

INTERNATIONAL SERVAS CONFERENCE 1967

15 to 18 of June, 1967

PLACE: Zochova Hata near Bratislava, Czechoslovakia

PRESENT: Delegates

International Coordinator	Kurt Schmid (Austria)
Czechoslovakia	Dr. Bohumil Puskailer and Jan Puskailer (Bratislava) Ing. Neklan Mastalir (Prague)
France	Joseph Girard
Hungary	Magda Budai
Sweden	Leif Carsrud
USA	Reva King (Assistant International Co-ordinator)

Observers and Recorders

USA	Suzanne Banghardt
Great Britain	Mervyn Taggart

Other Observers

Denmark	Inge Sørensen
CSSR	Many visiting Servas friends and hosts

I. STANDING ORDERS were adapted as circulated, 25th of May, 1967, excepting for recording. Observers Sue Banghardt and Mervyn Taggart carried joint responsibility for recording throughout most of the Conference.

II. DECISION MAKING -The following recommendations were accepted:

Branch defined: Where there exists a host list, there SERVAS shall be considered as a BRANCH.

Right to vote: The 1966 Conference decision was re-affirmed:
"Every SERVAS branch delegating a representative to International Conference shall have one vote."

The full substance of U.S. Committee recommendations passed in 1966 Conference are added to Minutes of 1967 Conference as follows:

"That decisions be classified in one of the 2 following classes:

a) Decisions concerning the elections, structure and organization of INTERNATIONAL SERVAS;

b) Decisions affecting to a major degree the policies and operation of SERVAS Branches.

Conference shall have full authority to make final decisions in matters falling in 'class a'. Matters in class 'b' require the approval of the Branch affected."

III. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The International Co-ordinator's report stressed the growth of the SERVAS movement. A working group has been established in Czechoslovakia. The Swedish Branch is now reorganized, and the Israeli Branch is being developed. There is a new and very vital branch in the Phillipines.

The political situation has prevented the active development of branches in Spain, Portugal, and Greece. There have been no contacts in Finland. Foreign students studying in the United States who were also SERVAS travelers in 1965 have been contacted. Some have become active in SERVAS upon returning home. Jan Milld from Sweden has made SERVAS known through the Esperantist movement.

The 1966 list of SERVAS travelers in the United States is also now ready for distribution by the International Coordinator. All Secretaries are urged to contact these travelers requesting them to help SERVAS in their home country.

International Financial Report is as follows:

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
from January 1, 1966 to December 31, 1966

	Income	Expenditures
Postage, printing, mailings, miscel, etc.		AS. 601,80
travel expenditures, including Copenhagen Conference		AS. 2 145,50
Shares from USA, Switzerland and Austria:.		
Total	AS 2 670,--	
Balance December 31, 1965	AS 1 181,10	
	<hr/>	
	AS 3 851,10	AS. 2 747,30
<u>Balance December 31, 1966</u>		<u>AS. 1 103,80</u>
=====	<u>AS 3 851,10</u>	<u>AS. 3 851,10</u>

IV. NATIONAL REPORTS

- A. See composite national statistics in attached table.
- B. Highlights of additional information submitted by respective countries are noted below except for matters discussed under policies and procedures or relationship to other organizations:

AUSTRIA - SERVAS activities have continued to grow both qualitatively and quantitatively.

1. The Austrian group to Japan consisted of 18 participants (2 from Switzerland). They brought greetings from the Mayor of Vienna to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Six participants became hosts. *
2. At Christmas-time, the Vienna hosts again invited African apprentices into Vienna homes. The Africans are known through the Austrian trade unions and are in Vienna for a 2 year period.
3. One meeting for our hosts was arranged in the Folkhigh-school and articles appeared about the Japan trip. Lecture were also held.
4. A group of 32 Austrians will go to the USA and Canada and will stay with SERVAS hosts in Detroit, New York and Washington D.C.

* Through the Austrian group to Japan, the Hiroshima Servas branch was formed and there is hope for forming a Branch in Kasugai

BENELUX - SERVAS activities have continued as in prior years but pressures involved in building a new home prevent completion of new host lists before October, 1967.

1. Hosts will continue to be primarily non violent people.
2. Secretary cannot attend conferences outside of the Benelux.

CANADA (report by USA)

1. Reorganization of Canadian SERVAS, subsequent to the resignation of Louise Murphy has required several months and extensive cooperation with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Voice of Women, and the Women's International Cooperation Committee which now sponsors SERVAS development in Canada.
2. In addition to the National Chairman, Jean Mailing, there are regional secretaries in two areas.
3. New host lists are in the process of being prepared.
4. Resources for publicity are encouraging.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - See East/West Developments

FRANCE - French SERVAS had difficulties maintaining its program during 1966, but thanks to the cooperation of Paris members, the French SERVAS Branch is being re-activated. Host lists for 1967 have been completed and circulated to other SERVAS Branches.

GREAT BRITAIN

1. Only limited SERVAS activities are possible because of extensive job and family responsibilities.
2. New volunteers are much needed, but it is difficult to find those able to carry overall responsibility.
3. The 1967 host list supplement has been completed.
4. The proposed change in SERVAS Aim would reduce the significance of our work to that of another International travel organization.

HUNGARY

1. A host list will not be prepared for circulation but there are a number of families interested in Servas travelers.
2. At the Esperanto Congress (1966), Jan Milld made available host card and leaflets in Esperanto. There were some replies from Poland and a few from Hungary, Bulgaria and Great Britain.
3. Official recognition of SERVAS is desired.

INDIA

1. The famine has created critical problems and work pressures.
2. The SERVAS Center continues a Center of Peace Builders

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concentrated on work, rather the words, for the good of mankind.

3. In addition to SERVAS travelers, the Center continues to receive visitors from many countries who seem interested in the discussion of SERVAS. (Conference requests USA to obtain names of such visitors from USA and Australia for appropriate follow up.)

ISRAEL

1. Progress Report and recommendations from Regina & Dick Epstein were most welcome and heartily endorsed.
2. Ora Yoel is congratulated as new Israeli SERVAS Secretary and is to be given full support with all aspects of work and supplies.
3. International Coordinator will send confirmation of appointment with deep appreciation and recognition of present crisis and its affect on developing SERVAS.
4. Sponsorship will be carried by US SERVAS.
5. Host lists, when available, will be distributed to Secretaries only. The Israeli Secretary is requested to arrange traveler visits individually until all hosts have held sufficient experience to enable their acceptance of all approved travelers without individualized preparation by the secretary.

JAPAN - Report circulated to all Secretaries prior to Conference gave a comprehensive description of:

1. Continued outstanding growth of Japanese SERVAS;
2. Clear description of organizational structure including rationale and explanation of procedure for host-traveler visits substituted for international distribution of host lists;
3. Comments regarding policy which are dealt with elsewhere in this Conference Report.

LATIN AMERICA

CHILE - Letter from Secretary of this new Branch requests -

1. Orientation material;
2. Discussion of points raised by Japan"
3. Centralization of production and distribution of SERVAS printed material.

LATIN AMERICA - OVERALL DEVELOPMENTS

Kitty Falkin, USA, continues to coordinate developments and orient Secretaries in Latin American countries. Activities have been concentrated primarily on publicity. Hosts exist in Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Columbia. Lists are not circulated because of insufficient travelers except for Mexico where the need is greater than can be met. All other countries request more SERVAS travelers. Most SERVAS travelers have gone to the USA though a few have gone to Europe.

To secure a host, the approved traveler must write the respective Secretary-Coordinator 1 month in advance.

NORWAY

1. The new Secretariat is in the Oslo Peace Office and has been in the process of orientation.
2. Economics have been a problem but an early solution is anticipated.
3. A publicity folder for recruiting new hosts and new host lists will be available for summer.
4. Preparations are being made for hosting the Hiroshima group of the Japanese ~~delegation~~ to the World Federalist Congress.
5. Contact with Eastern Countries is considered of special importance if Servas is to be truly international.

PHILIPPINES

1. The SERVAS Committee, formed late in 1966, is developing rapidly.
2. Host lists are not distribute, but the Committee arranges hosts as in Japan.
3. Dr. Alejandro R. Roces, of UNESCO, is an International Sponsor.
4. A comprehensive orientation regarding SERVAS in the Philippines is available for duplication and circulation by USA, if requested.

SWEDEN - Oral report given at Conference by Leif Carsrud who now carries major responsibility for all activities and will receive copies of all approved traveler applications to Sweden.

1. Host lists have been updated and distributed.
2. Publicity has been distributed to all work campers through IVSP.
3. Numerous inquiries are being received daily, especially from Poland.

SWITZERLAND

1. The new Swiss Secretariat initiated activities in December, 1966.
2. Host list corrections for 1967 have been distributed.
3. SSR will handle student travel applications subject to the ultimate approval by the Swiss SERVAS Secretariat.
4. Extensive activities are anticipated for 1967.

USA

1. The National Committee has had some difficulty recruiting volunteers among former travelers to replace members lost through shift in jobs and other personal changes.

2. The greatest growth has been in local committees.
3. The National Committee has continued to carry extensive responsibility for assisting SERVAS developments in Latin America and Canada.
4. Priorities have included -
 - a) Improvement in host lists through the development of a national host sub-committee for maintaining closer contacts with hosts;
 - b) "Adventures in Understanding" which have involved an International Caravan visiting hosts in Southern USA and preparations for a group of SERVAS travelers to Japan in August, 1967.

NATIONAL REPORTS FOR 1966 are not yet available from Africa, Denmark (Open Doors), Italy and Poland.

V. EAST/WEST DEVELOPMENTS

The importance of EAST/WEST DEVELOPMENTS was noted many times throughout the Conference, in reports submitted by Secretaries who could not attend, the distribution of material describing "East/West Bridges" etc.

Progress was obvious in the setting of the Conference active participation of delegates from Eastern countries and in the growing number and rewarding experiences reported by travelers both to and from Eastern countries. Developments in CSSR are especially encouraging.

CSSR reported good possibilities for further growth, especially in relation to Western Europe where transportation is now available.

To help on further SERVAS developments, discussion was focused on continued financial problems, invitation requirements, the importance of official recognition, the special value of exchange visits among specialists, reciprocity and ways for helping SERVAS developments in other Eastern countries.

A. Laws requiring adherence in procedures include:

1. Each traveler from an Eastern European country
 - a) must, prior to his trip, receive at least one invitation from an individual host (not from SERVAS as an organization assuring that lodging during the period of invitation will be provided without cost.
 - b) Can take with him the equivalent of only 3 US \$ for all expenses during his total trip.
2. Each traveler to the East is required to spend the equivalent of 3 US \$ each day he is in the country.

B. Decisions reached based on the above considerations:

1. Money
 - a) The principle submitted by US SERVAS for establishing an account within a country for use during visits by Eastern European SERVAS Travelers was endorsed.
 - b) The amount of contribution by travelers from most countries will necessarily be much less than 5 dollars

per day (as suggested by USA) and will be decided individually.

- c) International supplies could be printed in CSSR (where costs are lower); respective payments could be deposited in the International East/West fund.
- d) If the East/West account in any individual country exceeds predicted needs, the respective country is requested to consider transferring such excess to the International East/West fund.

2. Traveler approval -

- a) Any SERVAS local interviewer authorized to screen traveler applicants may approve travelers for visits with SERAS hosts anywhere in the world and shall be oriented regarding all SERVAS applicable policies.
- b) Lists of all such interviewers shall be given all SERVAS secretaries.

3. Invitations and use of host lists -

- a) Advanced arrangements are always mandatory. (see 1966 Conference Report).
- b) Upon receipt of SERVAS approval from an Eastern Secretary, a host in the receiving country will send an invitation. (see LAW A.1.a.)
- c) Each country, which distributes host lists, is asked, if possible, to send at least one host list to each Secretary in an East European country where SERVAS is actively functioning (as CSSR).
- d) Additional procedures subject to the individual agreement between the Eastern European SERVAS Committee and other National Committees:

Additional host lists may be exchanged;

Method of arranging host visits in addition to the initial inviting host;

Pre-requisite that traveler be sponsored by some other organization before SERVAS approval can be given;

Reciprocity in the extent of SERVAS exchange - (Each European country will prepare an estimate of the number of SERVAS exchange travelers which it can invite. This is not a problem in relation to USA).

4. Approaches to gaining more government recognition -

- a) CSSR will seek recognition through capable influential people such as professors at Charles University in Prague.
- b) The special value of exchange visits of specialists will be recognized by appropriate distribution of publicity to potential hosts and travelers.
- c) Status of developments and plans for assistance to other Eastern European countries.

Individuals in a few Eastern European countries are able to arrange visits for approved SERVAS travelers on a personal basis. Requests for government sanction have not yet been acknowledged.

Government officials in other Eastern European countries will now be asked whether they oppose the establishment of SERVAS.

Mervyn Taggart will go to Budapest to make official contacts there.

CSSR will send accounts of its SERVAS activities to other Eastern European countries.

Approaches to seek possible status will be made to UNESCO.

VI. SERVAS AIM - Detailed discussion included consideration of the British Committee request for retaining the present statement in the Peace Diary, the existence of all "non violent" hosts in the Netherlands, the meaning of "non violent" in Eastern European countries, the recommendations submitted by the USA Branch, and the Japanese request for clarification.

The following revised statement of Aim was adapted as agreed by all delegates present except for USA:

"SERVAS is an international cooperative system of hosts and travelers established to help build world peace, good will and understanding by providing opportunities for deeper, more personal contacts with people of other cultures and backgrounds. Foreign visitors are invited to share life in the home and in the community, and to share their concerns on social and international problems, their interests in creative activity and mutual responsibility for their fellowman.

SERVAS is nonprofit, nonpolitical, interracial and interfaith.

SERVAS travelers can visit "Open Doors" (families or organizations which offer free hospitality for two nights, or more) choosing people whose activities have special interest for them. There are O.D.s in 26 countries, most numerous in USA, England, India and Japan. They include Folk High Schools, neighbourhood centres, ashrams and communities, but the majority are families and individuals of varied backgrounds."

This revised statement of Aim has been submitted to the Peace Diary together with addresses of all National Branches and request for one Diary for each listed Secretary at the cost of International Coordination.

VII. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION - Attention was focused on the recommendations circulated the 25 of May, 1967, together with particular discussion of questions relating to cancellation of traveler approval, traveler reports and the inability of receiving countries to know whether or not a traveler actually visits respective hosts and host arrangements in countries which do not circulate host lists or are delayed in providing current information.

The following statements were approved:

A. Traveler Criteria

1. Applicants are to be accepted who will benefit from the SERVAS experience based on the assessment during the travel interview.
2. The traveler must be capable of a learning exchange and have adaptability for life in a home with a differing cultural background.
3. Traveler reports are to be expedited by providing a form to the traveler at interview for use in reports about his visits. Reports are to be sent to the approving Secretary.

4. Information about traveler visits is also to be obtained from hosts by sending them a questionnaire about travelers when letters are sent bringing the host lists up to date.
5. Cancellation of Traveler approval -
 - a) Policies stated in the 1965 Conference were reaffirmed, requesting the host to keep the Traveler's Letter of Introduction upon agreement of the local secretary.
 - b) Any such traveler has the right to appeal through the Secretary who approved him. Review of his request must involve joint consideration by the respective secretaries involved.
6. There were differences in opinion regarding the need for a more thorough evaluation of SERVAS.
7. Publicity to potential travelers is to be geared to the capacity of the various countries.

B.1 RELIABLE HOST LIST INFORMATION must be provided by all other Branches by May of each year unless the National Secretary (as Japan or the Philippines) takes direct responsibility for host arrangements.

1. Policies and procedures when host lists or current corrections are not available to the approving Secretary for the traveler:
 - a) Host list fees are to be given only to the approving secretary.
 - b) The latest available list is to be issued and the approving Secretary is to sign the letter sent by the traveler to the respective National Secretary requesting current information.
2. To expedite responses to travelers by hosts, travelers are urged to enclose International postal coupons in their requests to hosts.

C. ORIENTATION -To obtain maximum learning experiences,

1. Travelers are requested to study the country being visited before starting their trip.
2. SERVAS Secretaries are to prepare and distribute for the following areas, orientation material describing customs and family life to help the traveler avoid any inappropriate behavior or expectations:
 - a) Eastern Europe
 - b) Western Europe
 - c) USA
 - d) Japan
 - e) India

D. HARMONIOUS ACTIVITIES AMONG ALL BRANCHES

1. The International Coordinator has received samples of forms used by USA, France, Germany, Austria and the Philippines.
2. Samples of forms used by all other countries should be sent to the International Coordinator at once.
3. Upon receipt of such samples, the following forms will be prepared, using the same text, for international distribution in German, English, French, Russian and Esperanto:

- a) Host application
- b) Traveler report

E. PUBLICITY

- 1. Copies of all circular letters and all other publicity articles are to be sent to the International Coordinator to provide a composite file and sharing with other Branches as appropriate.
- 2. Most Branches have concentrated publicity efforts on reaching organizations with related activities and described their efforts in their reports to the International Coordinator.

F. GROUP TRAVEL - The increasing availability of inexpensive group transportation offers tremendous potential for marked SERVAS expansion. In order to use this opportunity within the scope of SERVAS, Conference approved the following principles, definitions, policies and general recommendations:

1. DEFINITIONS:

GROUP TRAVEL includes those trips for which SERVAS takes some kind of organizational responsibility.

TRAVEL CRITERIA: The usual criteria for SERVAS traveler approval apply.

BRANCH PARTICIPATION: All countries are encouraged to participate, making the maximum effort to strengthen host lists as needed. Each country will send the International Coordinator information as to the date when his Branch may be ready to participate, the extent of responsibility it is prepared to take and the names of any specific local coordinators.

2. RECOMMENDED POLICIES:

a) Independent and individual travel within the country visited is preferred, with maximum efforts by the traveler to visit non-metropolitan areas and make his own host arrangements.

b) For groups of SERVAS travelers the size of the group should be kept under 20, if possible, with plans made in advance in accordance within the following guidelines:

(1) Adequate time shall be allowed in the overall programme for individual host-traveler visits.

(2) The receiving country shall prepare information as to the number of travelers it feels able to receive simultaneously in various areas recommended.

(3) If this number is smaller than the group participating, the country of original shall work out arrangements among its participants for sharing the total extent of SERVAS experience available and send the resulting information to the receiving country together with complete approved traveler applications for each participant.

(4) Travelers will be met on arrival by the local coordinator who will give complete information regarding each host arrangement together with full transportation instructions by public conveyance.

(5) Persons accompanying the SERVAS group for the sole purpose of inexpensive transportation shall contribute to SERVAS 1/2 the donation being made by SERVAS travelers and shall not be included in SERVAS activities unless there is some SERVAS group function in which outside participation is completely convenient.

SERVAS donation contributions should include 10 % for International coordination.

Consideration should also be given to increase the portion of SERVAS donation requested from transportation participants.

- c) Experience thus far was considered successful. Four SERVAS group trips have been completed or planned thus far, including 150 participants.
- d) Future considerations (general) -
 1. International groups from Europe to other countries should be organized, based on the above principles and utilizing International low rate flights.
 2. Status of Branches' ability to participate - Austria, Czechoslovakia and USA are ready for groups of 15. Japan has already received such groups. For France and Sweden, resources would permit at the moment only groups of 5.

III. COOPERATION AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS -

International organizational membership was considered generally inadvisable because of possible participation requirements and commitments (as ICPD) which SERVAS, as a non-political organization, could not fulfill.

1. For any such membership to be considered, the organization must be related and non-political. And advantages must outweigh the costs and responsibilities involved.
2. Cooperation with other organizations was strongly endorsed, both nationally and internationally.

The following concepts and specific suggestions were approved:

- a) A proclamation indicating our desire to cooperate should be issued to all related organizations (as in the Peace Diary). The Assistant International Coordinator was requested to take this responsibility.
- b) Work with related organizations is essential for sharing appropriate related activities in word toward common goals and the avoidance of any unnecessary duplication.
- c) Shared publicity and representation at meetings, if possible, should be arranged when appropriate for furthering mutual goals.

EXAMPLES - for immediate future

ESPERANTISTS -

Hosts or other SERVAS volunteers, who are also Esperantists, will be encouraged to attend the 1967 Annual Esperantist Conference in Holland.

A SERVAS publicity leaflet, in Esperanto, (as in the past) is to be provided for distribution.

FRIENDS WORLD CONFERENCE - 1967

SERVAS International Coordinator will attend and will take publicity material to be prepared by USA SERVAS.

The possibility for developing SERVAS contacts through representatives from Africa will be given particular consideration.

EXAMPLES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH THERE HAS BEEN COOPERATION OR WITH WHOM COOPERATION IS BEING EXPLORED on either a national or international basis -

Cities Unies	Teachers' Holiday Exchange
United Nations Association	Czech Youth organizations
Womens' International	Internat'l Student Service
Cooperation Council	
Voice of Women	Numerous other student programs
Fellowship of Reconciliation	for study exchange or travel
American Friends Service Committee	YMCA's and many other organizations.

IX. SERVAS PRIORITIES FOR 1967 -68

A. International Sponsors -

1. Extension of the list is urgently needed.
2. All countries are asked to secure additional sponsors.
3. Examples might include politicians internationally known for their public service or people like Right Hon. Philip Noel-Baker.

B. Increasing financial resources is extremely necessary both internationally and nationally but no solutions could be found other than possible increased income from travel of SERVAS groups.

X. CONFERENCE - 1968

The invitation by Masuo Amano, Japanese SERVAS Secretary was most welcome and was accepted.

Immediate efforts will be made to secure transportation rates sufficiently inexpensive to enable participation by delegates from at least six or more countries.

A longer Conference period may be necessary in view of the inherent limitations in a two to three day Conference and the amount of business requiring thoughtful consideration for growth and depth in program development. A roundtrip to Japan will be upon request organized (appr. 3 weeks).

FINALE 1967

DEEP APPRECIATION is expressed to our Czechoslovakian hosts who provided an atmosphere most conducive to productive work and rewarding social experiences.

Respectfully submitted.

Ass't Internat'l Coordinator
- Reva King
268 W.12th Street, New York
City, N.Y.

International Coordinator -Kurt Schmid
A 1200 Vienna, Leipzigerstr.33/17/24

from notes recorded by
Suzanne Banghardt and Mervyn Taggart

CONTINENT & BRANCH	HOST INFORMATION		TRAVELERS IN 1966		TOTAL
	Date latest host list	Number of hosts	Approvals given	Approvals received	
<u>EUROPE</u>					
AUSTRIA	1967	33	32	53	85
BENELUX				46	56
Belgium	1966	7	3		
Netherlands	1966	35	7		
BULGARIA(III)				2	2
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	1966	16	12(II)	(I)	19(II)
DENMARK(OPEN DOORS)	1966	25	(I)	(I)	
FRANCE	1967	43	10	59	69
GERMANY	1965 & 1966 supplement	20 to 25	(I)	(I)	
GREAT BRITAIN	1965 & supplement	70	18	61	79
HUNGARY (III)	(IV)				
ITALY (III)					
NORWAY	1966	39	(I)	(I)	
POLAND (III)	1967	5			
SWEDEN	1967	31	(I)	(I)	
SWITZERLAND	1966 & 1967 supplement	27	9	21	30
<u>AFRICA</u>	(IV)		(I)	(I)	
<u>AMERICA</u>					
NORTH AMERICA					
CANADA	1965 & 1966 supplement	41	(I)	(I)	
UNITED STATES	1967	918	268	39	307(V)
<u>LATIN AMERICA</u>					
ARGENTINA	(IV)		1		1
CHILE(III)					
COLUMBIA	(IV)		1		1
MEXICO	(IV)	25		10	10
<u>ASIA</u>					
INDIA	1965 (is still reliable)	numerous	6	15	23(V)
ISRAEL(III)				(plus 71 guests from USA, USSR, Australia & Israel)	
JAPAN	(IV)	191	40(II)	30(II)	70(II)
PHILIPPINES(III)	(IV)				
<u>AUSTRALIA(III)</u>	(IV)				

752(II)

- (I) Statistics not yet available
 (II) Statistics only partially complete
 (III) Committee in process of being newly inmated.
 (IV) Host arrangements made by Secretary; host lists not circulated.
 (V) Excludes special meetings with foreign visitors not available for SERVAS travel.