on request from Mr. Mustafa A. Bushaala, Vice President for Africa, and the Geneva Secretariat.

### Europe

The next European Delegates' Meeting is scheduled for April 12 - 13, 1986 in Brussels where it precedes the annual meeting of the IFSW E.E.C. Liaison Committee with the Commission of the European Community on April 14. A new President of the Liaison Committee will be elected since Augusta

McCabe's (Ireland) two - year term of office expires in April.

The European Delegates will consider and respond to an initiative of the Council of Europe which would like to see the introduction of specific training for social workers in the field of human rights, and might also want to enlist social workers' support for a conference on the subject; they will explore racism in social work and consider three further important subjects: child abuse and responses to tragedies; community care for discharged mentally handicapped and mentally ill people; and the locating of funds for a major study on Social Work Practice in Europe.

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The experience of an extended national conference containing an international/regional component which was the formula adopted by the Federation's 8th European Regional Symposium which took place in Paris, November 6 - 8, 1985, proved highly successful. The combination of the original, sometimes controversial and often scintillating Gallic approach to the theme «The Couple, the Family, and Society» blended in well with the more pragmatic view taken by the non -French European contingent which contributed a perceptible mark on the Symposium, despite their limited numbers (130 out of 1,200 participants).

## IFSW action related to other international organisations and the United Nations

1986 being the International Year of Peace, not surprisingly IFSW found itself involved in two NGO Conferences, one in Geneva (January 20 - 24, 1986 - its theme «Together for Peace», and a Seminar in Vienna (January 30, 1986) on «Peace - A Fundamental Human Right! Peace - A Fundamental Human Duty!»).

“Together for Peace” launched an appeal at the close of the Conference at which the introductory keynote speaker had been the US - born wife of the Prime Minister of Greece, Mrs Margarita Papandreou. The following passages from the appeal appear to be of particular relevance to social workers:

«We do not have to recount the threats to peace. The race towards nuclear catastrophe is keeping up its momentum. As if the earth and the oceans can no longer bear the weight of weapons, outer space is explored for stationing arms. Hundreds are killed every day by non - nuclear weapons. Hunger takes its daily toll of thousands. Millions are deprived of basic human needs and fundamental human rights. Millions still groan under domination and exploitation. Apartheid continues denying justice, destroying people and destabilizing nations.

We appeal therefore to work together for a world of peace, not where war is merely absent, not where human survival is just possible, but where justice prevails and human dignity is upheld.

We reiterate that the nuclear arms race constitutes the greatest threat to peace and survival...

We agree that every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed...

The resources available in these areas can be more constructively utilized for peace. We appeal for promotion of people - to - people contacts across nations and for innovative steps for confidence - building...».

The introductory address at the Vienna Seminar was given by Dr. Walter Swoboda, President of the Austrian body affiliated with the Nobel Peace Prize winning organisation Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, whose forceful and well documented speech showed unequivocally the immense danger facing the human race.

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Monika Vyslouzil, IFSW Representative at the United Nations, Vienna, is the Convenor of the third of the 4 working groups set up by the newly constituted NGO Committee on Family. These are:

1. The image of the family
2. Family charter and rights
3. Family in crisis, multi - problem families
4. Information sharing

Monika Vyslouzil would be grateful for input from member associations who possess information or have undertaken research on the subject of the family. The proceedings of the 1985 IFSW European Symposium, when published, should prove helpful.

### Appeals

The Colombian Federation of Social Workers (FECTS) asked IFSW for financial help for victims of the volcanic eruption that occurred last November and caused the death of many people and the loss of homes and belongings which were engulfed in torrents of mud.

Would persons interested in helping Colombia please contact:

Libia Cristina Santos M.  
President, FECTS  
Apartado Aereo 1964  
Bucaramanga, Colombia.

For follow - up and results of former appeals, please turn to news from Chile and the Philippines.

## News from Member Associations

### Australia

Nearly five million Australians get their wages or a welfare payment from the Government and are supported by 4,930,700 people in private enterprise. The number of persons employed by the Federal, State and local governments and authorities has jumped from 1,027,300 in 1969 to 1,663,300 in 1985 and there are now 3,236,500 people on welfare payments, three times as many as there were 16 years ago. The biggest increase occurred in the number of unemployed on benefits - from less than 16,000 to 570,000. During the same period the number of pensioners doubled to reach 1,388,000.

### Canada

In Canada, the Health and Welfare Minister together with the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the provincial and territorial Ministers of Social Services agreed on a seven - point strategy to enhance both the employability and the employment opportunities of social assistance recipients. The strategy includes inter alia, the setting up of further employment and training projects, improved information to assist with the management and evaluation of training and employment programmes, as well as improved collaboration and co - ordination for all plans and services to ensure a continuing and more effective attack on poverty and employment problems facing welfare clients.

### Chile

The Chilean Association of Social Workers (Colegio de Asistentes Sociales de Chile) wishes to express its deepest thanks to the International Federation of Social Workers for its promotion of solidarity among its member associations following the earthquake which struck Chile in March 1985 causing serious damage to the Colegio's headquarters.

The Colegio's special thanks go to the Swiss and the Austrian Associations for their donations and to the Hong Kong Association for its promise of support. Further thanks are extended to Ms. Gloria Cunningham, social worker at the Loyola School of Social Work, University of Chicago.

The Chilean Association (Colegio de Asistentes Sociales de Chile) voiced its concern publicly during 1985 on matters affecting the Association and its members and on others where it felt that it was impossible to remain silent in the face of injustices committed. It did this by means of public declarations and written submissions.

The Colegio is deeply grateful for the all generous gestures.

María Solís Milessi  
President

Consejo General  
Colegio de Asistentes Sociales

\* \* \*

Among the events causing protest were:

- the kidnapping of psychologist Carmen Hales;
- the kidnapping and subsequent murder of three professionals;
- measures adopted to restrain affiliation rights of 1,350,000 retired persons;
- the death of Gilberto Victoriano Veloso, a graduate of the University of Antofagasta which, according to some reports, occurred during a clash. The Colegio asked for a full judicial report;
- acts of repression and imprisonment, also involving social workers who are members of the Colegio during manifestations in the course of the Defence for Life campaign.

In the health field, the Colegio regretted, by means of a public declaration, that the advisory task for social workers had been abolished at ministerial and regional level since 1980. At present, social service departments can only retain such tasks at the express wish of their directors and that results in lack of efficiency and of clearly defined criteria. However, the present unsatisfactory state of affairs will deteriorate further when new measures now envisaged transfer responsibility for task assignment and financial resources for social work to town councils.

The Colegio further deplored the present trend in health policy which is putting an unbearable burden on the economically weak who find themselves excluded from health services for which they are unable to pay. The Colegio cited several instances of regression in the provision of welfare and health services among which:

- the gradual reduction of the National Supplementary Food Programme
- free milk which 12 years ago was available for all children and pregnant mothers is now available only for those at risk
- up to one year's waiting period for treatment at an eye clinic or other specialised services
- lack of X-ray plates - a child with a severe hip problem had to wait approximately 8 months to have an X-ray taken.

### **Hong Kong**

In anticipation of the advent of 1997, the dormant political arena in Hong Kong is bubbling with bursting energy. For the first time in the history of the island, people can nominate and vote indirectly, through functional constituencies and professional bodies, for limited numbers of candidates for the Legislative Council, whereas previously all members of the Legislative Council were appointed by His Excellency, the Governor of Hong Kong. Mr. Y.F. Hui, Director of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, former President of the Hong Kong Social Worker's Association and former President of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), was elected to represent social workers on the Legislative Council. Furthermore, Mrs. Rosanna Tam, Secretary of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, occupies one of the few available seats of the appointed membership in the Legislative Council.

### **Ireland**

In recent times social workers in Ireland seem to be very preoccupied with the legal side of their work. This centres around three pieces of pending legislation:

- (1) the abolition of the status of illegitimacy for children born to unmarried parents
- (2) the updating of legislation in regard to child neglect in a new Children Care & Protection

Bill which is to replace the old Act of 1908 (left over from the days of British Rule in Ireland)

- (3) the updating of the laws in relation to Adoption.

With regard to the abolition of the status of illegitimacy, social workers are disappointed that it would appear that the status of illegitimacy is in fact not going to be abolished at all, while welcoming the new provisions in the bill which will allow for equal succession rights for children born to unmarried parents. The most glaring gap concerns the establishment of paternity. As social workers we know from children trying to trace their natural parents how important it is for them to have as full a picture as possible of their natural identity, the paternity being one half of this identity. While there would appear to be no great difficulty about children tracing their natural mother, there is no effort in this legislation to make it easier for children to trace their natural father. The Irish Association (IASW) is in the process of making a submission to the Government on the importance of the establishment of paternity to every child.

As to the Care & Protection Bill, there has been great response to this proposed legislation. It has been in gestation since 1974 when the Government set up a task force to look at child care services. However, the groups and parties who have responded to the legislation seem to have found so many inconsistencies and gaps that it will be some considerable time before this proposed legislation is enacted. Social workers are most concerned about the lack of any serious consideration of prevention of child care problems and the lack of any intention to allocate increased resources to this area.

In regard to the proposed Adoption Laws, there has been no Bill produced as yet. Social workers expect that the new Bill will be based heavily on the report of the Adoption Review Body, which proposes changes in the area of the consent of the natural mother, i.e. that after a certain period of time her consent to the adoption would lapse. It is hoped that this will go some way towards preventing court cases involving the reclaim of babies by the natural mother from prospective adoptive parents.

## Israel

Ms. Sara Silberstein was elected President (Secretary - General) of the Israel Association of Social Workers (IASW) for a period of four years. She replaced Ms. Raia Rettig.

IASW has, over the past few months, been involved in a bitter struggle against cutbacks in social service manpower as well as the budget for social services. The regression in social welfare services came during a crucial economic crisis which brought about a rise of 30% in new applications for social services. Using a variety of protest activities, such as one - day strikes, wide - ranging lobbying efforts, use of media coverage, etc., the Association has been able so far to reduce the manpower cuts originally envisaged by one third. However, the struggle is far from over, especially in view of the recent increase in the number of families under the poverty line and the significant rise in the inequality index.

IASW is involved right now in legislation activities such as: backing a minimum wage law; promoting the nursing of the elderly law; and making a determined lobbying effort to counter the current version of the psychotherapy law proposal to exclude social workers from practicing in the field of psychotherapy.

The Annual Conference of the Israel Association will take place in April 1986. The theme is: «The Welfare State - An End? - Society and Social Services in an Era of Limited Resources and Reduced Human Values».

## Libya

Higher Institutes of Social Work have been established in Benghazi and Tripoli and advanced courses started to be held at both schools late in 1985.

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New Headquarters for the Libyan Association of Social Workers are presently under construction to accommodate an ever increasing workload as well as expanding activities on behalf of the IFSW African Region and the Arab Federation of Social Workers.

\* \* \*

The Libyan Association of Social Workers has many projects for 1986, and among them:

- to honour social workers whose special achievements enhance the profession and raise its standards;
- to hold a Symposium on Peace, Disarmament and the Arms Race as well as a photographic exhibition of actions undertaken by Libyan social workers for peace, highlighting also the interrelationship between the arms race and starvation in Africa.

## New Zealand

Two major issues lay a heavy claim on the time and efforts of the New Zealand Association of Social Workers. They are:

- (a) The formation of a new Council for Education and Training in Social Services by the Government to replace the old New Zealand Social Work Training Council. NZASW has been involved in submissions to evaluate the old Council and in discussions with the Minister of Social Welfare and other government officials. These have centred around the need for current social work training to be responsive to contemporary needs in our bicultural society.
- (b) New legislation being introduced by the Government on children and young persons required extensive submissions. It is likely that NZASW will be involved in a long drawn out consultation process, culminating in further submissions to a Select Committee which has now been established to review draft legislation.

Other issues requiring attention include:

- i) an Accountability Working Party
- ii) women's issues in social work (e.g. promotion and career opportunities)
- iii) social work in prisons. Recently the Government announced the establishment of social work positions in some of New Zealand's prisons. NZASW is involved in monitoring standards of practice and providing support for this new and innovative service.



- iv) preparing submissions on two «Government '87 Task Forces» covering income maintenance and the delivery of social services.

### **Philippines**

In 1986, political prisoners number more than 70,000 since the declaration of martial law in 1972. This constitutes a conservative estimate in view of the problems of documentation, especially in military areas, where heavy casualties and mass arrests occur without adequate reporting.

**MORE SUPPORT FOR JUDY TAGUIWALO**  
(refers to the APPEAL published in the Newsletter of November 1985)

Letters, petitions and visits poured in from colleagues in different parts of the country and from abroad, specifically from colleagues in the U.S., Canada, Malaysia, Thailand, Holland, Ireland, Switzerland, F.R.G., Nigeria and Japan. A special mention must be made of the visits of Ms. Lindsey from the Canadian Association of Social Workers and of a delegation from Ireland. Last minute news received while this newsletter was in print: the New Philippine Government liberated Judy Taguiwalo and her baby Inday June.

\* \* \*

Among the highlights of the XVth Biennial Conference in November 1985 were awards to outstanding social workers involved in grassroots work. Purificación Pedro and Ruth Duênas, both killed by the military while working with peasants and workers respectively, were chosen as recipients. The award was in line with the

conference's theme: «The Social Worker in Solidarity with the Filipino People in the Struggle for Freedom, Justice and Peace».

Around 250 of the almost 500 new social workers took their oath before the chairman of the Social Work Board of Examiners late last year. They had graduated from 30 schools of social work from all over the country. Director Corazón Alma G. de León, IFSW Vice President for Asia and past President of the Philippine Association was guest of honour at the ceremony.

### **Portugal**

At its recent General Assembly, the Portuguese Association of Social Workers (APSS) changed its By - Laws as part of a decentralization process and established branches in Oporto and Coimbra.

The third Iberian meeting was organised in November 1985 on «Social Work and Politico - Administrative Decentralization in Spain and in Portugal».

APSS established informal links with ICSW.

The Higher Institute of Social Work in Lisbon initiated courses at licenciante level which lead to more advanced degrees than the BSW previously offered and is preparing the curriculum for a Masters degree in social work. This has been done in collaboration with the Catholic University of S. Paulo, Brazil. Post - graduate courses are likewise being prepared. Furthermore, APSS and its union are pressing the authorities to raise the status of social workers.

Future APSS plans include a research on working conditions for social work in Portugal.



## News from a Non - Member Association

### El Salvador

Professor A.W. Stahel and his wife Rösli Stahel, close friends of IASSW and IFSW respectively, took advantage of a private visit to El Salvador to contact schools of social work and the El Salvador Association of Social Workers.

The El Salvador Association expressed tentative interest in affiliation with IFSW but has so far not communicated this to the Secretariat.

Quoted below are extracts from the Stahels' letter to IASSW since the point raised could be of interest to our members who might at one time or another face similar difficulties:

«For some years there have been three levels of social work education. Along with the traditional

school with its 3-year programme, there exist a 5-year university training and a 2-year course at so-called «technical schools». Some universities have offered the graduates of the 3-year courses additional training leading to the «Licenciatura» but this will now no longer be possible. The 2 year courses are available in every town without specific admission requirements and they attract an inordinate number of students. The technical schools have neither qualified teachers nor supervisors nor suitable fieldwork placements. While the number of graduate social workers (from the professional school and the universities) is estimated at approximately 350, there are about 2,000 «técnicos» after the first two years of operation of the technical schools. Needless to say, there is now a serious employment problem».

# International News

## Peace

The International Year of Peace declared by the United Nations General Assembly in November 1982 (resolution 37/16/1982) was proclaimed on October 24, 1985. Its official primary goals are:

- a) To stimulate concerted and effective action by the United Nations, its Member States, intergovernmental organizations, educational, cultural and academic institutions and the mass media to promote peace on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations.
- b) To strengthen the United Nations as the principal international system devoted to the promotion and maintenance of peace.
- c) To focus attention and encourage reflection on the basic requirements of peace in the contemporary world, especially on:
  - 1) peace as a pre-condition for the development and social progress, security, national independence and justice;
  - 2) disarmament and prevention of nuclear catastrophe;
  - 3) the role of international co-operation, dialogue, mutual understanding and trust in the maintenance of peace;
  - 4) preparation for life in peace, a process in which education, science, culture, religion, mass media play an important role;
  - 5) peace as a requirement for the implementation of human rights and the satisfaction of human needs.

\* \* \*

World Day (of Peace) is planned to be a global television event on June 21, 1986 which will

merge the efforts and concerns of peace organisations and hunger and environmental groups around the world. Its purpose is to generate a global community campaign for a redirection of world resources from international conflict to international co-operation.

\* \* \*

A World Encyclopaedia for Peace in 4 volumes is about to be published by Pergamon Press and will be officially presented to EOCSOC in July 1986. It is sponsored by the International Association of University Presidents and published in co-operation with the Institute of International Peace Studies. It contains 600 articles referring to individuals, treaties, proposals and peace organisations.

## Refugees

The newly elected High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Jean - Pierre Hocké (Switzerland) took office in Geneva on January 1, 1986.

\* \* \*

In an attempt to reduce the number of arriving asylum seekers, the Danish and Swedish Governments reached an understanding with the German Democratic Republic at the end of 1985, whereby the latter will issue transit visas to nationals, from various countries in the Middle East and South Asia who wish to proceed to Denmark and Sweden only if they are already in possession of an entry visa to one of these two countries. The imposition of sanctions on shipping companies and airlines bringing into those countries aliens who do not possess the necessary travel documents and/or visas is likewise under consideration.

From «Refugees» February 1986

## Other International News

A world conference on drug abuse at all levels, proposed by the U.N. Secretary - General, will probably take place in June 1987. Its approach will be multidisciplinary and it will aim to attack the three elements of the economic equation: production, trafficking and demand reduction.

\* \* \*

World food and agricultural production rose by more than 4 per cent in 1984 but the food crisis in Africa continued to deepen, says the annual World Food Report of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The increase, the best in the past decade, came mainly in the US, Western Europe and some of the major developing countries such as China and India, and largely involved cereal output.

Development Forum, December 1985

\* \* \*

Supplementary criteria which will be taken into account for allocations by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) to developing countries experiencing certain disadvantages during the period 1987 - 1991 are among others:

- «least developed»
- land - locked developing countries
- island developing countries
- «front - line States» around South Africa.
- suffering acute ecological or geographical disabilities
- making major development efforts, undertaking structural changes and pursuing income distribution and other elements of social justice
- facing annual debt service payments exceeding 20 per cent of 1983 total export earnings

Sweden is about to embark on an ambitious energy - oriented construction policy to develop new hydroelectric and wind power during the next quarter of the century. Such a policy will phase out nuclear power generation and reduce significantly the nation's dependence on oil and coal by the year 2000. Sweden hopes to become the first

nation to evolve an energy - balance based on environmentally as well as politically acceptable power sources.

Development Forum Jan. - Feb. 1986

\* \* \*

According to the recent I.L.O. study «Visual Display Units: Job Content and Stress in Office Work», the opportunity provided by new technology in office work should be used to redesign and restructure jobs to make them more interesting, more diversified and more satisfying rather than more monotonous, more stressful or more frustrating. This rather difficult task could be accomplished by imaginative and innovative planning as well as by skills and goodwill.

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At the present time, over 35 million people hold part-time jobs in Western industrialized countries, according to ILO estimates. Most part-timers are in the service sector and the typical worker is a housewife with children. In fact, seven to nine in every ten part - timers are women.

ILO is concerned with work conditions for part-timers who usually have to accept low - skilled, low - paid jobs. Their schedules can be difficult and they risk being the first to go in a pinch. ILO will try to secure improvements in the conditions and protection offered to these workers.

\* \* \*

According to the WHO's World Health Statistics Annual life expectancy for women is highest in Switzerland, followed by Japan and Iceland. Life expectancy for men is highest in Japan, followed by Switzerland and Iceland. Among developing nations, Panama's is the highest. Infant mortality rates are lowest in Japan, the Netherlands, the Nordic countries and Switzerland.

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The number of rural inhabitants in the developing world served with water supplies increased by 150 million between 1980 and 1983, according to figures in the WHO World Health Statistics Annual, 1985.

In absolute numbers, this represents a rise from 430 million to 580 million, or from 30 to 38 per cent, in the three years since the launching of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. According to WHO, around 185 million additional people will need to be supplied with water, and an extra 120 million with sanitation facilities per year, for seven years, to meet the goals of the Decade.

\* \* \*

A new joint publication of the NGO Committee on UNICEF and UNICEF itself - «Action for Children» was started in 1986 and is obtainable (free) from

Action for Children  
ONGA A-4A  
866 UN Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA

\* \* \*

«The Human Race» is a film produced by NGO Population Concern (UK) with financial support from the Commission of the European Community and the UN Fund for Population Activities. It can be ordered as a film (£240) or a video (£20) from Vision Associates Ltd., 33 King Street, London WC2E 8JD, or 665 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, USA.

Its introductory remarks quoted below are as striking as they are mind boggling:

«One in ten of all people who lived - since the dawn of civilisation - are alive today. Never before have there been so many people living on Planet Earth. The final quarter of the 20th Century will see the greatest increase in population in recorded history».

#### **Disarmament and Development: Implications For International Social Work**

Representatives of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) at United Nations headquarters, are working with the U.N.'s

Centre For Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committees on Disarmament and Development to prepare for the **International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development**. The Preparatory Committee met at U.N. headquarters for the first time from 29 July to 9 August 1985. The Conference itself will take place in Paris from 15 July to 2 August 1986. In addition, research and writing during the year by IFSW members will provide data for the IFSW Conference theme of **Developing Human Relations and Social Structures For Peace**, to be held in Japan 27-31 August 1986.

The negative relationship between arms expenditures and spending cuts in social services is clear. A recent United Nations analysis has shown that economically developed countries spend 20 times more on defense, than on economic aid (i.e. in 1982, developed countries spent \$500 billion for economic aid — UN Centre For Disarmament Affairs, «Costs of the Arms Race», 1985). Significantly, just one-fifth (20%) of annual arms expenditures (i.e. \$160 billion) could abolish hunger by the year 2000, according to UN estimates. Moreover, many developing countries today are spending almost three times as much on their conventional defenses, as they are on their health programs.

#### **Needed:**

IFSW representatives in New York are asking you, our colleagues around the world, to document any social service programs that have been affected negatively by increases in expenditures on arms. Please send this information to the address below, so that it may be included in a position paper for the IFSW Conference in Tokyo this summer.

Submissions should be mailed by 15 May 1986 to:

Stephen E. Torkelsen, D.S.W.  
350 Bleecker Street  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
USA

**3rd ANNUAL SOCIAL WORK DAY AT THE UN** - Scheduled for March 25, 1986 to coincide with the National Association of Social Workers (U.S.A.) observance in the United States of

**SOCIAL WORK MONTH.** A committee of 20 social workers, including wives of secretariats, with the cooperation of NASW's Peace and Disarmament committee are planning an all-day program with the theme of **CHILDREN AND YOUTH CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE: Survival and Development.** Morning and afternoon session will be held in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium, luncheon in the Delegates and Secretariat Dining Rooms, and special tours will be available. Ingrid Lehman and Martha Aasen are cooperating in obtaining speakers and facilitating the arrangements. The hardworking committee is co-chaired by Steve Torkelsen, member of the Headquarters NGO/Executive Committee and Winnie Kagwa, consultant to N.Y.C. Commission for the United Nations and the Consular Corps.

#### **NEW MEMBER ON NEW YORK TEAM**

A new member has been added to the IFSW team at the United Nations Headquarters: Mrs G. Winifred Kagwa who received citations from the Mayor of New York for volunteer service to the international community in 1980 and 1984. A former faculty member of Hunter College School of Social Work, Mrs Kagwa acts presently as a consultant to the Ministries of Health of Jamaica and Uganda and to the New York City Commission for the United Nations.

**NGO Committee on Aging** which has been chaired by IFSW Representative Dr Celia B. Weisman (she was also IFSW representative at the 1982 World Assembly on Aging in Vienna) discussed the need to intensify efforts to call attention to the plan of action adopted at the Nairobi Decade for Women Conference as it related to the needs of elderly women. It urged its NGO members to publicize the actions needed such as providing social insurance for women in their own rights, explore possibilities of employing elderly women in productive and creative ways, health care and suitable housing to enable elderly women to lead a meaningful life as long as possible in their own homes and family and in the community. The social consequences arising from the stereotyping of elderly women should be recognized and eliminated. The committee felt that the issue of the older woman had not received the prominence that the worldwide population trends make imperative.

#### **REPORT ON THE 32nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF WORLD ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN THE HANDICAPPED** Oct. 7-8, 1985, New York, U.S.A.

by Paul Feuerstein, CSW

Representatives of 58 international organizations serving youth with disabilities who have non-governmental status at the U.N. discussed the progress of the Decade of Disabled Persons and the Council suggested to the United Nations that the Trust Fund change its name so that it was no longer just associated with the International Year of Disabled Persons since that year had long since passed.

The thrust of the recommendations was to encourage the United Nations to involve more Nongovernmental Organizations in the activities for the Decade. We heard reports on including the concerns of the disabled in the International Year for Youth and the United Nations Women's Conference.

The main discussion topic of the meeting was on innovative methods and community based approaches to Rehabilitation. One of the highlights of that discussion was the presentation made for the World Institute on Disability which spoke about the rise of the Independent Living movement which developed out of disabled communities. Independent Living Centers were being developed, staffed and run by disabled people, giving a different perspective to the rehabilitation process. The general discussion that followed showed that representatives were very interested in innovative, community-based approaches to rehabilitation with broader participation in decision making by disabled people.

UNESCO was called upon by the Council to utilize their 20 years of experience in dealing with the educational needs of the handicapped to take the lead in organizing consultations with CWOth member organizations with special competence and experience in educational systems towards the further implementation of the Decade for Disabled Persons action program.

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