

1956 Munich Meeting agreed to
setting up IFSW

Constitution passed IFSW Council

Meeting 1957

legally registered 1958

2/10/56
7/10
8/100

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Report of Meetings held at

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

Munich, Germany on August 5th, 9th and 10th, 1956

The International Federation of Social Workers completed a re-organization at several meetings held in Munich, Germany, in August, at the time of the International Conference of Social Work. Professional social workers from many countries attended these meetings and presented reports concerning the development of associations of social workers and efforts being made to extend and improve standards.

Since the last meeting of the Federation, held in Toronto in 1954, professional associations of social workers in the following countries have taken formal action to become affiliated organizations of the Federation: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States.

A constitutional General Assembly met, consisting of representatives of National Associations who had asked to be affiliated and had paid their dues. Mlle. M. L. Ginet, president, declared the Federation regularly constituted, since it had been decided at preliminary meetings that the International Federation would be officially founded when seven national Associations, pursuing common aims, had regrouped themselves.

The Associations thus federated constitute the Council of the Federation, being entitled to a maximum of three delegates from each country, according to the provisional Constitution.

The delegates who at Toronto undertook to try to regroup Associations in various continents also participated at the meeting:

Mr. Donald S. Howard, Dean, School of Social Welfare of the University of California at Los Angeles for North America;

Miss M. Josephina R. Albano, Chief of the Section of Social Work of the Pan American Union for South America;

Mr. B. Chatterjee, Assistant Secretary General of the International Conference of Social Work for Asia;

Mr. J. Nihon, in charge of the Federation's European affairs and President of the Belgian Committee for Social Service, assisted Mlle. Ginet in the conduct of the meeting and explained how he had carried out the mandate to revive the activities of the Federation in Europe, which was conferred upon him at Toronto.

Of special interest was the presence of Mr. J. Hoffer, Secretary General of the International Conference of Social Work and Mr. Milhaud, Chief of the Social Division of the United Nations at Geneva. They both declared their interest in receiving suggestions for establishing closer contact in the interests of improving professional representation and standards, the latter appearing to be of special concern to Mr. Milhaud.

Dr. Huet, one of several delegates present as observers for the Fédération Française des Travailleurs Sociaux, pointed out the

importance of the translation of the word 'social worker' into French and of a definition of it, as well as of the different connotations of the term 'travailleur social'. Dr. Huet requested that the Fédération Française des Travailleurs Sociaux become affiliated with the international organization.

Mr. D. Howard, Mr. Nihon and Miss Albano participated actively in the discussion that followed. It was pointed out that these questions had been debated at the International Conference in Paris and have since stimulated the work of Commissions in Europe which were consulted when the French title of 'Fédération Internationale des Assistants Sociaux' was proposed.

Delegates, from North and South America in particular, pointed out the importance attached to a professional education received in a School of Social Work as a criterion for membership in the Federation and for the definition of the word 'social worker'.

The delegation from the United States very positively defined the aims and methods of work which the Federation should set itself mentioning particularly:

that the work of the Federation on a professional level should be systematized by finding definite ways and means for contact between national associations with the aim of raising the professional level of their members; and

that it should represent the profession at the United Nations and maintain contact with international organizations that are socially oriented.

Mlle. Ginet recalled that as far as new admissions are concerned the decisions made at Toronto must be adhered to and reminded those at the meeting that the essential task of the Council of the Federation was to designate a Committee of 15 members to administer the Federation and deal with these questions of membership.

It was decided to call a meeting open only to members of regulary affiliated Associations on August 9th in order to proceed to the election of this Committee.

The following individuals were elected to membership in the Executive Committee of the Federation:

President:	Mlle. M. L. Ginet (France)
Vice-President for Europe:	Mlle. J. Löhnis (Netherlands)
Vice-President for North America:	Miss B. Touzel (Canada)
Secretary:	Mr. D.V. Wilson (United States)
Treasurer:	Mlle. H. Fredenhagen (Switzerland)
Members:	Mr. J. Nihon (Belgium)
	Mrs. R. Schlüter (Germany)
	Mr. Marios Raphael (Greece)
	Mlle R. Stasi (Italy)
	Miss N. Rice-Jones
	Miss V. Sieder (United States)

Two Vice-Presidents' posts are still to be created on the basis of membership expected from other continents. A member of the Executive Committee from Denmark is also to be designated.

(1956) Declaration of Meeting
to Establish World Federation

Following the session at which the Committee was appointed, the Council met on August 10th in order to reach the first decision about the year's work.

Mr. J. Hoffer, Secretary General of the International Conference invited the Council to examine the relationship which it would be desirable to establish between the International Conference and the Federation. The Council of the latter asked that the Federation become affiliated with the Conference as an Associate Member.

It was also decided that the Committee should be charged with the entire study of the applications for membership, after the very necessary report of the continental Vice-Presidents.

A Sub-Committee responsible for drafting of the Constitution and composed of members of the Committee with legal training was also appointed. It consists of: Mr. D. V. Wilson (Secretary), Mlle R. Stasi and Mr. M. Raphael. It has been asked to make its bi-lingual version as clear as possible.

Future plans call for a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Federation to be held in Switzerland in 1957, as well as a meeting of the Federation to be held in Tokyo in 1958, at the time of the International Conference of Social Work.

Those present expressed their appreciation for the facilities for the meetings, procured by the International Conference which provided a room equipped with simultaneous translation facilities and published meeting announcements and agendas.

It is the aim of the Federation to emphasize the importance of developing professional associations of social workers and to bring these groups into an international organization that will stimulate the development of professional standards. Discussion at the various meetings indicated that there is a need for three international organizations in the broad field of social work. The International Conference of Social Work, which provides a forum for the discussion of issues; the International Committee of Schools of Social Work, concerned with educational matters; and the International Federation, which is concerned with the contents of professional practice. It is anticipated that these three organizations will carefully coordinate their work and that each will perform a distinct function in its international program.

SOCIAL WORKERS ESTABLISHED WORLD FEDERATION

The International Federation of Social Workers completed a re-organization at several meetings held in Munich, Germany, in August, at the time of the International Conference of Social Work. Professional social workers from many countries attended these meetings and presented reports concerning the development of associations of social workers and efforts being made to extend and improve standards.

Since the last meeting of the Federation, held in Toronto in 1954, professional associations of social workers in the following countries have taken formal action to become affiliated organizations of the Federation: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and the United States. It is anticipated that now that the re-organization of the Federation has been completed, a number of professional associations in other countries will become members of the international group.

It was decided that the International Federation of Social Workers should affiliate as an associate member of the International Conference of Social Work and consideration was given to the possibility of the Federation using the same Secretariat of the Conference.

It is the aim of the Federation to emphasize the importance of developing professional associations of social workers and to bring these groups into an international organization that will stimulate the development of professional standards. Discussion at the various meetings in Munich indicated that there is a need for three international organizations in the broad field of social work. The international Conference of Social Work, which provides a forum for the discussion of issues; the International Committee of Schools of Social Work, concerned with educational matters; and the International Federation which is concerned with the content of professional practice. It is anticipated that these three organizations will carefully coordinate their work and each will perform a distinct function in its international program. Members of the NASW have a particular interest and responsibility to the International Federation, which is carrying out, on the world level, the same responsibilities that the Association has in the United States.

Delegates from the United States, representing the National Association of Social Workers at the meetings in Munich, were: Violet Sieder, Dorothy Lally and John McDowell. Alternate delegates were: Jane Hoey, Theodate Soule and Donald V. Wilson.

Officers elected were: President - Mlle M.L. Ginet, France; vice-presidents: Mlle J.J.A. Lohnis, Netherlands, and Miss Bessie Touzel, Canada; Treasurer: Mlle Hedda Fredenhagen, Switzerland; Secretary General: Donald V. Wilson. Other members of the Executive Committee are: Mr. Jean Nihon, Belgium; Mr. Marios Raphael, Greece; Mlle Rosetta Stasi, Italy; Frau Renata Schluter, Germany; Miss Nancy Rice-Jones, Great Britain; and Violet Sieder, United States.

SOCIAL WORKERS ESTABLISCH WORLD FEDERATION

The International Federation of Social Workers completed a re-organization at several meetings held in Munich, Germany, in August, at the time of the International Conference of Social Work. Professional social workers from many countries attended these meetings and presented reports concerning the development of associations of social workers and efforts being made to extend and improve standards.

Since the last meeting of the Federation, held in Toronto in 1954, professional associations of social workers in the following countries have taken formal action to become affiliated organizations of the Federation: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and the United States. It is anticipated that now that the re-organization of the Federation has been completed, a number of professional associations in other countries will become members of the international group.

It was decided that the International Federation of Social Workers should affiliate as an associate member of the International Conference of Social Work and consideration was given to the possibility of the Federation using the same Secretariat of the Conference.

It is the aim of the Federation to emphasize the importance of developing professional associations of social workers and to bring these groups into an international organization that will stimulate the development of professional standards. Discussion at the various meetings in Munich indicated that there is a need for three international organizations in the broad field of social work. The international Conference of Social Work, which provides a forum for the discussion of issues; the International Committee of Schools of Social Work, concerned with educational matters; and the International Federation which is concerned with the content of professional practice. It is anticipated that these three organizations will carefully coordinate their work and each will perform a distinct function in its international program. Members of the NASW have a particular interest and responsibility to the International Federation, which is carrying out, on the world level, the same responsibilities that the Association has in the United States.

Delegates from the United States, representing the National Association of Social Workers at the meetings in Munich, were: Violet Sieder, Dorothy Lally and John McDowell. Alternate delegates were: Jane Hoey, Theodate Soule and Donald V. Wilson.

Officers elected were: President: Mlle M.L. Ginet, France; vice-presidents: Mlle J.J.A. Lohnis, Netherlands, and Miss Bessie Touzel, Canada; Treasurer: Mlle Hedda Fredenhagen, Switzerland; Secretary General: Donald V. Wilson. Other members of the Executive Committee are: Mr. Jean Nihon, Belgium; Mr. Marios Raphael, Greece; Mlle Rosetta Stasi, Italy; Frau Renata Schluter, Germany; Miss Nancy Rice-Jones, Great Britain; and Violet Sieder, United States.