

# CIF World NEWS



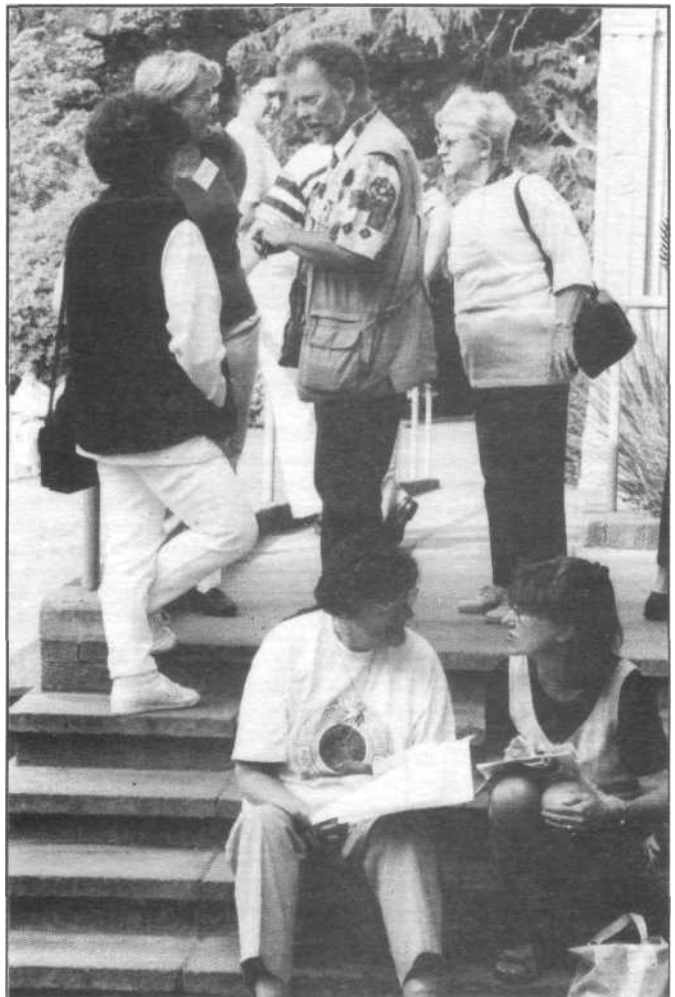
Volume 2, Number 4 : August 1999

## Martha Ollendorff Remembers - an interview

*Looking Forward to  
the Netherlands -  
Delegates at the  
1997 Scotland  
Conference*

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## Dear World News Reader

This edition of CIF World News, the last to be published in 1999, looks back to the early-history of the mother organisation of CIF, and forward to the exchange programmes in the year 2000.

It is very fitting that we are ending the old millennium with an account of the beginnings of CIF, based on a series of interviews Jane Ollendorff had with her mother-in-law, Martha. If the twentieth century was remarkable for two world wars, it was also notable for the foundation of the peace movement, a concept and ideal dear to Henry Ollendorff, and a motivating force in the foundation of CIF and CIF.

We also carry an article on practical peacemaking. Creating agreement and harmony has to be more than an ideal - it is also a practical process and the article based on a workshop led by Helen Steven at the Dundee Conference provides a starting point for anyone interested in conflict resolution.

A proposal, which will be put to the Board of Directors by the Executive Committee at the Netherlands Conference, envisages a special Millennium Edition of CIF World News, with contributions invited from every National Branches and individual members everywhere. Please let your views on this idea be known, and if you support the proposal, share your thoughts on what should be included, either at the Conference, or by writing direct to the editor.

With best wishes to all CIF members and supporters world-wide.

*David Middleton*

**EDITOR**

## MARTHA OLLENDORFF REMEMBERS

*The early days of CIP and motivating force behind it.*

By Jane Ollendorff, daughter-in-law,  
based on 1 997-99 interviews with  
Martha.

Henry and Martha Ollendorff met as students at the University of Berlin in 1932. Martha and a childhood girl friend went to a student cafe where they began a conversation with Henry who was sitting at the next table. The friend became uncomfortable because the cafe was not approved by the National Socialists (NAZI) Party and decided to leave early. Martha said, "Then, Henry invited me to go to a new place called the American Bar for a milkshake."

At that time Henry was completing a graduate degree in law and a three-year legal internship with a labour union specialising in youth. He was also a member of the Social Democratic Party. "His career goal was actually to become a judge," Martha said. Upon graduation, he passed the necessary legal exams and was admitted to the bar, only to discover that because of his Jewish background he would be "excluded from service to the state"—Hitler's government. This was very difficult for Henry to understand and accept since he was raised Christian, had plans to marry Martha, a gentile, and did not consider himself Jewish.

Martha and Henry married in 1934 and Henry accepted a position as legal advisor for a group of six export/import firms headquartered in Hamburg—half of them owned by Jewish families. As the political dominance of Hitler escalated the NAZI government arrested the Jewish owners of the firm. When Henry proved again and again that the charges were false, he was also arrested. Henry spent an entire year in prison while waiting for the case to come to trial at which time he was promised release. "He was so bored and spent the time as the prison librarian," said Martha. Henry, no longer legal advisor for the firm, was released when the trial began in the summer of 1938. It was clear to Henry and Martha that because of



Henry's Jewish heritage, rumours of Jews being taken to concentration camps and the threat of war, that they must leave Germany.

With the help of a banker cousin who had managed to become a UK citizen — the necessary funds for immigration were deposited in a U.S. bank. Henry left Germany immediately on the eve of the Chamberlain Conference due to fear that war would break out and they would be unable to leave. A few weeks later Martha, after packing their household possessions, also immigrated to the U.S.A.

While very sad to leave their homeland — they were especially appreciative of the democratic U.S. government and values placed upon free speech with opportunities for all. Henry enrolled in the New York School of Social Work, where he earned his Ph.D. as the best way to accomplish his goals. Martha remembers that even then Henry expressed CIP values, "My life was saved. I want to dedicate my life to assuring that something like the Holocaust never happens again. People, especially youth, must learn early to respect religious, racial

and other differences, understand each other and to live together."

In 1940, after the birth of their first child, Franklin — named after a much-admired U.S. President — the Ollendorffs accepted a post at the Friendly Inn Settlement House in the inner city of Cleveland, OH, where their daughter, Monica, was born. "Henry served as the director and I was the dietician for the settlement house staff," said Martha.

For the next twelve years of his career, Henry worked with the under privileged children, youth and adults served by the settlement houses of Cleveland—providing programs and opportunities for those in need. Martha remembers, "The children and I spent every summer at youth camp with Henry." During this period of time, he developed a new model of social service agency administration bringing six Cleveland settlement houses together under one umbrella organisation—the Cleveland Neighbourhood Settlement Association. Henry, using his legal and budgetary skills, provided the administrative leadership as executive director of the Association. "The concept of shared administration, reducing costly duplication and focusing resources on people and social service programs spread through out the U.S.," said Martha.

In 1954, Henry came to the attention of the U.S. Government State Department. Through a Marshall Plan re-education initiative, the German government requested an expert on modern American youth leadership who could present an educational seminar in Germany for youth leaders. Henry's expertise was well known in the field of social work—and he spoke German. After much thought and soul searching, Henry took a leave of absence from the Neighbourhood Settlement Association and returned to Germany for three months to conduct the seminar. His seminar was very well received and he found considerable interest among German youth leaders to actually see how youth groups work in the U.S.—especially camping and church groups. Henry was asked to plan such an experience.

In 1955, Henry Ollendorff approached the U.S. State Department for funding of 25 German youth leaders to come to the U.S. for four months through Fullbright Scholarships. "Henry travelled

to Germany and worked with the Youth Minister in Bonn to personally select the 'first participants,'" said Martha, "while I stayed home with the children." English language and leadership skills were required, and Henry interviewed them to make sure of their motives for wanting the U.S.A. experience.

The first participant group of 18-25 year olds raised under the Nazi's, travelled to America in 1956 by boat—practising English, singing and getting to know each other on the trip. They took a train from New York to Cleveland where with the help of Betsy Brown, Henry's assistant, host families had been arranged—individually selected to match participant interest and background. "The first program was very carefully thought out and planned with Henry's goal of 'international understanding' and acceptance of cultural differences," said Martha. Henry understood that the first participants had just lived through a war, never before travelled so far from home and were experiencing various degrees of guilt, especially being hosted by a man of Jewish heritage and numerous Jewish host families.

During the next six weeks, the participants were introduced to a variety of cultural experiences. Three religions were presented, tours of the city, neighbourhoods, institutions conducted—all planned to not only show, but to help participant's experience, according to Martha, "life in a free society." Lectures and demonstrations were arranged on every aspect of American systems—judicial, educational, health care, etc. They attended the Karamu Theatre and concert of Negro spirituals.

Most participants had never seen or interacted with Blacks. Henry carefully planned the first host family to be a close match with the participant and two others that were very different in terms of race and cultural background. A rule was established that the participant must live and interact with the host family throughout the week except for Friday night. American hosts were eager to share their life—church, workplace, and schools. "Most hosts had never travelled to wartime Europe," said Martha.

After the intense diverse orientation experiences in Cleveland, the participants were assigned as camp counsellors in placements all over the U.S.A.

"Henry and I travelled to visit them," remembers Martha. At the end of the four months, the State Department paid for the group to meet in Washington, DC. before departing for home. Briefings were held at the German Embassy and the U.S. State Department as well as tours of the Capitol.

It was a life changing experience for most participants whose frame of reference became "my life before and after America." Debriefings conducted by the Youth Ministry in Germany and all the good will created led to a decision by the U.S. State Department to fund the program again. Henry accepted the challenge to formalise the program and proposed inviting participants from Germany as well as other countries—the Cleveland International Program (CIP) was born!

"Henry knew many people in Washington, DC. who supported his proposal requirements of no political interference and that the program was not about cheap labour—the plans were for a straight forward goodwill peace program," reflects Martha. Careful participant selection and host family experiences would be key components. The experience, multicultural, educational and enriching, would become the basis for participant career advancement.

The second year, a candidate selection process was formalised in the seven European countries that fought against each other during W.W.II. The Cultural Attache at the American Embassy in each country recruited interested mid-career professionals and made initial selections. Then interviews were conducted at the Embassy in each country by the Attache, Henry and the University or Agency that submitted the candidate. "Basic selection criteria included: English language skills, personality, appropriate motivation—the understanding of 'no free vacation' and an audience for communication of the experience upon their return home," remembers Martha.

During the interview process, Henry discovered that many candidates wanted some thing other than camping and youth work experiences. They wanted to learn modern social work methods, so placements were developed in various social work agencies and in cities other than Cleveland. By the third year, the program expanded to the Middle East and South Africa. The U.S. State

Department paid for Henry's trips abroad to develop the program. Funding was made available for three days experience in New York with a visit to the United Nations in addition to the three days in Washington, D.C. and evaluations.

In the first years Henry was still employed by the Neighbourhood Association so CIP was a part-time effort of Henry, Martha and assistant, Betsy. Each year new ideas were introduced in response to the needs and interest. "The Cleveland Program expanded to eventually require the recruitment of 270 host families as well as agency placements for 90 participants each year," remembers Martha. Programs were also developed in as many as 15 other U.S. cities prior to Henry's death in 1979.

CIP has experienced many changes in recent years—a stronger focus on education and training, inclusion of participants from fields other than the helping professions, funding from sources other than the U.S. State Department, priority on economic development instead of social welfare. But, said Martha, "The vision remains the same—interaction of people from different countries, even those that may have fought each other in wars. Henry's goal was that the Holocaust should never happen again. Bridging and appreciating racial and religious differences. Person to person respect. International understanding for peace!"



### CIF on the Internet

Visits to the CIF Website at: [www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com) are now averaging 400 per month, with peaks of over 500 reached recently. Austria and Sweden top the list of countries visiting the site, but contacts come from all over the world. Sunday, Monday and Friday are the busiest days, and quite a number of people print out the information, according to the reports received from the internet provider. CIF ITALIA have their own well designed website at: [www.freeweb.org/associazioni/cifitalia](http://www.freeweb.org/associazioni/cifitalia)

## **The Practicalities of Peacemaking**

*The Nato intervention in Kosova has brought many complex issues -moral, philosophical and practical, to the forefront of the thinking of many people across the world. This article, based on a workshop presented by Helen Steven of the Ecumenical Centre, Church House, Dunblane, at the Dundee Conference, concentrates on practical ways to broker peace, which may have equal relevance to more commonplace, less newsworthy conflicts.*

**H**elen identified some "do's" and "don't's" - not as rigid preconditions, but as important guidelines which should not be changed without discussion and consent of all parties to a negotiation. Some of the guidelines are however inalienable - and absolute requirements for successful negotiation.

Never say something for one place only. For example, don't say in Dublin that you favour Irish unit)', and in Belfast that you favour an independent Ulster.

As messengers, we should only involve ourselves in earning or conveying messages which at least have a modicum of validity as seen by the other side.

Never carry sealed messages or secret documents, i.e., never carry a written message unless you know what it says.

Always let all parties know in advance all the other parties which will be at a meeting.

Don't leave important messages with an official who's position is insecure or transient, but if you have to, make sure that a reliable back up person is also aware of the position.

Do not share more information with third parties than you absolutely have to; you cannot assume that they will be discrete. Maintain contacts at all levels and at all times, even when it appears you don't "need" them, and /or when nobody wants to know them.

### **The Good Negotiator:**

Confronts the issues -and is willing to address the situation and intervene where appropriate.

Always respects the other- looks for and appeals to the humanity of the other, even when it is hard to see.

Never humiliates -always leaves a way out for the other to save face.

Takes responsibility for his/her own actions -and accepts the consequences, even when this involves risk or danger to oneself.

Works constructively -finds practical ways of building the alternative society.

Finds the creative alternatives- uses imagination to create new opportunities.

Expects change -believes that non-violence works and that a solution or settlement is possible.

### **Some Useful Reading**

Azar E. and Burton J: International Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice, Wheatshear Books, Brighton, 1986

Burton, J W: Resolving Deep Rooted Conflicts: a handbook: 1987 University Press of America

Curie, Adam. True Justice: Quaker peace makers and Peacemaking, Quaker Home Service, London 1981

Curie, Adam: Another Way. Positive Responses to Contemporary Violence: Jon Carpenter, Oxford, 1995

Fisher Roger and Ury: William, Getting to Yes: Hutchison, London, 1983.

Mitchell, C and Webb, K: New Approaches to International Mediation: Greemwood Press, Westport, 1998.

Quaker Experience of Political Mediation: document arising from a consultation at Old Jordans, Quaker Peace and Service, 1989.

Volkan, V and Monteville, J: Demetrios A. The Psychodynamics of International Relationships: Lexington Books, 1991.

Wehr, Paul: Conflict Regulation, Colorado Westview Press, 1979

*Contributed by Sue Washington*

## Letter from SINGAPORE

*Tan Pong Meng, a CIF member is Honorary Secretary of the Presbyterian Welfare Services in Singapore. In the second of our series describing the innovative work undertaken by CIF members and their organisations, we highlight the work of this voluntary social services organisation, located in the island state of Singapore, at the Southernmost point of the Malaysian Peninsula. Singapore, has a population of almost 3 million and lies 85 miles North of the Equator.*

The Presbyterian Welfare Services Singapore (PWS) began in 1974 with the establishment of the Heng Teck Centre, its first nursery with play and kindergarten classes. It later catered for outreach projects such as the tuition of young people and a drop-in centre for the old folks fellowship. In terms of physical facilities, the organisation by 1998 had a total of 12 centres providing a range of services for children and elderly people.

In the early days, assistance from a number of Presbyterian churches was especially important and the True Way Church. Trinity Theological College also provided invaluable support and encouragement.

PWS evolved from its previous identity of the Presbyterian Urban-Industrial Mission, the acronym of which was PRISM, symbolising its involvement with the multi-faceted technological and scientific-industrial world, but reflecting Christian beliefs. Today, PWS is managed by an executive committee whose members are appointed annually by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore. The day-to-day administration is undertaken by a team of professionals and support staff headed by the Executive Director

PWS is registered as a charitable body under the Charities Act 1982 and has been a Full Member of the National Council of Social Service since 1985. The main thrust of the PWS operations are its Child Care Service provided through its ten

centres and elderly care through home care services and a seniors activity centre. Other activities and programmes include the administration of an Emergency Relief Fund, Before and After School Care and an Integrated Education Programme for children with special needs.

In its service provisions it works in close co-operation with government ministries, such as the Ministry of Community Development, Ministry of Health and the National Council of Social Service for funding of its programmes. Other avenues of financial support comes from well-wishers, corporate as well as individuals.



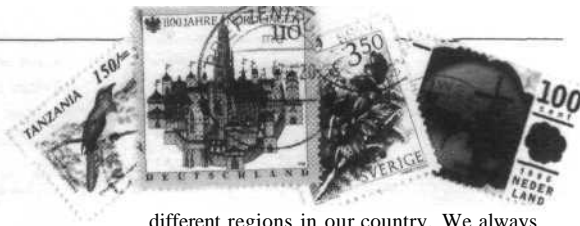
*Children's activities play an important part in the PWS programmes. Photo courtesy PWS Singapore*

As the Singapore economy enters a difficult period, the importance an organisation like the Presbyterian Welfare Services comes into its own. For many years now, PWS has pioneered services helping those who are in economic need, beginning with child care for those families where the spouse has to enter the labour force.

In these times of economic distress, however, PWS's Emergency Relief Fund will probably come under great pressure as already 25% of those who have been helped apply because of family problems. Last year the service disbursed \$77,145.00 as compared to \$28,204.00 in the previous year. However, donations received as a whole to PWS fell last year. Nevertheless, the organisation has faith that its services will meet the current demands made upon it, and looks forward to further developments in the years ahead.

**Contributed by Tan Pong Meng**

# Letters to the Editor



**Dear Editor,**

In October 1998, we started a contact group in Denmark so that we can:

Be in contact with CIF/CIP International, receiving current information,

Be responsible for host family arrangements and trainee service in Denmark, in co-operation with CIF Sweden.

Provide information to Danish social workers and connected groups about the CIF/CIP Exchange programmes,

At the moment, we are a small group, hoping to grow bigger.

**Suasn Otepká,**  
**Secretary,**  
**Lillegardsvej 18,**  
**2942 Denmark**

**Dear Editor,**

We are very thankful for the way the report on the start up of our branch was covered. All those given the copies are responding positively and with enthusiasm. We hope that the information about our first programme will attract many enquiries and look forward to doing our best to can live up to CIF-International expectations.

**Ronald Miller Mbelo,**  
**National Co-ordinator.**  
(abridged from a longer letter)

**Dear Editor,**

Greetings from Dar Es Salaam !

I would like to let you know about our former CIP and CIF Aluni of our branch living in

different regions in our country. We always communicate with them about our various activities and programmes of our branch, and enclose a list of them for your records.

**Mathern Mpondo**  
**President CIF Tanzania**

( 27 of the 28 Branch members attended programmes in USA, the exception is Mathern himself who participated in the CIF Finland Programme. Ed.)

*Ursula Schmitz passed on this letter which she felt would have a wider interest.*

**Dear Ursula,**

Thank you very much for all the information you so kindly sent to me for our national branch. It is very important for all of us. It's the only link with CIF for our branch.

Sorry if my letters don't reach you- the mail does not work in Russia in a proper way nowadays

Our National Branch is trying to do its best, although I don't know anyone who has recently participated in a CIF or CIP programme

The economic situation, the political instability and today's crises don't give the possibility to do many things. Now I use the opportunity to send this letter with people who will travel abroad. I hope you will get it soon. For some people in St Petersburg, CIP/CIF is an essential part of life and an unforgettable experience. In spite of all the difficulties, we will do everything to save the spirit of CIF/CIP.

Sincerely,

**Raisa Zelenko**  
**Pr Culture, 7-1-65**  
**195274, St Petersburg, Russia**

## CIF/CIP Exchange Programmes - Plans for 2000

Country	Length	Dates	Deadlines	Language	Reg. fee	Support	Participants
Austria/ Hungary	4 weeks + 10 days	April- May	Dec. 1"	English + German if possible	3.500 AS/ \$ 120	Domestic travel	3-6
Finland	6 weeks	April -June	Dec 1st	English	No fee	Dom. travel + allowance	8-10
France	8 weeks	Autumn	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	French	\$1000**	Dom. travel + allowance	12-15
Germany*	8 weeks	Sept-Nov	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	German	No fee	Dom. travel + allowance	12-15
Greece	4 weeks	March	Dec 1st	English + Greek if Possible	J200	Dom travel	8
India	10 weeks	Nov-Jan	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	English	\$600	Dom. travel	10-15
Israel	3 weeks	May	Dec 1"	English	\$250	Dom. travel	2
Italy/ Slovenia	4 + 1 weeks	Sept-Oct	March 1st	English + Italian if possible	\$200/ 400000It. lire	Dom. travel	4
Netherlands	4 weeks	May/June	Dec 1st	English	\$75		8
Norway	8 weeks	April-June	Dec 1"	English	No fee	Dom. travel + allowance	8
Scotland	6 weeks	May-June	Dec 1st	English	No fee	Dom. travel	6-8
Sweden	6 weeks	May-June	Dec 1st	English	No fee	Dom. travel + allowance	8-12
Turkey	4 weeks	May-June	Dec 1"	English	\$300	Dom. travel	4-6
United States (CIP)	4,12 or 18 months	Jan, May, Aug/Sep	None	English	Variable	allowance/ housing	open

The German program is funded by the German government, but planned and implemented by an alliance of welfare organisations and institutions \*\* From countries where there is no support from the French embassy.

### Latest Programme News

CIF Kenya is planning a pilot programme in the year 2000. Information currently available envisage a four week programme in March, with four to six participants and a registration fee of \$450/500 dollars. Domestic travel is offered and visits to National Parks will be part of the cultural programme. As the information we have at present is not complete, and dates may not finally fixed, it is suggested that anyone interested should contact Ronald Millar Mbelo, National Co-ordinator, PO Box 10450, Nakuru, Kenya. Fax +254 37 45739  
E.mail shilow@net2000ke.com

Check the CIF website at: [www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com) for the latest updates on programmes



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### UPDATE TO CONTACT PERSON LIST

The contact person for **Spain** is now Maria Teresa Ruiz, C/Cami Ral, 283, 2 o 8301,  
Mataro, Barcelona.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP THIS DIRECTORY UP TO DATE BY NOTIFYING THE CIF  
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