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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

A Meeting of the International Federation of Social Workers was held at the Toronto University, on July 1st. 1954. At this meeting I was asked to assume personally the responsibility of organising a Meeting at Munich in 1956, to regroup the Archives of the I.F.S.W., and to prepare notes on its history, with a view to communicating these to the various members of the International Committee, and in particular to the new President of the Federation, whose appointment was to be made by the National Association of Social Workers in France.

I have been in contact with this Association and, thanks especially to the action of their President, Melle A. de Laage, they deeply appreciated the mark of confidence they received, and also the important responsibility which fell upon one of their members.

The President of the Federation who was appointed, is Melle Marie-Louise Ginet. It is my pleasure to introduce her to all her colleagues who hold special posts on our International Committee. I know Melle Ginet personally and I can fully appreciate the excellence of the choice and, on behalf of our International Committee, I thank our new President for accepting this delicate task, and the National Association of Social Workers for the help they have given us in appointing such a highly qualified President.

In the Notes which follow will be found information useful to those responsible for the National Associations of Social Workers:

- 1) A short Memo recalling what was done in Paris in 1950 and in Madras in 1952.
- 2) The decisions arrived at in Toronto in 1954.
- 3) The provisional statutes of the I.F.S.W. and the conditions of admission thereto.

1) CREATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS  
IN PARIS IN 1950.

In agreement with the International Conference of Social Services, held in New-York (U.S.A.) in 1948, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Joé Anderson, in order to discuss the possibility of reviving the "Permanent International Secretariat of Social Workers," created in 1928 during the first International Conference of Social Services held in Paris.

At the New-York meeting it was revealed that 45 National Associations of Social Workers, distributed in 21 countries, had expressed interest in reviving international liaison between Social Workers. As a result, the Committee of the International Meeting of Social Workers asked Mr. Melvin A. Glasser (U.S.A.) to accept the chairmanship of a meeting to be held in Paris in 1950, when the 5th. International Conference of Social Services would take place.

At the first meeting on July 22nd., the representatives agreed to create an International Federation of Social Workers and two Commissions that of the Statutes of the Federation and that of Provisional Appointments.

At the 2nd. meeting, on July 24th., provisional Statutes were agreed upon by the various delegates.

They also decided that:

The International Federation will be officially constituted when seven National Associations from seven different countries have been accepted as members. On the same date, a Provisional Organisation was constituted and the following Members were appointed for four years as forming its Committee:

President: Mr. Melvin A. Glasser (U.S.A.)

Vice-Presidents: Melle Laura Vergara (Chili)

Mr. B. Chatterji (India)

Mr. J. Nihon (Belgium)

Secretary: Melle Liebermann (France)

Treasurer: Mrs Kay MacDougall (Great Britain)

A fourth Vice-President was to be appointed later by Australia.

The above Committee met in Paris as soon as elected and took the following decisions:

a) The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer must together see that contacts are established with the National Associations of Social Workers through invitations, propaganda, etc.

b) A provisional Committee was appointed to see to the admission of new Members by correspondence. Its members were: Jean Nihon, President; Melle Liebermann and Mrs. MacDougall.

c) The Belgian Union of Social Workers Associations was asked to prepare a list of the conditions necessary for admission of the various associations to the I.F.S.W.

d) The amount of the provisional annual subscription was decided upon and entered into the provisional Statutes, as it had been decided at the last Assembly. This was the scale:

Associations of less than 2000 members: 25 dollars.

" " 2000 to 5000 " : 50 "

" " more than 5000 " :150 "

e) A bulletin containing inside information was to be prepared and the exchange of professional periodicals, assured by the Secretary.

f) The President and the Secretary were asked to keep in constant touch, so as to assure the working of the above mentioned decisions.

Those appointed started work at once with enthusiasm, but their efforts did not get the reward they deserved, owing to a general lack of interest. But in North-America, Asia and Europe, efforts to regroup national associations bore some fruit.

Meanwhile, at the International Conference of Social Services held in Madras, it was decided to organise, amongst the same delegates and at the same time, an International Conference of Social Workers.

Mr. Melvin A. Glasser presided at this Conference and Melle Liebermann, International Secretary and Mr. Chatterji, Vice-President for India, were also present. Various steps were taken to facilitate meetings and professional defence internationally, but - owing to the difficulties of establishing direct contact between members, and lack of financial support - it proved impossible to carry out the decisions taken at Madras.

This was so until the International Conference of the I.F.S.W. held in Toronto, in June 1954, at the same time as the International Conference of Social Services.

2)

TORONTO 1954

The President, Mr. Melvin A. Glasser and the Secretary, Melle Liebermann having resigned, I found myself under the obligation,

with my colleagues from numerous associations of Social Workers, - of starting afresh and of assuring the regular existence of the International Federation of Social Workers.

The extracts of the minutes of the Toronto Meetings make it possible to form an idea of what was decided there, and of the task which awaits us, if we wish to play our part in the development of the life of our I.F.S.W.

1) The provisional Statutes prepared in Paris in 1950, remain unchanged.

2) The every-day work concerning the administration of the Federation will be hastened, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Hoffer, by the Secretariat of International Conferences of Social Services, according to the instructions given by the Provisional Committee of the I.F.S.W. and particularly those of the Continental delegates.

The aim of the latest decisions taken, is to develop contacts and exchanges favorable to the Associations of the various Continents or important sections of Continents. In order to facilitate this, the International Committee have appointed the following members who will be personally responsible to the Provisional International Committee for the propaganda and the representation in their respective continents

For North-America: Mr. D.S. Howard.

" South-America: Melle G. Albano.

" Australia: : Melle A. Player.

" Asia: : Mr. B. Chatterji.

" Europe and the Near East: Mr. J. Nihon.

3) Mr. L.B. Granger will see to the carrying out of the decisions of the provisional International Committee by the Permanent Secretariat of the International Conferences of Social Services. As Treasurer he will also look after the finances of the I.F.S.W.

4) The President, Melle M.L. Ginot, will have as her main task to represent the International Organisation and to co-ordinate the work of the representatives of the various Associations of Social Workers. She will, as soon as possible, get in touch with the delegates of the Continents mentioned above particularly with me, so as to prepare the Munich Conference 1956, for the organisation of which I am personally responsible.

5) In order to carry out the decisions of the Toronto Conference, we have to:

a) Prepare all material necessary for the information and the propaganda of the National Associations of Social Workers.

b) Make a census, for each continent, of the National Associations of Social Workers.

c) Invite these Associations to join the I.F.S.W., such invitations being accompanied by all possible information of our International Work.

d) Prepare an International Inquiry to serve as a basis for the work of the Munich Conference. This inquiry, helped by a detailed questionnaire, will allow us to give precise information as to the Social Work of the Social Workers (method, action, conditions of work, preparation for the work of a Social Worker, etc.)

e) Develop in a measure suitable to each continent, activities likely to interest National Associations: (our continental work of propaganda and study must in no way go against our International Work).

f) Accept as delegates to the Munich Conference only such Members of Associations which have paid, before the above named Conference, their Membership Subscription, varying from 10 Dollars for small Associations of less than 1000 members, to 25 Dollars for bigger ones. We must point out that this decision has considerably reduced the amount of the subscription which had been suggested at the Paris Conference in 1950.

This many-sided action will be explained in a number of documents, the present one being the first on the list.

I wrote this present Memo very rapidly, and I am giving below copy of the Provisional Statutes adopted in Paris as well as copy of the conditions for Membership of the I.F.S.W.

These statutes were suggested as being those of an independent Organisation, for nothing must make us suppose that we are, in this respect, tied to the International Conference of Social Workers, in any way. Nevertheless, we can not over-rate the importance of Mr. Hoffer's help. He is the General Secretary of the International Conferences and has accepted to lend us a hand, at least until the Munich Conference, and will thus - no doubt - greatly contribute to the spreading abroad of our action. We beg him to accept our sincere thanks, which also go to those of his colleagues who, directly or indirectly, will collaborate with him.

For the I.F.S.W.  
Jean Nihon  
Vice-President  
118 Chaussée de Vleurgat  
BRUXELLES (Belgium)

### 3) PROVISIONAL STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

1.- Any Social Work, understood as it should be, having as its basis good social services, the delegates present at the Paris Conference in 1950 all agreed upon the formation of an International Federation of Social Workers.

The aim of this Federation will be to create a Centre where Members can meet; to exchange ideas, to encourage and maintain in all countries a very lofty professional ideal; to represent the point of view of the professional Services on an International Scale.

#### 2.- Aim of the Federation.

- a) To re-affirm and spread the idea that Social Services must be maintained at a very high level.
- b) To re-affirm and spread the idea that the training and the formation of all Social Workers must be of the highest possible standard.
- c) To work in common, in order to create and maintain satisfactory conditions in which to work and adequate retribution for such work.
- d) To favour and encourage the creation of National Associations of Social Workers in all countries where there are none.
- e) To offer help and advice to other International Organisations, when these are discussing questions and problems concerning professional Social Work.
- f) To encourage and facilitate research work in all domains of the Social Services.
- g) To study all questions of general professional interest.
- h) To exchange books and periodicals.
- i) To develop all possible liaison so as to facilitate the exchange of Social Workers.

#### 3.- Conditions of Admission.

Membership is granted to all Professional National Organisations of Social Workers whose activity is on a National Scale and who require from their members a regular professional training.

A Committee appointed by the Federation will study the bona-fide quality of the testimonials of any organisation asking for Membership.

This Committee will be empowered to consult, whenever necessary, any person or organisation sufficiently competent.

4.- Subscriptions.- Any organisation which is a Member of the Federation will pay a subscription, the amount of which will be decided by the Executive Committee.

5.- Organisation.- Any member of an official National Organisation will be able to attend the General Meetings of the Federation, but only three delegates appointed by each Member State will be entitled to vote.

The directing Body of the Federation is a Council comprising a maximum of three delegates from each Member-Country, - these three Members being entitled to vote.

This Council will elect its own Board which will have:

- A President,
- Four Vice-Presidents,
- A Secretary,
- A Treasurer.

The Council at their first Meeting, will elect an Executive Committee of 15 Members. The Members of the Board will be ex-officio members of that Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will appoint seven of their Members who, with the Members of the Board, will form a limited Committee.

This limited Committee will appoint its own Chairman.

The Members of the first Executive Committee will retire as follows 1/3 at the end of two years; 1/3 at the end of four years and 1/3 at the end of six years. The Members of the Board of the Federation will decide what will be the order of the retirements.

Members of the future Executive Committee will retire after four years' work. They will have the right to stand again.

In case there is an unforeseen vacancy, this will be filled by one of the Members of the Board of the Council, until the next Meeting of this Council.

The Council will meet at least every other year.

The Executive Committee will meet once a year. The necessary quorum will be 8 or 10 Members, including the Members of the Board of the Council.

The Limited Committee will meet as circumstances require. The Quorum will be four Members, two of whom at least must be members of the Board.

The Executive Committee will be empowered to appoint sub-Committees whose Members will be chosen amongst the Members of Associations belonging to the Federation.

Until the first Meeting of the Council, the Board of the Federation will be empowered to act on behalf of the Federation and to appoint the Members of a Provisional Committee who will call the first Meeting of the Council on behalf of the Federation.

#### BUDGET.

The Provisional Committee which met at Toronto in 1954, in order to meet the minimum expenses necessary for the working of the Federation decided to fix the amount of the yearly subscriptions as follows:

Associations of less than 1000 members: 10 dollars.  
" " more " " " : 25 dollars.

#### CONDITIONS REQUIRED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

- 1.- According to Article 3 of the Statutes of the Federation, are allowed to become members, all professional organisations of Social Workers, working on a national scale and requiring from their own members a minimum of professional training.

- II- If in the same country there are several associations working on a national scale, they must justify their number fully.
- III- Any organisation asking to join the Federation must be effective, must have definite Statutes and State its Name - Address - Aim - Working and Activities - Financial position - Conditions of dissolution.
- IV- The Statutes and Activities of the said organisation must in no wise be in contradiction with the aim and spirit of the International Federation.
- V- Any organisation asking to join the Federation must submit to the Committee responsible for its admission, any information likely to enable the said Committee to study the genuineness of its credentials, the history of this organisation, the extent of its social professional social services, etc.
- VI- The Committee responsible for the admission of new Members have the right to consult any person or organisation, qualified to enlighten them on the organisation requiring Membership.
- VII- Once accepted as a new Member, the organisation must subscribe to the Statutes of the Federation and send to the Committee the form requesting Membership, duly filled in and signed; a form which the Federation will send to the said organisation as soon as its demand has been accepted in principle.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM.

We, (name of organisation) . . . . .

of (address in full) . . . . .

thank the International Federation of Social Workers for accepting us as Members of the Federation; we promise to respect its Statutes and to fulfill all obligations demanded of us.

We appoint as voting delegates: . . . . .

	For (name of organisation)	
(signatures):	President,	Secretary,

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