

NEWS LETTER



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

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

November 1985

Message from the President

Most readers will know that it is customary for the IFSW Executive Committee to meet in the years between General Meetings. This year's August E.C. meeting was by way of being an historic occasion - our first ever committee meeting in Geneva where our headquarters is situated. This presented an opportunity to see where our secretariat functions and to meet with representatives of various other international organisations. The Swiss Association were generous and charming hosts and we much enjoyed spending time with those colleagues.

I think the E.C. meeting was very successful -not only because of the good turn out (12 of the 17 members attended including our colleague from Australia who had the longest distance to travel), but mainly because of the commitment, diligence and enthusiasm shown by all members. An example of commitment is surely Dick Ramsay from Canada who solved a potentially worrying situation by accepting the office of Treasurer which became vacant due to Bob Stewart's unexpected resignation. We thank Bob for his past work on behalf of the Federation and offer good wishes and grateful appreciation to Dick for taking on this onerous task virtually "on the spot".

Among other items, your L.C. reviewed and facilitated progress on the priorities drawn up in Montreal and began to plan for longer term strategies. We shall look forward to reporting to

Member Associations in Tokyo next summer. We are now in the run-up year to our General Meeting and 9th International Symposium. Colleagues in Japan are working hard to make these a success but in the final analysis success depends on YOU in the national associations. **Please** do respond to requests from Japan for speakers, chairpersons and other resource people; and **please** do everything possible to stimulate attendance at both gatherings.

The theme of the symposium is a crucial one - "Developing human relations and building social structures for peace". In addition to natural disasters, there are so many examples of person-made violence and distress at international, national, community and inter-personal levels. Social work has a vital contribution to make to the resolution of destructive conflict and the Tokyo Symposium will examine ways in which we can maximise our contribution to peace in its widest sense. Never was there a more urgent challenge to our profession.

Please, let us rise to it!

Janie Thomas
President

The Federation acquired a new member on October 15, 1985 to whom a warm welcome is extended. The Associação de Profissionais de Serviço Social of Portugal was elected unanimously by the General Meeting by postal ballot.

News from Member Associations

Austria

The AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION is still fighting a very restrictive law on the practice of psychotherapy and WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES. Member Associations, please comply.

Canada

Gweneth Gowanlock whose untiring efforts were largely responsible for the success of IFSW's 1984 Symposium left her post as Executive Director of the Canadian Association to become Special Assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Canada) with responsibilities in the legislative area and as policy assistant (Welfare) as of November 1, 1985.

Cyprus

The Cyprus Association is holding its first Pancyprrian Conference in Nicosia on October 27, 1985 on the theme: Social Work in Cyprus. Presentations will focus on the development of social work in Cyprus, future perspectives, regulation of the profession and the licensing of social workers.

Finland

The Finnish Association is organising an important trade union meeting in November to discuss policies concerning pay, education, organisation, social policy and international affairs. Actual salary negotiations will also open at about that time as the present agreement is due to expire in February 1986. If a new and better one cannot be worked out, a strike may once again be in the offing.

There continues to be a dearth of qualified social workers in Finland, mainly in Helsinki and in some of the smaller districts. Difficult work, long hours and low salaries do not attract many young people to the profession.

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The new social legislation has been in force for the last 18 months and its beneficial effects are noticeable in some of the social services such as

day care facilities for children and improved living allowances and supplementary grants. Clients of social services are beginning to press for their rights, and advocacy on their behalf has been taken up by a number of groups with active support from the social administration.

Luxembourg

Social services are at present dealing with a segment of the population which had never before resorted to their services and feel humiliated at having to do so. They are the unemployed who due to administrative delays often have to wait for three to four months for their benefits and are forced to apply for loans.

Also the number of people without shelter is on the increase and neither the authorities nor the social services are equipped to deal with this problem adequately. As a temporary measure the authorities set up a special home and non-governmental organisations help by offering free meals.

New Zealand

Art is one of the most effective ways to portray situations and problems confronting, amongst others, social workers.

Rosie Scott, a social worker and counsellor, is the author of a play ("Say thank you to the lady") about the welfare system in Auckland. It concerns a young burnt-out social worker and a tough streetwise 16 year old whose case was referred to the former as part of her ongoing training. The relationship that develops between the two women is indicative of the divided society in which both and all of us live and of the pressures social workers face when working in the system.

Philippines

The XVth National Biennial Conference of the Philippine Association (PASW) will be held in Quezon City, November 28-29, 1985, on the theme: "The Social Worker in Solidarity with the Filipino People in the Struggle for Justice, Freedom and Peace".

The focus of the discussions will be on the urban poor, the rural poor (peasants, fishermen, sugar workers), children and youth, women, and tribal Filipinos, and on the social workers' response to the issues confronting these persons and groups.

Preparatory meetings were held in various regions of the country and hosted by PASW's local chapters.

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Seven delegates from the Philippines attended the 8th APASWE/IFSW-Asia-sponsored Asia and Pacific Seminar in Penang, Malaysia, August 12-16, 1985. The Philippines presented a country paper "Grassroots Participation - A Strategy for Development".

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APPEALS

Petitions for release, letters of concern, statements and donations for Judy Taguiwalo, a detained Filipino social worker urgently sought from IFSW Member Associations. After almost two years of detention with her one-year old baby, no action has yet been taken by the authorities on her case. All communications can be channelled through PASW, MSSD Building, 389 Legarda, Manila, Philippines.

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A campaign for "Food and Freedom" was launched by PASW and other concerned organisations to help more than 400,000 displaced sugar workers and their families in Negros, a southern island of the Philippines, after the United States refused to buy Philippine sugar, a main product of the country on which at least half a million Filipinos depend for their subsistence. Donations can be sent through PASW.

Switzerland

In early August the IFSW Executive Committee met for the first time in Geneva, Switzerland and the Swiss Association hosted its members for a few hours in Bern. The mutual exchange in a leisurely atmosphere - after all the hard work - was considered by all to have been a very enriching experience.

* * *

For some months there has been growing unease about the situation of asylum seekers from countries such as Turkey, Sri Lanka and others. While in 1956 (Hungary) or 1968 (Czechoslovakia) thousands of refugees were welcomed and integrated, the Swiss are finding it more difficult to deal with people from farther

countries or continents. More and more people have been waiting for a number of years for a decision on the acceptance of their refugee status. Increasingly the problem is seen as one of efficiency in expediting caseloads and files or as a situation to be solved by new legislation. The Swiss Association joined other organisations in an attempt to draw the attention of politicians and the media primarily to the social and political problems faced by these refugees.

Follow-up on the APPEALS published in the July 1985 issue of the IFSW Newsletter

Appeal for assistance to the Chilean Association following the earthquake of March 1985.

The IFSW Executive Committee decided unanimously to earmark the first sum to be disbursed from interest earned by its new Development Fund for, or rather towards, the reconstruction of the Association's head office in Santiago.

An appeal for assistance to the Chilean Association launched by the Swiss Association has been yielding encouraging results and further donations are expected.

Maria Solis, President of the Chilean Association and IFSW Vice President for Latin America & the Caribbean provided the IFSW Secretariat with individual and notarized reports on the damages or loss of housing suffered by Chilean social workers during the earthquake. This material as well as precise estimates for the reconstruction of the headquarters and branch offices of the association are available at the Geneva Secretariat on request.

Appeal for the release of Judy M. Taguiwalo — imprisoned social worker in the Philippines (see also above under "Philippines").

The following excerpts from a letter dated September 27, 1985 from the US Department of State to Maryann Mahaffey, City of Detroit Council Member and member of the IFSW Executive Committee, provide further information on this sad case:

"Ms. Taguiwao was arrested on January 28, 1984, in Angeles City, Pampanga Province, and initially was detained at Camp Olivas in San Fernando. No warrant was issued for Ms. Taguiwalo's arrest; she was charged for alleged

violations of two presidential decrees governing subversion and incitement to subversion. On March 5, Ms. Taguiwalo was transferred to Camp Crame in Manila where she is being held at this time.”...

...“Her (Judy’s) brother also stated that the charges on subversion and incitement to subversion originally filed against Ms. Taguiwalo were dismissed. However, new charges for the 1973 murder of a policeman in Antique Province, Panay Island, were filed March 1, 1984. Ms. Taguiwalo had been arrested originally in 1973 on unspecified charges and held for 20 months in connection with this incident. She reportedly escaped and was in hiding until her arrest in January 1984.”...

... On February 22, 1985 our (the U.S.) Ambassador to the Philippines, Stephen W. Bosworth, personally expressed his interest and concern over the continued detention of Ms. Taguiwalo and her child to the Minister of National Defense, Juan Ponce Enrile. Minister Enrile reported that Judy was being held on the basis of warrants issued on March 1, 1984 ... for “murder with assault upon an agent of a person in authority.” No bail was recommended for her release. The Minister alleged that Ms. Taguiwalo is a member of the special finance group of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which is engaged in an armed insurgency against the Government. The United States is not in a position to comment on the substance or the veracity of the charges...”

IFSW Representation at International Organisations

Kirsten Windekilde, member of the Danish Association, represented IFSW at the International Seminar on Innovative Social Projects in Community Development organised by the European Centre for Social Welfare Training and Research in Copenhagen, September 15-19, 1985.

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Monika Vyslouzil reported on a visit to Mr. M. Rao of the (UN) Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs where she accompanied Dr. Vera Mehta, Secretary-General of IASSW. Mr. Rao expressed great interest in obtaining an IFSW document for the 1987 Inter-regional Consultation of Social Welfare Ministers which would have to be submitted by September 1986 to be considered by ECOSOC in accordance with UN procedure. Holding that true concerns with regard to social welfare policies and programmes could only come from practitioners, he very much hoped that the Federation could sum them up in a comprehensive document.

Monika Vyslouzil also participated on behalf of IFSW in a seminar on social work and social work education organized by IASSW for a Hungarian delegation at the Austrian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs in Vienna, September 25-27, 1985. She was able to speak about social work in general and the goals of IFSW and of the Austrian Association in particular.

The head of the Hungarian delegation was:
Vajna Guborne
Ministerium für Kultur und Bildung
Budapest V Szalai 410

* * *

Monika Vyslouzil further attended a NGO Seminar on Population and the Role of the Family in Vienna, September 30-October 2, 1985. From it emerged the express interest of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), WHO and UNESCO in increased co-operation with NGOs. As an example, WHO is offering training in Mauritius for women leaders in Africa.

IFSW Meetings

A report on the 8th European Regional Seminar (Paris, 6-8 November 1985) will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

At its pre-European Regional Seminar meeting in Paris on November 5, 1985, the European Delegates Meeting decided to accept the invitation from the Cyprus Association of Social Workers to hold the next IFSW European Regional Seminar in Cyprus in 1987.

News from IASSW - International Association of Schools of Social Work.

Among the ideas proposed, discussed and/or agreed upon at the IASSW Board of Directors meeting in Singapore, August 1985 were:

- The establishment of an International Institute for Continuing Social Work Education which would involve summer institutes of 3 to 4 weeks' duration for social work educators in Africa, Asia and Latin America;

- A project involving the compilation of selected publications of special interest from IASSW member schools;

- Cross-cultural and regional exchange of research findings and collaborative ventures among the IASSW regions and between developing and developed countries, e.g. Women's Studies;

- The compilation of case studies to illustrate innovative curricular models, new trends, and important practice principles in field work;

- Initiation and strengthening of social work training in countries where such programmes do not exist. As a first step, IASSW is involving East European countries in its activities with funding provided by the Austrian Ministry of Education and Culture;

- The publication of a new illustrated version of the IASSW Newsletter featuring articles on educators and students, reports on innovative developments in social work education, information about world issues that concern IASSW, reference to recent professional literature as well as news from other international organisations including IFSW and ICSW;

- Constitution of a sizeable stock of audio-visual materials for teaching purposes and

practice interventions in the field. The selected materials are being gathered from schools of social work, the United Nations and other agencies around the world;

- Collection and storing of data on social work education in the different countries and regions;

- Increased collaboration with the United Nations and its specialized agencies (CSDHA, Vienna; ESCAP, Bangkok; UNICEF, New York) and with non-governmental organisations (Anmesty International, International Social Service, European Centre for Social Training and Research, Vienna).

IASSW requested IFSW collaboration for many of the activities mentioned above. The two Secretariats are in close touch. The programmes proposed by IASSW would foster exchanges between practitioners and social work educators and IFSW members could propose other programmes. So please respond with suggestions and offers of assistance to: Vera Mehta, Secretary-General, IASSW Secretariat, Freytaggasse 32, A-1210 Vienna, Austria.

International News

United Nations' 40th Anniversary

If any of our Member Associations wondered how to celebrate the UN 40th Anniversary, here is what Jack Kamaiko, IFSW Representative at the United Nations headquarters in New York reported about his activities:

In a demonstration of what could be done in communities all over the world, four NGO representatives who happened to be living this summer on the northern tip of Long Island, about 100 miles east of New York City, brought together a group of representatives from a diverse group of organizations from legionnaires to peace and environmental groups, senior citizens and youth, bridge clubs and schools, governmental officials and private citizens, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations during the entire month of October.

Jack Kamaiko initiated it and quickly obtained the enthusiastic co-operation of Diana Tendler, Elanor Schnurr, Rebecca Winton, NGO Representatives of the International Council on Social Welfare, Baptist World Alliance and the Association of Childhood Education International respectively.

With the first newspaper publicity, Kamaiko received offers of assistance from two members of the UN Secretariat who were spending the summer in this community - Jean Gazarian working on the UN 40th anniversary staff and Lueween Miller of the UN Development Programme. Using informative and helpful leaflets, posters and bulletins, the four NGO Representatives were able to stimulate the leadership of local organizations to form working groups to plan a series of programmes both in their own organizations and in the community as a whole.

The head of the town government and all the town trustees supported the plans wholeheartedly. They included a proclamation calling for the support of the UN and declared the month of October as Southold's observance of the UN's 40th Anniversary. On October 1st, in front of the Town Hall at noon the United Nations flag was raised to the ringing of church bells of all the churches. A senior high school student read an essay she had written for the occasion.

On October 7th, a town-wide meeting was held at the Southold High School Auditorium with the main address given by Erskine Childers, Director of Information, United Nations Development Programme. Dr-Gazarian presented Town Supervisor Murphy with a UN 40th Anniversary Commemorative Medal. The Baptist Choir ended the programme with the singing of "We are the World". The Girl Guides and Boy Scouts acted as ushers. Further plans include an International Youth Festival to call attention to the United Nations' International Youth Year.

The events received attention from all the media with a feature article in the Long Island Sunday Section of the New York Times of September 29, 1985 and an editorial in the local Southold Times of September 26th in which all four NGOs were lauded for "putting together the impressive slate of events ... the response shows us just how dear the UN and its mission are to most of us".

While it may now be too late to organise further UN 40th Anniversary celebrations, Member Associations could plan some for UNICEF next year. Jack Kamaiko will be glad to supply visual and written material for inspiration.

* * *

IFSW sent the following 40th Anniversary message to the UN Secretary General, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar:

"The President and the members of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Social Workers asked me at their recent meeting in Geneva to convey to you their sincere wishes for a successful General Assembly and congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations.

Since obtaining consultative status in 1958, this Federation and its 47 national member associations have been working increasingly towards the goals of the United Nations, contributing to its work wherever possible.

Like the world body of nations created 40 years ago by men and women of vision and ideals, the International Federation of Social Workers is deeply committed to justice, development and solidarity which it considers essential for mankind's peaceful co-existence on this planet.

Our next International Symposium will be held in Tokyo in 1986 during the International Year of Peace on the theme: "Developing Human Relations and Social Structures for Peace". May that constitute a modest contribution to yet another of the many positive achievements of your great international organisation which need to be stressed, publicized and carried on.

On behalf of the President and the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Social Workers

Yours sincerely,

*Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol"
Secretary General*

International Youth Year 1985

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

This statement is issued towards the end of an International Year which has recognised and celebrated the Youth of the world. Social workers in the member countries of the IFSW work with and for Youth, and have prepared a policy statement to guide their members on issues for action.

IFSW notes that:

Almost two-thirds of the world's children and youth live in rural areas, where 80% of the population have no access to health services, and 85% are without adequate supplies of safe water and waste disposal;

Hundreds of millions of school age children and youth do not attend school;

Poverty, unemployment, prostitution, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency and health problems are associated with the unequal distribution of wealth and resources.

IFSW recommends:

The systematic appraisal of policies and programmes including their implementation and resource utilisation, with a view to encouraging direct participation by youth.

Indirect economic measures, such as agrarian reform and dealing with food shortages, which may reduce the incidence of problems affecting youth.

The adoption of measures to strengthen family life and relationships, to promote productive employment opportunities and to maintain institutional services and facilities that cater to the needs of specific groups of youth. These would include measures to prevent the need for the removal of young people from home, treat them more humanely within the penal sector, and try to enhance their potential through education and cultural development activities.

Overall there should be specific targetted appraisals and reviews of programmes of provision for youth, with future targets established, and progress towards the achievement of such targets being regularly

appraised. The key sectors for such targetted work are identified and the IFSW lays down a challenge to authorities in member countries that policies for youth today are also policies for the populations of tomorrow.

There are one and a half billion people aged between 10 and 24 in 1985, the International Youth Year.

Over the last two decades secondary school enrolment has nearly doubled in the developing world, while in industrialized countries 84 per cent of 12 to 17-year-olds are now in school. However, while the rate of illiteracy in the world is falling regularly, the absolute numbers of illiterates is increasing, especially in the industrialized countries.

* * *

An innovative project for literate youth will link students from 10 regions via satellite while teaching them computer skills. The project is located in Vienna, Austria, where the pilot training programme is centered around a simulation model of the world economy stored in a computer. Youth gathered in 10 sites around the world will be able to interact with the model — and each other. The simulation is designed to provide a stimulus for the students to learn further computer skills.

Condensed from DEVELOPMENT FORUM, October 1985

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Nineteen eighty-five, the International Youth Year, marks also the 15th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Volunteer Programme (UNV) and a record of 1,200 young people serving under it. It is not known how many young social workers are among these 1,200, but surely some could usefully contribute to the development work undertaken by UNV.

* * *

A 27-minute colour film "Being Young" was made in honour of IYY by the United Nations and is available on loan from UN information centres in member countries and for rental or purchase from the Promotion and Distribution Unit RVS/DPI, United Nations New York, N.Y. 10017. It was filmed in Peru, Northern Ireland, Japan, Rwanda, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Women

1986 Nairobi Conference on United Nations Women's Decade

In its Final Document, the World Conference that marked the end of the UN Decade on Women called on the international community to enforce the laws enacted to promote the equality of women; to make further efforts to enable them to take advantage of theoretically equal opportunities for education and training, particularly in technical, managerial and non-traditional areas; and to recognize that women and children tend to be the hardest hit by poverty, drought, **apartheid**, armed conflict, family violence and the marginalization caused by refugee, migrant or ethnic minority status.

"The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women", covering the period from 1986 to the year 2000, a 371 paragraph document, was adopted a paragraph at a time, with recorded votes taken on four controversial formulations. The text as a whole was adopted by consensus.

The strategies call for assessment of the impact of technology on women's integration into various sectors of the economy, and for the findings to be integrated in policy formulation. Efforts to design and deliver appropriate technology for use by women are to be intensified, and the implications for women of advances in medical technology are to be carefully examined. In addition, assessment of new energy sources, technologies and delivery systems "should specifically consider the reduction of the drudgery that constitutes a large part of the work of poor urban and rural women". In particular, improved stoves could be designed and distributed to reduce the drudgery of fuel collection.

Emphasis is placed throughout the strategies on the "invisible" and unremunerated contributions that women make to national economies through domestic work, subsistence agriculture, family enterprises and self-employment, and particularly in informal sectors. In marriage, it is suggested that the value of housework be considered equal to financial contributions.

In particular, the Conference recommended that efforts be made to measure and reflect women's unremunerated contributions "in national

accounts and economic statistics and in the GNP".

These few remarks do not attempt to report adequately on the very extensive areas covered by the World Conference's Final Document and by the Forward-looking Strategies it contains. This document is available at the United Nations and can also be obtained on request through the IFSW Secretariat.

* * *

Over 12,000 women — six times as many as the 2,000 delegates at the World Conference — participated in the parallel conference of the non-governmental sector, the NGO Forum, which met in Nairobi August 10-19, 1985. More than 1,000 workshops, several hundred films and videos and countless informal discussions made it a lively occasion. The main issues which emerged from it concerned the situation of rural women in developing countries and their importance in food production; women and violence; survival needs of women in developing countries; women as victims of war and armed struggle; women's leadership roles; and legal rights.

The main points of divergence were between those advocating feminism as a priority for action (equality with men, more leadership opportunities, full employment for women, etc.), which was mainly the concern of women from developed countries, and those, mainly from developing countries and from women involved in development work, who insisted that feminism could not be separated from life and death struggles related to national economic development, liberation movements and class struggles. The consensus began to emerge by the end of the Forum that what was needed was "the expression of a feminist perspective on survival issues", as Forum 1985, the NGO newspaper, put it.

The final workshops and discussions at the Forum took place amidst an intense desire to find practical and on-going solutions for the post-Forum period. Suggestions ranged from a call for another women's conference and NGO forum in five years' time, and/or for a more grassroots meeting of women (Madras, 1990) to plans for extending and starting new networks for women worldwide. The topic of fundraising for women's development projects received the

highest priority and the need for more support for the women farmers of the Third World, particularly in Africa, was underlined in discussions between donors, intermediaries, and women project leaders seeking funds.

From "Go-Between", UN/NGLS
Geneva Newsletter, August 1985

A three-day conference on women and food production which took place in Ontario, Canada revealed a striking similarity of problems among some farmworkers in both developed and developing countries with regard to recognition and payment, and access to land and capital. Also long working hours are not only a problem for Third World women as illustrated by a recent Canadian study which showed that women farmworkers have on average a 82.5-hour week.

DEVELOPMENT FORUM, October 1985

The lowest proportion of working women, of whom ILO forecasts a total of 900 million by the year 2000 is to be found in Latin America, where only 14 per cent of the female population is economically active. In the Soviet Union there are 49.7 per cent, the highest proportion of any country in the world.

Refugees

On October 7, 1985 in Geneva, Cardinal Arns, Archbishop of São Paulo, Brazil received the 1985 Nansen Medal awarded yearly by the UNHCR, "for his outstanding contribution to the protection of refugees and of other underprivileged groups in his Archdiocese".

* * *

Charlotte Jean-Richard represented IFSW at the thirty-sixth session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme.

In the High Commissioner's Report to the Executive Committee it was stated among other items,

— that most African refugees are resettled within Africa. African Governments have traditionally shown generosity and hospitality towards refugees and displaced persons, with the result that the number of African refugees needing to be resettled is small in comparison with the total refugee population on the continent. Of the 3,650 African refugees who

were resettled outside Africa in 1984, 2,636 went to the United States, 563 to Canada and 48 to Australia, and the remaining three to Europe;

— that over half of UNHCR's caseload of Indo-Chinese refugees have been in camps for at least four years and that the number of such refugees with no current resettlement opportunities continues to grow. Also growing is the number of "in orbit" refugees, mainly from the Middle East and South West Asia, who continue to haunt airports and other frontier posts.

UNHCR also requested Governments to increase their intake of disable and medically-at-risk refugees which during 1985 seems to have slowed down considerably.

Disabled Persons

During the International Year of Peace (1986) the "vox Nostra", a very large sail-boat adapted specially for its crew, composed of 28 disabled persons from 25 nations, will travel around the world on an information and good-will trip under the auspices of Disabled People's International (DPI) and the Brotherhood of Man.

After the trip the ship will be refurbished for use as a conference and information centre by DPI.

For further information contact DPI, Box 36033, S-100 71 Stockholm.

* * *

Peter Lamming, Secretary of the Swedish Coordinating Body for IFSW Membership, attended the 2nd World Congress of Disabled People's International in Nassau in September 1985.

* * *

D.P.I. transmitted to the (UN) Centre for Human Rights its report to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: "Human Rights and Disability". It also submitted its first country reports on institutions and institutional abuse of mentally retarded and other disabled persons. It is preparing a report on special difficulties of disabled women.

* * *

The Second World Olympics of Professional Abilities (Abilympic) took place in Bogotá, Colombia, 1-5 October 1985. The first Abilympic was held in Tokyo in October 1981.

Children

Defense for Children International, a NGO founded in 1979, is publishing the results of an Exploratory Study on Children in Prison with Adults which was launched in December 1982 and completed two years later at an International Seminar in Florence, Italy. Some of the conclusions of the Seminar were as follows:

— Children should not be imprisoned at all. Imprisonment of children can be tolerated only where judicial process and adequate facilities guarantee the protection of the rights of children;

— Children should never be imprisoned with adults. Exceptions to this principle can be tolerated only where the State proves it is in the best interests of the child and that adequate facilities and treatment are provided;

— Children should ultimately be removed from the system of adult criminal justice, based on repression, into the system of juvenile justice, based on social assistance;

— A priority issue for international action should be the setting up of an entity entrusted with defense of the rights of imprisoned children.

For further information contact Defense for Children International, P.O. Box 359, CH-1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland.

Other International News

A guide to efficacious medication and the possible side-effects of the drugs most used in treating the elderly has been published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and can be ordered from its headquarters at 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. Its title is "Drugs for the Elderly" and its price 25 Swiss francs or the equivalent in US\$ or £ sterling.

* * *

Countries which give generous support to poor nations are often those which also show a strong concern for their own people's well-being. It will therefore come as no surprise that the four countries which surpassed the target set in the "Substantial New Programme of Action" (SNPA) that aims to "transform toward sustained self-development the economies of the 36 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of the world in the 1980s" were Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. The target is development assistance of a minimum of 0.15% of the donor country's GNP. All EEC countries and Finland expect to reach this target in the coming years.

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