

1970

Report by Secretary General of
Annual Reports of 15 Countries
following 1969 Questionnaire

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
2 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT

On July 1, 1969 the Secretary-General assumed the position of Acting Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers in the United States which post was held until December 1969. During this period of time, responsibilities were very great, based upon the fact that the Association had a deficit of \$152,000, and two referendums had to be prepared and sent to the 50,000 members of the Association. One referendum referred to a dues increase approved by our 1969 Delegate Assembly, and another had reference to a change in membership status and other activities.

As a result of the financial situation and other problems, the Board adopted a drastic budget of \$1,111,000 for the year, and curbed many of the expenditures in order to come out of the fiscal crisis. During November, the Acting Executive was able to negotiate a loan of \$100,000 which was repaid within a period of 60 days. The Association will have a financial crisis for the next year at least.

It is in this context that the work of the IFSW had to be maintained. It also was a period of time when there were many other demands on the Secretary-General. Most of these demands have been met. It was a time when attempts were made to provide greater cooperation and communication with members of IFSW countries; it was a time when a plan for the 1970 programs for ICSW and our Symposium were worked out; and it was a time when additional attempts were made to secure funds for IFSW.

Annual Reports

Approximately 15 countries of the 38 current members of IFSW submitted a questionnaire regarding their activities. Each of the countries in return was to send copies to each of the other countries. I have no way of knowing the extent to which this activity was pursued.

One of the advantages of the report was that it did give some description of the 15 or more countries which reported on the Officers, the amount of dues charged, whether or not there was an automatic payment for international work including support of IFSW, and a description of activities. Under descriptions of activities, the following were indicated:

Professional Standards and practices; protection of social workers; education; seminars; conferences; work on development of reciprocity agreement; the merging of social work associations in a country; and increased interest in international social work; social action and policy development; promotion and publications, including working with the news media.

Professional Standards

Most of all of the associations reporting noted that professional standards and practice was an ongoing and current activity within the associations. Included under this was some concern for associations to protect social workers who are members.

A number of associations reported that salary and working conditions were a part of the active involvement of associations.

Education

Education involved a variety of activities. It included the establishment of social work training courses in some countries, the active participation in the standards for education as they related to the profession, the development of seminars and conferences periodically held during the year in order to increase the educational equipment of members, and the holding of conferences to which associations from other countries, in some sections of the world, were invited regularly.

Reciprocity

Over half of the countries reporting mentioned that they were working on the development of reciprocity agreements with other countries. It is expected that this activity will increase starting first with countries in regions and then totally within the association.

Mergers

Six countries indicated that they were working on the merger of all social work associations in their countries under one banner. The Secretary-General has reports from three countries; United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Ireland, noting that this process has been completed. This provides an opportunity for the associations in a country to speak with a unified voice.

Interest in International Social Work

Unfortunately, there were only a few countries which noted an increased interest in international social work. Some of the countries have noted that because of the lack of funds, because of the need to strengthen their associations internally, that for the time being most of the resources would be towards strengthening their associations.

Promotion and Publicity

Half of the countries reported that they publish a social work journal. This information is probably a disservice to the associations since my office has received copies of publications from a number of countries, they have been read, and this process should continue. It was also reported that many of the associations currently and actively worked with the news media and other communication groups in their countries, in the interest of social work services.

Social Policy and Action

About half of those countries reporting, mentioned social policy and action pursuits. Involved are a variety of mechanisms including testifying before legislative bodies in support or against legislation, the submission of briefs to governmental committees, active lobbying.

Relationships with Other Organizations

The Secretary-General prepared a paper for the National Conference on Social Welfare held in June of 1970 on reports from associations. A copy of that has been prepared and sent to each of the member countries.

United Nations

There was very little activity on the part of the Secretary-General to United Nations during this year. However, the representative at UNICEF was active, and the representative at Geneva has sent in a report which has been prepared for IFSW. The Secretary-General has worked with the Secretaries-General of IASSW and ICSW on a variety of activities including International Social Work which has been improved and has a new format.

Jane Hoey Bequest

A great deal of time has been spent in trying to satisfy the requirements of the bequest made to IFSW. This sum is \$25,000. The difficulty at the moment is that the bequest states that "\$25,000 shall be given to the following corporations ----". Since IFSW is not at present a corporation, the lawyer, on a technicality, has been withholding these funds. A considerable amount of time has been spent in working with the NASW attorney who had offered earlier to handle this without charge to IFSW, and who has given considerable advice and counsel in connection with activities.

There has been considerable correspondence as well, with the Swiss Credit Bank and our representatives in Switzerland, and conversations with the Swiss Consulate in New York and the Swiss Credit Bank in New York. It is anticipated that the funds will be forthcoming when the fault which has occurred in the organization of IFSW is corrected.

It is expected that this Permanent Council will make recommendations of a development of program or other activities involving this sum of money, with additional monies which can be secured from outside sources. It might be said categorically that some approaches have been made for funds, but this has not been successful to date.

Relationships with Bermuda and Korea

On several occasions, there have been conferences with the President of the Bermuda Association in the office of the Secretary-General or at the National Conference of Social Welfare. These conversations have been in the nature of strengthening that association.

Similarly there have been visits to the office of the Secretary-General by Mr. Kim Un Cho, of Korea, who has invited the Secretary-General to visit Korea enroute to Manila. Plans were set up for securing the participation of social workers both in Pusan and Seoul, the object being to join the IFSW. Elaborate plans have been worked out with the representative of United Seamen's Service in Pusan, on which agency Board the Secretary-General serves, for key officials in Pusan and Seoul in the interest of both organizations.

Requests for Joining IFSW

See Jamaica, West Indies and Vietnam applications.

See request from Netherlands Association in change of name from Dutch Association.

Conclusion

Secretary-General would recommend that a process of providing annual reports be continued and that greater communication methods be developed. The co-operation which has been secured during the year, is greater than it has been in the past and is an indication of the continued development of IFSW.