

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Meeting of Executive Committee

Copenhagen, Denmark. July 23rd and 25th 1960.

PRESENT

Members

Mlle. M.L. Ginet, France, (Chairman), (President of I.F.S.W.).
Mr. Erik Andersen, Denmark, Mlle. A. de Laage, France, Mlle. Hedda Fredenhagen, Switzerland, Miss Milena Lerma, Italy, Mlle. J. Löhms, The Netherlands, Miss Nancy Rice-Jones, United Kingdom, Miss Jean Rubin, U.S.A. (vice Miss J. Hoey) Frau Renata Schlüter, Germany, (on July 26th only).

Observer

Mrs. Stina-Maj-Andersson (Sweden)

Guests

Mrs. Eva Gredal (President, Danish Association of Social Workers);
Miss Inger Pedersen (Denmark).

The meeting was opened by Mrs. EVA GREDAL, President of the Danish Association of Social Workers, who welcomed the social workers from abroad. A number of Danish Social Workers had taken great interest in the work of the Federation and were looking forward to meeting members of the Executive Committee on the excursion the following day. The Danish Association would be stimulated and encouraged by having the meeting of the Executive Committee in Copenhagen.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr. J. Nihon, (Belgium), Dr. Marios Raphael (Greece), (Editor of "The Social Worker") and from member-organisations in:- Australia, Canada, Israel, Pakistan.
2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES of meeting held in Strasbourg in July 1959.
3. REPRESENTATION OF I.F.S.W. at International Meetings.
 - a) The I.F.S.W. had been represented at the following meetings:-
 - i) At a Seminar on Community Organisation in Six Countries. In Brussels run by European Economic Commission - Mr. Jean Nihon (Belgium) represented I.F.S.W.
 - ii) The General Assembly of the Union des Associations Internationales Non-Gouvernementales in Lausanne. Mlle. Y. Mayor represented the I.F.S.W.
 - b) Invitations to the following meetings had been received:-
 - i) U.N. Conference on Prevention of Crime, London August 1960. The British A.S.W. had agreed to provide a delegate.
 - ii) National Conference of the Israel Association of Social Workers. It had not been possible to find anyone to attend. This was regretted as this was an important member association with 1000 members. There were now two Schools of Social Work in Israel. It was hoped that some Israeli Social Workers would attend the meeting in Rome.
 - iii) National Conference of the American National Association of Social Workers to be held in Chicago from October 12th to 15th 1960. Foreign Social Workers were invited. It was agreed to give publicity in each member country of I.F.S.W.
 - iv) World Congress of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples, New York, August 28th to September 2nd 1960. Mme. d'Autherville, European Secretary of the I.C.S.W. and Miss Adams, the American National Association of Social Workers, were to be asked to represent the I.F.S.W.
 - v) International Union of Family Organisations, New York, August 23rd to 26th 1960. Mme. d'Autherville and Miss Adams of the American National Assembly of Social Workers were to be invited to represent I.F.S.W.
 - vi) International Conference on Mental Health, Paris (August/September 1961) A representative of the French Association was to be invited to attend on behalf of I.F.S.W. and to organise a meeting of the social workers present.

4. United Nations European Social Welfare Programme

Mlle. Ginot had represented the I.F.S.W. at a meeting held recently in Paris to discuss the U.N. Exchange Scheme, which was being evaluated by two U.N. investigators at the end of a ten-year period. Dr. de Jongh and Mr. Iliovici who were making the investigation had been interested to hear of the help given by U.N. Technical Assistance Administration to the I.F.S.W., both in the organisation of the Seminars in Switzerland, Italy and Germany and in many other ways.

There was some discussion about the scheme. Some countries had wanted it to continue on a paying basis only but this was thought to hamper other countries, such as Greece, where it was difficult to get foreign currency for such visits.

It was agreed that there was a real need for a social work consultant to be appointed to the Geneva office; it was decided that a letter recommending this should be sent from the Executive Committee to M. Milhaud at Geneva. This would be followed up by discussion by the I.F.S.W. Council in Rome, possibly resulting in a resolution to U.N. in New York.

5. European Social Charter

Mr. M. Raphael (Greece) had been concerned that the proposals for the Social Charter made at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg had revealed such a lack of knowledge of social conditions and social work on the part of the representatives of employers, Trade Unions and Governments. Apart from the Strasbourg Conference at which it had been a subject of a Commission, there had been little opportunity for social workers from different countries to make their comments.

The importance of the briefing of government and other representatives in such bodies as the Council of Europe was discussed. In spite of the difficulties involved in frequent changes etc., it was felt that action could be taken to improve the knowledge of delegates. In particular, it was thought important that national representatives to the Social Commission of the United Nations should be professional social workers.

It was agreed to:-

- a) write to national associations about representation on all international bodies concerned with social welfare, sending a list of delegates to the Council of Europe and to U.N. Social Commission. This should be done in time for recommendations to be made about national delegates to the Social Commission meetings in spring and summer of 1961.
- b) recommend to I.C.S.W. that its National Committees should also press for better informed representation for their countries.
- c) include discussion on this question in the Study Group on "Action of the Social Worker in Influencing Social Policy" at the Rome Conference.
- d) discuss the point further at the Council meeting of I.F.S.W. in Rome.

6. Seminars and Study Groups Sponsored by I.F.S.W.

- a) United Nations Study Group on Personnel Social Work, Brussels, September 7th to 17th 1960.

Miss Fredenhagen explained that this was a follow-up of a series organised by I.F.S.W.; the other meetings had been in 1957 in Zurich and in 1959 in Dortmund. There would be 40-50 participants in Brussels. Some of the speakers would be provided by I.F.S.W., and some by the International Catholic Union of Social Service. It was particularly hoped that those member-organisations who had not yet nominated their candidates, should make a special effort to find delegates.

Some member-organisations had difficulty in recruiting suitable people, as personnel social workers were not members of the Associations of Social Workers. There was some discussion on the position in different countries. It was explained that the Seminar was open to all social workers working within industry, not necessarily to members of the national associations.

b) Topice for Future Seminars

It was hoped that I.F.S.W. would sponsor a series of Seminars aimed at improving the knowledge and position of various groups of social workers. These should concentrate on Professional aspects of work, as the U.N. meetings included the problems of other groups of workers.

Miss Rubin (U.S.A.) pointed out that so far all the meetings had been held in Europe. There was a need for them in other parts of the world and this should be considered in later plans. She agreed to ask the American Association to consult with the Canadian Association to see if a North American regional meeting could be arranged.

Members of the Dutch Association at their recent national conference had suggested two topics:-

- a) Problems of Social Workers connected with schools
- b) Problems of Social Workers in connection with the real parents of children in foster homes.

The first topic was noted for a future meeting; the second was considered to be too narrow and in any case had already been considered by U.N.

The problems of social workers in the mental health field were to be considered at a Seminar in U.K. in 1961 (see item 14 these minutes).

It was agreed to ask member-associations each to suggest subjects for future seminars which would be of special interest to professional social workers.

7. Report from Membership Committee.

Miss Lohnis reported contacts with several countries - Portugal, Japan, Hong Kong, Burma, Thailand, Venezuela, but no formal applications for membership were ready to be considered.

Japan was interested in international meetings, particularly since the Tokyo Conference. Mlle. Ginot had received a number of Japanese visitors recently and had discussed the question of membership but there were still problems of the untrained worker to consider.

Thailand (300 members) had made enquiries, and further information about its Social Workers Association was awaited. It was agreed to consult Miss Sailer (Austria) who had recently been on a mission to Thailand, and an application for membership from Thailand could then be considered at the next meeting in Rome.

It was thought important to encourage application from the S. American countries as the I.C.S.W. was to be held there in 1962. The Venezuelian Association was a good one, with many members.

Miss Rubin spoke about the Pan-American Union on Social Welfare. Venezuela and Chile were active; Cuba had asked for information and might like to join I.F.S.W.

The position of Chile and Pakistan which were not able to pay subscriptions was discussed. It was decided to discuss the position further at Rome when these countries might be represented. As a matter of policy it was agreed not to ask an organisation to withdraw from membership because of non-payment of fees, until correspondence on this had continued for at least two years.

8. Report from the Nominations Committee

Miss Lohnis explained that a plan had been drawn up for the election of the Honorary Officers and Executive Committee, to ensure that not all would have to change at the same time.

It was agreed that the elections should be counted as dating from the Munich Conference 1956. This meant that, as the next Council meeting at Rome in January 1961 (counted as 1960), half the officers and executive committee would have to retire, having already served for two periods.

It was also agreed that:-

- a) for the sake of continuity, the Treasurer should be put forward for re-election;
- b) representatives of some European countries should definitely remain on the Committee for the next period;

The question of Vice-Presidents was then discussed. It was thought that the present maximum of seven Vice-Presidents was too high, in view of the fact that those countries from which officers were chosen were allowed to nominate one other member for the Executive Committee. It was finally proposed to recommend to the Council that the Constitution should be amended to restrict this provision to countries providing the President and the Secretary only.

A number of member-associations had now sent in their nominations for the elections at Rome. The Nominations Committee had drawn up a plan to present to the Council; this plan would be sent to the member-associations for consideration in advance.

Members of the Nominations Committee were:-

<u>Chairman</u>	Miss A. Lohnis	(Netherlands)
	Mr. J. Nihon	(Belgium)
	Miss D. Lally	(U.S.A.)
	Miss N. Lea	(Canada)
	Miss I. Silva	(Phillipines)

9. Financial Report

a) Accounts for 1959

The Treasurer explained the accounts for 1959 (see Appendices I and II attached). These were approved.

b) Budget for 1960

Two alterations in the estimates were made as follows:-

- i) it was agreed to allocate the sum of Sw. Fr. 300 for the organisation of the Seminar on Mental Health to be held in England in 1961.
- ii) it was decided to reduce to \$ 166 the payment by the Federation for its section in the journal International Social Work. The question would be discussed further in Rome when it would be considered whether to increase sales by having a French edition or French articles in the English version; and by encouraging more individual subscriptions. It was decided to send two representatives to a meeting in Rome to discuss the position of the journal International Social Work. Names of suitable delegates from Switzerland and United Kingdom were suggested. Other members would represent the International Conference of Social Work and the International Association of Schools of Social Work.

c) Estimates for 1961

The Committee approved of the estimates for 1961 which had been explained in detail by the Treasurer (see Appendix III).

d) Registered Address

It was agreed that, in future, even if the Treasurer should change, the Bank and Registered address of I.F.S.W. should remain in Zurich, Switzerland.

In order to register the Federation legally it would be necessary to alter the Constitution slightly to include a statement that I.F.S.W. was an association according to the Swiss Civil Code and had its legal registration in Zurich, Switzerland. This would be mentioned in the Treasurer's report in Rome.

e) Membership Fees

Fees for 1960 had been received from 16 member-organisations. Belgium, Chile and Pakistan had not yet paid.

It was agreed to publish in The Social Worker a list showing the numbers of members in each national organisation, in relation to the population of the country, and the number of social workers.

10. I.F.S.W. Meetings, Rome, 1961

The whole day on January 12th 1961 was to be devoted to meetings of the I.F.S.W.

At 9.15 a.m. there was to be an open meeting on Ethics; at 2.30 p.m. the Council meeting.

Meetings of the Executive Committee would be held as follows:-

- a) Present Executive Committee - Sunday January 8th, 4 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.
- b) New Executive Committee - Saturday January 14th, 10.30 a.m.

Agenda for Council Meeting

This would be circulated well in advance to all Council members, so that they would be able to consult their member-organisations in advance.

The agenda would include the following items:-

- a) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting in Tokyo, 1958.
- b) Adoption of Agenda
- c) Chairman's Report
- d) Treasurer's Report
- e) Report of Nominations Committee (This, with lists of nominees, would be sent in advance to member-organisations for passing on to Council members)
- f) Report on Membership
- g) Election of Officers and Executive Committee
- h) Representation on U.N. Social Commission and other international bodies - the importance of having social workers.
- i) Resolution to U.N. requesting appointment of experienced social worker in Geneva office.
- j) Revision of Constitution on:-
 - i) alteration in election procedure suggested by Council at Tokyo and Executive Committee in Strasbourg.
 - ii) position of Vice-Presidents.
 - iii) legal registration.
- k) Journals - The Social Worker - International Social Work.

The I.F.S.W. had been asked to send a delegate to the Pre-Conference working group to meet in Milan from December 27th 1960 to January 2nd 1961. It was suggested that someone from Canada or the Netherlands should be asked to do this.

11. Open Meeting on Ethics, Rome, January 12th 1961

This meeting was to be specially sponsored by I.F.S.W. as it was a subject of particular interest to social workers. It would be open to all, not only members of associations belonging to I.F.S.W.

In preparation a questionnaire had been sent out to all member countries. Replies had been received from Belgium, Canada, France, United Kingdom and U.S.A. It was hoped that this initial meeting might arouse interest and lead to a study group or research on this subject later. It might be possible later to draft a Code of Ethics for social workers.

The following suggestions were made for people to take part:-

Opening Address - President, Italian Association of Social Workers.

Leader of Discussion - Mlle. Ginot

Speakers

- a) From France or Belgium
- b) from N. American continent.

Short contributions to be made by people from Denmark, Israel, Netherlands and United Kingdom.

The preliminary papers were to be translated and circulated appropriately in English, French, and Italian.

12. International Conference of Social Work, Rome, 1961

Study Group on The Role of the Social Worker in Influencing Social Policy

The I.F.S.W. had been asked to be responsible for this Study Group at the International Conference. A preparatory questionnaire had been sent out and answers were awaited. It was intended to prepare a paper in advance. There would be 6 meetings of the group in Rome.

The following suggestions were made:-

Chairman - Dr. C¹oeck (President of International Social Service)
(or a social worker from the Netherlands)

Vice-Chairman - From Canadian A.S.W.

Speakers a) Mr. Wayne Vasey (Dean of Putgers University School of Social Work) U.S.A.

or b) Mr. John Kineigh (Director, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota)

or c) Rektor Liv. Kluge (Director of Bergen School of Social Work, Norway)

Rapporteur - Italian A.S.W. to provide.

It was suggested that some members of the Executive Committee should be members of this group.

13. Publications

a) Social Worker

It was agreed that Mrs. J. Small, who had recently retired from the International Union of Child Welfare should be asked to be the new editor. She would be aided by a small editorial committee. Articles would be published in French, English and Spanish. Member-associations would be asked to appoint correspondents to send in reports of experiences, conferences etc.; summaries of interesting articles on professional subjects; reviews of literature and items from the bulletins of their associations.

b) International Social Work

Mr. Richard Clements, formerly Secretary of the British National Conference on Social Work, was to be invited to undertake responsibility for the I.F.S.W. section of this journal.

The policy was to be discussed in Rome at a meeting with I.C.S.W. and I.A.S.S.W.

It was suggested that articles should be written on the U.N. Exchange Scheme; and on national projects of general interest.

14. Seminar on Mental Health Aspects of Social Work

This would be held in the United Kingdom in September 1961.

The aim of the Seminar should be to help Social Workers, who had no specialised training in psychiatry, but who had to deal with mental health problems in their work, to recognise these problems and to learn how to deal with them. The main title should be "Mental Health Aspects of Social Work". The Director would be Mrs. E.E. Irvine, Tavistock Clinic, London.

It was suggested that there should be 3 main divisions:-

- i) Mental Health aspects of Family Problems
- ii) Mental Health Problems of the non-psychiatrically disabled (e.g. epileptics, old people, the chronically handicapped etc.)
- iii) Mental Health problems of the psychiatrically disabled.
 - a) In hospital
 - b) In community

The subjects to be dealt with under these headings were to be

considered further by the British Committee and decision to be left entirely to them as organisers.

The French Association of Social Workers had put forward a draft plan for the programme, and their suggestions were welcomed.

Although the choice of speakers depended on subjects finally chosen, the following suggestions were made:-

- 1) A speaker from Switzerland
(To speak in French - on mental health problems to be dealt with by the Social Worker who has not had psychiatric training nor function in psychiatric social work)
- 2) A Dutch speaker on Disturbed Families. (Dr. Lekkerkerker, National Association for Mental Health, Amsterdam, to be consulted).
- 3) A speaker from either Israel or Belgium on Delinquency and Services with Courts

National Committees, World Federation for Mental Health, WHO and UNTAA should be consulted about speakers. U.N. might provide a short-term expert.

Note Some speakers could be chosen from amongst those participating.

Participants should include:-

- a) Social Workers with professional training in psychiatry.
- b) Social Workers with the basic training recognised in their own countries but without professional training in psychiatry.

All participants should be directly concerned with mental health problems in the work. The group should be limited to 40 including staff.

Selection

Details of the Seminar should be sent to all member associations of I.F.S.W. as soon as possible. These associations would give publicity to their own members, and would recommend their candidates in order of preference. The British Committee would be responsible for making final selection of the participants.

Programme should include:-

Lectures given by staff or visiting lecturers on main themes.

Discussion groups

- a) General - to discuss subjects of lectures
- b) Special interest - participants with similar work and problems

Visits of observation would be arranged in the neighbourhood, and films on Mental Health subjects would be shown.

Sightseeing visits (or free day) would be possible during the programme.

Language. English and French.

(Participants MUST be able to speak at least one and must understand lectures in the other).

Dates and Place to be decided by the British Committee.

Preparation

Questionnaires would be sent as soon as possible to all member organisations. Analyses of the answers to the questionnaire would be made and sent to participants as background material.

Finance - £25 would be set aside in the budget of I.F.S.W. for help towards the expenses of speakers.