

Highlights from International Servas
Conferences 1964-1970 inclusive

1964 Conference

- I. Types of travelers: "In earlier conferences we had decided not to restrict travelers to members of the peace movement. Anyone of personal integrity who could benefit from the experience can be considered." Servas Statement expanded. Recruitment of more mature travelers recommended.
- II. Preparing Travelers: "concentrate on confirming applicant's personal integrity and serious interests." Interview should both screen and inform--Autumn recruitment recommended, Group Transportation and Work Camps encouraged. "Initiation"-informative discussion groups suggested.
- III. Literature & Publicity: Better distribution needed, including translations. Servas Basis: What is Servas?: Peace Diary: Rucksack; Open Door; who are the Travelers; and new materials to be circulated. "Traveler/Open Door" relationship preferred to "Guest/Host". Formal Hospitality discouraged. Tapes, Films & Slides being explored.
- IV. Open Doors: Groups as well as individuals: cross section of population; geographic distribution Recruit returned travelers: encourage hosts to travel. Contacts between Hosts needed: Regional Meetings; Newsletters; Broadsheet; Distribution of Open Door Lists.
- v. Open Door Lists: Standardization reported and found satisfactory although subsequent reconsideration possible. Planned Trips and selected hosts discussed and tabled because of organizational difficulties. Replacement of Open Door Cards by Open Door Forms rejected as too expensive.
- VI. Travellers Reports: Value--clear: lack deplored: post cards good but weekly too often: Report to host countries desirable but priority is to home committee.
- VII. Problems of Travellers: Overcrowded Schedule; "Capital Hopping" (earlier ruling noted requiring 4-5 other O.D.s in same country if visiting capital- "Has the time come to reinforce this rule"): Outlying Hosts (How to encourage visits): Letters of Introduction (Basic information not included-suggest form on one side, personal letter on other).
- VIII. Finance: 1961 Conference recommendation to contribute to International not yet implemented. Fund raising main source, list charges and donations. Membership charge to Hosts held unfair.
- IX. National Committees: Working groups not only necessary but a matter of Servas Principle; correspondents who prefer to work alone discouraged. Could ask other organizations to send official representatives, but prefer inviting individuals. Committees are autonomous but should avoid becoming too independent. Responsibilities for new development were assigned and achievements of Canada and Japan recognized.

- X. International Structure: Lack of policy making power; decisions by concensus; need for wider representation; desirability of each branch appointing an International Correspondent; insufficiency of dissemination of news to the International Coordinator; duties of International Coordinator and suggested Assistant; and possible interim meetings were discussed. Nomination of Kurt and/or Ulla Schmid as either International Coordinator or Assistant proposed. Circulation of minutes for ratification of dates suggestions and plans was arranged. Publication of the Broadsheet and Newsletter to be continued.
- XI. Co-operation with Other Organizations: Close co-operation approved but not merger. Sonnenberg, Work Camps, Esperantists, Mutual Welcome, and The Club de Demain to be investigated but semi-official bodies avoided. Distribution of the Peace Diary to such organizations was recommended.

1965 Conference

- I. National Reports: Africa, Canada, Holland, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, USA, Latin-America, India, England, Germany, Austria & Norway submitted reports, most of which were encouraging.
- II. East/West Relations: Kurt Schmid was delegated to explore possible development of East Europe.
- III. Conference Decision Making Power: It was proposed that the International Conferences starting with the next one be given such power and responsibility. Recipients of minutes were asked to vote on this and other items in said minutes. Duties and limitations of International Coordinator responsibility outlined. Pat Knowles to continue Pro Tem.
- IV. Finances: Each branch to contribute 10% of receipts to International. Calendar year to be used. Audited balance sheet to be included in Newsletter.
- V. Travelers: Several countries use referees for screening, but this is optional. U.S. Bio-data forms approved if back filled out, but Letter of Introduction preferred. Secretary where "very grave offence" is committed should cancel Letter of Introduction, remove Host Lists and notify approving Secretary and others. Report Forms to be attached to Host Lists. Hosts who haven't answered circulars should be listed with notation. Interview should stress welcome of "Outlying Hosts" and pressure on city hosts, plus nature of relationship as member of family rather than guest. Recruiting returned travelers as hosts & helpers is stressed. If hosts agree, 3 day stay preferred to 2 day.
- VI. Cooperation with Student Travel Organizations & Others: Success reported by U.S., Switzerland and England--others urged to explore. Other organizations mentioned--International Ham Hops; IYHA; Person to Person and I.F.L.

1966 Conference

- I. Decision making, right to vote: Proposal of '65 Conference to give future conferences decision making powers was approved. Each Branch sending one or more delegates has 1 vote. Definitions of "Branch", "Committee Secretary" and "Secretary" adopted. Majority voting for all decisions but not internal matters of a Branch. Proposal for referendum on general policy matters voted down.
- II. Responsibilities of International Coordinator: Resolution unanimously adopted covering: a) Receipt of information from branches; b) publication in Newsletter "as often as necessary"; c) distribution of interesting developments; d) setting up new Secretaries and Branches; e) provisionally approving new Secretaries & Branches pending next Conference; f) receive % of Branch total income to spend on stationary, postage and necessary travel; g) receive Letters of Introduction from countries without Branches and travelers to & from East Europe; h) receive Branch statistics; j) designate representatives to other international organizations; k) coordinate annual conference & implement decisions thereof; l) foregoing to supercede all prior documents on subject. On basis of this Resolution Kurt Schmid agrees to act as International Coordinator-unanimously approved. By 5:2 vote Assistant International Coordinator is approved. Reva King unanimously elected.
- III. Use of word "Peacebuilders": Switzerland raised objection on grounds of neutrality-Servas should be "non aligned to any ideology or tendency, such as pacifism or other philosophies. "Intensive and serious discussion in which U.K. and U.S.A. pointed out historic basis and importance of Peace Diary etc. Others inclined to agree with Switzerland. However, since proposal was inadequately reported, Switzerland was asked to substitute original statement. The next morning, the Swiss delegate announced that he was "unable to work with the 1966 Conference." He therefore withdrew.
- IV. National Reports: 16 countries delivered or sent reports. Statistics were compiled.
- V. East/West Plans: Some progress-especially Czechoslovakian guests in Austria and at Conference. Special problems and arrangements reported, including necessity for sponsorship by "some official organization or tourist agency" of Eastern travelers, who should contact Secretaries in Host Countries for briefing, interview & planning of trip.

1967 Conference

- I. Decision Making: Decisions of 1966 Conference re-affirmed.
- II. Reports: International Conference stressed growth-Problem areas listed. Financial Report. National Reports submitted by 16 Branches. or areas. 4 Branches not ready.
- III. East/West Developments: Progress noted, especially in Czechoslovakia. Financial problems, necessity for invitations; importance of official recognition, exchange visits of specialists and reciprocity in general emphasized.
- IV. Revised Statement of Aims: Adopted and submitted to Peace Diary.
- V. Policies and Procedures for Implementation: A. Traveler Criteria: Interviewer to assess benefits and ability to profit; Report forms to be supplied; host questionnaires; L.I. to be kept by Host if traveler violates rules; International Postal Coupons to be enclosed in traveler requests. B. Host Lists: Except where not used (as in Japan & Philippines). Reliable Lists to go to all Branches by May. If not received, approving Secretary still gets fees, gives latest available list & signs letter to Host Secretary for updating. C. Orientation: Travelers to study before travelling.

Secretaries to distribute orientation materials. D. FORM UNIFORMITY: All branches to send forms to I.C. based on samples, I.C. to prepare and distribute harmonious forms of Host Application and Traveler Report in German, English, French, Russian, and Esperanto. E. PUBLICITY: Copies to go to I.C. - Activities have been described in National Reports. F. GROUP TRAVEL: Encouraged though individual travel preferred. Groups kept small (under 20, if possible). Techniques discussed.

VI. RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: Affiliation discouraged - cooperation encouraged. Examples of likely groups listed.

VII. PRIORITIES: Increasing International Sponsors & Financial Resources.

1970 Conference

I. DECISION MAKING: 4: Quorum: if less mail votes solicited with time limit.

II. REPORTS: I.C. Reports: 1150 letters answered since 1967 Conference; Donations received from USA, Switzerland, and Austria. Two (2) new International Sponsors; Asst IC in Training - Progress in Fiji, Tanzania, Thailand, Singapore, New Zealand, and Jamaica. Czechoslovakia out. National Reports summarized in statistics covering 23 areas.

III. EXPANSION INTO NEW COUNTRIES: discussed.

IV. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: Progress reported.

V. PENDING MATTERS FROM PRIOR CONFERENCES: UNESCO status to be pursued. Visa requirements in India and East Europe discussed. Techniques for getting travelers to report suggested. Plea for donations to I.C. Increase from 10% to 30% approved with US at 15% to cover expenses of Asst IC & countries who can't afford full amount to pay what they can. Host List fees reported.

VI. TRAVELER POLICIES & PROCEDURES: Split on whether Hosts must accept unmarried couples. Travelers mustn't use Servas for fund-raising. Secretaries to notify home country of strong leadership potentials needed. Non home-stays travels approved on normal basis. Local coordinators contacted only as last resort.

VII. HOSTS & HOST LISTS: Where number of hosts is limited, other accommodation possibilities should be listed in list. Breakfast & evening meals expected unless list shows contrary. Traveler Requests which can't be accepted should be forwarded to other hosts, so each host should have a copy of his local list if there is no local coordinator. Normal stays remains 2 days but lists should indicate which hosts invite longer stays.

VIII. I.C. TERMS OF OFFICE: I.C. & Asst I.C. to serve 2 years - if must resign, mail ballot - Regional coordinators listed.

IX. GROUP TRAVEL: List fees split. Advantages & problems discussed.

X. NEW BUSINESS: US & Japan have dues - paying members who are neither hosts, travelers, or volunteers. Use of Conscientious Objectors approved.

At the Conference in 1965 or 1966, decision was made to establish Internl. Sponsors for Servas. Criteria for such sponsors were also developed. Insofar as can be determined, these decisions were not written into the Conference