

held at International People's College, Elsinore, Denmark, August 15 - 19

PRESENT:

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|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| National Secretaries | AUSTRIA | Sylvie Strassner |
| | BRITAIN | Barbara Whitehead |
| | DENMARK | Birgitte Damsgaard |
| | FRANCE | Joseph Girard |
| | GERMANY | Antonie Fried |
| | ISRAEL | Benjamin Jeremias |
| | ITALY | Lino and Rose Canepari |
| | JAPAN | Masuo Amano |
| | INDIA | Harivallabh Parikh |
| | MEXICO | Alvaro R. Barba |
| | NORWAY | Inger Amundsen |
| | POLAND | Irena Wyrzykowska |
| | SWITZERLAND | Denise Waech |

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| Other Representatives | AUSTRALIA | Alan White |
| | BURMA | Ed Ayer |
| | CANADA | Arne Hansen |
| | EGYPT | Salah Aidarous |
| | KOREA | Hyun Sup Uom |
| | NEW ZEALAND | Eric and Nora Tibble |
| | MAURITIUS | Oumillia Munbodh |
| | U.S.A. | Martha Simon |

Also participating
in Delegate Assembly

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| Graham Thomas (Chairman) (Peace Secretary)(London Co-ord.) |
| Marie-Elisabeth Daru (France, interpreting)(Paris Co-ord.) |
| Peter & Christine Brock (Germany, Asst. Sec.) |
| Reva King (President) |
| Don Fawcett (Asst. Editor, Servas International News) |
| Lydia Jones (Africa Co-ordinator) |
| Ruby Macdonald (NGO Rep. at UNO) |

PARTICIPATING IN PARALLEL SESSIONS:

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| Jill White (Australia) | (and the following from India) |
| Dorothy Speed (Britain) | R. B. Agrawal |
| Barbara Rosewarne (Britain) | B. P. Swami |
| Margaret Ayer (Burma) | J. Jain |
| Kjeld Lings (Denmark) | C. M. Goyal |
| Bent Paradis (Denmark) | Ramejh Patel |
| Konrad Lübbert (Germany) | V. L. Patel |
| Iwan von Ordas (Hungary) | K. B. Patel |
| Hannah Jeremias (Israel) | Mrs Rita Roy |
| Luigi & Alberta Uslenghi (Italy) | Mrs Ouspa Vijay |
| Irso & Silvana Giubartoni (Italy) | B. L. Maha |
| Jose Suarez (Mexico) | Pradap Patel |
| Bill Ireland (New Zealand) | Baba Mahajan |
| Margaret & Russell Clarke (N.Z.) | Gita Bajaj |
| Joyce & David McGiven (N.Z.) | Mukesh Patel |
| Henry Alvinzi (Sweden) | Sanjiunath Aikal |
| Susi Schweizer (Switzerland) | Arunchauhan |
| Ruth Kaufman (USA) | B. S. Mehta |
| Ruth Atkin (USA) | Prerna Parikh & Kamla |
| Lydia Tabor (USA) | B. N. Shah |
| Elizabeth & Tom Walsh (USA) | Mr & Mrs K. P. Parikh |
| Chester & Jo Graham (USA) | M. B. Patel |

1. At 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 16 August, Graham Thomas, Chairman, welcomed Dr (I) Peter Manniche, founder of the International People's College. Dr Manniche, who at 89 is still vigorous in mind, gave a challenging address on building greater understanding in international relationships. There had been much development in his lifetime, he said - political, technical, economic, in fact everything but human! Jesus taught love of enemies - but the institutional churches are often more limited. Education for a world democratic outlook is important in youth; history should be seen as a living continuity, with ourselves as active participants. Education means more light, wider horizons, maturer judgments, and discovering a common purpose, with also the ability to reflect in solitude. International co-operation was like an orchestra, he concluded, each playing a part in a universal harmony, composed from all countries, races and cultures. Dr Manniche was thanked by Graham Thomas amid loud applause, and his book 'Rural Development in Denmark and the Changing Countries of the World' (Borgen Publishers, Copenhagen) was warmly recommended. Birgitte Damsgaard expressed gratitude to the Folk High School for providing us with such a suitable meeting place, and regretted that so few of us were able to take part in the course held during the fortnight preceding the conference. She said she had enjoyed preparing for it, though she was no organiser, and pleaded for humour in the gathering, cheerfully concluding that "when nothing is organised, then nothing can go wrong"!
2. Graham Thomas welcomed members to the Conference, and explained that the (III) blackboard in the room listed nominees for executive positions in 1978-80. Election of the new committee would occur on Friday, and meanwhile, further names could be added, with consent of the persons nominated. It was announced that parallel sessions for those not participating in the delegate assembly would be conducted by Mrs Jo Graham, and at this stage, this group left the meeting.
3. Delegates then introduced themselves to the conference in turn. Those from (II) Hungary, Netherlands, Sweden, and also Japan and Spain had not yet arrived, but an unexpected one from Mauritius, Mme. Oumilia Munbodh, was welcomed. It was announced that Barbara Whitehead and Eric Tibble would record the minutes of the conference, and that these would be a record of decisions only.
4. The 1976 Conference Minutes were approved, with an amendment to the section (IV) on page 4 'Publicity', adding after the word 'conference' the phrase 'except for that relating to the emblem for Servas International'.
5. Membership of Servas International was approved for the following groups not (V) hitherto officially recognised: Poland, Norway, Egypt and Mauritius. As no delegates were present, decision on Yugoslavia, Spain and Hungary was deferred.
6. A report was presented by the President, Reva King, who described her valiant (VI) efforts to keep the national groups in touch with one another. Continental and Area Co-ordinators had been helpful, but often it proved very difficult to maintain contact, due to faults in the postal services, for example, in South America, and in the Middle East. She had kept in touch with Sponsors directly involved in Servas work, and with the United Nations through our NGO delegates. She felt that more discussion was needed on several matters such as registration fees and host list deposits, which varied considerably amongst national groups, and ensuring early distribution of host lists.

The Vice-president, Barbara Whitehead, presented a more general report, and emphasised that we are not a multinational company trying to sell a product, but a group of people trying to extend a spirit of world community and international understanding. She hoped it would be possible to provide a handbook giving guidelines for our secretaries and contacts, but one which would be based on the principles contained in the handbook issued in 1952 by the first World Committee of Servas, copies of which were distributed to those taking part in the present assembly. The committee which issued this first handbook had recommended that it be circulated to Secretaries and Contacts in loose-leaf form, as circumstances might easily change, and then it could

be revised when necessary, to give scope for grassroots development adaptation to cope with new problems as they arose.

The Treasurer, Denise Waech, presented the Financial Report, pointing out that the Accounts had not been audited at the previous conference for lack of time, but the position was otherwise satisfactory. She wished, however, that there could be stricter budgeting of expenses, with a list of those groups who are expected to pay their quota, and those who cannot afford to do so. The balance at August 8th was 11,460.14 Swiss francs, but it was still uncertain what travel expenses would have to be paid, as some delegates had not yet arrived, but might still do so. The Assembly appointed Lino Canepari and Ruby Macdonald to audit the accounts for the past four years.

The Peace Secretary, Graham Thomas, reported an extensive correspondence to maintain contacts with other peace organisations. An advertisement in the 'New Internationalist' had brought replies from 21 countries in all continents, and articles had been published free in several journals of peace organisations, bringing a good response from many quarters. He had taken part in the preparatory meeting in London for the U.N. Special Session on Disarmament, and also the Session itself. He regretted that it was so largely ignored by the media in New York and elsewhere, and that a lead from the USA and USSR was so conspicuously lacking. Servas, as the most broadly based among the NGOs, has a unique contribution to make, he said, and recommended that each Servas group have its own Peace Secretary, and that Servas International finances its Peace Secretary adequately to attend conferences and support non-violent alternatives.

(VIIA) It was agreed that "Each country where Servas operates be requested to take every possible step to fulfil the peace function of Servas International, and it is suggested that they should consider the appointment of a Peace Secretary, thereby providing some relief to the National Secretary."

7. The current version of the Handbook prepared by Krishna Agrawal is to be sent to the following for comments: Barbara Whitehead, Salah Aidarous, Antonie Fried, Inger Amundsen, Denise Waech, Lino and Rose Canepari, Hari-vallabh Parikh, Sylvie Strassner, Benjamin Jeremias, Joseph Girard, Martha Simon, Nora Tibble and Reva King. Comments should be sent to the General Secretary within three months from the date the Handbook is posted. Final revision of the Handbook is then to proceed, and 500 copies are to be produced in the form of a loose-leaf folder to facilitate insertion of amendments as required.

8. Don Fawcett reported on various aspects of Servas International News. Nine editions have been published in all, and No.10 will be available before the end of 1978. It is still at the experimental stage. The Editor, Harry Steinmetz, is in poor health, and while no longer able to edit the magazine, has expressed a desire to remain a contributor. Don Fawcett is now in the position of Editor. The charge of 15p a copy is below production costs and the additional expense will need to be met from the International budget. Appeals for donations and additional subscriptions had met with little response. Don made a request for the National groups to submit more material, so that a better selection could be made. There was a responsibility to distribute useful information.

It was agreed that "Servas International News should be the official organ of Servas International, that it should continue to be in English, that each member is entitled to receive the magazine, and that the cost should be budgeted for by Servas International. It is to be published in a simplified form and on paper suitable for folding and easy despatch by post, and it should contain only material relevant to Servas. It was also suggested that where possible, it might contain one article in another language with a summary in English, or that national groups might consider making their own selection and translation.

Annual Reports were presented as follows:

Lydia Jones (Africa) described how she had overcome to some extent the problem of African addresses having only post box numbers; three quarters of the hosts had now furnished her with directions for reaching their house. Some, however, did not send replies to travellers' letters, even when they sent reply coupons. She had had no news during the past year from Kenya, Sudan or Sierra Leone; and in some countries, hosts had withdrawn due to adverse conditions which made it impossible for them to continue. She felt that the increasing involvement of young people in Servas was a ground for hope.

Antonie Fried (Europe) said she had been able to keep in touch with most secretaries in her area, and supplied lists to them and to travellers. Political and postal difficulties hindered Servas in some cases; in Cyprus there are two hosts on the Greek side, and one on the Turkish side, but from the latter, one can only travel to Turkey. In Greece itself, there are now six 'daytime hosts', and from this beginning, at least useful contacts may result. In Iceland, there are only two hosts, and one was away this summer. In Malta, Mr Mifsud and Joseph Zammit were both hopeful of finding daytime hosts, but had as yet approved no travellers. There was no news from Helena Gomez in Portugal, but at least one traveller had visited her. Spain has more hosts now, but mostly students and daytime hosts are not available in summer vacation time. Language difficulties hindered correspondence, as was also the case in Hungary. In Bulgaria there were two new daytime hosts, and an American couple had visited them and were enthusiastic about them. The contact in Yugoslavia unfortunately has to begin his military service in September, and was apparently unable to get a visa to come to Denmark.

Masuo Amano (Southeast Asia) read a letter brought by the Korean delegate, who spoke no English, but said they had fifty members in his country, and hoped that travellers would be able to visit them. Mr Amano had no real contacts with Burma, but with Korea there had been a steady exchange of visits. Wong Fuk Lung, the contact in Hong Kong, was ill, but Bernadine Ryan of England was now working there, and might be able to help. Mr Ho of Singapore was unable to continue. An American student of Chinese in Taipeh had been supplied with leaflets about Servas. Jayant Kothari, a new contact in Malaysia, had been temporarily approved.

Marcelo Lorenzo (South America) sent a letter which was read by Graham Thomas, expressing his good wishes for the Conference, and explaining his difficulties in keeping in touch with secretaries in other South American countries, due to postal delays. He thought letters could sometimes be sent with travellers in order to ensure their safe arrival. He also wished that travellers would be more conscientious about sending reply coupons with their requests, and notifying their hosts about change of plans. He wished to be nominated also as delegate to the United Nations conference in Buenos Aires, and as press correspondent to Servas International News.

Barbara Whitehead (Britain) More than 100 travellers were sent out last year, and more than 200 came in. Too few reports were received, but it seemed that most encounters were found interesting and valuable, and hosts in remoter areas were receiving more visitors than in previous years. The working committee met in Birmingham in November, and there were several gatherings of London hosts, and also a weekend gathering of hosts in Scotland. Advertisements in the 'New Internationalist' had brought in over 100 enquiries and 25 new hosts. Group travel was not generally favoured in Britain; it was extremely difficult to find hosts, especially in summer.

Antonie Fried (Germany) There are now 278 hosts, and a greatly increased number of travellers also. Several areas have held meetings of hosts, and it is hoped that some of them will be able to share the work of the National Secretary in 1979, since there is so much international correspondence. A questionnaire about Servas in practice has been sent to 476 hosts and travellers, of whom 270 replied; an evaluation of the results can be sent to those interested.

Harivallabh Parikh (India) Anand Niketan Ashram received in the last two years 125 visitors from twelve different countries; also three groups, from USA, Denmark, and Germany. The Secretary of Servas Mauritius had also visited them, and they were sponsoring two boys and two girls from that country for study at Baroda University. They had sent to this conference a group of 30 Servas India hosts, but difficulties over money and passports and visas were considerable, and they could have wished for better co-operation from Servas International and Servas secretaries in Europe for their journey; requests for sponsoring letters and hospitality were not promptly answered. Such difficulties should be frankly discussed, if we are to be true to the aims of Servas. He wished to thank, however, all those who had been generous and helpful to them.

Alvaro R. Barba (Mexico) There are now 89 hosts, and a new co-ordinator for Mexico City, Mrs Blanca Estela Perez, and two gatherings of hosts have been held there. It is hoped to find more hosts in the provinces, and also a contact in Cuba, by the end of this year.

Martha Simon (U.S.A.) 430 travellers were approved last year, and 326 in the first half of 1978, with an increasing number of older people. There are now 1112 hosts, and 139 other members who help in various ways. A national meeting of key people was held in May 1978 attended by 33 regional co-ordinators, and most areas have meetings of local hosts. There is an increasing unsolicited publicity, and intervisitation amongst USA members is encouraged.

Arne Hansen (Canada) With about 200 hosts, they were glad to be finally getting more visitors. The international money situation has probably affected this the most. They are still having difficulty in getting travel reports, and will consider charging a deposit on lists, refundable only when lists are returned with a travel report, as is the practice in some other countries. Intervisitation of hosts has also been encouraged with some degree of success. Publicity is limited to radio and press news items.

Inger Amundsen (Norway) Only about a dozen travellers went out last year, but many visited Norway, from eleven different countries. The emphasis in Servas should be on meeting people in their homes, and some members felt that if travellers paid for meals, it would enable some to offer open doors who otherwise could not afford to. It was realised that to deal with people you like very much is easy; but to find a way to get on with people you dislike, is training for peace. With a two-day limit, it shouldn't be too hard!

Robert Hulst (Holland, by letter) The number of hosts is steadily growing, and they are trying to promote contacts between hosts and semi-permanent inhabitants of the country coming from abroad for purposes of work or study, they often live very isolated, and need our friendship. Hosts are pleased with Servas International News, are in favour of more work study initiatives, would prefer continental conferences to world ones for practical and economic reasons - but do not like small print used in circular letters!

Birgitte Damsgaard (Denmark) Servas in Denmark continues to grow very fast. In the first six months of this year, 250 travellers went out, more than in the whole of 1977. There are about 135 hosts, but many have had too few visitors, and it is hoped that other groups will encourage their members to visit Denmark. The method of holding a deposit on host lists issued and refunding them only if the lists are returned with a report, has proved very effective; they have had many excellent reports. Useful information has also been obtained by means of a questionnaire sent out to hosts, similar to the one sent out earlier in Canada, in order to find out what hosts felt about the purpose of Servas, and what sort of visitors they found acceptable or otherwise. The Danish questionnaire was later used by the German secretary, and adapted to both hosts and travellers.

9. Annual Reports (continued)

Nora Tibble (New Zealand) The host list is growing fast; at the end of 1977 there were more than 230, all delighted when they are privileged to receive overseas guests. New Zealand travellers, also, are becoming more numerous. Due probably to the economic situation and our remoteness, we have had fewer overseas guests than formerly. Our energetic secretary Nan Smith has appointed an Auckland committee of three as an advisory body, and to handle any contingencies. Nora Tibble has been appointed Peace Secretary to keep New Zealand members informed about peace movements in this country. Two very successful meetings of hosts have been held - one at Taupo, in the centre of the North Island, organised by Nan Smith, and the other in Auckland City, arranged by the local co-ordinators.

Ed Ayer (Burma) A Canadian Servas member with an assignment overseas will naturally hope to awaken enthusiasm for the idea there, but in some countries this is very difficult. Burma is a nationalised country where most people work for the government. Their chief concern is that if they lose their job, they cannot get another one. So they are really afraid, and will avoid taking risks, feeling that if they do nothing, then they can't make a mistake. Servas being a foreign influence, they will have nothing to do with it. Though people themselves are friendly, they are careful not to be seen too often in company with foreigners. Burmese are seldom allowed to leave the country, so have little chance to be travellers, and would not be allowed to have foreigners stay in their homes. There is, however, a considerable foreign element living in Rangoon, who could act as hosts meanwhile, and the uniqueness of Burma makes it attractive to travellers. Even at Prome, 200 miles north of Rangoon, our house was far more popular than our home in Canada for Servas Travellers. The name of a young French couple willing to accept travellers has been given to the international secretary of Servas, to continue hospitality in our place.

Denise Waech (Switzerland) This year, for the first time, we have found four hosts in the south part of Switzerland, and we have now several in the French-speaking part as well. A few years ago we had only 12 hosts, now we have more than 100. I have again sent a short article on Servas to all the Swiss newspapers; several of them printed it, and we have in this way gained a few new hosts and a large number of interested enquirers. Financially, we are not so well off; last year we had only 20 travellers going out, we sent Fr.500 to Servas International and Fr.500 to the travel pool, out of our reserves, which are almost at an end, but we hope to close the year without a deficit nonetheless. In September, we had a host gathering in Zürich, at which about 25 families took part: a short mountain excursion followed by discussion about Servas, led by Mrs Susi Schweizer, who also came to the Denmark conference. This was a very successful gathering. At the end of the year, hosts will send their usual reports to the Secretary, and we expect we shall have had a record number of visitors, even without counting the group from Servas-India.

Alan White (Australia) explained that he and his wife were not official delegates from Servas Australia, but merely travellers who happened to be in Europe at this time. They had greatly appreciated Servas hospitality and wished to thank all those people who had provided cultural exchanges and made their journey unforgettable.

Brief verbal reports were also given by Sylvie Strassner (Austria), Irena Wyrzykowska (Poland), Marie-Elisabeth Daru (France), Benjamin Jeremias (Israel), Salah Aidarous (Egypt), and Lino Canepari (Italy).

In general, the work-study-travel system seemed to be working quite well, but it was suggested that each country should try to have a working committee, or at least an alternative secretary who could be available for travellers' enquiries when the secretary was not at home.

A draft of proposed definitions of the work of executive members was re-
(IIA) viewed. Job descriptions were revised and approved, as follows:

PRESIDENT presides over meetings of Servas International (or arranges for a suitable chairperson); represents Servas, where necessary, to other international bodies; advises the General Secretary if difficulties arise; and keeps broadly informed about the work of the General Secretary and others on the executive committee.

GENERAL SECRETARY, with responsibility to the President, deals with correspondence, collecting information from national groups, and arranging for the circulation of Secretaries' addresses and host lists (two to each secretary or contact) and also records minutes of conferences (or arranges for this.) More specifically, the General Secretary's duties are:

1. To receive, acknowledge and co-ordinate information about existing or potential Servas member country organisations and Servas friends or representatives in other countries.
2. To prepare this information for publication in a Circular Letter at least every three months, composed of material submitted by national members and important administrative information from the President.
3. To purchase stationery supplies, pay postage, and undertake necessary travel to carry out these duties.
4. To receive copies of approved introduction applications from national secretaries who approve travellers coming from countries without a Servas organisation.
5. To obtain complete annual statistics from member country organisations by January 31st of each year, and compile and distribute them.
6. To co-ordinate international conferences to be held biennially in even-numbered years, unless otherwise designated by the preceding International Conference.

TREASURER takes care of the funds of Servas International, collecting contributions from national groups and making necessary payments in consultation with the executive committee. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are authorised to withdraw funds from the Association for its activities upon individual signature of either. Other duties are:-

1. To prepare annual financial reports.
2. To follow up countries able, but failing, to meet their financial commitments to Servas International.
3. To handle requests for financial help by member country secretaries not having the income necessary for postage and other related expenses.
4. To provide initial funds for founding Servas in additional countries as recommended by continental or regional co-ordinators or the General Secretary.
5. To obtain by December 1st of each year from members of executive committee an outline of expenses predicted for the following year.
6. On receipt of adequate information, to prepare annual budgets and keep the General Secretary well informed of the current financial position of the Association and its components.

PEACE SECRETARY keeps in touch with other peace movements and explores the possibilities of co-operation with them, exchanging information etc.

More specific duties are:-

1. To be liaison with other peace organisations.
2. To correspond internationally with other peace organisations in order to keep mutually informed of developments and share publicity.
3. To arrange representation of Servas at Peace Conferences, where possible.
4. To keep generally informed about peace issues in the world.
5. To contribute regular articles to Servas International News.
6. To advise the General Secretary, or others, on peace issues.
7. To encourage the peace function of Servas International and the possible appointment of national Peace Secretaries and provide them with any necessary assistance.

EDITOR, SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS. Duties are as follows:-

1. To receive articles and reports about Servas members, events and experiences.
2. To edit the magazine twice (or more) a year, and preserve its international relevance.
3. To deal with the printer and distribute the magazine to National Secretaries and other countries' Servas representatives.
4. To receive orders and payments (by money order or international postal reply coupons) in advance.
5. To submit expense account to the International Treasurer for each issue.
6. To appoint an Assistant Editor if required.

CONTINENTAL OR REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS keep in touch with national group secretaries and contacts in their area, and help the Secretary to keep information up to date. They may also have conferences between the biennial international conferences, for discussion of problems in their area, and to foster closer co-operation. Specific duties are:-

1. To co-ordinate Servas activities within their region of responsibility.
2. To help develop or sponsor Servas in new countries within the region of responsibility.
3. To maintain close communication with the General Secretary.
4. To provide material for the Servas International News and the Circular Letter.
5. To try to organise regional Servas conferences.
6. Where necessary, to prepare and distribute host lists for their region during January of each year.
7. To implement Servas International policies and procedures and ideals throughout the region.
8. To maintain close positive working relationships with all Secretaries in the region, identifying their needs and assisting in resolving their difficulties.

NOTE: Assistants to Executives are expected to acknowledge questionnaires they receive, perform delegated duties and report the results.

11. (VIIB) Possible revision of Servas International Statutes. For Executives as a whole, our Statutes state: "The Executive Committee shall consist of a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 members, each elected at a General Assembly of members....The Executive Committee shall meet as often as necessary. It can also take decisions by correspondence."

No revision seems necessary at present, since the Statutes permit up to 15 Executives and need not include operational details. If a conference finds revisions necessary, Statutes can be changed by a simple majority vote.

12. (VIIC) Applicability of Universal Principles, Policies and Procedures for all National Servas Groups adopted by the 1972 International Conference: (Underscored words are those used in our Statutes or minor changes made by subsequent conferences such as changes in Executive Titles or dates for Annual Reports and Host Lists.)

1. Definition of Servas.
2. Criteria for approval of Servas travellers with a system for approval of travellers; for obtaining returned host lists with travel reports; and for sending notices to countries visited and to country of traveller's citizenship if different from the approving country.
3. Selection and orientation of suitable hosts and a system for preparing host lists.
4. Responsibility for distributing currently dated and accurate lists of hosts or host co-ordinators to all national Servas secretaries by February 1st of each year.
5. Completion of annual (Jan 1st to Dec 31st) reports, including financial accounts, and submitting to International General Secretary by the following January 31st.

6. Sending news of general interest to the Editor of Servas International News (as often as possible).
7. Distributing Servas International News to local Servas members.
8. Maintaining communication with the Servas International Peace Secretary.
9. Developing public relations for making Servas known within its country; developing working relations with related community organisations; distributing appropriate publicity for recruiting potential hosts, travellers, additional volunteers, and other members.
10. Implementing a system for Servas membership to include people who subscribe to the aims of Servas.
11. Encouraging all returned Servas travellers to work actively for peace and international understanding and the removal of international misunderstanding.
12. Meeting financial commitments to Servas International insofar as possible with a goal of 20% or more of traveller contributions, including the 5% that will go to Continental or Regional Co-ordinators.
13. Utilizing the Servas symbol on stationery.
14. Informing the Servas International General Secretary, Continental or Regional Co-ordinators, of traveller experiences in developing Servas countries and of travellers approved from countries presently lacking Servas.

Differences in expectations for national Servas groups in contrast to National Representatives or Contacts should be recognised flexibly.

To improve the return of traveller reports and host lists, the following suggestions were offered, and accepted as recommendations:-

- a. Secretaries who have been most successful in obtaining travellers' reports and host lists should describe reasons for their success, to help others less successful and develop recommendations.
- b. Refunds for host list deposits should not be given unless a traveller report accompanies the host list.
- c. Uncollected refunds should be donated to Servas International.

13. The following suggestions were accepted for clarification and emphasis:-
VIID)

1. The necessity of Annual Report questionnaires and current host lists must be fully understood. Use of outdated host lists creates difficulties for all. Current lists of Secretaries or Key Contacts with addresses depend on receiving Annual Reports and are required by all Secretaries in order to distribute host lists; information about incoming travellers is needed for determining if a country has sufficient hosts and can be estimated better if approving countries notify the expected receiving countries; Servas needs as many approximately accurate facts as possible in order to evaluate trends and needs; all countries are dependent on each other in order to function effectively.
2. Secretaries or contacts should continuously maintain their files of travellers and hosts, expenses and income, so that related information can be easily completed in early January.
3. The importance of information about traveller experiences in developing countries and approved travellers from countries lacking Servas must be recognised.
4. In instances where English is a problem, Secretaries or contacts should be permitted to use an official language of the United Nations.
5. Reporters must feel free to indicate 'not applicable' for questions that do not apply to them, or indicate 'no opinion' for non-factual questions, and then submit their report rather than remain silent.
6. All countries must designate a Deputy Secretary who can be contacted for reports failing to arrive by Feb. 1st.

- (continued)
7. It will be assumed that if the Secretary or Key Contact for a country fails to report or communicate for two consecutive years, they will have ceased functioning, and will no longer receive mailings. Servas International will then attempt to recruit a responsible replacement.

14. The recommendations on communication within Servas were accepted as follows:

- (VIII)
1. The extent of silence needs to be clarified and can be determined only if we try to supplement Annual Reports by informing Continental or Regional Co-ordinators or the General Secretary the extent of success or failure our travellers have in finding National Secretaries, Key Contacts or representatives to whom they have sent International Reply Coupons.
 2. Registered letters requiring personal signed receipts should be sent by the responsible Executive to National Secretaries or Representatives for whom we lack news in over six months.
 3. The use of long distance telephone calls to silent National Secretaries or Representatives by the responsible Executive merits consideration.
 4. Continental or Regional Co-ordinators, or Secretaries in areas lacking such co-ordinators, should notify the General Secretary each six months (June and December) of National Servas Representatives who cannot be located.
 5. This information should then be included in the next subsequent Circular Letter with a request that Secretaries tell responsible Executive at once of any selected travellers who can visit the silent Representative to determine if he/she is still functioning.
 6. (paragraph deleted)
 7. It is recommended that a simplified form of Servas International News, containing information of general interest from the General Secretary and other items, at the discretion of the Editor, be distributed by the National Secretary or Key Contact to all hosts and travellers free of charge at least twice a year - during April and October.

It was further agreed that Circular Letters should be made easy to read by ensuring adequate space, headings, etc.

15. It was agreed that there was no need for sub-committees.

(VIIF)

16. The growth of Servas was reviewed briefly in the President's report. (VIIG) A few aspects of our growth include the recruitment of Daytime Hosts and designation of Key Contacts, representatives, or other volunteers in the countries lacking organised Servas groups. All such leadership persons, excluding those who object, should be called National Representatives. With only few exceptions, expansion has generally met at least reasonable expectations. Some countries have nearly doubled their number of hosts in the past six years, and have obtained hosts in 'problem' areas.

A decrease or absence of increase of hosts in large countries such as Japan, India or USA may merit discussion. Does lack of steady growth result from lack of travellers? Are there areas in those countries needing more hosts? Nature of host recruitment, if any, in these areas? Kinds of requests to hosts for money etc.?

For geographic expansion needs, the following areas are noted:- Hongkong, Philippines, Portugal, certain regions of USA, the Middle East, the Soviet Union and China, in addition to Austria.

Consideration should be given to our possible need to focus on additional ways to spread our ideals. Selectivity and orientation of travellers and hosts can help. Suggestions by our Peace Secretary regarding work with other organisations, supplemented by our willingness and procedures for hosting delegates to Peace-related conferences requires further consideration.

(VIIH) Paragraph was deleted

Emblem on a postcard, by means of a small machine he carries with him, kindly undertook to supply suitable plastic adhesive Servas emblems free of charge, for use as badges, luggage labels, etc.

18. In re-stating Servas aims, it was agreed that future publications should replace the word 'non-political' with 'non-governmental'.
(VIIK)
19. Regarding host lists, it was agreed that the present format was satisfactory, but a heavy grade of paper should not be used. The need for a map, clarity of name of country and date, were emphasised. Alvaro Barba's offer to experiment with the use of a computer to help produce lists was accepted.
(VIIIC)
20. Recommendations regarding problems relating to travellers and hosts were re-affirmed as follows:-
(VIII E & F)
- "The vast majority of travellers have been well selected and briefed. Because of a very few past experiences, we feel that the Secretary in a country where a traveller commits a very grave offence has the responsibility to remove all lists and to cancel the approval (if possible after consultation with other committee members or nearby hosts.) He/she should immediately contact the Secretary in the country of original approval and notify all other Secretaries concerned. In this period of rapid expansion, caution is important, and should be maintained. Hosts who have received such a traveller should keep the traveller's approved application and host lists upon agreement with the local Secretary."
- It was agreed to leave to the discretion of each country to deal with unsuitable hosts or travellers by keeping records if desired.
21. The recommended Traveller Request postcard or form, it was felt, would be improved by adding a space for 'Languages spoken' and indicating at the top of the form 'PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!'
(VIIID)
22. The election of officers for 1978-1980 was carried out by a secret ballot supervised by two non-delegate conference participants.
(XII)

The following were elected unopposed:-

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| President | Graham Thomas |
| Treasurer | Doris Bucher |
| S.I.N. Editor | Donald Fawcett |
| Asst. Treasurer | Denise Waech |

The following positions were filled by ballot (unsuccessful nominees names being shown in parenthesis):-

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| General Secretary | Barbara Whitehead (Reva King) |
| Vice-President | Martha Simon (Don Fawcett and Denise Waech) |
| Asst. Gen. Sec. | Reva King (Denise Waech and Inger Amundsen) |
| Peace Secretary | Konrad Lübbert (Graham Thomas) |

Regional Co-ordinators were appointed as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Africa: | Lydia Jones |
| Europe: | Antonie Fried |
| South America: | Marcelo Lorenzo |
| South Pacific: | John and Judy Ebner |
| Southeast Asia: | Masuo Amano |
| Southern Asia: | Harivallabh Parikh |

(Southern Asia was defined as including the following countries:-
India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Iran and Burma.)

- with regard to standardisation of paper sizes, it was agreed that
- (X) wherever possible, paper size A4 (or its half-size A5) should be used for communications between groups in different countries. Lists should be made on white paper in black type, so that they can be duplicated without re-typing. Postal costs should be kept at a minimum, and our travellers used as couriers wherever possible.
24. Maris Golding has now completed and sent several copies of a typescript, (XIA) 'Servas - the first 25 Years' - and these will be circulated amongst Secretaries. The General Secretary was requested to send a warm letter of appreciation to Maris Golding for her great efforts in producing this record. It is not known as yet whether further copies will be available.
25. Representatives in jeopardy: it was reported that in Burma, any indigenous (XIB) hosts would be in jeopardy, and the same might well be true of other countries. It was also reported that in almost all the African countries, recipients of letters would not like to have 'Servas' written on the exterior of envelopes. Printed matter could still be sent to Poland without danger, but was confiscated in some other countries. It might be desirable to circulate a list of countries where special precautions were necessary.
26. Date and Place of next Conference: on the understanding that the Govern- (XIII) ment would admit delegates from all countries, the invitation of Harivallabh Parikh for the 1980 conference to be held in India was accepted. The date of arrival of delegates would be 27th December 1980, and the departure from the conference on 1st January 1981. Harivallabh explained that delegates would be required to pay their fare to Bombay only, after which a Committee of Servas India would be responsible for transport to the conference. There is accommodation at Anand Niketan for 100 persons, and there would be no charge for meals and residence. Harivallabh was thanked for his kind and generous invitation.
27. Votes of thanks were recorded to Reva King for her six years of energetic work as President of Servas International, and to Birgitte Damsgaard for her accomplishment of the complicated task of arranging for the conference in Denmark.

Eric Tibble
Barbara Whitehead } Minute-takers.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE CONFERENCE

Parallel sessions, including excursions, discussions and some singing and dancing, were conducted by Jo Graham for the enjoyment of those present but not participating in the Delegate Assembly.

Discussions were mainly about host-traveller relationships, and stressed the need for better instruction of travellers when setting out, for prompt handing to hosts of the letter of introduction, and more careful interviewing of both hosts and travellers, so that both realised the necessity of allowing time for conversation with each other. The aim of Servas was enabling people to meet and discuss, and more insistence on 'reporting back' would help to find out how far this was in fact happening.

On the eve of the conference, an address was given by Mr David David, a staff member of the International People's College, telling the gathering about the origins of the Folk High School movement in Denmark, the vision of its founder, Bishop Grundtvig, in the 19th century, and the great contribution it had made to adult education in Scandinavia. Peter Manniche, the founder of the College at Elsinore, had extended this vision to provide international courses, to which for many years people had come from all over the world.

The following afternoon, August 16th, participants attended an official reception at Marienlyst Castle, after which visits were made to the Town Museum, the Carmelite Monastery, and the Church of St Mary, where Buxtehude used to play the organ, and concerts are often held in the evenings. Helsingør (Elsinore) is a charming old town, and it was indeed a pity that for most of us, time did not allow us to explore it more thoroughly.

That same evening, Chester Graham gave us a fine address on the theme "Servas helping to create a more Livable World." He told of his introduction to the Folk High Schools by a Danish friend in 1916, and his meeting with Bob Luitweiler, the founder of Servas. He had seen the development of the League of Nations, the United Nations, the multi-national corporations, and how the increasing interdependence of nations had resulted in the European Economic Community, the Organisation of African Unity, and the Organisation of American States, until, as Albert Einstein put it, "the splitting of the atom changed everything in the world - except our thinking!" - and human needs were neglected in order to spend four hundred billion dollars a year on military defence. There was an urgent need for creative and constructive communication - 'The Living Word' as Grundtvig called it - and for ending the waste of our natural resources and the suicidal struggle for power, and achieving instead, international legislation, and a world-oriented attitude of mind to respect and support it. Servas clearly has a task of spreading ideas of service and co-operation, ideas which will help realise this vision, and 'build eternity in time.'

This talk was followed by an interesting and most delightful colour film, presented by Harivallabh Parikh, depicting development in the 300 villages surrounding his ashram in India, from aboriginal poverty and disunity, to communal peace and prosperity. The villagers were shown at work, at the People's Court settling their differences, and in their beautiful folk costumes, displaying their creativity in handcrafts and dances.

The following evening, August 17th, an Inter-faith service, conducted by the Reverend Preben Formann in the nearby modern church of Vestervang, was well attended by Conference participants, and afterwards, at the College, the pastor visited us, and there was an interesting informal discussion on the various experience of God in different faiths.

On August 18th, the close of the Conference was celebrated with a most enjoyable dance, conducted by a group of friends from Servas Denmark with folk instruments, and they also showed us a serious comical film called 'Sulvogen', depicting the remarkable Christmas demonstration of three years ago in Copenhagen. Afterwards, the dancing continued until four o'clock in the morning, and a surprising number of participants were still able to participate, which says much for the rejuvenating influence of those tireless musicians!

Our heartfelt thanks are due to Birgitte Damsgaard, and her good friends Bent, Kirsti, Inger and Ruth, who helped so much with the office work and hospitality, to ensure the success of our largest international conference.

Eric Tibble and Barbara Whitehead.