

ifsw news

2/2001



Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol
1913-2001

Considerable resurgence in international tensions

It is difficult to find the words to express the profound sense of loss and sadness at the news of the death of our beloved Andy, Dr. Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol. Seldom in our lives are we privileged to meet someone who leaves a special mark, provides us with inspiration, renews our energy and reminds us of the value and importance of the work we undertake. Andy, along with his wonderful wife Ellen, belongs to this remarkable group. Andy was an inspirational, wise, warm, funny, generous, highly intelligent and dear friend to us all. We miss him but know his spirit lives on in every action of his beloved IFSW. We honour our dear friend on page 3.

The past six months has seen a considerable resurgence in international tensions. Much of the exceptional work towards peace and reconciliation is under threat. At a global level the important steps taken in 2000 towards relieving world debt and therefore impacting upon the growth of poverty have once again come into focus. Regrettably the largely peaceful and effective strategies adopted by so many international lobby groups have been jeopardized by the actions of a smaller group who's tactics of violence, looting and rampage and the response of security forces do little to advance the cause of dialogue.

The IFSW continues to support the work to alleviate poverty and in particular address the question of world debt in developing countries. Together with our colleagues in IASSW we petitioned the leaders of G8 in the lead up to the meeting in Genoa.

The Executive Meeting has made a series of recommendations for consideration by the General Meeting in 2002. We are now working on the final paper which will be circulated early in 2002 and will contain proposed changes to the Constitution and structure of operation for IFSW. When this paper is distributed we urge you to give careful consideration to its contents and be prepared to debate any issues

and to ultimately vote on the proposals at the General Meeting.

We have also been struggling with the very sensitive issues surrounding whether or not to proceed with our next World Conference in Harare. Our colleagues in Harare have been working extremely hard to prepare an excellent conference outline. Juxtaposed to their energy and commitment has been an increasingly disturbing economic and political environment that has brought a once economically viable nation to near bankruptcy. In tandem with these developments has been deterioration in concepts of democracy within the country. The IFSW has worked hard to balance competing needs and demands. At the Executive Meeting in Singapore the difficult decision was taken to cancel the conference.

Our relationship with social work educators is critical to the development of a united profession. I am pleased to report the outcome of an excellent meeting between members of the Joint Committee of IFSW /IASSW in Copenhagen in June this year. For a more complete report I recommend you to the article on page 5.

Finally our work within the UN context has taken a further step forward with the impending release of the new practice manual on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Endorsed in Singapore the Manual is currently being prepared for publication and will be released soon.

As always the demands of social work are ever present at the individual, group, local, national and international levels. Our relationships may be complex but the possibilities for meaningful exchange are boundless. I trust that all our members and Friends will continue to strive to extend those relationships.

Imelda Dodds, IFSW President
August 2001

***Deadline for material to
the ifsw news November
Edition - 15 October***

Frontpage:
*Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol
at Neve Shalom/Wahat-al-
Salam in The Holy Land
1998.*
(Photo: Lisbeth Mattsson)



Andy in Memoriam

It is with great sorrow in our hearts that we have to announce that our dear Honorary President and Former Secretary General, Dr. Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol, is dead. He passed away peacefully in the evening the 13th August at his home in Geneva.

Dr. Mouravieff-Apostol, known to the international social work community as Andy, suffered from lung cancer.

Andy's lifetime spanned close to a century. He was born in Cannes, France on the 7th February 1913 of Russian/Ukrainian parents. His father served as a diplomat, but gave up his career on his marriage to Andy's mother in order to manage her vast estates in Ukraine. They were in England when the war broke out and soon afterwards they founded a hospital in London for British Officers.

The 1917 Revolution made it impossible for aristocrats like the Mouravieff-Apostols to return to Russia, and it was not until the time of the Perestroika in the 1980s, that Andy was able to visit his beloved home country again. Because of all the care and assistance his family had given his compatriots before, during and after the Revolution, he was warmly received and he also was awarded an Honoris Causa Doctorate by one of the Universities in the former Soviet Union.

Andy started his career as a journalist and foreign correspondent in England for the Daily Telegraph and Evening Standard before and during

World War II. During the war he also served in the Free French military forces.

After the war, and on the direct encouragement of Winston Churchill, Andy left journalism and took up a position with the World Council of Churches and later with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He worked in a number of countries with resettlement programmes, mainly in South America. In Brazil, he met his future wife Ellen and the couple settled in Geneva. Andy also worked as a professional interpreter at the United Nations and other international bodies. Andy was a talented linguist speaking six-seven languages from which he was able to interpret into English.

From 1975 to 1992, Andy was IFSW Secretary General, and he was elected lifelong Honorary President in 1992. For IFSW, Andy was the cornerstone. He communicated with social workers of all countries with warmth, knowledge and diplomacy and became like a father for the international social work community. The world is empty without him, and we all mourn the loss of a legendary friend and extraordinary colleague.

Both Ellen and Andy have been so much a part of our work in IFSW over many years both at the United Nations and as interpreters on so many occasions. We all think about Ellen at this time of loss. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Ellen and their children.

ID/TJ

IFSW Secretary General Tom Johannesen's words at Andy's funeral in Bursinel, Vaud, Switzerland, 17th August 2001

Dear Ellen, family members, friends, colleagues,

I am grateful to have been given the privilege today to say a few words in memory of Andy on behalf of the International Federation of Social Workers.

I strongly feel that I am doing this with the support of social workers and friends of Andy and Ellen from all over the world. After we had to send the sad message early this week, we have been overwhelmed by responses from all continents, expressing sorrow on the incredible loss we all are suffering, but also honouring a rich life spanning almost a century.

Andy, you were for all of us the most warm and inspiring man. For many of us you were as a caring

second father. Your life bears testimony to your service to the global society, changing dramatically during your lifetime. We have as social workers been extremely privileged to have you at our helm for more than 25 years. You personalised more than anyone our Federation through this long period, and your numerous contributions fill a large part of our history book.

Even if you are leaving us now, you will be with us for the times ahead. We will throughout our lifetimes keep you in our memories and our hearts. Thank you for all you have done and been to all of us, and may you rest in peace. God bless you, Andy.

IFSW cancels World Conference in Zimbabwe

IFSW has decided to cancel its 17th World Conference planned to take place in Zimbabwe in July next year. The Federation believes that the risk was too great to hold the World Conference and General Meeting there.

-It is with great sadness the Executive Committee has taken this decision during our meeting in Singapore, says IFSW President, Imelda Dodds. We have all been looking forward to going to Harare next year. This would have been the first IFSW World Conference in Africa since 1974 and the first ever in Zimbabwe. Our member organisation - the National Association of Social Workers - has been working hard for years to prepare for the World Conference and to welcome social workers of the world.

Daily reality

-Social, economic and political problems are familiar to social workers. It is the daily reality for the profession world-wide, and political unrest has not prevented us from going to countries in conflict.

This was also the reason why the Federation tried as long as possible to uphold the decision to meet in Harare in 2002.

-The political and civil unrest in Zimbabwe has been of great concern for us for more than a year. Last summer when we held our General Meeting in Montreal, the meeting confirmed its previous decision concerning the conference, but at the same time empowered the Executive Committee to move the venue in the event that circumstances warrant such action, says Ms. Dodds.

Travel advice

When IFSW in 1998 accepted the offer from Zimbabwe to host the 2002 event, the situation in the country was quite different. It was one of the safest countries in Africa. However, the reports about

violence, abuse on human rights, attacks on the rule of law and freedom of expression together with the strong impression that Zimbabwe has become lawless have influenced this decision. In addition several governments have advised their citizens against non urgent travel to the country. There is also a fear that the situation will deteriorate next year in connection with the presidential election scheduled to take place in April.

First and only cancellation

The IFSW Executive Committee dealt with the Zimbabwe question also in January this year and was then still prepared to hold the conference. However, during the past months the situation has deteriorated further. After a careful and lengthy debate the Committee came to the conclusion that it was not appropriate to hold the World Conference in Harare 2002.

-I know our colleagues in Zimbabwe are very disappointed right now, but we will do everything we can to support them in other ways. We are all terribly sorry. This is the first and only time in the Federation's history that we have had to make such a decision, and we regret very much that there will be no IFSW World Conference next year neither in Zimbabwe nor anywhere else. It is not possible to move a big event like this less than 12 months before it is to take place. Our General Meeting, however, we are planning to hold in Geneva as a neutral territory, the IFSW President states.

IFSW Social Work Conferences 2003-2004

Copenhagen, Denmark

26 -29 May 2003

**IFSW European Seminar
Social Work in Future Europe**

Secretariat:

HK/Kommunal

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DK-1780 Copenhagen V, Denmark

Tel: (45) 33 30 43 43

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E-mail: info@socialwork2003.dk

Web: www.socialwork2003.dk

Nagasaki, Japan,

7 - 11 July 2003

**17th Asia-Pacific Social Work
Conference**

Secretariat:

17th APSWC Preparatory Secretariat,

c/o Japanese Society for the Study of

Social Welfare, Moriyama Bldg.,

West 501, Sanei-cho 8, Shinjyuku-ku,

Tokyo 160-0008, Japan

Tel: (81) 3 5366 5964

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E-mail: renmei@apricot.ocn.ne.jp

Adelaide, Australia,

September 2004

**IFSW-IASSW World Conference
The Civil Society**

Secretariat:

Australian Association of Social

Workers

P. O. Box 4956, Kingston,

ACT 2604

Australia

Tel: (61) 2 6273 0199

Fax: (61) 2 6273 5020

E-mail: aaswnat@aasw.asn.au



IFSW Secretary General Tom Johannesen, IFSW Executive Committee Member Anne Worning, IASSW President Lena Dominelli, IFSW President Imelda Dodds and IASSW Executive Committee Members Janet George and Abye Tasse met in Copenhagen in June. (Photo: DS, Denmark)

Also IASSW has adopted the New Definition of Social Work

The relationship between practitioners and educators has always been of great importance to the social work profession. Social work training is firmly grounded in the application of theory in practice and we have a long history of cooperative relationships with social work educators. Indeed the two are mutually dependent. Practice depends on educators in the first place for their training and later as the research arm of the profession. Practitioners rarely enjoy the time to delve into the levels of issues that may emerge in their work. Educators on the other hand rely on their close connections with practice to give them the impetus and material upon which to build a critical analysis.

This is a key reason why the relationship between educators and practitioners, at all levels, is so important. At an international level the IFSW and IASSW have enjoyed a good working relationship stretching right back to 1928.

Over the years our paths have at times taken us in different directions but never apart. We have always remained in close contact. Over recent years we have committed ourselves to furthering our co-operation at a number of strategic levels.

In 1999 IFSW & IASSW agreed to work towards a joint meeting of the Executive Committees and the establishment of a small joint committee to continue the work to establish even closer links.

In 2000 and 2001 the joint committee has met twice, the last meeting in Copenhagen in June. It can only be described as extremely positive and successful

for both organisations and marked by high degrees of respect for autonomy but the desire to harness our resources in the best way possible.

The direct outcomes of the meeting include the release of a joint statement adopting the new definition of social work. This is a very significant event and sends a clear message to the international community that social work educators and practitioners have consensus on the most fundamental platform of the profession.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to develop a joint statement on World debt which was sent to the leaders of the G8 prior to their meeting in Genoa. A copy of the letter can be found on www.ifsw.org/News/G-8.htm This is no doubt the first of many joint policy and lobbying initiatives.

Our respective Human Rights Commissions have already established a good working relationship and we have agreement to work together on policy initiatives and look at mutual work in the field of Ethics.

Conferences remain one of the obvious areas of co-operation. While we are not always able to hold joint conferences there is a commitment to do so as often as possible. When this is not feasible we will also provide support to each other's initiatives.

Our relationship is based on mutual respect and a desire to present a unified global voice for social work and we are delighted to report that the choir is singing in good harmony!

Human Rights Campaign

Release Phyllis Coard

The case of social worker Phyllis Coard has been a long-standing concern for IFSW. It is an instance when a prominent social worker has suffered a clear denial of human rights. ifsw news readers are therefore asked to join this Human Rights Campaign.

National associations, social work schools, and individual social workers, are asked to write to the Government of Grenada as soon as possible, requesting the full release of Phyllis Coard.

Letters from organisations such as national associations and schools of social work would be particularly important, as would letters from prominent community leaders, but all social workers should feel free to write. It is important that these letters come from as many different countries as possible, to show a level of international support for Phyllis' case. Phyllis is currently on temporary release from prison for very serious medical reasons, but unless there is a full release or pardon she is at risk of being returned to prison in Grenada.

The background to Phyllis' case is described at the IFSW web-page - www.ifsw.org - please access the information to support your letter.

Letters should be sent to:

*Dr the Hon Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister
The Ministerial Complex
The Botanical Garden
St George's, Grenada, West Indies*

And a copy sent to:

*Hon Brenda Hood, Minister of Social Affairs
Chairperson of the Committee for the Prerogative of Mercy
The Ministerial Complex
The Botanical Gardens
St George's; Grenada, West Indies*

It is very important to send letters to both persons, for maximum effect. Please send a copy of any letter to the IFSW Secretariat in Switzerland, so that we can record the level of support we are able to give Phyllis Coard.



Good morning, Nigeria!

Nigerian social workers active again

The Nigerian Association of Social Workers (NASoW), established in 1975, has a long history of being one of the most active IFSW member organisations in Africa. The military rule, which made many civil society activities difficult, also affected the social workers. After Nigeria's return to democracy, NASoW has been able to revitalise itself and worked tirelessly to resuscitate all its 36 State chapters and the body in the Federal Capital territory Abuja. The new

focus include registration of social workers, membership drive, a Social Work Journal, training and a review of the association's Constitution. Important is also the strong interest in renewing links with the international social work community both in terms of participating in conferences and in seeking project partners. Member organisations interested in linking with the "Giant of Africa" should make direct contacts or go through the IFSW Secretariat.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS OF BEST PRACTICES IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES ABSTRACTS, the premier database of social welfare, social work, and social services literature, calls for individuals and agencies to submit their best practices in social work and social services cases to the **Social Services InfoNet** Web site at: www.socservices.com. *SOCIAL SERVICES ABSTRACTS* seeks submission of practices that are creative, sustainable, and successful in improving the quality of life of the individuals or groups they benefit.

Our advisory board of social work professionals and academics will screen all submissions for admission to **Social Services InfoNet's** best practices archive and then select the "best of the best" social work practices in eight categories:

(1) Aging/Social Gerontology,
(2) Child Protective Services, (3) Services for Children and Youth, (4) Program Evaluation, (5) International Social Work, (6) Community Organizing/Community Development, (7) Program Planning, (8) and Social Agency Management. Selected winners in each category will be honored at an awards ceremony. Winners will also receive \$1,000 and a one-year subscription to *SOCIAL SERVICES ABSTRACTS*.

All individuals or agencies submitting entries will receive a subscription to the *SOCIAL SERVICES ABSTRACTS* database for 6 months.

Access the **Social Services InfoNet** Web site at: www.socservices.com for submission details.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2001

www.socservices.com

WIN \$1,000

SOCIAL SERVICES
ABSTRACTS

Some important UN Days and Weeks

8 September	International Literacy Day
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
3rd Tuesday of September	International Day of Peace
Last week of September	World Maritime Day
1 October	International Day of Older Persons
1st Monday of October	World Habitat Day
9 October	World Post Day
2nd Wednesday of October	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day
24 October	World Development Information Day
24-30 October	Disarmament Week
16 November	International Day for Tolerance
20 November	Africa Industrialization Day
20 November	Universal Children's Day
21 November	World Television Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
1 December	World AIDS Day
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3 December	International Day of Disabled Persons
5 December	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
7 December	Civil Aviation Day
10 December	Human Rights Day
29 December	International Day for Biological Diversity

IFSW General Meeting 2002

After the cancellation of IFSW's World Conference in 2002, the IFSW General Meeting 2002 is set to take place in Geneva, Switzerland from the 10th to the 12th July. The dates have been set to enable delegates to the meeting to also take part in the World Conference of the International Association of Schools of Social Work in Montpellier, France from the 15th to the 18th July (www.aforts.com). Montpellier can be reached in less than four hours by train from Geneva or by plane.



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