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CIF

The Council of
International Fellowship

NEWSLETTER

WINTER ISSUE 1991

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President

Helmut Oeckl
Sandstrasse 2.
8450 Amberg.
GERMANY
phone: 49/9621 10475 (work)
49/9621 82241 (home)

Vice-President

Yvonne Csanyi
Füredi ut 5/c 1X.36.
1144 Budapest.
HUNGARY
phone: 36/1- 1421-379 (work)
16/1- 184-73-64 (home)
fax: 36/1- 1228-447

Secretary

Therese Ferragut
16. rue de la Folie-Merkourt
75011 Paris.
FRANCE
phone: 33/1-4342 5300 (work)
33/1-4338-2230 (home)

Treasurer

Anton Klap
Kannuskatu 3 D 65
20880 Turku.
FINLAND
phone: 358/21-350-675 (home)

Members-at-Large

Despina Economou
A. Didaskalou 80
Papagou
15660 - Athens
GREECE
phone: 30/1- 361 -02-95 (work)
30/1-364-21-28 (home)

Roland Mattison
Inglatörpsv. 26
371 92 Karlskrona
S W E D E N
phone: 46/455-34900 (work)
46/455 -48444 (home)

The new President of CIF International:
Helmut Oeckl

Dear Helmut, let me ask you some questions about you. What is your profession?

Well, I am a special education teacher. I have been working as a travelling speech therapist in the junior- and preschool system for 5 years.

Some comments on your family?

For 20 years I have been married to Angela from England, who is a piano and organ teacher. We have 3 tall lads. Markus has just returned from his 12 months duty in the navy, Rouven is in his last year at College and Steven will finish College in 1 and 1/2 years. All 3 are eager sportsmen.



When have you been in the CIP program?

1983 in Morgantown (West Virginia) where I have spent 10 weeks with youth runaway shelters. Much to my regret are the good ideas I have seen there, not easily transferable in our system. Privately I have made some very special friends both with hostfamilies and participants plus our great director Sandy De Costa.

Your functions in CIF Germany?

In 1984 I took over the position of secretary from Margarethe Hallermann. In 1988 I was elected president of the German branch.

Your work in CIF International?

In 1985 at the Berea Conference I got into the Executive Committee as a member at large. In 1987 in Godollo I took over Judith Lamatsch's position as the secretary, a time consuming job, but somebody needs to do it. In 1991 I was elected president of CIF International in Dourdan/France.

What will you focus on as the president?

Well, thanks to Uma and Tonny CIF is in quite a good shape. Our structures like memberships and money transfers are working well. Thanks to the Hungarian branch we have a regular newsletter. We have to work together with new leaders in CIP. When CIP and the recruiting process will be rearranged it could well be, that CIF becomes a new task. But I do think that CIF has enough well organised and competent people to help with any change that might happen. Beside that I think we are not as strong as we wanted to in the South Latin America area. And last but not least we all are looking forward to our next conference in Sweden.

The Editor

Dedicated to the Participants of the Conference in Dourdan:

Special greetings and congratulations for being there, well and alive, during the 19th Conference in France! 285 stars from 27 countries were shining in Dourdan, building the most beautiful patchwork of ideas, experiences and friendly smiles...

No doubt about it:

YOU made it YOURS!

You are definitely ready for the next century!

All the best to you!

CIF-France

The deadline for sending articles to the editor for the summer issue is

MAY 30. 1992

All correspondence should be addressed to

Yvonne Csanyi, Editor

1071 Budapest,

Bethlen ter 2.

HUNGARY



Farewell to our former president: *Uma Nagarwala*



Dear Uma, we will miss you after so many years of close cooperation in the CIF Executive Committee. Your enthusiasm and wise leadership made our work effective and quick. CIF International is a broad and strong body at present with clear goals. And all these positive facts owe largely to you. In the future we also need your experiences and help.

Many thanks for your activity and all your efforts!

The former and the new Executive Committee

*Thanks to Uma**

It is with deep pleasure that we express our sincere feelings of affection and admiration for Ms. Ummehani Nagarwala, President of CIF International since 1987, CIF-India's General Secretary till 1991 and recently elected its Vice-President. Uma - as she is known to us at CIF India has been the heart and soul of CIF India since its inception. The CIF India Conference in 1981, a decade ago, was the fruition of her efforts along with other Indian pioneers to bring the CIF community to the soil of a developing country. Full of enthusiasm and ready to work on all possible jobs, Uma has literally carried CIF home by housing the offices of CIF India for over a decade and that of the CIF International for the last few years. We were proud when she was elected President of CIF International and felt that she amply deserved the honour. She has kept the Indian flag

flying high in the international community of CIF.

At CIF-India, we look upon Uma as the diplomat 'parexcelence', the soother of ruffled nerves, the efficient organiser and the calm 'fire-fighter' in crises. All these traits are combined with those of a charming hostess and a loving wife and mother of a family that supports her efforts unstintingly. Uma combines her dual and occasionally multiple roles efficiently and with a smile and poise that have brought her admirers. On this occasion when Uma is laying down office as the President of CIF International, we at CIF-India place on record our deep-felt appreciation for her ability to work hard without a fuss, calmly and always with a smile and grace that are unusual in today's world. We wish Uma all the best in life and a long and happy association with CIF.

*On Behalf of the Members
of the Governing Board of
CIF-India*

* Delivered at the CIF Conference in Dourdan, France

FINANCIAL AND OTHER THOUGHTS



In our small world we, working with the social realities of people who cannot cope with it all, do find richness in the knowledge of our common efforts to make this world a better place to live. Most of all, we can find new strength "to carry on" in the warmth of the commonly shared experience, that we as humans, can support each other and widen our perspective. There is that something special about participating in CIF/CIP exchange programs, conferences and contacts.

Keeping track of the money is a small aspect of enabling members from all over the world to keep this international exchange experience alive through the support to national branches, exchange programs and participation fees. The "real" money came from many small and big contributions, basically and continuously from all those membershipfees and auction items from you all.

It is more than a pleasure to be able to announce, that the Henry B. Ollendorff Association (HBOA)-fund's goal of a capital of \$30,000 will be reached this year!

The fundraising at the conference at Dourdan brought more than \$4,700, including the payment of CIF membershipfees through items (\$ 1.030). This year, special funds have been growing with more than \$3,500 and the first fund, the Paul and Sonja Unger Honorary Fund has reached its \$3,000 goal! Congratulations and thanks! There have been established two new funds: The Jonne Ronneberg Memorial Fund and the CIF in Finland National Branch Fund.

There might be still some uncertainty about the position of the HBOA-fund, which to me is very understandable, since I had a hard time to "get the picture" myself. In fact it is very simple, HBOA arranges all the fundraising (outside membershipfees) for all the goals of the CIF. CIF International transfers not immediately needed reserves to the HBOA-fund to be able to get the best interest available. The interest on the capital of HBOA can be used to support CIF members in "new" countries to establish a National Branch or exchange program and individual members to participate at conferences and programs. Furthermore it is possible to support publications and information leaflets on national branches and programs.

The administrative and meeting costs of the HBOA-fund are in total paid by the CIF International, so the money in fund is only used for the purposes it is meant for.

Everybody and every National Branch can establish an own special fund within the HBOA and connect special purposes to the use of the interest after the basic level \$3,000 has been reached. For instance the CIF in Finland National Branch Fund will use its interest to support alumni from the Baltic States and Hungary to participate in exchange programs and conferences. The interest

from the Bjorg Ruud Memorial Fund will be used to support alumni to participate in the Norwegian International Exchange Program.

Support can be given straight to the following contact addresses and accounts, by transferring straight to the accounts, through sending a cheque or a postal order to the contact persons of the HBOA-fund:

Tonny Klap
Kannuskatu 3 D 65
20880 Turku
Finland
OKObank Turku
571004-254793

Paul Unger
12401 Berea Rd
Cleveland, Ohio 44111
U.S.A.
Ameritrust Company N.A.
20005-9806

Carl-Henrik Guste
Kristinavägen 18 B
S-13150 Saltsjö Duvnas
Sweden
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken
5257-29 24870

But in any case: please inform me also of your gift, so I know if it is meant A as a general gift or a gift to a special fund!

We have in the CIF now 20 National Branches that are able to play the international membershipfees regularly and about 40 individual members each year. Still some way to go to reach and "connect" all our former alumni through our organization, but a very satisfactory basis for growth!

We, and all the future new National Branches, Exchange Programs and receivers of grants would like to thank you for your support and hope you will continue to support our common organization to enable more exchange opportunities for ever new alumni in more and more countries!

Tonny Klap



NEWS IN SHORT



- After over a decade of service to CIP, Tom Hatcher left in July 1991. In August Glenn Shive was asked to assume the role of secretary general on an interim basis.
- CIP and many other exchange programs which once received annual "block grant" funding from USIA will have to compete for smaller, more specifically written project grants each year. CIF people can be of further assistance to CIP. You can write to Ambassador Catto at USIA, 301 4th St. SW Washington DC 20547 simply urging the Agency to give CIP "a fair shake" in light of 35 years of administering mutually beneficial exchanges for human service professionals in cooperation with their respective countries.
- There were grants ready to be paid for the 9 CIF applicants asking for support to participate at the conference in Dourdan.
- Czechoslovakia was accepted as a national branch at the former Executive Committee's last meeting on 6th of July in Dourdan.
- The newly elected Ex. Co. met already at the Conference in Dourdan on Friday, the 12th of July. They split up the responsibilities and will meet again at the beginning of April 1992 in Budapest.
- Greece is going to start its Exchange Programme (4 weeks) for 5 participants in April 1992. The participation is free.



CIF EXCHANGE... CIF EXCHANGE...



The Norwegian Exchange Programme 1990

The Norwegian Exchange Programme started in 1987, and since then it has been taking place every year during the spring, when the nature becomes green and the days get longer and longer. The city where the programme takes place is Oslo, the Norwegian capital with 400.000 inhabitants, the city of the big fjord.

During 1990 we were 7 female participants from 6 countries and from 3 continents, social workers and special teachers who came together through the programme and could share experiences.

The programme had three parts.

THEORETICAL PART

In the Norwegian State College of Public Administration and Social Work, we attended, for 4 weeks, lectures about the political social and economic system of Norway. We got knowledge about the social welfare system and about the work of social workers.

FIELDWORK PLACEMENT

All the participant had to work for four weeks in a place according to their interest.

I worked in the Probation Agency in Oslo and with the help of my supervisor I tried to understand how the correctional system works in Norway.

The work of the Probation Agency is very different from the work I do in my country. So it was very important for me to see all the differences and the effectiveness of the programme of this country.

The first difference I faced was that according to the Criminal Law everyone under 15 is responsible for his/her proceedings.

Youth over 15 who commit a crime can have a trial and might get a sentence.

Youth under 15 are treated by the social welfare. The social welfare deals with youth when:

- there are bad family conditions,
- they have criminal behaviour and
- there are special needs.

The social welfare has many responsibilities. It aims

- to help the family to keep the child in its environment,
- to move the child because of a crisis in the family,
- to place the child in a group home for long time according to the parents' suggestion,
- to place the child in a home without the information of the parents.

The decisions concerning the child are brought by the Child Welfare Committee.

The Probation Agency is working with prisoners over 18 years. The Probation Service is a state office where 2.000 persons are working.

The main task of these agencies is

- to supervise prisoners who have a sentence when there is interruption of imprisonment of persons who are released on parol,
- to organise the Probation Services,
- to support the prisoner and to stop criminal career by putting under control the persons behaviour.

An other difference that I faced was that the maximal punishment according to the Penal Code is 21 years. Prisoners who have good behaviour during their stay in prison could be released earlier.

I think that the system in Norway is very progressive and really cares for prisoners to get back to the social life with positive feelings.

The Ministry of Justice in Oslo has adopted the REALITY THERAPY method and all persons working in this area have learned how to use it. So a criminal person faces a similar attitude from everybody during his punishment.

SOCIAL EVENTS is the third part of the programme. They took place during the theoretical part and fieldwork placement where we could do things together, to enjoy and of course to understand the hosting country. So we had the opportunity to take part in the celebration of the National Day. That was amazing! The Norwegian CIF programme had a very good social relationship, so they scheduled for us a visit to the Parliament, where the Vice President talked with us about the role of women in politics and to the City Hall where we spent a morning talking with the Mayor.

By the middle of the programme we travelled to Bergen - all the expenses were payed by CIF - where we stayed with CIF members. On our way to Bergen we had to travel through the mountains which were covered with snow. The view was wonderful, the lakes were frozen and we had new experiences, something you can feel only in Norway. In Bergen our group came close, we had fun, we met new friends, we saw a new city. All these events made the programme more exciting.

The Norwegian CIF exchange programme was very well organised because it gave us a lot of information, new knowledge about social welfare, many opportunities to meet new people, to meet new friends.

The wonderful time to be a Norwegian Programme participant has passed, but I have a lot of good memories and new good friends all around the world.

**Georgia Nicolarea Athens
Greece**

Gisela Senssfelder:

*In Memory of Henry B. Ollendorff**

Whenever participants in CIP and/or members of CIF meet, they will not fail to pay special tribute to the man who made all this possible, namely to *Henry B. Ollendorff*. His name will always be associated with this world-wide exchange program for youth leaders and social workers, because without his vision, his initiative and perhaps also without his life story, this program would not have been realised.

I was asked at a rather short notice to talk to you today about Henry, his vision, about CIP and CIF and how it all began, so please do not expect a formal lecture, I am just going to tell you how I personally experienced all this since I first met Henry in 1955.

Henry, as you may know, was born in South Germany and grew up in the city of Darmstadt. Already in high school he did tend toward the social-democratic movement; he wrote socio-critical articles for the "Neues Forum" in his home town, and with his republican and liberal views exposed himself to the hostility of many of his class-mates. Henry studied law at the universities of Frankfurt and Berlin, received his doctor's degree from the University of Heidelberg, and then, following his political

conviction, placed his professional skills at that disposal of the worker's movement, becoming a legal adviser with the White Collar Workers Union in Berlin. Not for long though, because all trade unions in Germany were banned by the National Socialist Government under Hitler in May of 1933. Being a Jew and a Social Democrat, all of Henry's attempts to settle as a lawyer failed. He also had to stand a court proceeding, was finally acquitted from the charge, but only after having spent 13 months in solitary confinement. So Henry decided to leave Germany; he emigrated to the United States in 1938, his wife Martha followed in 1939.

What opportunities did a young man with a German law degree have in the new world? None in his profession. So Henry took up simple jobs in order to earn the living for his family, and then decided to study social work, which he did at Columbia University.

Having moved to Cleveland Henry worked at the "Friendly Inn", the director of which he became three years later. He founded the Cleveland Neighbourhood Association, the first of its kind in the US, and he did even many other things. This dynamic young immigrant and his abilities became known, so it

* Lecture held in Dourdan at the CIF Conference 1991.

was no surprise that the US Department of State contacted him and asked him to participate in the re-education program in Germany and run a course for youth workers in his native country. Henry hesitated: should he go back to a country which he had to leave under such dreadful circumstances? Should he go back and help people from a nation which had treated him so miserably? For those of you who knew Henry personally, his decision will not be a surprise. He accepted and went to "Haus Schwalbach" where he conducted courses on methods of social work for 5 months. Here he met the post-war generation of young Germans and learned about their problems, their hopes and their attempts to work for a better world. Here he realized that these young Germans were full of misconceptions and prejudices about the US. And it was here that he decided to do something against it, to make it possible that these young people get a chance to visit the United States and get to know America, her people, her ideas, problems and achievements.

It needed a man of Henry's determination and persistence to convince authorities in the US to support and subsidize such a program; the reaction of the citizens of Cleveland, however, was overwhelming. And in Germany Henry found open ears for his proposal. The German Federal Ministry responsible for youth work agreed to pay for the travel costs

and also contribute to the expenses in the US, and the German Fulbright Commission added a few more travel grants, so that the first group of 26 Germans was able to leave for the US in 1956. Initially developed as a program for Germans only, it was this pioneer group that urged Henry to extend the program and give other nationalities the same chance. Henry thought that this was a great idea and already in 1957 an additional 25 people from seven European countries complemented the group of 26 Germans. And the program expanded. After ten years, about 1100 people from 60 countries all over the world had had the chance to profit from this outstanding program. Other cities in the US soon became interested. For the first time in 1962 a group of 24 persons experienced a similar program in Chicago and eight from South American countries one in Houston/Texas. Other cities followed.

The participants in the CIP carried back home with them many new ideas for the work in their home countries, and more and more foreign governments appreciated the value of it. And some of them felt an obligation to offer similar experiences to American youth leaders and social workers. In 1958, the first eight American visited Germany, stayed with German host families and worked in social agencies. They came at the invitation of the German government which paid all expenses involved, but it were CIP alumni

who organised their program and carried it through. The number was soon increased to 12 participants and finally to 15. In 1965 the first program for five Americans was run in France. Other countries followed. In most cases it started as a program for Americans, but now all of them are open to participants from all countries.

CIP participants not only carried back professional skills, but also a strong feeling of friendship for each other and for those they had met in the United States. A feeling of belonging together which simply should not end when leaving the US. And they wanted to carry on and deepen their friendship with Henry. Whenever he travelled around the world to select new participants for the Program they came to meet him, talk to him, ask for advice. The first international reunion took place in Henry's home town Darmstadt in 1958, and 80 out of the than roughly 125 participants in the CIP from Europe met for a week-end. Reunions and seminars than became regular events. The first four took place in Germany, than in 1964 our friends from the Netherlands arranged one in their country, in 1968 we met in France, 1971 in Sweden, 1973 in Denmark, 1978 in Finland, 1983 in Norway, 1987 in Hungary and 1989 in Greece, all these being European countries. The first international CIF conference outside of Europe and the US took place in India in 1981. Big events like those commemorating the 10th, 20th, 25th and 30th anniversary of

the CIP, also marking anniversaries of CIF, took place in Germany in 1965, 1975 and 1980, and in the US in 1966, 1976 and 1985.

It was during the 3rd international reunion in Hamburg in 1960 that all those present unanimously decided to give this feeling of solidarity and friendship a more formal character. So CIF, the *Cleveland International Fellowship* was founded. Of the 7 people who signed the charter, Anita Gerdes, Carl-Henrik Gus and Gisella Senssfelder are present today. The aims and objectives of CIF were to maintain relations, sponsor seminars, conferences and reunions, assist in recruiting, selecting on briefing of new participants in the CIP, and to facilitate the communication. An instrument to maintain contacts among members who lived in so many different countries all over the world and also in the US, already existed. The first CIF newspaper, called *Cleveland International*, was printed and mailed to all those connected with the program as early as 1959, due to the initiative of a 1957 participant of Germany whose family owned a printing plant and in the early years did the job for CIF free of charge.

Henry's work found acknowledgement all over the world. The medals and orders of merit he received from foreign governments as well as from the United States, are too numerous to list them here.

What kind of person was Henry Ollendorff? He was tolerant,

cosmopolitan, a shining example for all of us. His life was determined by his vision of a peaceful world, of mutual understanding and respect for all people, no matter what their nationality, colour or political conviction was like. He was interested in the life history of each one of the participants and always found time to talk to them, especially to those who needed advice or had problems. He was so happy when he saw that representatives from Arabic countries became friends with those from Israel, when the Polish asked the Germans for advice or when black and white people from South Africa had a chance to meet and talk to each other freely. Henry achieved a lot during his life, but if we look at today's world we realise that still much has to be done. So let me end by quoting from a speech which Henry delivered at the conference commemorating the 5th anniversary of his program. What he said more than 30 years ago is still valid today and leaves us with the obligation to continue what Henry began and do our share to see that Henry's vision of a peaceful world becomes true one day:

"...there is something intangible which is part of CIP and that may well be defined as the conscious

development of an international community of purpose and dedication. The need for the realization of such an international community of youth leaders and social workers who will be shaping the future generation of their countries has never become to me as clear and as urgent as on the 20,000 mile trip which I have just completed. The misery, the hunger, the human suffering, which I have seen, cannot be described. I have seen tens of thousands who do not know where their next meal will come from and who do not know where they will sleep when the sun sets. I have learned to admire the courage of the new generation of leadership developed in those countries. These people want and need our help and we must give it to them freely and with the greatest humility, because we owe it to them as our fellowmen. If we want to spread peace and freedom throughout the world, we dare not make peace with hunger and misery. So let us make this the core of our purpose: to do our share in removing hunger and misery whenever it exists. This will be our greatest contribution toward building the kind of world we want to live in - a **free world**"

We wish you all a successful & happy

NEW YEAR !!

The Board of CIF International