

## Servas International Meeting 1992 June 26

*in France*

President Bob Lutweiler made introductory remarks welcoming 49 delegates, official observers and unofficial observers. The group welcomed as new members and formal voting delegates (ten or more hosts) Thailand; Turkey; Hong Kong; Lithuania; Latvia; Panama and Romania; and deleted Nigeria; Philippines; Zambia and Sri Lanka (less than 10 hosts). Mali and Singapore were welcomed as new active groups; and Egypt treated as a special case to be able to vote.

-Fictional lists have been made by groups in order to become members of Servas. This problem is to be discussed later: The breaking up of the USSR leaves us to decide which countries become individual members.

The delegates then all introduced themselves. After some discussion three groups reported on:

### 1) Orientation of Travellers:

- a) All to be familiar with International Handbook
- b) Travellers to be trained by interviewer
- c) References definite
- d) Hosts should continue training
- e) References should be from Servas member, professional; etc.
- f) Information on culture.
- g) Problem with "quick" travellers; those who want to be a traveller within one day
- h) Hopeless to cover every issue
- i) Spain- travel once and then should host
- j) Speak about other organizations and tolerance
- k) EXCO to tell what each country does and compile for handbook

Each group has its own problems and must handle individually. Felix from Mexico offered his home to orient travel interviewers and host interviewers.

### 2) Host Interview Orientation

- a) How introduced to Servas
- b) Host keep letter of introduction for security and returns when traveller leaves
- c) Be definite with notice required
- d) Keep in touch with other hosts and refer if unable to host
- e) Reject gracefully if unsure of suitability as host
- f) Tell about regular gettogether if there are any
- g) Set house rules and regulations for individual hosts to do
- h) SIN or national newsletters to have articles for host problems
- i) Personal references where possible
- h) Host continue to educate traveller
- i) Day host possibilities
- j) Report problems in writing
- k) Personal interview wherever possible

- 3) Improving Host Lists  
(Taken from two groups)
  - 1) New lists only every two years with supplements
  - 2) Family & home exchanges were rejected by the conference
  - 3) List "discriminations" should be made in a positive rather than negative way
  - 4) More definite & precise information in host lists
  - 5) Better introductions at beginning of host lists, i.e. how to use telephone, abbreviations, transportation, etc.
  - 6) End of host lists have indices:
    - a) List of towns where hosts are
    - b) List of ccordinators & helpers
    - c) List of special offers: handicap, etc.
  - 7) Annual re-registration
  - 8) Size of book & kind of paper: further discussion needed
  - 9) Numbering of hosts for future with computerization
  - 10) Maps where hosts important
  - 11) "Le" letter of exchange: Brazil does this

#### NOTES ON SECOND DAY OF SERVAS CONFERENCE June 27, 1992

##### Morning session

Summary of the reports of the two study groups were made.

- 1) Many lists can be made every two years with a yearly supplement
- 2) Family exchange & house exchange will not be included in the list
- 3) Discrimination on lists should be put in a positive way
- 4) Annual reregistration important
- 5) Size of the host book is important
- 6) Summarize special offers listed in the back of the host book
- 7) Numbering of the host list for convenience
- 8) Maps showing host locations if address sketchy
- 9) No tourist information in preface but basic phone & transportation info. & summary of ethnic/cultural groups in the country
- 10) End of host book alphabetical list, maybe very small print
- 11) Local ccordinator better indicated
- 12) Map with host locations
- 13) International Handbook, p. 13 should include
  - a) abreviations for new hosts
  - b) " " for who wants more travellers

##### COST OF HOST LISTS

There are problems with some countries being <sup>um</sup>able to finance their lists, people who do not get enough lists and others who do not get lists on time. Some countries do not have enough money to pay for them.

Travelers must understand that they are only borrowing the lists. No one can buy them.

It is complicated to figure out the cost of mailing lists as many lists are printed & not used or recycled. Lists could be left in a big city (i.e. the >London Center) so that they can be reused by future travellers. The person giving in the list could be issued a receipt and receive their deposit from their own country.

A program could be set up that will improve the present system that may have to be modified as we go along. Sending money refund to foreign traveller is a problem because of the exchange rate. Not every country has a problem with host lists, but since some do, there may have to be two systems set up

Alternatives to Servas prepared by SERVAS Canada will be sent to anyone who sends their money and request for the list to the Canadian National secretary.

#### REPORT BY GROUP ONE

##### PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION OF HOST LISTS

- 1) Countries be responsible for printing of their own countries's list
- 2) A few copies can be sent air mail immediately after printing. At this time, ask how many additional copies are needed.
- 3) A small working committee can be set up here at the conference to discuss new technologies & to make recommendations to the next international conference.
- 4) Costs must be born by the traveller
- 5) Countries that can afford to pay for the lists will continue & those that cannot, Servas International will pay for them.
- 6) Servas International must have sufficient funds to pay for this and an increase in the international stamp should be made from 5 Swiss francs to 15 Swiss francs

##### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GROUP TWO

This group agreed with all those recommendations made by Group One with the following additions:

- 1) The national secretary should reduce the number of lists
- 2) Some countries could get one list & make their own copies.
- 3) Lists can be sent to an area coordinator who distributes them. If this fails then the national secretary should take over.
- 4) All lists should be sent in February with exceptions for the "Down under" countries who are on the reverse season.
- 5) Some lists should be sent by air mail & some by sea. Countries could check with their postal service to ask about bulk rate reductions.
- 6) Lists should be returned within 1 or 2 months or no refund.
- 7) Stress that travellers not take too many lists

##### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GROUP THREE

- 1) The costs of the lists must be taken by the travellers.
- 2) A raise in fees to be put on 2 levels:
  - a) A country with more than 30 travellers pays 10 Swiss francs
  - b) A country with less than 30 pays only 5 Swiss francs.
- 3) One original list sent to each National secretary
- 4) Smaller countries can get together to collate lists and distribute as a group.
- 5) The treasurer is to recommend to EXCO how many travellers are being sent from each country.
- 6) Hosts could be asked to give money to their National committee to help defray the costs.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS BY GROUP FOUR

- 1) Users of the lists should pay for them & host list accounting should be made and these books balanced at the end of the year.
- 2) Countries to avoid wastage, must get their account of numbers required.
- 3) Computerization is good but most countries not ready for this.
- 4) The majority agreed with the proposals of group One.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS BY GROUP FIVE

- 1) The majority agreed with the recommendations of Group One and two.
- 2) A group inquiry should be made to the use of computers.
- 3) All countries should prepare & produce their own lists & Servas international should pay for them by raising the stamp money. It should be a standard fee and not 2 fees.
- 4) Every country should raise their stamp fee & countries with a large number of travellers would be helping those like India who send out few travellers.
- 5) A deposit for a list should be charged even if only a few pages are torn out for use.
- 6) A regional list was suggested but thought to be too unworkable.
- 7) A central production agency to produce all lists would be good in a computerized system later on.
- 8) A lighter weight paper could cut down costs but not be able to be reused.
- 9) Each country could try to gauge how many lists they need & travellers could contact a coordinator later on in their travels, or take information down from a coordinator & thereby not need the whole list.

#### GROUP WHITE PAPER COMMITTEE

This group has prepared 27 proposals listed for participants' inspection. Number 12 creates a computer group to get a standardized system in process by the year 2000. Information is to be put on discs but the same system will be needed. It would also standardize the host lists because the administrative work is becoming overwhelming.

saturday pm

*Authority of the Act*

#### PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Exco is a co-ordinating committee. They do not have the authority to tell national offices how to function. However, sometimes countries move away from the Servas approach; what should Servas International do then? For example, in one country a Servas host has to have a nice house; in another there were complaints that people were rejected from the organisation without explanation. In other countries there is corruption with national secretaries asking for gifts or money. It was suggested that Servas International should have the right to do something in such circumstances. It was suggested that it should be the members of Servas within the countries concerned who should approach Servas International, having first tried to solve the problem internally. However, this is not always easy; in some cases communication between members within a particular country may not be well developed, in one case the National Secretary having all his friends in Servas, there was no one to report on his activities.

It was suggested that the problem could be seen as having two aspects. Firstly, problems with the National Secretary; secondly, problems of conflict between the travellers and hosts. In the case of the latter the problems should be dealt with at National level, if not easily resolved then perhaps the Peace Secretaries should step in and make peace.

HOST LIST : proposals following meeting of note takers and chairs.

The meeting then moved back to the question of the cost of host lists discussed in the morning session and the presentation of two proposals.

1. A proposal, inspired by the Mexico delegation's suggestions and that previously made by Hazel Barham, that a balance be sought between the costs of lists sent out and those asked for. The cost estimates would be based on the costs of production of lists in the previous year and on the number of lists asked for by each country. The aim would be to balance the amount spent on production and distribution with the amount of host lists received, so that those who had fewer travellers than they received would be reimbursed by SIN, while those who had more travellers would contribute more via SIN. The balance would be calculated by the International Treasurer. Initial statistics on the previous year's costs could be submitted at the same time as the submission of the number of books required. The extra revenue to enable this balancing of the accounts would come from an increase in stamp prices. Hazel has spoken to people since last year and is no longer sure that this is the best solution; people seem to prefer a modification of the existing system to a new one.

2. A second proposal was that every country should print as many lists as is required, as at present, but that Servas International raise the price of the stamp. The increased revenue from stamps would enable those who need the extra money to ask for it. It had been estimated that it is necessary to raise the cost of the stamp by 5 SF to stand still, but if it was raised to 15 SF it may help pay for the books for 3 years.

It was generally accepted that the cost of the stamp under both systems would need to be raised. It was suggested that raising the stamp would have the added advantage of being able to use the extra revenue for other purposes if not used on the host lists.

The discussion then progressed to whether expenditure and income were being mixed up. To know whether the system would work it was necessary to know how the figures were calculated. It was felt that too many things were being mixed up in the balance to be able to relate a specific increase in the price of the stamp with the amount needed for the payment of the host lists. Furthermore, it was difficult to estimate future expenditure from past expenditure, for example, computers were bought last year, which were very expensive, but it is unlikely that they will be bought next year. It was therefore agreed that further examination of the budget was necessary.

#### BUDGET PRESENTATION

The major expenses of Servas are the international conferences, then the regional conferences, then the newsletter. Furthermore, in 1991 the USA spent \$12,000 on photocopying other countries' lists because they felt that they had not received sufficient quantities. The sum requested by them is now \$18,000, which has to be added to the expenditure figures. This point was questioned by the South American coordinator. He felt that it had been accepted that the cost of host lists should be carried by the travellers. If the USA had the largest number of travellers surely it was right that they should pay for these lists.

Hazel then presented eight pages of an accounts report. The main points were that:

1. The sale of stamps is the only revenue that Servas has. However, the number of travellers has gone down recently, therefore revenue has fallen, while expenditure has increased. The cost of the conference, for example, was more than one year's income.
2. There used to be a donation made by the USA to Servas International, however, because of the reimbursement of costs the USA now requires more money back than it gives.
3. Hazel felt that it was not necessarily a question of increased expenditure, but lack of income for two reasons - a) the current cost of the stamps, and b) the loss of money from the USA.
4. Servas is now spending money that it accumulated in the good times when the USA was a benefactor. Servas cannot go on spending more than it receives in income each year.

The subject was opened up to the delegates. England, Scotland and Wales and France, both expressed a need to get money from other sources to cover their costs. However, approximately 50% of the delegates felt that they had no problem in paying their costs, and while some countries now ask hosts for a subscription fee the majority do not.

The meeting decided that a small group should take the problem of finances further, and work out a budget for the future to be pre-

sented to the meeting. There was then some discussion about whether the budget should be decided by EXCO or presented by the Treasurer for approval at the conference. Hazel said that she felt that finances were at a critical point and it was for the meeting as a whole to decide on how Servas was to function in future in respect of the financial crisis. It was therefore decided that a group of five should spend the rest of the day working out a budget for presentation to the meeting. The group included Hazel Barham, Peter Brock, Jorge Zoppolo, Schumi Doepfer and Merete.

#### THE FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE OF EXCO

Antonie Fried reported that at the last conference some provisional changes were made which now need confirming, and that the statutes need changing. The last conference for example added the function of international host list co-ordinator. However, for personal reasons the person holding the post resigned after one year and Antonie took the job over herself. The conference should therefore decide whether to reinstate someone in that position. In Montreal it was felt that there should be a representative from all the continents in EXCO, specifically that there should be a member from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and from Eastern Europe. The need for a representative of Eastern Europe was reversed at the European conference when the Eastern European co-ordinator suggested that Europe should now be treated as one region. It was also decided at Montreal that Regional co-ordinators should <sup>appoint</sup> not be elected at international conferences, but at regional ones, *by Cons* and that they should not automatically be members of EXCO. The executive should consist of a President, a Vice-President/Development co-ordinator, an International co-ordinator, a Peace Secretary, and a Treasurer.

6 The French representative then briefly presented the suggestions made in the white paper. The paper was initiated because it was apparent that the EXCO were not finding it easy to work together. The white paper suggested that the three main officers, ie. the President, the Treasurer and the International Co-ordinator, should be elected on a ticket. In all there should be five people on the committee representing at least three continents. It is not necessary to have representation from all of the continents all of the time. Members can only be elected for a maximum of two terms.

The Italian proposal presented next was that there should be a small core of EXCO members (four) but that around these people there should be a larger group of "staff" helping them carry out their functions. This group could be in training ready to be elected for the next term of office. In this way some continuity of organisation could be assured. They suggested that the relationship should be similar to that between an executive and board. This would also solve the problem of voting for future committee members having no experience of their future task.

The USA representative suggested that there should be 17 elected members of EXCO, with equal voting rights. They felt that it is necessary to have a large committee because many important decisions are made between conferences. They also felt it should include members who had served Servas well and that electing members purely on a regional basis may mean that the candidates presented

are not necessarily the best. Furthermore, limiting the term of office was opposed because it was better to have someone who was effective regardless of how long they had held office; if necessary, members could be co-opted between conferences.

Antonie Fried suggested that voting members be limited to six (president, vice president, general secretary and three area coordinators) and that there be non-voting members consulted when decisions are to be taken, this larger group should include the EXCO members of the previous term. To have more than 15 members of EXCO would require a change in the statutes.

The Irish delegate submitted that, since Servas deals with large amounts of information, the host list co-ordinator should also be an information technology expert and look into the computerisation of the lists and other functions.

The New Zealand delegate reminded the conference that Servas was governed by statutes and that, before any new recommendations be made, the existing statutes be studied and decisions made either to reject or confirm them.

The Israeli delegate felt that only one person must be elected by the conference, but that there should be three secretaries as helpers, plus the Treasurer and Regional Co-ordinators. The first four members would be the core, while the others would constitute an extended EXCO. To ensure the efficient functioning of EXCO, an auditing and evaluation group would evaluate this committee.

With all the above proposals presented the meeting then divided into small groups to discuss the issues more fully.



Saturday June 27 Evening session

Figures for the Servas income last three years were:

1989	1990	1991
\$27789	\$27737	\$26683

#### HOST LIST PRODUCTION

Various suggestions and criticisms were made on the costs of the production of host lists. How to explain to EXCO that financial help for your lists is needed? Who decides the needy? Can EXCO obtain printing by less expensive methods if a country cannot afford to do it? Volunteer countries could be self-appointed to help needy countries.

GREAT BRITAIN suggested that each country should study carefully the number of lists ordered, being as economical as possible, both for financial and ecological reasons. Reuse of lists should be sought wherever possible.

ISRAEL thought that January was too late to request the number of host lists they need.

Before a country asks for help they must send EXCO an analysis of their costs for the last 3 years.

#### STRUCTURE OF EXCO

Suggestions were made from group reports & individual delegates to enlarge the Servas International official family. An archivist, keeper of records & SIN editor could become part of this official family. EXCO could include up to 15 members with only 5 members as management but all members voting. The 5 member management group would meet once a year to decide urgent matters. Other suggestions included that all major decisions made by EXCO should be mailed by ballot to all national secretaries for a consensus vote. A vote was taken & the result was negative.

Statements were made by several countries that EXCO must be trusted & thus it is very important that the new people elected to EXCO have this quality of trust. It was suggested that EXCO be given a budget which they must manage carefully.

It was suggested that for EXCO decision making, 4 additional people be invited to vote, or have their opinions considered without voting privilege. This was voted down. Minor decisions are to be made by 5 primary Exco members & major decisions by 9 members. It would be difficult to define these situations and this proposal was voted down.

The final vote on the size of EXCO: 5 voting members

17 delegates YES - 13 delegates NO

THERE WILL BE 5 VOTING MEMBERS OF EXCO.

SUNDAY MORNING JUNE 28

Antonie Fried explained that the information sheet she had distributed about the changes in SERVAS Egypt will not be distributed to any Servas traveller. She apologized for any bad feelings or misunderstandings that this letter may have made and asked that this letter be destroyed.

After a voice vote the following motions were passed.

COST OF HOST LIST PRODUCTION

- 1) Increase price of SERVAS INTERNATIONAL stamp (S.I. to accept reduced fee in special situations)
- 2) All countries needing financial aid for printing/mailing, to submit proof of need for assistance.
- 3) All countries must send request for list quantities required to EXCO host list co-ordinator by 1st December.
- 4) Those who do NOT submit this request on time will get only one of each list; no financial aid from S.I. to make further copies.
- 5) In some cases, well-organized/financially strong countries could "adopt" needier ones (self-selected) to help with production and costs of printing host lists.
- 6) Economizing on number of host lists requested.
- 7) Return lists to List Centers

Prior to this vote, Mexico said that they cannot afford to print as many lists that they need. They can afford to print a certain number only. It was suggested that a country with this problem have another country print their lists instead of giving the needier country the money to do it. The question of how to deal with countries who waste lists, and ask for more than they need, was discussed. It was suggested that records be kept of host lists given out to other than their own nationals. This would increase the number that they need. After the initial printing, the cost of reprinting is multiplied by a factor of as much as 5. To alleviate this, print as many lists as you can & get them to people on time.

ENGLAND suggested that long distance travellers send their lists back to the list country or drop them off at any national secretary. List centers could be established as repositories where travellers get receipts for their deposit refund. Additional lists given out by a country to foreign travellers could be noted on their Letter of Introd. so the original country would know what lists should be returned.

This would necessitate that a copy of the Letter of Intro. be sent with the returned lists.

Mexico presented a set of proposals on production of host lists. It should be done in an impartial system that automatically helps countries who cannot afford to produce all their lists. IRELAND stressed that the production of host lists be done electronically; a group could work together to produce a generally usable system. Computer vs photocopy was debated. Some countries on their budget can make the lists on photocopy. CANADA suggested that each country submit a bill for expenses & try not to feel they are begging. A vote was taken to go on with discussion of finances. The vote was 20 for the motion, 17 against & 3 abstentions.

NEW ZEALAND proposed that the next EXCO deal with improving changes of financing hosts lists. There would be formal proposals dealing with area groups & these proposals distributed to national secretaries for their response.

CANADA talked about their case of being rich in travellers and CZECHOSLAVIA not; the latter would have no need for numerous lists so they could receive a printed list & zerox the additional ones they need. Others suggested that the new proposals would save money for rich countries who have many travellers but not good for the poorer countries with few travellers.

NETHERLANDS said that decisions be made for the benefit of the total Servas community and not consider whether it is a rich or poor country.

#### STRUCTURE OF EXCO

The central EXCO committee will consist of a PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT (development co-ordinator), SECRETARY (international co-ordinator), ASSISTANT SECRETARY (host list co-ordinator) and TREASURER. There will be non-voting staff consultants:

PEACE SECRETARY to be elected

REGIONAL ADVISORS (3) These to be selected from the 8 area co-ordinators. VOLUNTARY ASSISTANTS (This allows the contribution of any servas member who has served well. These to be chosen by the member with whom they will work)

Votes were taken and passed on the following issues:

X There will be a category of SERVAS International official consultants who work & give time to SI in a variety of ways; i.e. peace secy., area co-ordinators, SIN editor and former members of Exco and all others who wish to volunteer their services who could later become members of EXCO. Voted and approved was the motion to allow EXCO to decide the financial aid given to these consultants. These non-staff members are all to be non-voting.

A suggestion was made that EXCO get all the help it wants but that the extra help be given no travel expenditures.

#### NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS

Each candidate should be introduced by the person nominating them and each candidate speak for 2 1/2 minutes on why they feel that they are qualified to be elected to that office. Candidates who have to leave before the election were introduced and spoke to the group. Mariangela Brunello was nominated by Paolo Dal Pra of Italy.

# 26 of the White Paper was approved. An amendment was voted & approved to implement this in the spirit of peace making.

Antonie Fried gave a clarification of 26 that should be added as amendments. The Executive Committee should have the right to interfere in the operation of a national group:

- 1) if there have been repeated complaints in travel reports about its malfunctioning;
- 2) if members of a national group ask Servas International to interfere;
- 3) if no host list has been produced for years and no annual reports have been received;
- 4) if Servas International money has been misused
- 5) for any other important reason.

N.B. CORRECTION to White Paper Proposal #24 : 1.2, "national committee" should read "EXCO".

International Peace Secretary Report : Felix Ochoa (Mexico)

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R  
Contact with Reva KING (Servas representative to UN in New York) made evident the difficulties in creating a network of peace secretaries, and taught how to benefit from other peace organizations. National peace secretaries were co-opted in Austria, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Hungary, Poland and Spain. Holland, Norway, France, ESW, and Russia peace secretaries offered to help with peace tasks, at the European Conference; the delegates to this conference were not interested in the peace issue as a discussion topic. Not being recognized in the Housman Peace Diary was a handicap. Felix worked mainly in Mexico, collating official periodicals from the UN, giving lectures and doing research on peace. The committee created to prepare recognition by UNESCO collected information, but resigned in July 1991. Felix insists on the importance of manifesting solidarity with people who face danger while defending the cause of human rights; he offers his home for interview and host training.

Apologies were offered for the neglect to have Felix entered in the Housman Peace Diary. The new International Peace Secretary (Harivallabh Parikh) requested that the names of national peace secretaries be forwarded to him. Bob Luitweiler explained briefly the role of Servas at the UN in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Lydia Tabor (USA) explained what the delegates do in New York : weekly meetings on global problems, where information is exchanged; committees on Aging, Youth, University of Peace and Status of Women; sometimes (e.g. Brazil ecology meeting) other concerns eclipse the peace question. Two new NGO committees have been established : teaching about the UN; The Year of Indigenous People 1993.

#### GROUP REPORTS

##### Computer Group

- 1) If possible, use FAX for quick communication (especially EXCO).

12

15. Last page.

16. excellent service to Servas. Vibeke will call on Antonie in the years to come to benefit from her experience.

Special regards were sent to Riva KING.

Nepal's peace secretary sent his greeting, as did Yvonne BROWN (NZ), Ina DALLAS and Des Harkin (AUS).

Bertrand BAILLEUL was thanked for his work on the White Paper, and for preparing this International Conference; Bertrand spoke of the 20 member team, and of the French family who invited the world family to come together.

Ray Scott thanked everyone for his election; he thanked Bob Luitweiler for his service and dedication to Servas, and for inspiring members not to lose the spirit and hope of Servas. He thanked Bob also for the dedication of his life to peace.

Jorge also thanked for electing him Vice-President; he thanked Janos for helping in very distant areas of the globe.

Thanks were given to the editors of SIN, to Hazel for her past and future work, to Felix, for working so hard at the job that really expresses what Servas is, and for contacting peace secretaries all over the world.

The new SIN editors expressed their gratitude, and promised to work with sub-editors to make SIN a genuine expression of Servas.

computer group

if possible use FAX for quick communication (as of 1990)

- Economy should dictate the paper used (e.g. Letter of Intro.)
  - 3) Computerizing facilitates translation into other languages.
  - 4) Computerize host lists where possible, even if all cannot.
  - 5) National sub-committees (even one person) could send ideas on computerizing for dissemination to other countries.
- Ireland can already send their list by electronic mail. A committee should be set up to investigate and advise on the use of computers within Servas. The group should choose its own chairperson.

A vote was taken : SIN will not appear in 1992, for financial reasons. Kay Lazarus (USA) asked all National Secretaries to inform the members in their country of the important decisions made at this Conference. The minutes will be sent to all National secretaries. The new EXCO will decide if these minutes are sufficient to convey the content. Exco will also decide if a professional recorder is desirable for the next Conference.

#### International Conference Group

Only 10 subjects out of 14 were discussed. Decisions do not represent a consensus.

- 1) Conference interval : every 3 or every 4 years. The three-year interval is preferred. Regional meetings are strongly recommended, time and place to be decided locally. Financial assistance MUST be prearranged with EXCO. It would seem reasonable to affect 17 % of the budget on the International Conference, and 12 % on regional meetings. The increase in the stamp price might reduce this percentage.
- 2) The host country for an International Conference should plan AT LEAST ONE FULL YEAR IN ADVANCE (all agreed).
- 3) Choice of site : at one International Conference for the next, or by EXCO decision ? Candidate countries must have the approval of their own national committees; France insisted on the importance of a detailed budget BEFORE any decision is made. The committee suggests that the least expensive proposal be preferred, with if possible delegates being hosted locally. EXCO should make the final decision.  
Australia, Costa Rica and India are candidates to host the next International Conference.
- 4) The agenda for the Conference should be communicated to all national secretaries at least 6 months before the start of the Conference.
- 5) Anyone active in Servas can attend a Conference; it is recommended that official delegates be chosen 6 months in advance (all agreed).
- 6) The group recommends that there be a guest speaker, if possible a member of Servas, or someone who will donate his time, on a subject not too abstract.
- 7) Evaluation and follow-up to be made available to all participants.
- 8) The length of the Conference should be decided by the host country and EXCO. Prolongation should be available for extra activities.
- 9) Exco should establish guidelines for financial help. The current ones require 10 hosts in the previous year's updated list, and response to the International Secretary's correspondence. It was suggested that countries with fewer hosts might combine to be considered as a single entity. New guidelines might require delegates to be National Coordinators with at least 20 hosts (not day hosts) on their list, having already attended a regional meeting and/or otherwise proven themselves valuable to Servas.
- 10) No vote was taken on the issue of weighting votes according to the number of members. ESW defends the principle of "one country, one vote"; Italy sent a written proposal to the President, which has not been presented.

#### Servas and Peace Group

Three aspect were discussed.

- 1) Traveller-Host relationship. Some conditions for a good relationship were underlined : equality, sensitivity, good interviews.

2) Servas and peace in the world. Servas' main role is to improve the level of tolerance between people by contact and information. This micro improvement would have gradual effects on a much wider level. In particular, wherever there are political tensions, regular contacts can facilitate normal relationships in society. It might sometimes be helpful for Servas to intervene officially with political authorities (e.g. if members were in difficulty), but no general rule can be made on this issue. Although Servas can maintain contact with other peace organizations, the freedom of opinion and involvement of all individual members must be preserved.

3) National Peace Secretaries. As expressed by Harivallabh, the principal tasks of national peace secretaries would be :

- improving host-traveller relationships, when necessary;
- contact with other peace organizations in the country, if possible, promoting Servas within them, and informing Servas members of their existence and goals;
- in general, promoting Servas by making its existence, goals and activities known to non-members.

Peace secretaries also should try to open people's minds to the broader questions of peace. National newsletters could be a vehical for peace information. It was strongly underlined that peace secretaries should never issue political statements.

Nepal proposed the continuaion of Servas representation at the UN. Peace secretaries should keep abreast of developments in peace efforts and disarmement, promoting the principals of non-violence. It was suggested that Peace Secretaries be entered in the Housman World Peace Directory and Diary.

The group recommends that Servas not be considered as a peace organization as such, but as a movement promoting peace and operating mainly by promoting contact, mutual understanding and friendship.

#### Reducing Expenditure Group

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The following amendment to the statutes was unanimously voted :

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The new International Secretary (Vibeke) made an open request for constructive criticism; she thanked Antonie Fried for her long years of

**LECTIONS****Nominations**

1. President: a) Ray Scott, New Zealand; b) Felix Zurita, Mexico

a) Ray Scott, New Zealand - Nominated by Australia

Ray believes that Servas has always meant more than travellers and hosts, it is a people organisation in which relationships at all levels are of prime importance. As he is retired, Ray has time to devote to Servas and he will willingly give it for Servas' development.

b) Felix Zurita, Mexico - Nominated by Costa Rica

Felix has been promoting the idea of study travellers for many years, and has offered his home as an information centre. He believes it is necessary to get back to the original aim of Servas. Having studied many languages he can communicate with all those in Servas.

2. Vice President: a) Jorge Zoppolo, Uruguay; b) Felix Zurita, Mexico

a) Jorge Zoppolo, Uruguay - Nominated by Bob Lutweiller

Jorge has been a member of Servas since 1973, when he joined as host, and has been attending conferences since 1979. He has been trying to extend Servas in Uruguay, and, as regional coordinator, in Latin America. Marisa has been presented to EXCO as a possible new Latin America coordinator who would help him in his work.

b) Felix Zurita, Mexico - Nominated by India

3. Secretary/International Coordinator: Vibeke Matorp, Denmark - Nominated by USA

Vibeke likes working with people and believes it is important to have contact at root level. She recognises that there is a lot of foot-work needed to develop Servas. She believes that it is important to her ability to take on the job that she likes to write letters and has a sense of humour.

4. Assistant Secretary: a) Maringela Brunello, Italy; b) Boguslav Zagirshi, Poland

a) Meeting has already heard from Mariangela on previous day.

b) Boguslav Zagirshi, Poland - Nominated by Poland

Borislav feels he could do a precise job and that he understands the task and how to accomplish it. He believes that to do it he needs the co-operation of EXCO and others.

5. Treasurer: Hazel Barham, Wales - Nominated by England, Scotland, Wales

Hazel has enjoyed her term of office and sending out stamps and receiving revenues. But Servas has hard decisions to make on finances.

6. Peace Secretary: a) Chris Slader, England, Scotland, Wales; b) Harivallabh Parikh, India

a) Chris Slader, Nominated by Hazel Barham

Chris is dedicated to peace and sees the job as that of a catalyst and as an educational role, he is not a campaigner with slogans.

b) Harivallabh Parikh - nominated by Jennie Durand

Has been working for many years as a peace builder and has the contacts necessary to enable him to fulfill his role.

**RESULTS :**

President: Ray Scott - 37 votes; Felix Zurita - 8 votes; 2 abstained

Vice President: Jorge Zoppolo - 35 votes; Felix Zurita - 11 votes; 1 abstained

International Secretary: Vibeke Matorp - 46 votes; 1 abstained

Assistant Secretary: Maringela Brunello - 26 votes; Boguslav Zagorshi - 21 votes

Treasurer: Hazel Barham - 43 votes; none against

Peace Secretary: Harivallabh Parikh - 26 votes; Chris Slader - 21 votes

Four topics were presented before splitting into smaller groups for discussion :

**BUDGET**

The conclusion reached is that Servas has been spending too much. At the current cost of the stamp, Servas will be out of funds next year, and after the international conference in 1995 will be SF 139000 in deficit.

Possibilities : if the stamp is raised to SF 10, Servas would have a de-ficit of SF 15000 in 1995; if it is raised to SF 12000 costs would just be met; at SF 15 there would be SF 32000 in the bank after the next conference at the current level of expenditure.

The expenses as a percentage of the total budget are: EXCO 13.5%; Area Co-ordinators 3%; Regional meetings 11.4%; International Conference 17.5%; Host list production 35%; SIN 17%.

Proposals: that the stamp should go up and that there be a ceiling on the budget for the

next conference and on SIN; that the latter be given to hosts only, and that any o be sold. One proposal, that there be no European conference, could be modified to a a European conference if no travel costs are paid. There was some discussion about how much the stamp should go up and whether for stamps or only those over a certain quantity.

#### **SIN**

Merete, outgoing SIN editor, briefly explained that there had not previously been a brief for the production of the newsletter, and other difficulties with producing it.

#### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVAS**

Janos gave a short report saying he had been unable to meet the aims he had set himself because of lack of time and difficulties in team work. He feels there are questions needing answers in order to develop Servas effectively, for example the needs of the organisation in each area should be established. Janos says he will try to help Jorge fulfil his role, but co-operation with others is also needed.

Reports were received from Turkey, Mali and Tanzania with respect to the difficulties in establishing Servas in each of those countries.

The Turkish delegate reported that Turkey is a secular country although the Islamic religion still meant that only women guests are desired by many hosts. In this respect the wishes of the hosts should be recognised. She also reported that while the situation is improving there is need for Servas to be recognised officially as part of the UN in order for members to feel more secure.

In Mali there are only 7 members of Servas, but the representative intends to use his energy to develop Servas there.

The main problem in Tanzania is communication, in terms of distance, transport, poor telephones and streets with no names.

#### **PREJUDICE**

The matter arose due to concern, particularly about a letter in SIN suggesting people do not go to Israel because there are racist policies there. Turkey warned of the need to be sensitive and suggested that those within the country concerned determine the significance of any apparently contentious statement.



**JUDICE**

ing a Servas member is perceived as dangerous in some countries. On the positive side was felt good that Servas functions in South Africa, and that people visiting Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia can help. Where countries have members from normally opposed fractions of the population (eg Israel), this should be made more public. When individuals create problems, the individual himself should be spoken to; peace secretaries, and if necessary the international peace secretary could possibly play an important role here.

**BUDGET**

Three possibilities for solving Servas's financial problems

1. Increase in income via stamps
2. Bring down expenses
3. Combination of 1 and 2

1. The Budget for the next 3 years

On the basis of 5 SF

Income : 40000 SF	Balance :	1993 -1 to 19000 SF
		1994 - 60000 SF
		1995 -139000 SF

On the basis of 10 SF

Income : 80000 SF	Balance :	1993 +21000 SF
		1994 +22000 SF
		1995 -15000 SF

On the basis of 12 SF

Income : 96000 SF	Balance :	1993 +37000 SF
		1994 +54000 SF
		1995 +35000 SF

On the basis of 15 SF

Income : 120000 SF	Balance :	1993 +61000 SF
		1994 +102000 SF
		1995 +106000 SF

It was suggested that only reducing expenditure is not feasible; one must decide which items are to be limited, perhaps sending SIN to hosts only. The budget should perhaps be reviewed yearly.

The result of the resulting discussion was the proposal that there still be 10 free stamps, with the next 40 stamps costing 5 SF, but over that amount they cost 15 SF. This proposal was passed by 31 votes for to 8 against and 2 abstentions.

he new German SIN editors, Margret Kläser and Herbert Schäfer were introduced.

Antonie Fried reported on her group. <sup>on Development</sup> Development is not restricted to developing countries, but applies to all regions. In countries like Greece, Malta and Portugal, Servas is not growing. The basic problem is to open up new areas where Servas doesn't yet exist, where travellers don't go. In areas like western Africa, development projects, like building schools, could involve Servas members. How to create a network to spread Servas in these areas ?

- 1) Give international information leaflet for the general area plus another leaflet concerning that precise area.
- 2) Consider starting with day hosts.
- 3) Try establishing bilateral partnerships with other countries.
- 4) Attempt to establish a broader base, with members from classes other than middle and upper.
- 5) Keep to the ideas of Ghandi.
- 6) Not to neglect the importance of political problems (how can Servas help ?)

**DEVELOPMENT NETWORK**

Three different levels are necessary :

- 1) Consultants to the International Secretary, anyone with strong ties to the area, or a coordinator willing to promote Servas while travelling in the region. Any experienced traveller can be used this way.

2) An information sheet for an interviewer who goes to the area, to be given to travellers judged apt to contact the development coordinator, i.e. if they can help update list, for example.

3) Guidelines in the host list, encouraging travellers to update and/or correct the list.

We have a lot of information unexploited, because not extracted from traveller reports. To use this information :

a) all national secretaries should receive the development plans of Servas (from the development coordinator); in return, national secretaries should communicate their priorities on development.

b) In countries with political opposition to Servas, hosts should be questioned as to how travel plans can be made easier for them. Any necessary precautions should be printed in bold face at the beginning of the host list. [This report was from half of the group, without consensus] It is better to err on the side of caution; travellers in politically troubled areas should beware of uncautious wording; perhaps in some cases a code should be used.

In France, information from travel reports is systematically put into a file to which regional coordinators have access.

Antonie Fried pointed out that in some countries it can be dangerous to write certain things, but travellers could bring back verbal answers. If precautionary measures are inserted into a host list, it may be unadvisable to carry that list into the country. Delicate information should never be handed over to a traveller.

A policy position was passed by voice vote that financial aid may be given to an experienced person accompanying a development coordinator.

Tuesday, June 30 : Morning Session

International Peace Secretary Report : Felix Ochoa (Mexico)

Contact with Reva KING (Servas representative to UN in New York) made evident the difficulties in creating a network of peace secretaries, and taught how to benefit from other peace organizations. National peace secretaries were co-opted in Austria, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Hungary, Poland and Spain. Holland, Norway, France, ESW, and Russia peace secretaries offered to help with peace tasks, at the European Conference; the delegates to this conference were not interested in the peace issue as a discussion topic. Not being recognized in the Housman Peace Diary was a handicap. Felix worked mainly in Mexico, collating official periodicals from the UN, giving lectures and doing research on peace. The committee created to prepare recognition by UNESCO collected information, but resigned in July 1991. Felix insists on the importance of manifesting solidarity with people who face danger while defending the cause of human rights; he offers his home for interview and host training.

Apologies were offered for the neglect to have Felix entered in the Housman Peace Diary. The new International Peace Secretary (Harivallabh Parikh) requested that names of national peace secretaries be forwarded to him. Bob Luitweiler explained briefly the role of Servas at the UN in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Lydia Tabor (USA) explained what the delegates do in New York : weekly meetings on global problems, where information is exchanged; committees on Aging, Youth, University of Peace and Status of Women; sometimes (e.g. Brazil ecology meeting) other concerns eclipse the peace question. Two new NGO committees have been established : teaching about the UN; The Year of Indigenous People 1993.

## GROUP REPORTS

### Computer Group

- 1) If possible, use FAX for quick communication (especially EXCO).
- 2) Economy should dictate the paper used (e.g. Letter of Intro.)
- 3) Computerizing facilitates translation into other languages.
- 4) Computerize host lists where possible, even if all cannot.
- 5) National sub-committees (even one person) could send ideas on computerizing for dissemination to other countries.

Ireland can already send their list by electronic mail. A committee should be set up to investigate and advise on the use of computers within Servas. The group should choose its own chairperson.

A vote was taken : SIN will not appear in 1992, for financial reasons. Kay Lazarus (USA) asked all National Secretaries to inform the members in their country of the important

ons made at this Conference. The minutes will be sent to all National Secretaries. New EXCO will decide if these minutes are sufficient to convey the content. Exco also decide if a professional recorder is desirable for the next Conference.

### International Conference

- ly 10 subjects out of 14 were discussed. Decisions do not represent a consensus.
- Conference interval : every 3 or every 4 years. The three-year inter-val is preferred. Regional meetings are strongly recommended, time and place to be decided locally. Financial assistance MUST be prearranged with EXCO. It would seem reasonable to affect 17 % of the budget on the Inter-national Conference, and 12 % on regional meetings. The increase in the stamp price might reduce this percentage.
- 2) The host country for an International Conference should plan AT LEAST ONE FULL YEAR IN ADVANCE (all agreed).
  - 3) Choice of site : at one International Conference for the next, or by EXCO decision ? Candidate countries must have the approval of their own national committees; France insisted on the importance of a detailed budget BEFORE any decision is made. The committee suggests that the least expensive proposal be preferred, with if possible delegates being hosted locally. EXCO should make the final decision. Australia, Costa Rica and India are candidates to host the next Inter-national Conference.
  - 4) The agenda for the Conference should be communicated to all national secretaries at least 6 months before the start of the Conference.
  - 5) Anyone active in Servas can attend a Conference; it is recommended that official delegates be chosen 6 months in advance (all agreed).
  - 6) The group recommends that there be a guest speaker, if possible a member of Servas, or someone who will donate his time, on a subject not too abstract.
  - 7) Evaluation and follow-up to be made available to all participants.
  - 8) The length of the Conference should be decided by the host country and EXCO. Prolongation should be available for extra activities.
  - 9) Exco should establish guidelines for financial help. The current ones require 10 hosts in the previous year's updated list, and response to the International Secretary's correspondence. It was suggested that countries with fewer hosts might combine to be considered as a single entity. New guidelines might require delegates to be National Coordinators with at least 20 hosts (not day hosts) on their list, having already attended a regional meeting and/or otherwise proven themselves valuable to Servas.
  - 10) No vote was taken on the issue of weighting votes according to the number of members. ESW defends the principle of "one country, one vote"; Italy sent a written proposal to the President, which has not been presented.

### Servas and Peace

Three aspects were discussed :

- 1) Traveller-Host relationship. Some conditions for a good relationship were underlined : equality, sensitivity, good interviews.
- 2) Servas and peace in the world. Servas' main role is to improve the level of tolerance between people by contact and information. This micro-improvement would have gradual effects on a much wider level. In parti-cular, wherever there are political tensions, regular contacts can faci-litate normal relationships in society. It might sometimes be helpful for Servas to intervene officially with political authorities (e.g. if members were in difficulty), but no general rule can be made on this issue.

Although Servas can maintain contact with other peace organizations, the freedom of opinion and involvement of all individual members must be preserved.

- 3) National Peace Secretaries. As expressed by Harivallabh, the principal tasks of national peace secretaries would be :

- improving host-traveller relationships, when necessary;
- contact with other peace organizations in the country, if possible, promoting Servas within them, and informing Servas members of their existence and goals;
- in general, promoting Servas by making its existence, goals and activities known to non-members.

Peace secretaries also should try to open people's minds to the broader questions of peace. National newsletters could be a vehical for peace information. It was strongly underlined that peace secretaries should never issue political statements.

Nepal proposed the continuaion of Servas representation at the UN. Peace secretaries should keep abreast of developments in peace efforts and disarmement, promoting the principals of non-violence. It was suggested that Peace Secretaries be entered in the Housman World Peace Directory and Diary.

The group recommends that Servas not be considered as a peace organization as such, but as a movement promoting peace and operating mainly by promoting contact, mutual understanding and friendship.

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The new International Secretary (Vibeke) made an open request for constructive criticism; she thanked Antonie Fried for her long years of excellent service to Servas. Vibeke will call on Antonie in the years to come to benefit from her experience.

Special regards were sent to Riva KING. Nepal's peace secretary sent his greeting, as did Yvonne BROWN (NZ), Ina DALLAS and Des Harkin (AUS). Bertrand BAILLEUL was thanked for his work on the White Paper, and for preparing this International Conference; Bertrand spoke of the 20 member team, and of the French family who invited the world family to come together.

Ray Scott thanked everyone for his election; he thanked Bob Luitweiler for his service and dedication to Servas, and for inspiring members not to lose the spirit and hope of Servas. He thanked Bob also for the dedication of his life to peace.

Jorge also thanked for electing him Vice-President; he thanked Janos for helping in very distant areas of the globe.

Thanks were given to the editors of SIN, to Hazel for her past and future work, to Felix, for working so hard at the job that really expresses what Servas is, and for contacting peace secretaries all over the world.

The new SIN editors expressed their gratitude, and promised to work with sub-editors to make SIN a genuine expression of Servas.

Bob LUITWEILER closed the meeting with the request that all candidates willing to help EXCO make themselves known. He expressed his feeling that the meeting had been fruitful and harmonious.