

MINUTES OF 18th SERVAS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - DOMUS PACIS, ROMA, ITALIA

Friday, 16 May 1986

Following a pre-conference meeting of the Executive Committee, the conference opened with a dinner attended by more than 120 delegates, members of Servas Italia, and other hosts and observers.

After dinner, Luigi Uslenghi welcomed all those attending. Danilo Dolci was introduced as speaker, Danilo challenged Servas to be a positive force for peace by making a positive attack on key problems of the world - problems whose solution or elimination could lead to the elimination of any perceived need for armaments, and thus to disarmament.

Saturday, 17 May 1986 Morning Session 0900
Presiding - Don Fawcett, Servas International President

1. The president welcomed all those present and announced the theme of the conference: Servas and the International Year of Peace.
2. The president introduced the Executive Committee.
3. The president called the roll of member national groups. There were delegates present from 25 of the 34 national groups.
4. The president addressed the group on what inspires Servas volunteer work in more than 80 countries. We were reminded of the value of the experience of hosting and traveling. We should only have more hosts or travelers where the individual understands the responsibilities and opportunities Servas provides. Growth should be through a self-selection process of finding those in concert with our aims and purposes - all designed to build peace.

We need to operate through consensus, but this should not be the consensus of unanimous agreement which can be a tyranny of anarchy, nor the consensus of the majority rule, but through the consensus of group solidarity.

In its own way, Servas can help to build a new citizenship of the world.

5. Maria Soresina extended a special welcome from Servas Italia to non-delegates and explained the alternate program and activities for them.
6. Servas Italia explained the budget for the conference and the way the individual charge was determined.
7. Ulla Offer, Berlin, extended a special welcome to our guests from Eastern Europe.
8. Kay Lazarus presented the Report of the General Secretary. She reminded us of the extent of work that has been going forward during the three years since the last conference in Nahariya and how we have grown to some 6,000 hosts who experience a total of about 25,000 annual visits.
9. There were several announcements and the meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m.
10. The conference reassembled at 10:55 to consider the business of this session.
11. Eligibility to vote was considered. Proposed - delegates and members of the executive committee are voting members of this conference. Adopted: 18 for, 3 against, 1 abstention. As a result; there were 21 eligible delegates present, 14 eligible members of the Executive Committee present. With four duplications; there were 31 eligible votes present.
12. Minutes of the 17th Servas International Conference held in Nahariya, Israel, April 5-10, 1983 were approved as amended: Page 1, Mexico delegate - Felix Zurita Ochoa Page 10, Regional Coordinator Rodrigue Aristide represents Central America and Caribbean.
13. There was a unanimous vote of thanks to the compilers of those minutes.
14. Peter Brock presented the Treasurer's Report. He commented on the effect of introduction of the traveler stamp and the resulting improvement in uniformity of financial support for Servas International. The Report was adopted unanimously.

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15. Regional Coordinator reports were received: Africa - written report from Graham Thomas; Southern Asia - presented by Harivallabh Parikh; Central America and Caribbean - presented by Rodrigue Aristide; Europe and Near East - presented by Antonie Fried; South America - presented by Jorge Zoppolo; East Asia - written report from Takashi Aoki; South Pacific - written report from E. A. Young.
16. Jo Graham presented the report of the Peace Secretary.
17. Denise Waech reported on SIN. (co-editor Janine Hall unable to attend)
18. Reva King presented the report on Servas activities at the United Nations.
19. Don Fawcett reported on the work of the Committee to Revise the Servas International Handbook, appointed by the 17th Servas International conference. Proposed draft revisions were distributed.
20. The meeting recessed for lunch at 1245.
21. The meeting resumed at 1540.
22. Phyllis Christian of Antigua was unanimously recognized as a voting delegate for this conference. With the arrival of delegates from Austria and Portugal, there were 24 delegates eligible to vote, plus 14 members of the Executive Committee. With four duplications, there were 34 eligible voters present.
23. The proposal to delete the list of sponsors from the letterhead was discussed. There was a compromise proposal that sponsors be continued but not be required on Servas International letterhead. The proposal was adopted unanimously.
24. There was discussion of a proposal that Servas International letterhead show that we have been given consultative status as an NGO (nongovernmental organization) at the United Nations through ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council). The proposal was approved unanimously.
25. There was extensive discussion about how to handle the expense for Host List production and mailing. Proposal - that Servas International reimburse for all costs of production, printing and distribution of Host Lists was rejected. 1 for, 29 against, 4 abstentions.
It was recognized that the existing system of international reimbursing for the cost of reproducing Host Lists of another country is to continue with requests for such to be presented to the treasurer for approval by the Executive Committee.
26. The distribution of SIN was considered. It was recognized that Servas statistics are not distributed on such a current basis that they can be used to determine the number of copies needed. The editor(s) will seek such information from the national contacts.
There was a reported need for articles for SIN in non-English languages and all were encouraged to contribute such material.
27. There was a brief recess at 1700.
28. The meeting resumed at 1725.
29. The proposal to produce a Servas International Information Sheet in each national language was discussed. These are available through the International General Secretary.
30. The Servas International Stamp system and the charge for the stamp in the future was discussed. Various budget projections were considered and discussed. These projections indicated continuing the present charge of Swiss F 10 might produce a substantial surplus in the future.
31. The meeting adjourned for the day at 1832.

Sunday, 18 May 1986

1. The conference re-convened at 0903.
The various reports received on the first day were accepted as received.
2. There was extensive discussion of our activities at the United Nations and the proper breadth of these activities. It was suggested that the Executive Committee give careful consideration to this area of activity. It was proposed that Servas International continue the present level of activity at the U.N. This proposal was adopted: 21 for, 0 against.

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3. The Danish proposal concerning voting by mail was introduced and laid over for action the following day.
4. The draft revision of the SI Handbook was noted and delegates were asked to present any suggestions in writing. The further revision work will be done by mail after the conference. Barbara Whitehead was especially commended for her work on this committee. Barbara Whitehead, Maria Soresina and E.K. Narter-Olaga were appointed to continue this work. It was proposed that the Handbook be divided in three sections:
 - (1) International Conference Procedures
 - (2) Interviewing
 - (3) National Groups
5. Proposed changes in Host Lists were discussed. It was agreed that these suggestions should be incorporated in every Host List:
 - (1) The cover should show the name of the country in English and optionally, in the language(s) of the country;
 - (2) The cover should show the date the Host List was issued and the expected date of the next list or supplement;
 - (3) The listing for the individual host should indicate the sex of each host.
6. The proposal for a central distribution point in Europe was examined. There was indicated need for this but no national organization presently has the ability to handle this.
7. The meeting adjourned for the day at 1010.

Monday, 19 May 1986

1. The meeting opened at 0900 with several announcements.
2. Takashi Aoki, Secretary Japan, was recognized as present and eligible to vote, resulting in 25 delegates eligible, 14 Executive Committee members, less 4 duplicates, so 35 eligible votes were present at the conference.
3. After considerable discussion of the method of handling subsidy for expenses of attending international conference, it was proposed:

The present system for handling subsidy for the expense of attending a Servas International Conference by Executive Committee members and Delegates be retained. Adopted: 30 for; 1 against; 0 abstention
4. The proposed amendment of SI Statutes to have international conferences every three years was adopted. 27 for; 0 no; 1 abstention.

"Delegates of the member groups, and members of the Executive Committee, shall meet in general assembly every three years to draw up the programme of activities, to adopt the reports of the association's officers, and to elect the Executive Committee. An individual attending in more than one capacity shall have only one vote."
5. The stamp plan for financing Servas International should be continued. Adopted: 27 for; 0 against; 0 abstention.
6. Proposal - The value of the stamp should be set for the next three years, subject to revision in value by the Executive Committee. Adopted: 26 for; 0 against; 0 abstention.
7. Proposal - The value of the stamp should be set at the equivalent of 5 Swiss Francs. Adopted: 14 for; 12 against; 3 abstentions.
8. The meeting was recessed at 1045.
9. The meeting resumed at 1115.
10. There was extensive discussion of the role of the Regional Coordinator and it was recognized that they carry three essential roles:
 - (1) Available to provide advice and support to National Secretaries;
 - (2) Develop new national organizations;
 - (3) Secure hosts and publish host lists for sparsely developed areas.

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11. There was further consideration of the number of geographic areas and geographic boundaries of these areas for Regional Coordinator assignment.

The proposal - That the Central America and Caribbean Region be divided into two regions: (1) Caribbean, and (2) Mexico and Central America - was defeated.

10 for; 11 against; 0 abstentions - after the President cast the deciding negative vote.

12. The discussion of the Peace Secretary Report and possible actions were laid over to the Tuesday session.

13. Denmark presented a proposal that all questions to be decided at an international conference be presented at such an advance date that the proposal could be discussed in advance by each national organization. There was consensus not to require such action but to suggest that the General Secretary request such in each annual report.

A substitute proposal:

"There is consensus that national organizations be encouraged to present agenda issues for consideration by all other national organizations well in advance of the International Conference so that the issues can be considered by each national organization. These issue papers should be sent to the General Secretary for forwarding to all national organizations. The General Secretary is instructed to solicit such possible agenda papers on a regular basis."

The proposal was presented and adopted: 29 for; 0 against; 1 abstention.

14. The financial reports for years 1983, 1984, and 1985 were reviewed and affirmed.

15. The proposed Statute Revisions numbered 2, 3, 4, and 5 were considered and adopted as presented in the advance papers. (See text attached.)

16. A question was raised as to the proper basis for voting. The President reminded the Conference that the majority of those voting on a question determine the issue.

17. The proposal that a 40th Anniversary History be published was discussed. There was strong support for such a project. It was recognized that considerable effort would be needed to gather the records of the early years and to search the memories of early participants and that such should be done soon if it is to be effective.

A committee composed of Barbara Whitehead, chair, Duncan Meikle, Patricia Knowles, and a fourth member to be identified by Netherlands was asked to prepare a plan and a budget for this project and to submit these to the Executive Committee for approval.

18. The session recessed at 1310 to allow time for a discussion session with representatives from Eastern Europe.

19. The session resumed at 1540.

20. A period of intensive exploration of ways to improve the host-traveler experience and discussion as to how each national organization could better support this effort continued for some time. There was particular concern that travelers are approved who do not understand and appreciate the goals of Servas. This concern focused on the belief by several delegates that the only way to accomplish this would be through careful and personal interview with each potential traveler. Particular attitudes expressed by delegates included:

Australia - a traveler not interviewed will not be received;

Netherlands - recruiting through "mass media" only promotes a "cheap tourist" attitude and we must stick to person-to person recruiting with a thorough interview as the final step;

U.S. - an interview cannot be a guaranteed process but it should be a learning process for the prospective traveler;

Japan - bad experiences with a traveler cause loss of good host members.

The discussion considered many ideas about how to improve this situation and several draft proposals were presented, each putting stress on the need for the personal interview, with some recognition that there could be exceptions. After several versions

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were considered, the meeting reached agreement on this proposal:

"A personal interview of every prospective Servas traveler who has no previous Servas experience should be the accepted general practice of all national Servas organizations. Those not presently following this practice are to start to change within the next year." Adopted: 21 for; 0 against; 9 abstentions.

21. The meeting recessed for the day at 1815.

Tuesday, 20 May, 1986

1. The meeting opened at 0930 with several announcements.

2. The problem of vacancies on the Executive Committee between international conferences was discussed. It was considered necessary to have a process to fill vacant positions where that position has no assistant who would automatically succeed to the vacant position. This proposal was adopted:

"If the position of Area Coordinator, Peace Secretary or Treasurer (when there is no elected Assistant Secretary) becomes vacant more than six months before a General Assembly, the vacancy may be filled by appointment by the President in consultation with the General Secretary."

Approved: 28 for; 1 against; 2 abstentions.

3. Netherlands delegate suggested the adoption of a prohibition of any use of "mass media" to promote Servas. This prompted some intense discussion with various points of view expressed from concern that we must find ways to reach more people and examples of selected uses that proved positive for Servas to the disturbing results of having Servas mentioned in totally unacceptable publications with no prompting by Servas and no way Servas could control this. This proposal resulted:

"It is recommended that all national Servas organizations are to avoid using "mass media" to promote Servas."

Adopted: 19 for; 3 against; 6 abstentions.

4. Election of officers proceeded as follows:

General Secretary

Antonie Fried	32 votes	elected
Vibeke Matorp	2	

President

Don Fawcett	23 votes	elected
Ruben Jhorth	7	
Duncan Meikle	withdrew	

Assistant General Secretary

Yvonne Brown	21 votes	elected
Denise Waech	7	
Vibeke Matorp	6	

Vice President

Duncan Meikle	17 votes	
Maria Soresina	14	
Denise Waech	3	
Lino Bugeja	withdrew	
Reva King	withdrew	

Because no candidate received a majority (more than half) of the votes, a second vote between the two with the highest number of votes was held.

Vice President (run-off)

Duncan Meikle	18 votes	elected
Maria Soresina	16	

Treasurer

Peter Brock	elected by acclamation	
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Tuesday, 20 May 1986 continued, item 4. Election of officers continued

Co-Editors SIN

Denmark - Frede Asgaard 19 elected

- Ulla Warrer
- Merete Soerensen

Israel - Rachel Tadmbr 14
- Judy Schotten

Peace Secretary Reva King 17 votes elected
Edith Sommer 14

3 abstentions

Regional Coordinator - Central America and Caribbean
Felix Zurita Ochoa 26 votes elected

Rodrigue Aristide 6
2 abstentions

Regional Coordinator - Europe
Ulla Offer 19 votes elected

Maria Soresina 15

All others were elected by acclamation as follows:

Regional Coordinator Africa E. K. Narter-Olaga
East Asia Takashi Aoki
South Asia Harivallabh Parikh
South Pacific Tom and Annie Young
South America Jorge Zoppolo

5. The meeting recessed at 1315.

6. The meeting reconvened at 1515.

7. Rodrigue Aristide proposed the admission of Guadeloupe as a national group. Since its application showed more than 30 hosts and otherwise appeared in order, the admission was approved unanimously.

9. Reva King presented a proposal that Servas sponsor an international study group to Russia with primary purposes of making Servas known in Russia and promoting contact with peace groups in Russia. After some discussion as to whether such a project could work and whether it was a proper way in which to employ the effort and enthusiasm of members, this proposal was considered:

"Servas should authorize and encourage formation of a multinational study group to go to the USSR as a Servas activity."

The Proposal was rejected: 5 for; 12 against; 8 abstentions.

10. Reva King announced that consideration would be given to possible use of the Jack Zomick Memorial Fund as financial support for the Servas History Project.

11. Questions were raised as to the exact definition of a "Servas member", especially as to travelers. President Fawcett reminded the meeting that a previous conference had recommended that a traveler be considered a member for one year.

12. Distribution of SIN was discussed. It was suggested that the editors provide that number of copies requested by national secretaries.

13. Kay Lazarus, International Secretary, announced the first Servas host in China.

14. The encouragement of the study and use of Esperanto was discussed. One particular advantage of being involved in Esperanto study is that this is an accepted reason to be allowed to travel outside one's own country (i.e. to attend Esperanto conference in another country) by many governments that would not otherwise allow such travel.

15. Invitations to host the next international conference in 1989 were sought. Denmark made a conditional invitation to host at the Askov Folk School in July. This is the site of the original Servas organizational meeting almost 40 years ago and would provide a unique way to celebrate the 40th anniversary. Canada also extended a conditional invitation for May or June at a site in eastern Canada.

8. H. Parikh proposed admission of Nepal as a national group. Discussion indicated that Nepal met requirements so the application was approved unanimously.

LEGATES OF 18th SERVAS CONFERENCE, MAY 1986

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Australia | Ina Dallas |
| 2. Austria | Rita WEISS |
| 3. Belgium | Marc Struyf |
| 4. Canada | Duncan Meikle |
| 5. Denmark | Ruben Hjorth |
| 6. England/Scotland/Wales | Sidney Hill |
| 7. France | Marie-Elisabeth Daru |
| 8. W. Germany | Horst Brechtelsbauer |
| 9. Ghana | E.K. Narter-Olaga |
| 10. India | Harivallabh Parikh |
| 11. Ireland | Luke Plunkett |
| 12. Israel | Benjamin Jeremias |
| 13. Italy | Fabrizio Piccinini |
| 14. Malta | Lino Bugeja |
| 15. Mexico | Felix Zurita Ochoa |
| 16. New Zealand | Yvonne Brown |
| 17. Norway | Inger Amundsen |
| 18. Portugal | Michael DANIEL |
| 19. Spain | Miguel Angel Sarralde |
| 20. Sweden | Theodor Katz |
| 21. Switzerland | Denise Waech |
| 22. United States | Thelma Brown |
| 23. Uruguay | Roberto Zoppolo |
| 24. Antigua | Phyllis Christian |
| 25. Japan | Takashi Aoki |
| 26. Netherlands | Rob van BAvel |
| 27. Korea | Jal Ryang-Eum |
| 28. Guadeloupe | Rodrigue Aristide |

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16. Servas Italia received the thanks and appreciation of the entire group of conference attenders for their fine work in making possible such an excellent conference. Records available indicate there were at least 161 who participated in the conference (39 from Executive Committee or Delegates and 122 observers). Italy provided 50 participants and there were 28 from the U.S.A.

17. The conference adjourned at 1645.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, effective 20 May 1986

GENERAL SECRETARY	ANTONIE FRIED	GERMANY
ASST. GEN. SECRETARY	YVONNE BROWN	N.Z.
PRESIDENT	DON FAWCETT	U.S.A.
VICE PRESIDENT	DUNCAN MEIKLE	CANADA
TREASURER	PETER BROCK	GERMANY
EDITOR <u>SIN</u>	FREDE ASGAARD	DENMARK
COORDINATOR EUROPE	ULLA OFFER	GERMANY
AFRICA	E.K. NARTER-OLAGA	GHANA
EAST ASIA	TAKASHI AOKI	JAPAN
SOUTH ASIA	HARIVALLABH PARIKH	INDIA
SOUTH PACIFIC	TOM & ANNIE YOUNG	N.Z.
CENTRAL AMERICA		
& CARRIBBEAN	FELIX ZURITA ACHOA	MEXICO
SOUTH AMERICA	JORGE ZOPPOLO	URUGUAY
CO-OPTED MEMBERS	REVA KING	U.S.A.
	MARIA SORESINA	ITALY
	BARBARA WHITEHEAD	ENGLAND