

# SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Second Quartet 1981

No.14

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

This prayer has been issued by the World Disarmament Campaign. It is not linked to any creed or dogma, but it is based on belief in the power of prayer. It is being printed in many languages. People around the world are voicing or meditating on it for two minutes each day, at midday their time. There is thus a continuous chain of positive thought and prayer encircling the earth. The prayer will be offered until the second special session on Disarmament at the U.N., June, 1982, in the hope that world governments will have the wisdom and courage to implement a comprehensive programme for world disarmament.

Please join this vigil. If you forget at midday, you may still remember at any hour in the knowledge that you are joining with others somewhere in the world.

Lead me from Death, to Life, from Falsehood to Truth - Lead me from Despair to Hope, from Fear to Trust - Lead me from Hate to Love, from War to Peace - Let Peace fill our Hearts, our World, our Universe.



Angeles. He would have been in India but for his sudden untimely death. It was at Wetzlar that he cheerfully remarked, "Fighting with weapons is out of date now; the battle is in the economic field. And there we feel we are a match for almost anyone." The last part is true enough. If only people would realize the truth of the first statement! But in Japan itself, the peace constitution has now been amended and Japan's former enemies are urging the country to arm itself and defend the Pacific!

Amano-san felt impatient with the inconclusive, time-wasting arguments which often occupied our 'business sessions', and he would have made a very good president or secretary for Servas International if he had had time. He was also grieved in Denmark to see how rudely and unkindly some of the European and American delegates spoke to one another. In the East there is more emphasis on politeness and harmony in human relations. We share the sadness of Servas Japan at losing such a fine member and hope that his influence will live on to inspire the others who now share the tasks that formerly were his. Barbara Whitehead, International Secretary

I heartily accept the motto, - "That government is best which governs least;" and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically. Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which also I believe, - "That government is best which governs not at all;" and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have. Government is at best but an expedient; but most governments are usually, and all governments are sometimes, inexpedient.

from *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*  
Henry David Thoreau

## The First German-Danish Meeting of Servas Hosts

When Birgitte Damsgaard was visiting Sigrid Fuchs in Berlin in the summer of 1980 it was suggested that there should be a meeting in Copenhagen of German hosts from Berlin and Hamburg with Danish hosts.

The meeting took place on 4th October, 1980 in the home of the Tonnesens family. Nine hosts from Hamburg and six from Berlin accepted. They arrived by car, train and plane. Rolf from Hamburg even hitch-hiked to get to Copenhagen. Christiane and Peter Brock (the German Secretary) brought their baby Tatjana and Ingrid Sparbier and Yves Grisel brought their little Jan. Frau Jeans and Frau Anhalt, both over 70 years old, made the long journey from Berlin for

## AMANO-SAN THE ORIGINAL 'SERVASIST'

It was Amano-san himself who invented the word 'Servasist' for a member of our movement. His own members were carefully instructed, organized in monthly meetings held by coordinators in their regions and not approved for a journey overseas until they had attended these and paid subscriptions for six months. The result was that Japanese travellers were very popular with Servas hosts all over the world. Punctual, polite and adaptable, they carefully kept the rules and earned gratitude and admiration everywhere.

Servas Japan started in 1964, following a visit by Russell Schiller from England, when he and Amano-san did some

publicity on the media and got a considerable response. Amano-san received all incoming travellers in his house, helped them adapt to Japanese customs and provided them with a short list of hosts suitable to their particular interests; the list was to be returned later with any necessary alterations and comments. The system worked very well; but the task of secretary was so onerous that no more than three other Servas branches copied it, and they were very small ones, whereas Servas Japan grew to a membership of about five hundred. Having business Connections in various parts of the world, Amano-san managed to attend all the International conferences in Europe, and the one in Los

this special occasion. The Danish hosts gave us a very hearty welcome, and those we didn't already know we very soon got to know. On Saturday evening came the get-together. Many varied and delicious dishes, contributed by all the hosts, awaited us. Mrs. Tonnesens had baked a wonderful cake especially for the occasion. We broke up into groups and many anecdotes about members were told and slides were shown. Danish, German and English were spoken, which helped to create an atmosphere of togetherness. One of the stories was about two hosts from different countries who met at the European Conference in 1977. They found that they had so much in common,

they married and now have a child.

It was also recounted how Christiane and Peter Brock and Flemming and Maja Holm-Larsen bumped into one another at Calcutta airport after not having met for two years. One sad note at the meeting was when we learned of the passing of Masuo Ammo, the much-loved Asian co-ordinator from Japan. We shall always remember him.

The Danish hosts opened their hearts and their homes to the German hosts and the meeting created great goodwill. We are planning a reciprocal Danish-German get-together in Hamburg in 1981. Eike Offer Berlin

## HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE

An international conference will take place in Tel Aviv on 20th-24th June, 1982. The theme will be "Towards understanding, intervention and prevention of Genocide". Participants will include men and women involved in business, national and international affairs, communications, international law and relations, human rights, political science, psychology, sociology, philosophy and theology, public health and medicine, treatment of survivors and their families. The conference and all workshops will be conducted in English.

Anybody who has worked on the holocaust or genocide and requires further information on registration and attendance, submission of papers or other matters should contact:

The Secretariat, Int. Conf. on the Holocaust & Genocide, P.O. Box 16271, Tel-Aviv, Israel, Tel. 03-255367, Telex 341171 DENS IL. The conference is co-sponsored by Hunter College of the City University of New York and Henrietta Szold National Institute for Research in the Behavioral Sciences, Jerusalem.

## WOMEN & PEACE

The United Nations General Assembly on 11th December, 1980 endorsed the Copenhagen Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and urged governments to implement it and the other decisions of the Conference. The resolution adopted by the General Assembly calls for Governments to increase the dissemination of information and exchange of experiences on the participation of women in all relevant programmes and information activities. It also calls for increased national, regional and international effort to achieve the objectives of the UN Decade for Women: equality, development and peace. The Secretary-General is requested to submit proposals for implementing the Programme of Action to the 1981 session of the Economic and Social Council. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 132 in favour to 3 against (Canada, Israel, and United States) with 9 abstentions (Australia, Central African Republic, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand and UK )

# SPONSOR FOR A NEEDY CHILD



The Indian Council for Child Welfare, a national voluntary organisation founded in 1952, is devoted to the furtherance of child welfare in India. The Council is affiliated to the International Union for Child Welfare, Geneva and works in collaboration with the Government of India. It has established:

- 21 State and over 200 District Councils
- 21 Training institutions for multipurpose child welfare workers
- Over 800 Balwadis (Creches) for pre-school children, to meet their total needs

Other activities of the Council are: Declaration of 14 November as Children's Day; conferring national awards for bravery; children's international

summer village camps; school help centre; integration camps; information exchange; promotion of enactment of legislation and initiation of national policies for children.

Sponsorship is arranged by the Council of children between the ages of 10 and 17 years who have show signs of above-average academic ability and who belong to low-income families (Rs. 300/- per month and below) and also of children in children's homes/institutions which are unable to meet their educational expenses. It costs only Rs. 600/- (or the equivalent in other currencies) to sponsor a child for a year. For further details contact: The Indian Council for Child Welfare, 4 Din Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi, INDIA. Those who do not want to sponsor a child may, alternatively, contribute to the work of the ICCW.

Those voting against the resolution did so because of the two references in the Programme of Action calling for the elimination of Zionism and equating it with racism. The United States also could not accept the section of the programme concerning assistance to

Palestinian women as this was to be provided in consultation with the Palestinian Liberation Organization. However, those delegations abstaining or voting against the resolution indicated their readiness to support other parts of the 287 paragraph Programme of Action aimed at improving the status of women.

wonderful couple among those wonderful Chilean people.

I must mention Ruth Tichauer in Bolivia and her remarkable work with the Indians. I was fortunate to have the chance to help a little with her project and get to see it at first-hand. Stories about her work would take more than one issue of S.I.N.

When I was in Oregon, USA, Jay and Louise Ballman told me about their friend Esconcirco Medina in Ecuador. He was an exchange student and lived with them. So when I was in Ecuador a couple of months later I got in touch with him and told him about *Servas*. He was very interested and joined us and is the first *Servas* host in Ecuador. I hope many more Ecuadorean people will join him and us in *Servas*.

In Santiago, Chile, I met Sam and Vickey Lery, who were on their way to Israel, so I hope I'll meet them at home.

In a few places I also met travellers who were not staying with *Servas* hosts. In Boulder, Colorado, in a bar I talked to two German travellers, Sammy Sturzl and Karl Heinz Hermann, and discovered that they too were *Servas* members. That, of course, was a good reason to celebrate! In Peru eight months later I talked to a Dane in a museum, and very shortly we discovered we were both with *Servas*. What a small world and what a big *Servas*! In Ecuador I met an Israeli couple who were also travelling under the *Servas* banner.

I hope that my experiences can be shared with others. *Servas* made it a great trip for me! Thank you -

*Dany Bar, Hashalom 13,*

*Hod Hasharon 45 209, Israel.*

Dear Editor,

I am a very active member of *Servas* International and attended its Conference in Baroda December, 1980/ January, 1981.

I have my own houses in New Delhi and Simla, the latter being a very beautiful hill station in the Himalayas and the summer capital of India. My wife and I are very happy when any member of *Servas* comes to stay with us and friends from many parts of the world have already visited us. I am a retired Publications Officer, Government of India, and the founder Director of Intercontinental Association of Friends and Pen Friends. My fervent desire is to establish a museum of children's toys from all

over the globe. In this connection, any correspondence should be addressed to me at Rajmaya Estate, Simla 171004 (H.P.), India.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*G. C. Sharma, M.A., J.D.,*

*B.101/2, East of*

*Kailash, New Delhi*

*110065, India.*

As Editor, I receive many comments, both complimentary and adverse, concerning the content of our Newsletter. It occurred to me that members would appreciate reading some of these to see how they compare with their own views and also to give them an idea of the problems of editing a news sheet, how-ever small! Whether one edits a great internationally famed newspaper or a small one like ours, the editor must accept both brickbats and bouquets and carry on the task irrespective of praise or blame. So there follow a few extracts from letters I have received on this subject.

*Rosalind Schama*

I shall appreciate it if the magazine contains something about the peace efforts of its members so that our approach is objective. It is not your fault if you are not getting news of that type.

*Harivallabh Parikh (Bhai),  
Regional Coordinator for South Asia.*

I receive regularly a copy of the *Servas* International News and am happy to say that it is a very useful and well-produced bulletin.

*Mr. G. C. Sharma, New Delhi.*

Congratulations! The two issues you have edited are really nice!

*Emilia Boikliev,  
Budapest.*

We all get such a lot of pleasure out of your news. We are so far away, it's like a view of another world, and I hope disturbs our notorious complacency!

*Yvonne Brown,  
Secretary,*

*Servas New Zealand.*

S.I.N. 15 is naturally much appreciated by me. (It carried an article by her. Ed.) ... In addition to their internal problem of too many mailings to their members do they (officers) perchance want more travel reports that encompass more of Europe and the rest of the Globe? *Reva King, Peace Secretary & former President of Servas International.*

Issues 13 & 14 had little copy, apart from extensive coverage of the Conference in India, that I found of general interest for *Servas* Members... I agree with Antonie that we (i.e. countries with several hundred hosts) can't afford to send S.I.N. to hosts except with circulars. I believe those who send out circulars will usually do it twice a year. Some

apparently don't send anything. We send circulars to hosts in Denmark in November and in March, the latter with the new Host List. Of course it is not a great burden for countries who have few hosts to distribute S.I.N.

*Birgitte Damsgaard, Secretary, Servas Denmark.*

I enjoy getting the Newsletter, which I must congratulate you on.

*Arne Hansen,  
Area Coordinator,  
Glencoe, Canada.*

Congratulations for "Servas News"!

*Luigi Uslenghi,  
Secretary,  
Italy.*

Denise Waech (Treasurer & Asst. Sec. *Servas* International) and Antonie Fried (Coordinator for Europe & the Near East) have both written more than once expressing the opinion that S.I.N. should be devoted to hosts' reactions to their guests and vice versa and they both feel that two issues per annum are sufficient on financial grounds. Graham Thomas (Secretary Great Britain and until recently President of *Servas* International) has found S.I.N. 13, 14 and 15 to his liking and our International Secretary, Barbara White-head has not registered any objections to these issues.



An open air discussion among the olive trees in a garden near Sorrento.

## National Meeting

Brilliant sunlight on the superb Bay of Naples greeted Italian members and friends attending the Second National Meeting of *Servas* at Seiano di Vico Equense last autumn. The first was held in a monastery in the Camaldoli Forest in Tuscany two years ago. About fifty participants had gathered from all over Italy, and they were joined by Janine Hall of *Servas*, France, who is the *Servas* observer at the United Nations in Geneva. She contributed outstandingly to the success of the gathering, having brought along audio-visual Material and publications on disarmament issued by the UN, as well as a message from Kurt Waldheim's daughter, specially recorded for the meeting. In her message Miss Waldheim, whose field at the UN is in fact disarmament, stressed the priority given to this issue by the UN, and she pointed out the importance of the next Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament, which is to be held in May or June, 1982. Miss Waldheim said that one of the most interesting de-

velopments of the first Session in 1978 was how it had stirred up world public opinion.

What can a non-governmental organization like *Servas* do? Miss Waldheim told us that it can help to enlighten public opinion and bring about greater awareness. One of the main tasks of the Disarmament Centre in Geneva is to make information readily available. In the closing part of her message Miss Waldheim stated that the UN will carry on its work, for although the results may not always live up to expectations, it is far better than making no effort at all to stop the lunatic arms race. She appealed to us to help the UN in preparing for the Second Special Session and asked for suggestions as to how this help might be given. In his address the National Secretary, Luigi Uslenghi highlighted an aspect of public involvement in the peace campaign which is complementary to international politics. He spoke of a more personal commitment in one's daily life. It is the ordinary, everyday acts like writing a letter, throwing open one's home, or making friends with someone far away that can create a new outlook and can gradually change the world. Did not Amnesty International's strength spring from piles of letters, which had helped thousands of persons to be set free and made for more sensitive, better informed public opinion? Luigi went on to say, "We did not join *Servas* because it is a delightful private club, but because we feel that a simple gesture or an encounter may be the means of paving the way to real peace." After viewing two films on disarmament, members participated in a debate, which they were obliged to keep within strict bounds due to the limited time at their disposal. This sometimes lively debate revealed strikingly different points of view on the subject of peace in general and on disarmament in particular and outlined the role *Servas* could play in this field. These different attitudes reflect various reasons for becoming a member of our group and are in themselves a good thing, when not the result of a superficial approach. They are in keeping with the very essence of *Servas* as a means of getting to know others. The meeting was brought to a close with an open air discussion on the solution of organizational problems that are encountered, held under centuries-old olive trees of the Sorrento Peninsula.

## 'DOING' BERLIN IN TWO DAYS

How does one spend a normal weekend? One relaxes, enjoys oneself, goes to town, has guests in, watches TV a little. In actual fact, a weekend isn't very long - before you know where you are, it's over.

I was therefore somewhat surprised when I heard about our German "friendship" hosts' invitation to a weekend get-together in Berlin. Wouldn't it be too harassing and would it really be worthwhile putting up with the long, tedious train journey? The idea seemed a little crazy, just crazy enough for me to decide to take part.

Now - after the trip - I feel a little ashamed that I could think the way I did. The trip was an unforgettable experience, which I would be willing to do all over again.

Unfortunately, we were only eight Danes (plus two-year-old Heidi) who shared in that wonderful experience. As I am a relatively new member of *Servas* and have never met other Danish hosts before, I was rather excited about meeting my fellow-passengers. I expected a positive experience (hosts should, in my opinion, be open, talkative, and have a sense of humour) and I must admit that my expectations were fully realized. The normally tedious journey on Friday night was an exciting experience. Yes indeed, right from the start we were in for a successful trip.

After the "documentation terror" in East Germany (what a set-up!), we finally reached West Berlin on Saturday morning. Here we were met by some of the hosts, who stood on the platform with flowers - fortunately these were artificial as they had waited for us for more than two hours!

We were then driven home to our respective hosts with whom we spent the day. Some of us used the time to "discover" Berlin (the Museum at "Checkpoint Charlie" is really worth a visit), while others felt the need to take to their beds.

Well now, the truth must be admitted, in the evening when we held a get-together with the rest of the hosts from Berlin and Hamburg, one regretted somewhat that one hadn't had a wink of sleep. However, despite our weariness we had an enjoyable evening. There was a lot of talking (my goodness, how difficult it is to speak German!), and Frau Fuchs, at whose home we all met,

can certainly be fully satisfied with the arrangements.

It struck me how different we all were - but just how nice that is in itself. Imagine if *Servas* was party-politically or religiously influenced! That get-together certainly showed the variety of opinion there is in *Servas*; there is room for all peace-loving people, regardless of age, social status, religious background or political opinion.

On Sunday our hosts took us on a sightseeing tour of the city. Together we went around and saw something of "what one should see" and, of course, more besides. Naturally it was no normal tourist trip - it was more of a stroll, enjoying the sunshine and one another and talking a lot, when suddenly - it seemed as though quite by chance - one came across "die Gedachtneskirche", "der Zoo", "das Reichstagsgebäude", "Brandtenberger Tor", etc. At one and the same time both pleasant and exciting.

At 4 o'clock we went our various ways with our respective hosts and spent a pleasant evening. A few of us saw something quite outside the ordinary sightseeing when we entered Potsdamer Strasse, which had just been given new signposts: "Rattay Strasse", in memory of a young man, Klaus Rattay, killed in a demonstration the day before when the police attacked squatters in a nearby building. There many hundreds of people were holding a "wake", and the street was covered with flowers and slogans. We were right at the centre of the events that had been in the headlines, not only in Berlin but also in the Danish papers.

We left by the 10.0 pm train for home, and we could look back on a wonderful weekend. I certainly feel richer by the experience. I must admit it is really hard to take the night train home and go directly to work, but that shouldn't put anyone off. Given another such opportunity, I would do it all over again!

Mogensjeppesen,  
*Servas, Denmark*

### Martin Niemoller - A PROFILE

One of West Germany's two *Servas* Sponsors, Rev. Martin Niemoller, celebrated his 90th birthday on 14th January. A number of interesting interviews were given by this well-known pacifist to mark this occasion, and *Servas* members will be interested in his views.

Before relating parts of one interview, it would be appropriate to give some background information on Mr. Niemoller. During World War I he commanded a submarine, then turned his back on the military and began to study



theology in 1919. Ordained in 1924, he went on to lead several Protestant Church organizations and was foremost in the ranks of those who openly op-posed the country's new racist and militaristic regime. A confrontation with Hitler in 1934 cost Mr. Niemoller his post as a church leader, but he continued to preach against the new nationalism until his arrest in 1937. He spent the years 1938 to 1945 in a concentration camp. More recently, Mr. Niemoller was President of the World Council of Churches. He has also been active as head of the German section of the International Association of Conscientious Objectors.

During the January interviews Mr. Niemoller was asked if he could explain why the Peace Movement has grown so enormously in recent years. He said that there are two points - the real danger of a nuclear war and the strange politics of the big powers. The Warsaw Pact countries on one side and the NATO member states on the other are being steered by the super powers into a catastrophe. Asked to compare the new Peace Movement with that of the 1950's, Mr. Niemoller said that the old one was an affair of intellectuals. "It's good that this is no longer the case," he said. The Peace Movement today has become larger, even though it is not supported by the bigger organizations. Today, the fact that the collective survival is threatened, means that we have a completely new situation for most people.

Speaking about his early life, Mr. Niemoller said that although there were conflicts, it was never a question of the survival of humanity; it was an individual concern. The situation now is much more serious than either World War I or World War II. There are many indications that the Peace Movement fights, not only for peace, but also for a better, cleaner environment and against nuclear power plants. It is a great hope.

Asked what could hinder the Peace Movement most, the Pastor replied that the battle is with the idea of what constitutes progress. This important idea will decide the destiny of humanity. Up to today we have thought that progress was the perfection of technical knowledge. If it could be called "progress", we did it. This way of thinking is the basic idea of military research and the arms race. He believes that, in reality, real progress has nothing to do with the idea of technical knowledge. There is no progress

without a goal, and there are no goals left. Everything now is turning in circles, and this type of so-called "progress" destroys our environment.

As a pastor, Mr. Niemoller has continually told people that to praysimply isn't enough; they must take an active part in working for the good of all mankind. Taking an active part in the struggle for peace is something we in *Servas* should all be doing.

*Arne Hansen, Area Coordinator,  
Servas Canada.*

## WHO'S THE TERRORIST?

Letter to the Editor of *The Guardian*, 14.10.81.

Sir,  
Is there among your readers some philosopher, ecclesiastic, or politician who can help me to get to grips with the following problem? To what extent, or in what degree, is the person who makes, orders, pays for, aims or fires a Trident nuclear missile better or worse than those who make, order, pay for, place, or set off a nail-bomb in central London?  
*William Harnett,  
King's Lynn.*

## SOME SERVAS NEW ZEALAND ACTIVITIES

Most provinces hold annual get-togethers and in 1981 Auckland hosted over one hundred hosts; Wellington seventy; South Island fifty to sixty and at Wanganui I hosted a semi-live-in meeting at the Quaker Community Centre, which was thoroughly enjoyed by eighty hosts and their families. We now have 400 hosts, and in the remote rural areas they really need more travellers. *Servas* is their only contact with other countries. We are so small, and of course, have to plan even our 1,200 mile trip to our nearest neighbour. I'm sure this is why we are so hospitable and friendly. We also must be affluent in spite of terrible unemployment and vast economic problems, because so far (up to early Dec. '81) I have approved over one hundred travellers.

Our Peace Secretary, Nora Tibble of Auckland, presented a very comprehensive and interesting Report at our Wanganui meeting, with particular emphasis on the nuclear threat, both in Europe and here in the Pacific, where we are so close to the disastrous results of France's nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll. Many hosts appreciate the opportunities for discussion with travellers, but a number are too shy and lack confidence. Perhaps they will gain more positive attitudes when they travel *Servas*.  
*Yvonne Brown,  
Secretary,  
Servas, New Zealand.*

## For Non Members; What is SERVAS all about anyway?

"With every true friendship we build more firmly the foundation on which the peace of the whole world rests." -M. K. Gandhi.

*Servas* is an international co-operative system of travellers and volunteer hosts, established to help build world peace, good will, and understanding by providing opportunities for contacts between persons of different cultures and backgrounds.

Hosts (mostly individuals and families, plus some community groups) provide information about themselves for listing in a national host directory. Approved *Servas* travellers choose the hosts they wish to write to, or telephone, about possible visits (usually two nights) to share life in the hosts' homes and communities.

*Servas* charges travellers a small fee. No money changes hands between travellers and hosts. (Ideas, we hope, pass freely between them.)

*Servas* is non-profit, interracial, and interfaith. It has consultative status as a Non-Governmental Organization with ECOSOC in the United Nations.

## Reflections on the role of Servas

My philosophical problem is complicated. My impression is that many travellers come more to see cities than their hosts. Travellers who are really interested in people, who are committed to peace movements seem to stay at home. They must find that one needs in the first instance to establish good relationships at home. For this one needs much time, certainly more than a day or two.

On the other hand, travelling is expensive, especially if one travels far, as *Servas* travellers often do. I have been confronted with underdevelopment in Zaire, and I sometimes feel ashamed of our luxurious life, compared with that in the greater part of the world. I can only travel for pleasure if at least three times the cost is given to development projects in the Third World. For me and most *Servas* members travelling is done for pleasure.

There follows an extract from something I read in the Globetrotters Club Newsletter for January/February 1980, a report of a trip to India. "I was light-years away from Mother Teresa's attitude - every soul sent by God to be cared for with love and dignity - yet I would continue to drive lorryloads of goods to the docks because I hated waste in one

community while there was want in another. The same applied to my airline ticket; although it was the cheapest going, I knew that in the style of the OXFAM advert it would provide X number of people with Y number of hookworm pills or whatever. This must always be the conflict in the mind of the conscientious traveller; if anyone has come up with a good put-down, I would like to hear it."

Why do we continue with *Servas*? Less for talking and learning; more to help people to travel abroad. In Africa we so often received hospitality from people who could not understand us, who could not talk to us. They slept on the ground and gave us the only bed. We learned that we have to help each other as much as we can. Is it not significant that Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize for helping as much as she could the most forgotten people? By giving away everything - all material property, and even her lifetime?

The standard traveller is not the same as he/she used to be. This I have heard from "old-timers" in the movement. Even the founder, Bob Lutweiler, has withdrawn as a host, and his suggestion to divide *Serval* into two groups - the globe-trotters and the peace workers - looks serious to me. Maybe most of the peace-minded people stay at home, or at least they don't rush to Brussels and Bruges. Hosts living in the Belgian countryside did not have a single visitor last year and we in the towns had only twenty.

*doe Verwimp,*  
*Secretary,*  
*Servas, Belgium.*

## The United Nations Support Group - Recommendations to Members

### *Disarmament*

1. Promote and participate in developing Information Centres about Disarmament around the world.
2. Publicize the June, 1982 UN Special Session on Disarmament.
3. Encourage attendance at the Special Session.
4. Try to submit meaningful papers for the Special Session - needed as soon as possible. (Address them to

*Reva King,*  
*Peace Secretary,*  
*268 West 12th St.,*  
*New York City, N. Y. 10014 USA. )*

### **World Development**

1. Keep in touch with Development issues.
2. Study in depth specific programmes and policies.
3. When possible and desirable pro-mote action with other Non-governmental Organizations in relation to the United Nations system.

### *Aging*

1. Encourage *Servas* travellers to study and discuss developments regarding the aging in various countries.
2. Help improve attitudes between youth and the aging through attempts to understand their differences and also recognize areas of mutual concern.
3. Help older people keep up with technical fields by encouraging young people in various parts of the world (including the Third World) to correspond with their older counterparts.
4. Prepare and publish profiles describing older people, including *Servas* members.
5. Alert members to the 1982 World Assembly on Aging.

N.B. Our representative at the UN Committee on the Aging is Henrietta Lund, who is 85 years old.

## **Servas international Activities with the United Nations - 1981/82**

It is difficult to report briefly on our extensive involvement at UN Head-quarters in Geneva and New York and the initial work of our new representatives in Vienna. Describing what the U.N. does for *Servas* must be considered in the broad concepts of our common goals - international understanding, peace, human rights, development, our spirit of international *mutual* service, and our other *Servas* aims. These are the bases on which *Servas International* was granted Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECO SOC) of the UN. Composed of government representatives from most countries of the world but lacking the authority of a world government, the UN needs the political will of its member governments and citizens to achieve adequate inter-national cooperation and assure survival of our world. Although many people may criticize the UN for its slow progress towards our goals, we know that all efforts depend on a network of constructive communica-

tion and that the UN is our best present resource for meeting with other inter-national peace organizations whose representatives compose the various NGO Committees.

DISARMAMENT is our priority in both Geneva and New York, with preparations for the 7th June to 9th July Special Session on Disarmament requiring major attention.

*We still need material from you* that may enhance public awareness of the issues concerning disarmament. Also, anyone who will attend this Special Session should make arrangements for *Servas* hosting as soon as possible. In Geneva our *Servas* Representative, Janine Hall, has received encouragement and help of all kinds, which she has used in arranging challenging community programme discussions on Disarmament and Peace. (See special report on Janine's work.)

Related to Disarmament is UNISPACE, of which our *Servas* representative is Secretary and has worked actively towards the preservation of outer space for peaceful purposes to aid and benefit life on earth, in addition to monitoring the UNISPACE II Conference in Vienna for August, 1982. We hope our Vienna *Servas* delegate can represent us at this Conference. If any other European *Servas* members are knowledgeable and interested in this Conference, will they please contact us through the European Regional Co-ordinator, Antonie Fried.

DEVELOPMENT. The 1980/81 *Servas* Conference Presidential address highlighted the importance for *Servas* of the Brandt Commission Report "North-South, a Programme for Survival". At the NGO Development Committee, global international negotiations have been the major focus. You undoubtedly know reasons why there has been so little progress. At the NGO discussion on CANCUN, the latest UN Conference dealing with global inter-national negotiations, our *Servas* representative was shocked to find, in answer to his question, that the role of transnational corporations representing private interests in the third or fourth world was totally ignored at CANCUN. He asks that all *Serval* members care-fully study all related facts and have the courage of their convictions to speak up before it is too late.

Protecting HUMAN rights is basic for the UN and for *Servas*. In addition to the ongoing activities of the NGO Human Rights Committee, in which freedom of religion and Southern Africa have been subjects of major action, we have included the Aging, Youth, and Women as Human Rights issues for *Serval*, based on our concern for all people.

## EDUCATION FOR PEACE & DISARMAMENT

SERVAS submitted to the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1980 a paper headed as above. The following factors were listed for consideration in stimulating education for peace and disarmament:

1. Defining peace.
2. Stimulating motivation for peace.
3. Promoting respect for the dignity of life for all people.
4. Promoting self-confidence, self-value and inner security as a human being from the time of early childhood.
5. Disseminating recognition of peace as a human right in entire development process.
6. Mobilizing human ability for reason and problem solving.
7. Encouraging creative approaches in handling aggressive instincts, conflicts and confrontations.
8. Recognizing all implications of power aspirations, ranging from the individual to the corporate group, the State and the trans-national corporations.
9. Understanding the contribution of competition to military conflict.
10. Urging more constructive contributions by the mass media.
11. Promoting strategies for converting the international arms race into programmes for meeting human needs around the world.
12. Dealing with other factors leading to war and violence. The paper went on to make the following recommendations: It is recommended that deliberations at the meetings of the United Nations

Disarmament Commission include steps towards developing Education for Peace and Disarmament. We recommend particular attention to successful programmes already initiated in various member nations, from the growing numbers of peace studies programmes in institutions of higher learning to those beginning with young children, helping them to understand the causes of the conflicts around them and to find creative, non-violent solutions. It is especially this latter that has received too little attention, yet it is at very early ages that children develop patterns of hostility to those of differing cultures, beliefs and life styles that eventually pose hardened confrontation leaving little hope for mediation. Changing these patterns very early in children's lives gives, we feel, greatest promise for growth towards a world community free of the devastating effects of an international arms race. An excellent example of such efforts may be found in the Children's Creative Response to Conflict Programme of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We are sure that there are many others which merit study by the Commission on Disarmament.

### PASSPORTA SERVO DE TEJO

This is a world organization of young Esperanto speakers, which, like SERVAS, publishes a list of hosts who offer accommodation in their own homes to young people who subscribe to the service. Their 1979 edition contained a list of 320 addresses in 44 countries and the subscription is 15 French francs. Members are required to speak Esperanto. For further details contact: Jeanne-Marie Cash, 5, allees des Felibres, F 31520 Ramonville St.-Agne, FRANCE.

The crazy combative patriotism that plainly threatens to destroy civilization is very largely begotten by the schoolmaster and the schoolmistress in their history lessons. They take the growing mind at a naturally barbaric phase and they inflame and fix its barbarism.

H. G. Wells

## WOMEN- the General Assembly Debate

Out of 149 countries whose representatives addressed the 1980 session of the General Assembly during the general debate, only 18 made any mention of women. Fifteen referred to the achievements of the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women. Of the 149 representatives who spoke, only one was a woman. She represented Sao Tome and Principe.

## WOMEN & the new International Development Strategy

A triumph for women. The IDS, formulated by the 1980 special session of the General Assembly, explicitly includes women, not just as an afterthought isolated in the pages dealing with social development, but as an integral part of the main body of the Strategy - in the areas dealing with industrialization, food and agriculture, science and technology, and social development. Anybody interested in receiving the newsletter "Women 1980" and other material on activities relating to women should contact:

*Department of Public Information, Division for Economic & Social Information, United Nations, New York, N. Y. 10017, U.S.A.* and ask to be put on their mailing list.

biological symbol for female

mathematical  
symbol  
of equality



dove of peace  
and progress

The emblem adopted by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women

The voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade

for Women is the only UN source of funding which is devoted exclusively to projects that benefit women. The success of its work so far has been such that the General Assembly recommended its activities continue after the Decade for Women has ended. Further information regarding the Fund's work may be obtained by contacting: Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, Room DC-1002, One United Nations Plaza, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.

ery sadly, it is nounced that in ebruary Dr. Peter anniche, our Danish onsor, died at the age f 91. His absence will e felt most deeply, not nly by our Danish embers but by all who ere privileged to meet im. A tribute to him ill appear in our next ssue.

### PETER MANNICHE

The International People's College at Elsinore, Denmark, founded by Dr. Peter Manniche in 1921, is to hold a Short Summer Course for International Understanding as a memorial to their founder from 2-14 August, 1981. The subjects to be studied are: The Technological Explosion and its Human Costs; Towards a New Life-style; Peter Manniche's Life and Vision; The Struggle for Peace Today; People and their Songs. Poul Kja r will direct the course. For detailed information write to:

Den Internationale  
Hojskole, 3000DK,  
Helsingor, Denmark.

themselves of S.I.N. to extend a warm invitation to any travelers who are heading in India. Their address is E-1/17, Sector 12, Chandigarh, 160014 India.

## Instraw

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) which has had temporary headquarters in New York, will shortly move to its permanent home in Dominican Republic.

\*\*\*\*\*

To look at this green and say

I have seen Spring in these Woods will not do-you must be the thing you see.

From the SERVAS Bombay Committee's leaflet

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welcome as many Servas travelers as possible to their home and wish to avail

## World Citizens Movement

One of Our International Sponsors, Mrs. Helen Tucker of Canada, has informed us that she wants SERVAS members to regard her home as host house. Helen Tucker is also President of The Experiment in International Living in Canada. She runs the World Citizens Centre from her home and is Secretary of the World Citizens Assembly. Her address is 1524 Douglas Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5G 2W8 and her telephone number (416) 278-2679, and she will gladly supply informations about the movements mentioned to enquirers.



Supplies of postcards bearing this drawing may be obtained from the Secretary of SERVAS in West Germany. Write to: Peter Brock, Perlbergweg 80, 2000 Hamburg 65, Federal Republic of Germany.

## JOIN, SUBSCRIBE, DONATE.

Join the several thousand Servas hosts and travellers worldwide, whose friendships can perhaps help to hold the fragile world together. Check one or more of the boxes at right; enclose a donation if possible, and a long envelope addressed to yourself, and mail the form. Thank you.

TO:

Servas International News  
9, Partway Lane,  
Coker Hill, Yeovil,  
Somerset, England.

I am not now a member of Servas, but I am interested in the organization. Please send me information including the name and address of someone who can tell me more about Servas in this part of the world.

Please send me the next four issues of your publication. I am enclosing the equivalent of

£1.50. or more — International Postal Coupons, money order, or cheque.

To help Servas in its efforts toward peace and international understanding, I enclose a donation.

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what you are, not by what you

have." His many books are available in cheap French paperback editions through Librairie Hachette, 4 Regents Place, London W1 or Les Libraires Paralleles, 47, rue St. Honorè, 75001 Paris.

Rosalind Schama  
Editor

## A LETTER FROM INDIA

The Editor has received a splendid letter from Shri Satinder Verma of Chandigarh, which, unfortunately, there is not space to print in full. He was delighted to find that he and his wife (both teachers, of English literature and English at Punjab University and a Secondary School respectively) had been mentioned so warmly by Josephine Scholes of England in S.I.N. No.12. He says that Josephine (whom the Editor met in India while there for the Conference) "comes and goes out of our house as a member of the family". He and Shrimati Verma are most anxious to

## IN MEMORIAM Lanza del Vasto

We Servas members have suffered a grievous loss by the death last January of our international sponsor, Lanza del Vasto. I met him first in 1971 at the school of Non Violence in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, and then again where we were both among those invited to participate in a seminar at the Gandhi Peace Foundation in New Delhi, to celebrate the conclusion of the Gandhi Centenary Year. Shantidas (Servant of Peace), as he was an inspiration to many people of different races and creeds who had visited his Community of the Ark at La Borie Noble in France and who met him on his travels. Shantidas trained numerous non-violent acts, such as the French army's proposed expropriation of farms at Larzac and the building of nuclear power stations. Perhaps nothing sums up his life better than his own words: "Endeavour to do what nobody but you can do. Endeavour to want what everybody else can have as well. Distinguish yourself by