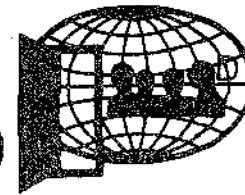


SERVAS



Antonie Fried
Wasgensteinstr. 11
6740 Landau (Pfalz)
Telefon

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Second Half-year 1982

No. 17

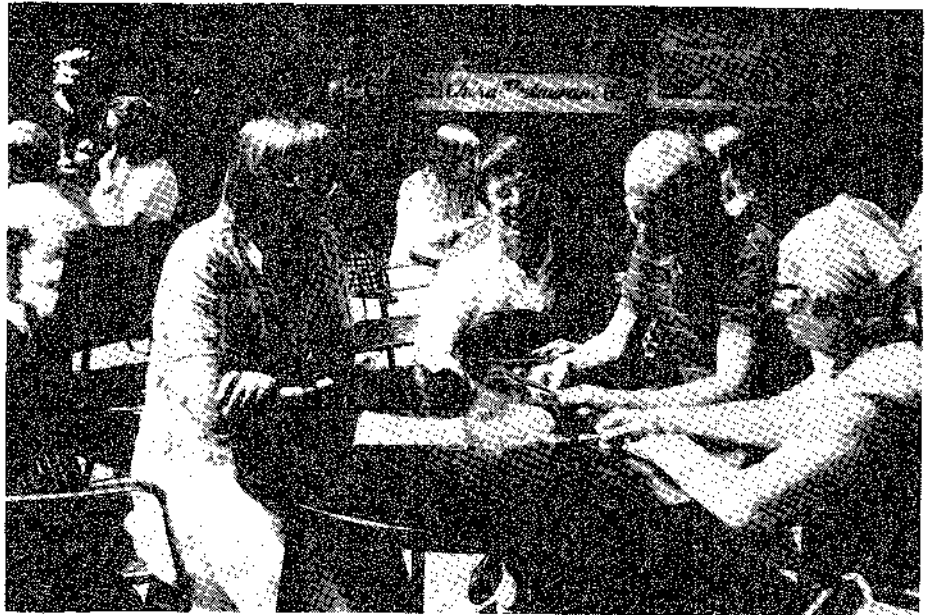
SERVAS EUROPE

The Hamburg Group hosted the *Servas* Europe Conference during the weekend of 27th-31st May. Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland were represented by thirty-seven delegates and observers and apologies for absence were received from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece; Hungary, Malta, Spain and Turkey.

Antonie Fried, as Co-ordinator for Europe and the Near East, had done a splendid job preparing the Conference and agenda, and first-class arrangements for the venue and hospitality were made by the *Servas* Germany Committee: Peter and Christiane Brock, Horst Brechtelsbauer, Dieter and Angela Nidenfführ and Uwe Waack. All the delegates were received in the most warm and friendly manner in the homes of their hosts and the Conference was dominated by a happy and co-operative spirit.

During the three days under the chairmanship of Antonie, the delegates considered an agenda whose main items were: the European Co-ordinator's Report on the development of *Servas* in Europe 1980-82; the General Secretary's Report on the general development of *Servas International*; Secretary-traveller-host problems; general subjects of relevance for the Conference of *Servas International* in Israel in 1983; the future of *Servas* as a peace organisation. Many lively and fruitful discussions ensued and a number of thoughtful and useful recommendations were made to the Executive Committee and the next International Conference.

On the first day the meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m. to permit the delegates to visit the magnificent Town Hall, where they were welcomed by Klaus Weiss, a member of the Hamburg Senate and Secretary of *Servas* Germany 1949-1954. He conducted the group on a tour of the Town Hall and then spoke to them about his early *Servas* experience and about the



Delegates refreshing themselves between meetings. Left to right: Antonie Fried, Maria Soresina, Horst Brechtelsbauer, Rosalind Schama.

government of the Hanseatic City of Hamburg. Helmut Hertling, at 91 the oldest member of *Servas* Germany, spoke about his long experience in peace work, and both of them answered questions. There followed a guided motor-launch tour of the famous Hamburg harbour.

That evening the delegates were entertained to dinner by all their hosts at a restaurant, and afterwards watched three United Nations films on disarmament brought by Janine Hall of *Servas* France, our representative at the Disarmament Committee meetings of the U.N. in Geneva.

The delegates were delighted to welcome *Pastor Konrad Lubbert*, one of Germany's two sponsors for *Servas International* and formerly Peace Secretary (1978-80). He outlined for the meeting his experiences in the German and International Peace Movements as General Secretary of the German Section of Fellowship of Reconciliation, a member of the Presidium of the World Peace Council (as successor to *Pastor Martin Niemöller*, the other German sponsor of *S i*) and as a spokesman for Christians for Disarmament. He attended two S.I. Conferences, those at

Los Angeles in 1976 where he gave the keynote speech, and in Denmark in 1978.

Pastor Li bbert pointed out that *the present Peace Movement* is a movement for the survival of humanity. It was clear that governments were preparing a super-Auschwitz and that the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction had gained a frightful momentum of its own, which had reached the stage of 'overkill'. In this situation it was no longer possible to talk of 'security', 'defence' or 'deterrence'. The 1981 Peace Movement Demos were planned well in advance and 2 1/2 million signatures had been willingly given for the petition handed to the German government to withdraw its agreement for Cruise and Pershing II missiles to be stationed in West Germany. The present Peace Movement is a grass roots movement, comprising people in all walks of life and able to call upon the advice of experts in many fields - political, military, peace research, science and medicine. The Movement co-operates internationally, and large demos are planned for June to coincide with the Second U.N. Special Session on Disar-

mament, as many as half a million being expected to demonstrate in New York. The primary aim is to create a nuclear free zone in Europe, and extend it gradually to the entire globe.

The essential need is for a change of conscience. Already there is a very active peace movement in the Netherlands, in the U.K. and Italy, where peace camps have been established. The churches have a considerable role - not the hierarchies but the mass of adherents to the various faiths. It is worth mentioning, however, that one quarter of the bishops in the USA support the Nuclear Freeze Campaign there.

In the DDR there is also an active peace movement, although the government there banned the wearing of badges bearing the 'Sword into Plough-shares' symbol.

The *World Peace Council*, founded in 1949 by Pierre Curie, son of Marie Curie, has been accused of being Communist-inspired by Western governments, but this is not so. Certainly, the East is represented by governmental appointees, but the West furnishes many diverse private citizens of many different political beliefs. It provides a splendid forum for a dialogue between East and West.

The Peace Movement succeeded in stopping the Wiesbaden Arms Sales Exhibition last year, and this year 25-30,000 people will demonstrate against the Exhibition planned for Hanover, which it is hoped will also be stopped.

Unless the Peace Movement expands to comprise the vast majority of the world's population, it may soon be too late to prevent the final catastrophe looming over the heads of all mankind.

A discussion ensued during which it was agreed that *Servas* had a special role to fulfil in the Peace Groups as it does something no other group does to create international understanding. It was again stressed how important our N.G.O. status is for people in East Europe and other countries where individual liberty is limited. It was necessary that *Servas* stationery, used when writing to people in East Europe and other difficult areas, should show that we have N.G.O. status. By co-operating with other peace groups in the N.G.O. Committee at the U.N. we could pool our strength, our ideas and our will for peace.

The Italian delegation generously offered to host the next European Conference in Milano and their offer was gratefully accepted by Conference.

On Monday morning the delegates devoted half-an-hour to a period of united peace meditation led by Robert Hulst, the Netherlands delegate, and altogether an atmosphere of peace and

friendship pervaded our discussions, both inside and outside the Conference Hall.

Minutes of the Conference have been circulated by Antonie.

Rosalind Schama Editor

A Delegate's-eye View Hamburg

To me the Conference in Hamburg (my eleventh *Servas* Conference) was another proof of the uniqueness of *Servas*. The atmosphere of warmth and friendship, the spirit of fellowship and community of interests between *Servas* members created those good "vibes" once again, even encompassing those who had recently been involved in a most disagreeable dispute. It was exhilarating, almost miraculous. "There are no strangers, only friends who haven't yet met". There was instant friendship that I don't remember having experienced elsewhere in parties of "nevermets", where I often feel bored and old; not thirty years younger as in Hamburg.

As Robert Hulst from the Netherlands pointed out, what is behind all our troubles is fear, and the remedy for fear is love. I wish the leaders of the world, particularly the leaders of the super powers and of the arms race, could meet like we did and hug each other, not just for the benefit of the photographers but in genuine friendship. Grassroots movements are fine, but those who are in power, and obsessed by sticking to it, are out of our reach. How sad!

This atmosphere, as I see it, is created *between* the tedious meetings, which as far as I am concerned are, to a large extent, a waste of time. And usually the sun is blazing outside! I have always pleaded for cutting down the agenda to an absolute minimum, but with little success. Albert from Finland, who was attending his first *Servas* Conference, said that he had expected a Conference to make decisions. As it was, a regional conference apparently couldn't make any decisions. Anyway, decisions have wisely been toned down to "recommendations". In my opinion, decisions about procedure etc., should be left to the individual secretaries and/or committees in our member groups with their widely differing cultures. They alone know what works or does not work in their part of the world. I have been told that *Servas* is not an organisation but a "system of hosts and travellers". It has functioned for over thirty years, sometimes and in some places well, elsewhere less well. But I feel that all the recommendations emanating from numerous conferences have achieved little. Only the dedication and

work of national officers can do that, and that is just how much *has* been done. Comparison of present membership statistics with those of the seventies shows amazing growth, which I doubt has resulted from conference business. However, what I think is more likely is that the inspiration flows from the happy relationships and exchange of ideas outside the meeting room.

It's a pity that not every secretary or contact has been able to attend at least one conference. On the other hand, if the number is too large it is frustrating not to be able to get to know all the participants, whom one is sure would be as delightful as the relatively few one can actually spend time with in so limited a period. We have arranged meetings between Danish and German hosts where this problem was avoided, and I would like to encourage such binational get-togethers wherever it is possible, and, of course, many national get-togethers. This, fortunately, is already being done in some countries. But why can't more meetings be arranged with neighbouring countries, which is even more rewarding and "educational"? Going to Hamburg from Copenhagen (300 kms plus ferry) in a 2CV cost four of us a trifle of about \$13 each, and we even managed to squeeze Albert into the back seat on the way home for a free ride. He had hitchhiked all the way from Finland rather than accept payment for a fare that had been offered by the S.I.

I should like to end by stressing that I am certainly not belittling the delegates who diligently spent many hours in the meeting room participating in the discussions, and certainly not Antonie, who must have worked very hard to put together an agenda that, on paper, made good sense, nor the Hamburg people who arranged everything. I expect that the Editor will tell us what actually was discussed and achieved. (*See the Minutes. Ed.*) I admit that lack of engagement and due attention because of my declared prejudice, and also second-rate hearing I suppose, may account for my impression that there wasn't much for me to take home. I believe I made one note, which got lost! As usual, I had presented my suggestions and pleas (my "brainstorms") in writing before the Conference, and, as usual, they appear to have been sown on rocks. At least *Servas* Denmark grows and grows. A tremendous attraction of this Conference was the fact that I could drive home with a mountain of different host lists for the ever-increasing number of Danish travellers. My dear "Deux Chevaux" made it possible, even with Albert and four others on board.

Birgitte Damsgaard
Secretary, Servas Denmark

Servas - A Peace and Friendship Organization?

At a time when hundreds of thousands demonstrate in the streets of Europe for peace, when politicians try to check the arms race, talks between people become more important than ever before. Only by coming to know each other better throughout the world can an atmosphere of mutual trust be generated. There are many differences of opinion in the world - about religion, ideology, politics, government, social and economic structures, etc. All of them exist on both sides of the dividing line between the "super powers", and not only there. Moreover, everywhere there exist misunderstandings, wrong assessment of situations and even misinformation concerning the aims of the other side. There is also deliberate misinformation concerning the action of the other side. All of this interferes with good relations and creates feelings of depression or distress among the citizenry and tension among politicians. These tensions can be cleared up when people are ready to communicate, to listen as well as talk.

Dialogue is necessary between people in all walks of life, not just between politicians. There ought to be a readiness to talk, even if it does not lead to immediate goals and success. We should try to understand the motives of the other side, get acquainted with its reasoning and find a way to cooperate beyond differences of opinion. We must strive to find the common cause to overcome the separation - to deepen mutual understanding and esteem.

These are the aims of *Servas*. This is the way towards peace and better understanding. There is an opening for non-politically orientated work as laid down in the *Servas* Statutes. Throughout the existence of *Servas* the concept of the non-political has been discussed, along with the question of what sort of individuals should be confirmed as travellers. Should the voluntary service of *Servas* be accessible only to members of other peace organizations or peace fighters, or can people be won over to the cause of peace by means of dialogue and contact between human beings, which will lead to improved human relations?

Since groups have been established on a worldwide scale, *Servas*, as an organization, should not take up a rigid position. There must be room in *Servas* for people of all religions and opinions. Every member must have the freedom to believe what he wants and to belong to and be active in other organizations. *Servas*, as an organization, must remain free from political influences. Endeavour

have been made to incorporate *Servas* into existing 'camps'. This must be strenuously avoided. *Servas* approved travellers should be given the opportunity to widen their horizons, to learn about the problems of the countries they visit, to establish friendships, to bridge gaps that seem impossible to overcome. This must be the true aim of *Servas*: no competition with other peace organizations. After years of recurring discussion, a binding resolution should be taken to the effect that *Servas* is and will remain a non-political organization; that there are no restrictions whatsoever as to race, religion or convictions; that *Servas* should remain open to every human being of goodwill; that the *Servas* biennial conference should take place in any country in the world, provided that every delegate is allowed entry therein. We are happy that our Government agreed to the latter proviso on 18th January, 1982. Now it is up to delegates from all over the world to participate. *Servas* Israel will do their best to receive all of them with LOVE.

Benjamin jeremias,
Israel Servas Committee.

Danish ravel Impressions

Italy, Spring 1981: Maria and Franz in Napoli were unbelievably wonderful people. Their house is always crowded with people, which means that one cannot expect any peace and quiet, even in the morning, but one meets lovely people, whom one hates to say goodbye to. In Naples peace and quiet is nowhere to be found. There are myriads of people in narrow streets, which are filled with floating laundry, people selling ice-cream, vegetables and smuggled goods. It is said that 18,000 people live from smuggling. Eardrum-breaking noise from cars that honk and brakes that scream. The noise can be heard at the top of Vesuvius! I came to love that place. Stayed four days.

Maria Soresina in Milan: Wonderful days. We had lots of fun. It was difficult to leave the country after such good care was taken of me by my (last) host.

The Innocentis in Bologna were naturists. We met their association; who, according to Mauro, were the loveliest people in Bologna. I believe him. Here were peace and quiet. I ate healthy vegetarian food, which was great after too much spaghetti and white bread. It was very different from what I saw elsewhere in Italy.

Alessandro in Firenze was the ideal host at that point. I needed a couple of days on my own, but couldn't afford an hotel. Alessandro left his apartment to me and stayed with his mother, so I only

talked to him the first evening. He had been in Copenhagen, and it was strange to see Danish maps and pamphlets lying around, so far from home.

Anne Line Danish Host

France, 1981: I stayed with only two hosts. One couple lived in a very plush neighbourhood. They were ultra-conservative and pro-nuclear power, but very interested in talking and we had some exciting discussions. Their English is poor. The other family lived way out in the country, with views to Isere. There were four sweet kids, and the parents were politically very involved. They loved having visitors, but rarely had any because they live so far from anywhere. Their name is Cartier, Goussilion, region H. Phone: 16(74) 844144.

Anne-Mette Danish Host

Nominations and Proposals for SI. Conference, 1983

The following officers of *Servas* International are not standing for election to a further term of office: the General Secretary; the Assistant General Secretary and Treasurer; the Peace Secretary; and the Editor of S.I.N. Nominations for these offices should be sent, by *30th November* at the latest, to Barbara Whitehead, General Secretary S i, 194, Moor Lane, Crosby, Liverpool L23 2UH, England. Nominations should also be submitted for the offices of President and Vice-President. They will be included for consideration along with the provisional agenda, proposals for which should be submitted by *31st December*. The consent of nominees should be obtained, and a short paragraph about the candidate's experience in *Servas* and other relevant details should be included. Items for the agenda should be in the form of proposals, giving reasons for making the changes suggested and setting them out clearly and concisely. They may be proposed either by individuals or by groups.

THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE

All members will be delighted to learn that US *Servas* endorsed the US Nuclear Freeze Campaign and that our representatives at the United Nations are working extremely hard to put across our viewpoint. They put in untold hours to prepare for the UN Second Special Session on Disarmament, and if delegates had only paid heed to the suggestions of all the NGOs like ours, the result of the Session might have been a success rather than the fiasco it was.

Servas International Conference

At the time of going to press, the next S.I. Conference will still take place at Nahariyah, Israel, from Tuesday 5th April to Sunday 10th April, 1983. Further information is obtainable from Denise Waech, S.I. Assistant General Secretary, Ceresstr. 23, CH-8008 Zurich, Switzerland.



Mamoon-al-Rasheed, *Servas* Secretary in Bangladesh, is also Chairman of CRESCENT (Comprehensive Rural Educational, Social, Cultural and Economic Centre), a private non-profit-making organisation founded in 1979. It is striving to bring about human liberation and fulfilment by the realisation of human values in the field of economic development, along with social justice and the deepening of cultural and spiritual values. CRESCENT promotes human rights education as a basis for development and encourages grassroots co-operation among people so that they may work together in the direction of self-development, survival, security and dignity. It has established a Solidarity Service wherein solidarity of the young is a cardinal point. The young are not only numerous, but they are more vigorous and dynamic, more responsive and open and have a much longer span of survival. A new and just international order can never be achieved without equitable social, political and economic structures, both nationally and internationally. This, however, can never be realised unless there is awakened a new sense of 'apprenticeship', designed to instil a completely new attitude of mind in the young, the men and women of tomorrow, awakening them to the knowledge that they can use their intellectual potential to bring about the solidarity of mankind. It is not, however, the intention of CRESCENT to educate the young directly. They must educate themselves. CRESCENT is merely providing the forum, the opportunity and the dialogue. The Solidarity Service acts as a "laboratory" in which people, especially the young, learn to co-operate with one another, as our formal education system does not provide us with this important opportunity to learn.

Anyone wishing for further information or to aid this splendid work should write to Mamoon-al-Rasheed at G.P.O. Box 2095, Dacca-2, Bangladesh.

WILPF

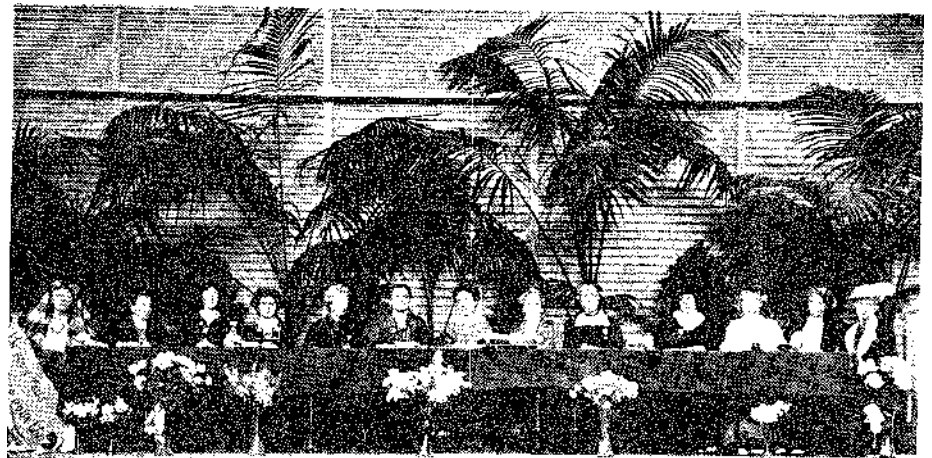
One of the many NGOs having consultative status with the UN and with whose representatives ours work very closely in New York and Geneva, is the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

WILPF was founded by more than 1,000 women when they met in an International Congress at The Hague in 1915. These women, all active in women's suffrage movements, came from twelve countries, some of them belligerents, to find ways to put an end to the war and to bring about a lasting peace. Two of their leaders, Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch, have been awarded Nobel Peace Prizes for their work.

WILPF aims at bringing together women of different political and philosophical tendencies united in their

determination to study, make known and help abolish the political, social, economic and psychological causes of war, and to work for a constructive peace.

Its primary objectives are total and universal disarmament, the abolition of violent means of coercion for the settlement of conflict, the substitution in every case of some form of peaceful settlement, and the strengthening of a world organisation for the prevention of war, the institution of international law, and to further the political, social and economic co-operation of peoples. WILPF has national sections or groups in more than twenty-five countries on the five continents. The Secretary-General is Edith Ballantyne, and anybody desiring further information about this very active NGO should write to her at 1, rue de Varembe, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.



International Congress of Women, The Hague, 1915.

INDIA

B.C.Jena, who is Zonal Member for *Servas* in the State of Orissa, works at Gandhinagar, Koraput, with *Sarvodaya Samiti*, whose aims are the development of the Tribal people and Harijans of the area. They work, as advocated by Gandhi, to remove social and economic inequalities in society by non-violent means; to raise the general living standards of Tribals and all under-privileged classes by evolving a pattern of village organisation which will mobilise local resources and manpower; to organise training, health and educational facilities; to discourage indulgence in alcohol.

In 1980-81 *Sarvodaya Samiti's* programme in the 14 Tribal Blocks they covered was:

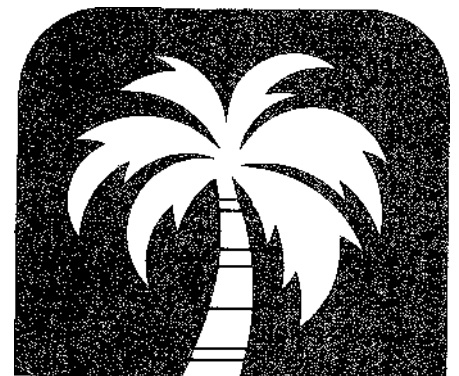
1. Development of agriculture
2. Development of hand-spinning and hand-weaving
3. Encouragement of village industries
4. Rural marketing
5. Rural health and sanitation
6. Education and child welfare

7. Training for unemployed youth

Support for this peace work can be sent to: B.C.Jena, Aravindnagar, P.O. Jeypore, Dist. Koraput, Pin. 764001, India.

The most I can do for my friend is simply to be his friend. I have no other wealth to bestow on him. If he knows that I am happy in loving him, he will want no other reward. Is not friendship divine in this?

Henry David Thoreau 1816-1872



Letters to the Editor

Dear Rosalind Schama,

It is the first time I have sent a letter to this wonderful publication. I'm doing it mainly to tell many people that I feel grateful to *Servas* because I have been able to develop a higher degree of consciousness about who I am and what I should do for other people. I am a relatively new member, but I can say that my vision of reality is deeper thanks to all the people from all over the world whom I have met in Cordoba, Spain. Some people seem to have a clearer concept of what an organisation like this is supposed to be, but, on the whole, I can-not complain about anybody. I feel that guests give me another reason to live. You can share your life and experiences, and I have no doubt that it all helps to give one a clearer picture of this amazing world where we happen to live at the moment.

I have also travelled abroad and I have early always felt quite at home. I suppose that my success may be due to the fact that I like to accept people as they are and not as I would like them to be. On the other hand, I am more interested in talking to people than in visiting museums. Still, I do not think that it is impossible to combine both things. It is rather difficult to build a friendly relationship in a couple of days, but when you are fascinated by the creative value of communication, everything becomes easier.

This organisation has made me believe that meeting people in this way is a much more efficient way of building peace in this world than many other activities. However, all that we do can be part of the same goal: to live harmoniously in a world that might be much more beautiful when different cultures

allowed to co-exist. Unity in diversity might be our motto.

All the very best to whoever reads this brief letter from

Ben Parkinson

Pasaje Lepanto, 6,4°,3B,
Cordoba 11, Spain

Tel: 957-237899. Dear Rosalind,

The Jaded *Servas* Traveller Syndrome

At a meeting of the office-bearers of Australian *Servas* it was decided that something on this topic should be sent to S.I.N. and perhaps also to National Secretaries.

Anyone who has travelled for a considerable length of time may have experienced "scenic indigestion". It is reaching Paris after a six-month trip 'doing' Europe and then wandering through Notre Dame thinking "So what, another Cathedral!" This jaded attitude can affect *Servas* travellers, not only in what

they see but also in their expectations of

hosts, and we are beginning to suspect that it is affecting a minority of *Servas* travellers into Australia, and perhaps also Australian travellers overseas.

Because of our geographical situation, some travellers take a long time reaching Australia, and if they have first visited New Zealand, whose hosts' hospitality is renowned, they can reach Australia with high expectations of their hosts and they could be getting very careful with money as they are now so far from home. Some could even regard it as a challenge seeing how little money they can travel on. So we can receive the traveller who not only expects hosts to arrange onward accommodation for him, but who outstays his welcome as he is tired and does not want to keep moving, who uses the host's telephone for long distance calls (and in Australia these are long distances) or just "bludges off" (cades from) his hosts, to use an old Aussie expression, until he can hitch a ride with the next truck driver who will take him up "the track" for nothing. The track is the Stuart Highway going North-South through the centre of Australia and is about 5,000 km. long.

We must stress that the jaded *Servas* traveller comprises only a very small minority, but unfortunately mainly seems to descend upon new hosts - very "off-putting" for them. However, we suggest that *Servas* travellers intending to visit Australia do their home-work on this vast territory and are not too ambitious in what they want to see. The distances are vast. We have just returned from a trip halfway round Australia which took us ten weeks over a distance of 14,000 km, and travelling in Australia can be quite exhausting, especially in our summer. For these reasons *Servas* travellers in Australia would perhaps enjoy their trips more if they did not attempt to cover the, at times, great distances between *Servas* hosts for consecutive nights and stayed instead in Youth Hostels, many of which are situated in the most beautiful places, or even used a little tent for camping out in the bush. We can recommend the latter as a real experience for those who want to visit the outback.

Could National Secretaries and interviewers stress the above to their travellers who wish to visit Australia? We would like all travellers to Australia, and our Australian hosts, to have the rewarding experiences that we ourselves have had both as travellers and hosts and hope that as a result of these comments the jaded *Servas* traveller might become an endangered species.

Ni *Servas*!

Judy Ebner

Co-ordinator for Internal Correspondence
Servas Australia

(At the European Conference in Hamburg it was decided to recommend to the next International Conference that instructions to hosts and travellers should include a statement that any hosts or travellers who behave in an offensive manner will be obliged to re-turn all host lists and letters of introduction to their National Secretary, and the offended person should report the misconduct to their National Secretary, who will, in turn, report it to the National Secretary of the offending individual. Ed.)

Dear Editor,

I have been a member of *Servas* for one year and eleven months. During that time I had only one *Servas* visitor, a Frenchman named Bertrand. He is a nice young fellow and he tried very hard to adjust to our family. He still writes to us occasionally.

Only one visitor in two years is not a very good average. Perhaps people are unaware of the existence of *Servas* and those who are members are reluctant to try new members. I once again say "Welcome to new friends."

Chandra Kumar,
BIA/54A,

Janak Puri, New Delhi 110058

Dear Editor,

Please understand that our comments below are based on a desire to see *Servas* continue, because we believe its purpose is necessary to our world's survival. However, after being hosts for just two years, we are finding that our attitude is not the same and our belief in *Servas* as a peace organization is a bit shaken. We've just read SIN 16 and were especially struck by the letter from Joe Verwimp of Belgium. We found ourselves saying "Oh yes, how true!" as we read his comments on *Servas* visitors coming to see the cities rather than their hosts. In our case visitors come to see the Grand Canyon and *Servas* seems to meet their needs to travel cheaply. Why indeed, as Mr. Verwimp asked, do we continue with *Servas*? Frankly, we are becoming less and less interested in helping people to travel to the U.S. Perhaps this is because of the type of visitor we seem to receive. What is happening is of great concern to us; if something isn't done by *Servas* on a larger organizational level to eliminate the student travelling on *Servas* simply because it saves money, the organization may doom itself as a peace organization. Specifically, we have been swamped with young people, the majority of whom (mainly from Germany and Austria) are students on vacation, or beginning or ending their assignments in the U.S. They seldom have opinions or ideas

about the political situation in their own country, and even less on the peace movement in Europe or the U.S. We have long suspected that many are "bootlegging" the host lists and that some of the approval letters may not be authentic. Many 'phone us and, when we cannot take them as guests, they will ask us if there are other hosts in this area; when we ask them to refer to their host list they tend to offer excuses as to why they don't have it with them! Some of our visitors have even stated that they've told other students met during bus trips about names of hosts in some distant city. This is entirely counter to what *Servas* was explained to us as being, and if it continues we think you will soon find that many hosts will ask to be removed from the lists. We hope and pray that there are visitors who would like to visit the Grand Canyon, while at the same time also wanting to meet and exchange mature ideas and experiences with other adults! If we continue to meet only young students with

no ideas, no thoughts beyond their schooling, and only an interest in cheap housing and seeing the Grand Canyon, then we fear we shall withdraw from *Servas*. We appeal to anyone who has responsibility in determining qualifications for *Servas* membership . . . look carefully and interview in depth. And someone, somewhere, must do something about host lists which have been photocopied or otherwise duplicated and are being passed around from traveller to traveller.

Sincerely yours,
Marion and Jim Durham
3101 N.Meadowbrook, Flagstaff,
Arizona 86001

To S.I.N.

I would like to share my experiences during a recent visit to the Scandinavian countries with *Servas* travellers all over the world. During the last few years we had a number of young men and women from Denmark, who visited us and stayed for some time. This resulted in friendships and we kept up correspondence with exchange of greetings and gifts on occasions. I've done a doctoral dissertation on personal relationships in E.M.Forster's novels, but the *Servas* spirit has led me to personal relationships in life across the barriers of caste, creed, sex and nation. I've also lectured on world religions and universal brotherhood before the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of the U.S.A. and other humanist and theosophical groups. But it is through *Servas* that I've been able to give and receive the touch of universal brotherhood in life. It is with this spirit that we have welcomed visitors from all over the

world (See SIN 13 & 14) and I've also enjoyed being a *Servas* guest whenever I went abroad.

This summer I visited Denmark and stayed with the *Servas* members who had been to us in India. It was just like visiting friends, exchanging gifts with warm affection and hospitality. Love is the only word which could define such a relationship. I stayed with families in both urban and rural areas of Denmark. I travelled throughout the length and breadth of the country and felt at home wherever I went. Since I had a few close Indian friends in Norway, the only thing that I missed there was contact with *Servas*. Though there is the spirit of universal brotherhood among *Servas* members, I am always conscious of the gap between the developed and the developing countries, and I constantly ask myself why the latter cannot reach the stage attained by the former. Why is there such a difference between the minimum wages of the two worlds? One starts to think seriously about the causes and remedies of the ills of the poor nations. One comes back with the idea of doing something about it.

In the past I have been little associated with the international programmes of *Servas*, though at the personal level I've made abiding friendships with members in various countries. Yet I feel that I may be able to do more constructive and positive work by making a contribution towards world peace, a world parliament and world disarmament if I can be on some international committees where my services can prove useful. I am a teacher of English Literature at the Punjab University. I am fifty-five and have been associated with humanist and ethical organizations like the RPA of England and the AEU and AHA of the U.S.A. Religiously, I believe in the highest spiritual meaning of all scriptures in word and action, and I wish to live by the dictum that the love of mankind is the love of God, which believe is the true *Servas* spirit. I am a vegetarian by choice as I follow the injunction 'Kill not'.

Peace -
Satinder Verma
E-1/17, Sector 14
Chandigarh 160014. (Here is a name that should be added to the list of candidates for election at the next S.I. Conference. Don, Barbara and Bhai please note. Ed.)

MEDICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

MCANW was formed in Britain in October 1980, stimulated by a visit of Dr. Helen Caldicott, National President of the Physicians for Social Responsibility

in the USA. It arose within the context of a general and growing concern in Britain towards government decisions on defence policy and expenditure, specifically the decision to deploy the Cruise and Pershing II missiles in the UK and to purchase four Trident nuclear submarines from the US. Of concern to the public in general but to health professions in particular has been the government policy on civil defence planning. Such planning flows logically from the line of reasoning which gives credibility to the concept of 'limited' nuclear war. Because nuclear exchanges are assumed to be 'limited' it is also assumed that with preparation most of the population can and will survive. The MCANW has been invited by the British Medical Association Board of Science to help provide technical advice for their inquiry into the medical effects of nuclear war. Several members of the Campaign attended a week-long conference in Washington DC. Participants, numbering 90 in all, came mainly from the US and USSR with smaller delegations from Japan, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Holland, West Germany, Israel, France and Britain.

For further information, contact:
MCANW, 23a Tenison Road, Cambridge CBI 2DG, England. Tel: 0223 313828.

TRANET

Servas members may like to know about TRANET, whose Executive Director, William N.Ellis, is a *Servas* member. It is a newsletter-directory of, by and for those individuals and groups around the world who are actively developing Appropriate/Alternative Technologies and enquiries should be addressed to P.O.Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970, USA.

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

The *Servas* Secretary in the Philippines, Ruth Grace V. Padasas, is at present devoting herself to alleviating the parlous plight of Vietnamese refugees. She has joined BRACE (Baptist Rehabilitation and Assistance Centre) at Palawan, where she is a volunteer counsellor.

There are almost 7,000 refugees being cared for by the project, most of them young people. Palawan is the first asylum, from which they go on to a more sophisticated camp in Luzon for further restorative treatment before leaving for their final country of resettlement.

Ruth's task is to help rehabilitate young women who have suffered traumatic experiences. Those who have been raped, witnessed the dismember-

ment of their families by the Vietcong, or seen them drowned while attempting to escape, are in a pathetic condition. One 18-year old girl was raped by ten Thai pirates and was totally disorientated as a consequence. Supplies and equipment are badly needed. For example, four girls were sharing a bug-infested bed in a makeshift bamboo hut and three others were sharing one haircomb.

Are there any *Servas* travellers who would care to go and help in this humane and urgent work or who would like to send donations? If so, they should write to: BRACE, Vietnamese Refugee Camp, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines.

HOSTING THE HANDICAPPED

US *Servas* welcomes physically handicapped people as *Servas* travellers, because they believe both hosts and such travellers can gain from visits. The hosts who are able, as well as willing, to entertain people with different limitations are indicated in a special section of the 1982 US Host List. Anybody seeking further information should write to US *Servas*, 11 John Street, New York, N.Y.10038.

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL

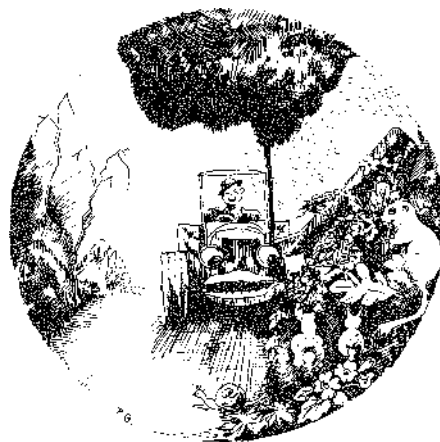
SCI, believing that all people are capable of living together with mutual respect and without recourse to violence to solve conflicts between nations, communities or people, works for the pro-motion of peace. With this as a philosophical starting point, SCI is engaged in a wide variety of voluntary work projects around the world. Today SCI has branches and groups in 23 countries and has links with projects and organisations in a further 25, spanning Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and Australasia.

Founded in 1920 by a Swiss pacifist, Pierre Ceresole, SCIs work has traditionally centred around international workcamps, which typically comprise groups of 10-20 volunteers of different nationalities who live and work together for several weeks (mainly during the summer months) engaged on one of a wide variety of projects of a manual, social or educational nature. Although they still organise workcamp projects every year for over 5,000 volunteers, they have developed other methods of work in recent years, including local groups (small groups of volunteers working on community projects in their own area in their spare time), long-term projects (e.g. health education or com-

munity development projects, especially in 'Third World' countries) and specialised international 'commissions' concerned with running projects with immigrant communities in Europe, young people from Northern Ireland and exchanges of volunteers between East and West Europe. In essence SCI's objectives are much the same as those of *Servas*, i.e. promoting international understanding and goodwill, etc., the only difference being in the methods they employ to bring people together. Of course, many SCI members are already *Servas* travellers or hosts, but there may well be some *Servas* members who are interested in SCI but have never had the opportunity to make contact. Anyone interested in finding out more about SCI should write to the SCI International Secretariat, 13 Wincheap, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3TB, England, who will refer you to your national SCI office (where there is one) or supply the relevant information direct.

Ode to Spring and Summer Country Roads

O Maytime! 'Tis Hurraytime for
 Council Bank Cutters,
 Slashing and killing; those absurd
 tidy-uppers!
 Just see how they glory in clean
 urban gutters. "Why can't they leave Nature
 alone?"
 I mutters.
 Broken, sapless, the once joyous
 Butterfly flutters.
 'Tis important that 'Auntie' should
 see round the corner; At speed must she travel,
 forgetting the
 former
 Age of Good Manners with Common
 Sense to warn her
 She didn't oughter be a so-often
 sound-horner!
 Thus, doomed alas our Heritage,
 our Flora and our Fauna.
 P. W.P. Griffiths,
Servas Host, Coker Hill,
 Somerset, England.
 (Poet's Licence expired 1982.)



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 back-grounds.

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 nonprofit, interracial, and interfaith. It has consultative status as a Non-Governmental Organization with ECOSOC in the United Nations.

BOLIVIA

Ruth W. de Tichauer, MD., who is a *Servas* member in Bolivia, has lived there for some forty years, where she is Director of the Consultorio Gran Poder at La Paz. There she treats more than 6,000 Indians, among them grandchildren of her first patients. They are suffering from a range of diseases from rheumatism, tuberculosis and kidney degeneration to eye and skin troubles stemming from exposure to the sun at such high altitudes. She is accompanied on her daily visits to the clinic by a dentist, Dr. Rene Aguilar, an illiterate gardener named Simon, whom she has trained as a paramedic, and one of her six grand-children, Pedrito. Most of the patients pay in kind, and throughout the period of her consultations, a pile of potatoes, eggs, turnips, onions, mushrooms and cheese rises by her table. To this is added an occasional small coin.

Dr. Tichauer fled with her husband from Germany in 1940. She has been described as bookish, a music lover, a chatty fount of philosophy and a horticulturist who has provoked abundant flowers, fruits and vegetables from land marked "uncultivable" on official maps. She has been compared to Albert Schweitzer. To her Indian patients she is known simply as 'Doctora'. So devoted are they to the 69-year-old physician that they have reserved a burial plot for her in one of their hilltop cemeteries.

MAURITIUS

Servas Mauritius are running a kindergarten where thirty-three children from 2 to 5 years are receiving free tuition, free meals and free books and writing materials. They are also running a Women's Vocational Training Centre where women and girls receive training in sewing, embroidery and typing and are supplied with materials and given a free midday meal.

Any contributions to this worthwhile endeavour should be sent to: Teekaram Sibsorum, Secretary, Servas Mauritius, 6 Julien Ernest Leblanc Street, Tranquebar, Port Louis. P.O. Box 545, Mauritius.

PEACE TAX CAMPAIGN

The Peace Tax Campaign aims to persuade the Government to introduce legislation so that all those who object to paying for war or military preparations on the grounds of conscience or profound conviction may be legally exempt from doing so. Through the establishment of a Peace Fund, into which the equivalent of their compulsory contributions to military expenditure would be paid, such people would be funding with their taxes positive efforts for non-

military peacemaking. There are similar campaigns in the U.S.A., West Germany, France and other countries. For further information contact: Stanley & Margaret Moore, 26 Thurlow Road, Leicester LE2 1YE. Tel: 0533 702687.

Sojourn in every place as if you meant to spend your life there, never omitting any opportunity of doing a kindness, or speaking a true word, or making a friend.

John Ruskin



Horse-power was a lot safer when the horses had it.

THE LAST CHANCE BUT THE BEST

Paternalism, be it of the left, right or centre, is completely breaking down. There is a deterioration on a world-wide

scale. Like Feudalism before it, Paternalism cannot handle today's problems - its structures are collapsing by themselves without any sign of outside force. There are currently fourteen world crises, of a type and danger unprecedented in history. These are the:

- Social Crisis
- Economic Crisis
- Crisis of Work Ethic
- Youth Crisis
- Crisis of Values
- Crisis of Manipulation
- Crisis of Paternalistic Mentality
- Atomic Crisis
- Lack of Intuitive Spirit
- Crisis of Minorities, Scapegoats and the Misuse of Power
- Crisis of Personality
- Crisis of Tools, Techniques and Know-how
- Lack of Hope
- Overall Crisis of the Paternalistic (Atomic) Mentality

Of these, the atomic crisis is, of course, the most urgent. It presents the greatest ever threat to the existence of mankind. Yet, even were the atomic threat not to exist, all of the rest of the crises would still expose man to extreme danger.

There is no time to lose. This is the biggest crisis ever. All progress has come through crisis, difficult labour and

problems of both sides and of 'patching up'. Today's problems can no longer be patched up, they can only be replaced by new societal patterns in which people are free and equal - A NEW FRATER-NAL SOCIETY.

The above is extracted from a paper issued by The Centre for Human Rights and Responsibilities, 63 Millbank, London, SW1, England. Tel: 01-834-2457.

pain. Instead of being continually against, against, against, we must go forward to new and positive societal patterns, free from Paternalism of every sort, whether of the left, the right or the centre. Paternalism can no longer 'deliver the goods' and the whole Paternalistic structure is, therefore, now falling apart. The threat of international war merely provides a convenient means of diverting attention from the internal

JOIN, DONATE.

Join the several thousand *Serval* hosts and travellers worldwide, whose friendships can perhaps help to hold the fragile world together.

Check one or both of the boxes; enclose a donation if possible, and a long envelope addressed to yourself; and mail the form.

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 *Serval* in this 2 part of the world. To help *Servas* in its efforts towards peace and understanding, I enclose a

Please send International Postal Coupons, Money Order, or Cheque to:

**Denise Waech, Treasurer,
Serval International,
Cersstr. 23, CH-8008
Zurich, Switzerland**

All editorial & information enquiries to:

Rosalind Schama, Editor, S.I.N. 9
Partway Lane, Coker Hill,
Yeovil, Somerset, England.

**SERVASTHANKS
YOU. PLEASE
PRINT YOUR NAME
AND ADDRESS.**

