

ASSEMBLY OF GENERALS

Minutes of the 31st Assembly of Superiors General associated in SEDOS, held at the Scholasticate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, via Pineta Sacchetti, Rome, on June 15, 1971 at 1600.

Present were the following Reverend Fathers, Brothers, Mothers and Sisters:

P.L. Bano fscj; T. Barnett scmm-t; P. Bartolucci fscj; P. Basterrechea fscj;
 D. Boland rscj; A. Bundervoet msc; C.H. Buttiner fsc; A.M. de Vreede scmm-m;
 V. Fecher svd; B. Flanagan sfb; A. Gates s; J. Gates scmm-m; W. Goossens cicm;
 M. Henriette ssnd; B. Katiyguk fmm; M. Lietz sds; M.A. Loughlin fmm; A. Luca sx;
 M. Luke ssnd; A. McCormack mhm; M.D. McGonagle ssnd; H. Mondé sma; S. Moore cssp;
 T. More cfx; F. Pastoors osu; Y. Perigny omi; V. Poggi sj; J. Richardson cm;
 M. Saade rscj; F. Sackett omi; M.-C. Schweitzer snd-n; T. Walsh osu; T. Walsh mm.

President: Fr. Th. Van Asten pa

Secretary: Rev. B. Tonna

(Translators: Bro. Leo fsc; Fr. Meyer pa)

1. The Minutes of the 30th Assembly, distributed on 5-3-71 were taken as read and approved.
2. The following Institutes were unanimously accepted as new members of SEDOS:
 - a) CM - Congregation of the Missions
 - b) SDS - Sisters of the Divine Saviour
3. The President reported on the first initiative of the new Executive Committee: a series of small meetings of Superiors General, by neighbourhood, on the activities of SEDOS. The series had been concluded and a consolidated report distributed among the members of the Executive Committee. This report would be studied on June 17, 1971. Both the President and Vice President had attended most of the meetings. In the interval, specific needs expressed during the meetings were being met -- especially through the current series of ad hoc meetings (see SEDOS 71/360). The conclusions of the Executive Committee would be distributed among the SEDOS members.
4. Sr. A.M. de Vreede scmm-m, head of the Health Group of SEDOS, informed the Assembly about the position of SEDOS vis-a-vis ecumenic cooperation -- in particular with the Christian Medical Commission:

1968: The Christian Medical Commission (CMC) formed by a group of Protestant Churches (many of which were members of the World Council of Churches) to respond to needs highlighted by a series of surveys on Church-related medical services (in about 16 countries). The needs:

 - .1 95% of such services focused on curative health care -- services which were being absorbed by Governments.

- .2 Operating expenditures of such services had increased from 11% to 14% in the period 1963-67. But the people's per capita income had increased only by 1%. Hence, Church services were being directed to the richer people.
- .3 The location of Church hospitals did not always correspond to the objective needs of the local populations.
- .4 Overseas personnel was becoming scarce and expensive.
- .5 Governments tended to ignore the Church medical services because the latter were too fragmented.

The CMC was formed within the World Council of Churches -- as an enabling agency (that is, to advise, stimulate, suggest and disseminate information. Its 25 members were appointed in view of their competence.

The surveys had revealed that in the Third World 50% of these services were manned by Catholics. Many of these were already cooperating with Protestants.

JULY 1968:

The CMC Director came to Rome to sound Catholic Congregations on co-operation. The response was positive and; with the approval of the Vatican Secretariat for the promotion of Christian unity (SPCU) a liaison person was appointed to foster closer contacts between SEDOS and the CMC. The Health Group of SEDOS was formed and established close relations with congregations which were not members of SEDOS.

1969: Roman Catholic consultant members were appointed members of the CMC (with Vatican approval). CMC expressed the hope that the Catholics become full members.

1970: Exploratory Committee was formed by the WCC and the SPCU to examine possible forms of cooperation. The Committee suggested the full participation of Catholics in a reconstituted CMC. Its conclusions were approved by the Joint Working Group (the highest Roman Catholic Church (RCC) - World Council of Churches (WCC) link.)

1971: The Central Committee of the WCC approved the proposal, pending the approval of the RCC. No official answer had as yet been given by the Secretariat of State.

The Executive Committee of SEDOS agreed that it was essential to continue co-operation with the CMC until the Secretariat of State considered it was time for full cooperation. It was necessary to pursue dialogue at the International level, once cooperation was already a fact in many countries.

The 4th annual meeting of the CMC had ended on that morning in Nemi, and Sr. A.M. de Vreede expressed her appreciation of the fraternal spirit, of the concern, and of the sincerity of its members in moving towards the common goal of delivering more effective health care.

5. The President reported on the conclusions of the meeting of the Executive Committee of SEDOS with the Executive Committee of the CMC earlier in June. SEDOS, as a private group, could -- and would -- collaborate with the CMC. Specifically, it would do its best to raise funds to cover the expenses incurred by the participation of Catholics in a) the meetings of the CMC; b) ensuring liaison with the field; c) establishing local coordinating and planning agencies and d) organizing workshops and consultations in the field. This practical cooperation would not be an official act of the Catholic Church but the CMC fully appreciated it. Eventually, it could be a start to bring closer together all Catholics interested in the health services.

Fr. H. Mondé moved that the Assembly approve these conclusions. He was seconded by Fr. W. Goossens. The motion was carried by 25 in favour, nem con.

After a long coffee break, Bro. Th. More cfx reported on the position on the issue of the Synod discussion on Justice in the World:

1. Delegates, Commission, and Experts

A. The Delegates of the USC to the Synod were (in order of their election): P. Arrupe sj; R. Weakland osb; C. Koser ofm; G. Lecuyer cssp; P. Azzi, Ordine Libanese Maronita; W. Goossens cicm; L. Ricceri sdb; T. Amaral cssr; Th. Van Asten pb; G. Bernasconi b. (Substitutes: A. Fernandez op; P. Charpentier aa).

B. The Ad-hoc Preparatory Commission: P. Arrupe, C.H. Buttmer fsc; Th. Van Asten pb; E. Skwor sds; T. More cfx (Chairman).

C. The Experts were: Liaison - F. Ivern sj (Chairman); J. Schotte cicm (Co-Chairman); USG - A.R. Sigmond op Angelicum; T.H. Mulder sj Greg.; USIG - T.M. Barnett scmm-t (Liaison); B. Flanagan sfb; J. Bernard sa; A. Cornely shcj; M.D. McGonagle ssnd; A. Wagner, Marymount.

This Commission was established by the USC Council to accomplish the following tasks:

1. to take initiatives for the preparation of the elected delegates so that they have all necessary and useful information to speak both in their names and in the name of the Superiors General and the religious.
2. to create a Committee of Experts and guide its activities.
3. to prepare an Assembly of Superiors General with the elected delegates:
 - to brief the generals
 - to let the delegates know the opinions of the generals

- to (possibly) reach a consensus on a statement of the religious to the members of the Synod.
- to guide all further preparation in connection with the Synod
- to serve as contact with the delegates during the Synod

The tasks of the Experts is:

1. to study the schema and prepare comments for the Synod delegates.
2. to provide guidance to the Preparatory Commission in its preparation for the Agenda of the Assembly.
3. to sound out the generalates on the schema.
4. to serve as experts to the delegates during the Synod.
5. to make recommendations and prepare guidelines and suggestions for follow up action by both the USG and UISG as a program for 1971-1972.

WORK DONE TO DATE

A. Assembly - It was originally planned to combine the two topics of the Synod for the semi-annual meeting of the generals (at its May meeting) at Villa Cavalletti, but the Preparatory Commission on the Priesthood needed the full three days. The Commission then planned a meeting of the generals for the middle of June, but this proposal was not accepted because the official text of the Synod document on Justice had not yet been published. Finally, the Commission selected September 9 as the date for a full-day general assembly at OMI. The USG was notified of this assembly through Bulletin 27/71 May 22.

B. Experts - The work of the experts was considerably slowed down because of the absence of the official text from the Synod Secretariat. In the absence of the official text, the group was fortunate in obtaining an unofficial text in French, which it used as the basis of its preliminary study. The official text did not reach the Union until around May 18.

The reaction of the experts to the informal text (which proved to be substantially the same as the official version) was as follows:

1. The document contains a repetition of what has been already said in other Church documents, more particularly in the recent letter to Cardinal Roy, Chairman of the Pontifical Commission, Justice and Peace, and the Pope's anniversary of Quad. Anno.
2. The time of simply "denouncing" the many existing injustices, or of telling the world how it should be done, is past. In order to create more credibility, the Church itself should become a real witness -- set an example as regards justice and universal solidarity.
3. Christianity and the world expect from the Synod an examination of conscience, an auto-critique, and this should lead to resolutions or declarations of a pragmatic nature, e.g., - a firm decision by the national

hierarchies to speak out in favor of the oppressed in their own countries;
- a commitment from the religious to give witness in the field of their own societies and activities, so that they become agents for change towards more justice and equality.

4. A Synod document should indicate the evangelical inspiration of the quest for more justice.

5. It must also be said that the Christians must work for justice and equality with others.

6. Each situation and each engagement is to a certain extent ambiguous and must constantly be revised.

At its most recent meeting of June 11, 1971, the Preparatory Commission, along with the experts of both the USG and UISG (and four delegates from the UISG Council), discussed concrete plans of action for the experts and the Commission. The discussion revolved around two principal topics: 1) the purpose of a Synodal document on Justice, and 2) means for soliciting the views of the generalates.

As regards the Synodal document, the following concrete views were expressed: The document (or any statement from the Synod) should go a step further and take a stand on definite areas of injustice in various parts of the world. It should change the consciences of the Bishops to educate their faithful. The metanoia called for begins with the Church - at all levels, beginning with the Secretariat of State and the various Roman Curias, and work through to the Bishops, the religious, - all the people of God. It should be an internal document of the Church, that speaks to the Church regarding its role, putting theory into practice. Should not the Synod speak to some specific injustices in the world, e.g., migrant workers in Europe; the Basque priests; prisoners of conscience? It was observed that if the Synod were to address itself to specific injustices in the world that the whole direction of the topic would change radically - and perhaps this might be a good thing.

As regards the soliciting the views of the generalates, it was agreed that the experts would meet on June 21, and, on the basis of the observations made at the June 11 meeting, prepare a brief but comprehensive questionnaire on the major problems of the Synodal text, which would be sent to all generalates. The experts would then draw up a consensus report that would be presented to the Synod Secretary before August 15, the dead-line for presenting reports on the document. At this same meeting, the experts would propose suggestions to the Preparatory Commission regarding the program of the September 9 Assembly.

ROLE OF SEDOS

As could be seen from the report, SEDOS was well represented in the delegation to the Synod, as well as in the Preparatory Commission and the Group of Experts. It was not necessary, therefore, that SEDOS set up another body to study the document. However, Bro. More thought that SEDOS members could make a contribution by studying the text that will be submitted to the generalates sometime in June. If all the generalates of SEDOS members would really give time to studying the Synod document on Justice, and would seriously consider the Questionnaire mentioned above, and send in their replies, a valuable contribution to the preparation of the delegates to the Synod and to the September 9 Assembly could be made.

Bro. More also suggested that SEDOS could make a valuable contribution to the Fall Round Table of Justice and Peace by contributing its experience in determining how best the Church, especially the Missionary Church can follow-up the Synod meeting.

It was agreed that a self-examination, by religious Institutes, on their own approach to Justice, would be a valid contribution.

8. The President invited the Assembly to pray for Fr. Coleman Daily sj, formerly Mission Secretary, who had died a few days before.

9. The Assembly would meet again on September 28, 1971.

Benjamin Tonna
Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Executive Committee of SEDOS was held on June 17, 1971 at 0900 at the Secretariat.

Present were: Sr. Th. Barnett scmm-t, Bro. C.H. Buttimer fsc, Sr. Jane Gates scmm-m, Fr. W. Goossens cicm.

In the Chair: Fr. Th. Van Asten pa
Secretary : Fr. B. Tonna

1. The Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of May 13, 1971 were approved after being amended as follows:

- No. 2 C. Substitute the word "Christian" for "Catholic".
- No. 2 E. For clarification, this should read: "It was agreed that the points mentioned under C and D were no voting matter, but that the procedure would be to inform the Assembly about the subjects with conclusions reached, after which the floor would be invited to ask questions, raise objections and give suggestions. Suggestions given from the floor would then be studied by the Working Group concerned, which group could report back their findings at a next Assembly."

2. The draft of the consolidated report of the series of meetings of the Presidents with small groups of Superiors General and Assistants was considered in detail. The final report (See SEDOS 71/459ff) would be distributed among the Generalates. (The major points which emerged during the discussion of the draft are incorporated in the final report.)

3. Bro. Th. More's report on his participation (as SEDOS representative) in the Geneva Round Table of Ecumenic Development Agencies was discussed. It was agreed to accept its recommendations, namely:

- A. That SEDOS continue its participation in both future meetings of this kind and inter-session meetings if the occasion calls for them.
- B. That someone in SEDOS be asked to keep himself (or herself) acquainted with all the literature on the round-table, that this person make brief and succinct reports about on-going programs to the Executive Committee, and that this person represent SEDOS at the next round-table meeting. This would ensure continuity.

It was also agreed to submit these recommendations to the Working Group for Development.

It was also agreed that a clear report on the involvement of SEDOS in this and similar Round Tables be given to the Assembly of Generals.

4. The Working Group for Development would be asked to propose names of participants for the Justitia et Pax Round Table and to draft answers to the questionnaire which it had recently submitted to SEDOS.

5. It was agreed to accept for a trial period of three months the offer of SX to second Fr. A. Ibba to work part-time for the Documentation Services of the Secretariat. During this first phase, the job was specified as follows:

- A. inform SEDOS members about what was already available in the documentation section of the Secretariat.
- B. Inform the members about recent documents -- including abstracts.
- C. Solicit questions from the same members.
- D. Refer the members to other sources of information about their specific problems.

6. It was agreed to accept Fr. Moody's proposals that the topics of the next two issues of "JOINT VENTURE" be "Latin America" and "Sisters." The former would be the focus of the July, 1971 issue.

7. It was agreed to accept Bro. Vincent Gottwald's suggestion that a SEDOS representative attend the Tokyo seminar on Education in Development (August, 1971). The Working Group for Development had suggested a Japanese Sister of the Sacred Heart, but later one of the members proposed to the Chairman the name of Sr. Francesco Marianti (Tan) osu, whose participation would not demand financial subsidies, and the proposal was accepted.

8. The Financial Statement for May was examined and accepted.

B. Tonna
Executive Secretary

RE: Consolidated Report on Consultation of the
Presidents with the SEDOS Member Generalates
(conducted in 6 area meetings from March 18
to April 22, 1971).

TO: Fr. Th. Van Asten pa, President
FROM: Fr. B. Tonna, Executive Secretary
DATE: April 23, 1971 - FIRST DRAFT
June 22, 1971 - FINAL

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

On the Objectives of SEDOS

1. If SEDOS was not there, we would have to create it. It provides a Forum for the free exchange of facts and opinions among the member Institutes. As such, it is the first step towards more inter-congregational sharing.

In particular it had helped

- a) make the non-exclusively missionary Institutes more missionary-orientated; (the exclusively missionary Institutes were thus "giving more" to the Church through SEDOS).
- b) bring the men and women Institutes closer together; (women missionaries do have a contribution to make in renewing Mission).
- c) unify and update the Mission policies of the member Institutes.

2. SEDOS should continue to pursue cooperation for the mission on the lines it has chosen, i.e.

- a) in the non-official, private capacity.
- b) focused on the Mission.
- c) at the Generalate level.
- d) providing facilities for the exchange of information.
- e) conducting studies on common concerns (as explained below under 10).

3. But it was time that SEDOS moved a step forward: at some point the conclusions of its studies should come to a head. The Assembly could accept statements on such conclusions ---- and communicate them to the relevant persons and agencies. This involved a process of consensus-building.

4. The main focus of interest of such exchange and study should be the context rather than the details of missionary activity. This means above all, keeping an eye on the values and trends emerging in the mission field. The first duty of the Generalates is to inspire the missionaries to re-educate themselves in terms of the Signs of the Times present in this context. The main problem of SEDOS then becomes that of keeping in touch with the realities of the same context. This involved continuing exchange -- listening hard and responding honestly -- between the Generalates and the Missionaries.

5. SEDOS should not become involved in evaluating field projects. SEDOS is -- above all -- people who come together in small, informal groups to talk about their common concerns.

6. It would be wise not to attempt to make the objectives of SEDOS too specific. Its main thrust should continue to point towards the exploration of new areas of missionary cooperation through the exchange of information. Like a good pioneer, it should hand over explored areas to agencies that are willing to exploit them.

On the methods of SEDOS

7. Within SEDOS the first source of initiative should be the member Generalates. This means that the Superiors General (in particular), their Assistants and their staffs should feel free to express the concerns of their Institutes.

8. New initiatives in SEDOS should, in fact, correspond to real needs -- expressed and felt by its members. SEDOS could also help to inspire such initiatives and to bring unfelt needs to the surface (perhaps with the aid of experts).

9. Intercongregational sharing of information should continue to be the SEDOS way of responding to such needs. In particular, this could be pursued through the adjustment of its current structures and services indicated below (see 16 and fol.). But a continuing effort to define methods of cooperation was also necessary.

10. In the process, the concept of study should be reviewed. SEDOS should not always expect definitive solutions from its studies. But it should achieve more insights on the common concerns of its members. It should also be able to call on the advice of outside experts and agencies in pursuing such insights and, eventually, a synthesis. The final product should be basic orientations (on such concerns) which could be communicated to the missionaries in the field.

11. All structures should be envisaged and kept open-ended -- in order to promote maximum creativity.

12. In particular French speaking members should be provided with all the facilities required for their full participation in SEDOS initiatives.

13. The criteria for deciding on which initiatives to take should be derived from past experiences. Such criteria should then be used to reject or accept requests for SEDOS collaboration from other agencies.

14. The on-going evaluation of its initiatives should be the permanent concern of SEDOS. A useful guiding criterion could be how its work has helped the "grass root" missionary. The Assembly could also be asked to offer an opinion on the "ad hoc" meetings held in SEDOS. If such opinion is positive, the Executive Committee could review the series of meetings every quarter.

15. The image of SEDOS should be another permanent concern. SEDOS should not be presented in triumphalistic terms or as a pressure group, but as an agency for missionary cooperation, working with (not for) other agencies interested in the mission.

PARTICULAR SUGGESTIONS

Structures

16. The Assembly:- As the SEDOS statutes clearly state (Art. 8), this should not be considered as a legislative body with powers over the member Institutes. It is there to legislate only about the SEDOS group as such. It should, however, accept the various conclusions of SEDOS and not only inspire and guide them.

In particular, the Assembly during its regular meetings (and eventually special meetings)

- a) could be briefed about the conclusions of a particular study or project by those who had been engaged in that study, and
- b) could discuss the findings of such particular study or project
- c) eventually, could come to some form of consensus after briefing and discussion (a and b above).

17. The Executive Committee:- Besides continuing to perform the functions outlined in the SEDOS statutes (Art. 11), should also:

- a) seek correlations among the conclusions of the studies and projects of the various SEDOS groups.
- b) periodically evaluate and coordinate contacts with International Agencies.
- c) seek ways and means to communicate information about (a) and (b) above to the member Generalates and, through these, to the missionaries.
- d) consider the advisability of and decide on the involvement of SEDOS in major new initiatives, and establish guidelines for each involvement.

18. Working Groups:- The meetings convened by SEDOS are considered the major channel of cooperation currently going on among the member Generalates. The Working Groups provided for by the Statutes (Art. 19) have called the majority of these meetings and should continue to do so whenever it is found useful.

However, meetings called to consider a specific issue were considered very useful. Their main contribution was the number of insights and orientations usually provided by the participants on the issue under focus. In order to develop this channel:

- a) "ad hoc" meetings should be encouraged.
- b) The normal procedure would be for a Generalate to alert the Secretariat about its immediate concern. The Secretariat would then invite interested Generalates; for a meeting.

- c) The Secretariat would then ask the first Generalate to prepare a working paper for the meeting.
- d) The same Generalate would also be asked to edit the report -- which should not take the form of Minutes but that of a clear presentation of the key issues at stake.
- e) Meetings should be directed to detecting emerging trends (the future) rather than to excavating the past. They should be outward-looking and should not bog down in discussion of internal organization.
- f) Briefing and reporting sessions (meetings called by a Generalate on the eve of a visit to a particular mission field and after such a visit) were found to be particularly stimulating. They could still be improved if the specific objective of the visit was announced before the actual meeting (examples: work of the Institute in the country, its relations with the Bishops and the Government, trends in its thinking.)
- g) Participation should be open to all but a careful distinction should be made between
 - .1 study sessions convened to explore a particular problem - these should be open only to those who are familiar with the problem.
 - .2 information sessions convened to share data on a particular topic -- these should be open to all.

19. The Secretariat:- The Secretariat should be given guidance. There was the real danger of its moving in its own direction under the pressure of day-to-day work. Such guidance could be assured through constant contact of the Generalates with it. The Secretariat, on its part, could be on the lookout for the cues and clues to emerging missionary issues and alert the Generalates and the Executive Committee accordingly.

The Secretariat could be strengthened by providing it with the part time services of members of Generalates.

20. SERVICES

Documentation:- It was time to attempt a synthesis of the documentation now stored in the SEDOS Secretariat. This could be done in terms of the felt needs of the Generalates (see below, No. 24). The next step would be the systematic dissemination of the information among those who need it.

Meanwhile, no effort should be spared to draw out of the Generalates -- for improved sharing -- the information which they already possess. This could be done through:

- a central index or clearing house facility.
- common documentation standards.

- the inventorization of what each Generalate hopes to achieve through its own documentation (and, eventually, projects).
- information about the outcome of research projects.

Documentation should continue to be organized by country and by topic.

The documentation section should aim at helping the members of the Generalates tap the sources of information they need for their day-to-day work. This means

- a) making known to members what data is available -- at the Secretariat or in the member Generalates.
- b) soliciting questions from the Generalates which could be answered by the Service (perhaps by suggesting questions).
- c) referring Generalates to sources of data.
- d) listing and abstracting new data as it becomes available. Cooperation among the Generalates could become a reality in this field -- for example, the FSC could cover the topic "Education of Catechists" for all Generalates.

21. The Weekly Documentation Service was useful but there seemed to be a problem of over-information. This could be solved by occasionally skipping a week and by circulating reports rather than minutes of the various meetings. It should aim at material which has already been processed (including suggestions for action), and which could be passed on tale quale to interested missionaries (by the receiving Generalate). In particular, the contents should focus on:

- a) statements by Generalates on mission issues.
- b) reports on trends.
- c) up-dating in critical areas.
- d) signalling and abstracting of documents of special interest.
- e) information on how to tap sources of useful information.
- f) periodical listing of training and retreat facilities, both at home and in the mission.

The service has been found to be very close to the "grass roots". It should be developed into a channel of intercommunication among the member Generalates.

French should have its rightful place in it through -

- a) a full French edition or
- b) French abstracts or
- c) French version of the first page.

22. The "Joint Venture" was considered a very useful initiative, but it should be periodically reviewed by the Executive Committee. The views of the Development Group -- who originally proposed it -- should also be solicited.

23. Seminars were considered useful in helping SEDOS establish closer contacts with the field and in achieving consensus on major missionary orientations. They could also help us approach common problems of Generalate Administration -- e.g. management design.

24. SEDOS could consider servicing, through its present facilities or through new initiatives, the following needs:-

- a) The exchange of information on and study of the mission situation in the following countries: Brazil, Burma, China, Iron Curtain countries, Latin American countries, South Pacific, USA, Islam in Africa.
 - and of the following sectors:
 - training missionaries
 - recruiting missionaries
 - small communities
 - indigenization (in collaboration with Pastoral Institutes and Association of Major Superiors)
 - communication with the Institutes
 - relationships of missionary Institutes with the local clergy and the local Religious
 - trends in Mission Theology (regular up-dating services)
 - pastoral work (especially as this affects Religious Life)
 - involvement in development work
 - ways of doing the various Generalate jobs
 - mobilization of the mass media for the mission
- b) The organization of a mobile inter-congregational team to update missionaries on the spot. Also, re-training facilities for missionaries on leave.
- c) A shared telex service to improve rapid communications with missionaries.
- d) A "better deal" for missionary air fares.
- e) A survey of missionary opinion.

25. Relationships with International Agencies should be developed -- in particular with Propoganda Fide, the USG and UISG, the World Council of Churches, the UN Agencies and with specialiwed agencies like Agrimissio.

SEDOS should remain independent, however, and continue to "work with rather than for" (see above No. 15). This could best be achieved by making more use of the many informal contacts of the SEDOS members in these organizations.

26. SUMMARY OF MAIN SHIFTS OF EMPHASIS NOTED IN THE SIX MEETINGS

- from study to statements.
- from specific to generic objectives.
- from the permanent working group to the "ad hoc" group.
- from data collection to the systematic dissemination and to the synthesis of this information.

(SIGNED)

Benjamin Tonna
Executive Secretary

ISLAM

Rapport de la réunion sur l'islam qui s'est tenue le 11 Juin 1971 à 16h au Généralat des Pères Blancs.

Les Membres présents étaient les suivants:

Président: Père Lanfry J, p.3

R.P. Bundervoet A, msc	Sr de Reals Marie, crsa
R.P. Verschuur A, svd	Sr Agnès Danielou, osu
R.P. Mertens V, sj	Sr M.J. Van Dun, osu
R.P. Ibba A, sx	Sr Elisa Garcia, fmm
R.P. Gaudet V, omi	Sr Axpitarte M, fmm
R.P. Poggi V, sj	Sr Duarte, fmm
R.P. Bouchaud J, cssp	Sr Anne de la Bouillerie, fmm
R.F. Lammelin R, fsc	

Secrétariat de SEDOS: Mlle Antoinette Fernandez.

Le Président introduisait la réunion en rappelant les trois points annoncés dans l'Agenda. (Voir Bulletin 71/18 du 28.5.71)

De l'exposé qui suivit, le plus important à noter est l'ensemble des informations que le P. Lanfry apporta sur l'organisation de la Section ISLAM du Secrétariat Romain pour les Non-Chrétiens, avec ses correspondants, ses consultants; ses réunions de travail avec l'ensemble des consultants venant des divers pays du monde musulman; et aussi, des réunions plus libres d'information et de documentation qui se tiennent au siège romain du Secrétariat.

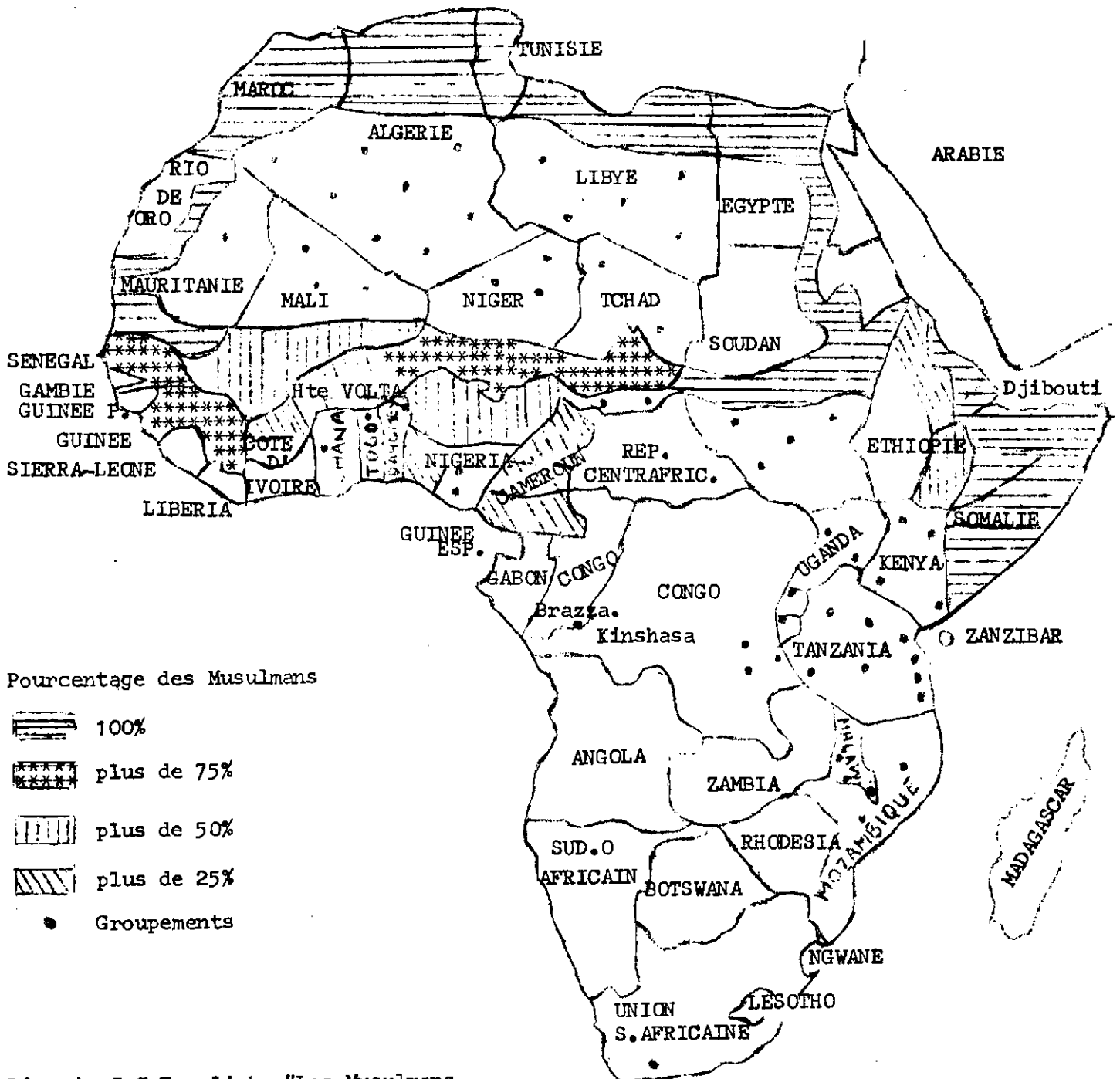
Informations aussi sur les publications de ce Secrétariat. La brochure intitulée "Orientations pour le dialogue entre chrétiens et musulmans" publiée aussi en anglais, a été tirée, pour les deux langues, à plus de 20.000 exemplaires à ce jour, dont un bon nombre sont entre les mains de musulmans intéressés par l'effort entrepris selon l'esprit nouveau prôné par le Concile.

BIBLIOGRAPHIE

Il est difficile d'être court en pareille matière. On trouvera des "indications bibliographiques sommaires" dans l'ouvrage indiqué ci-dessus, p. 153 à 157 de l'édition française. Les titres sont choisis parmi les meilleurs et les plus récents des ouvrages des spécialistes européens et américains.

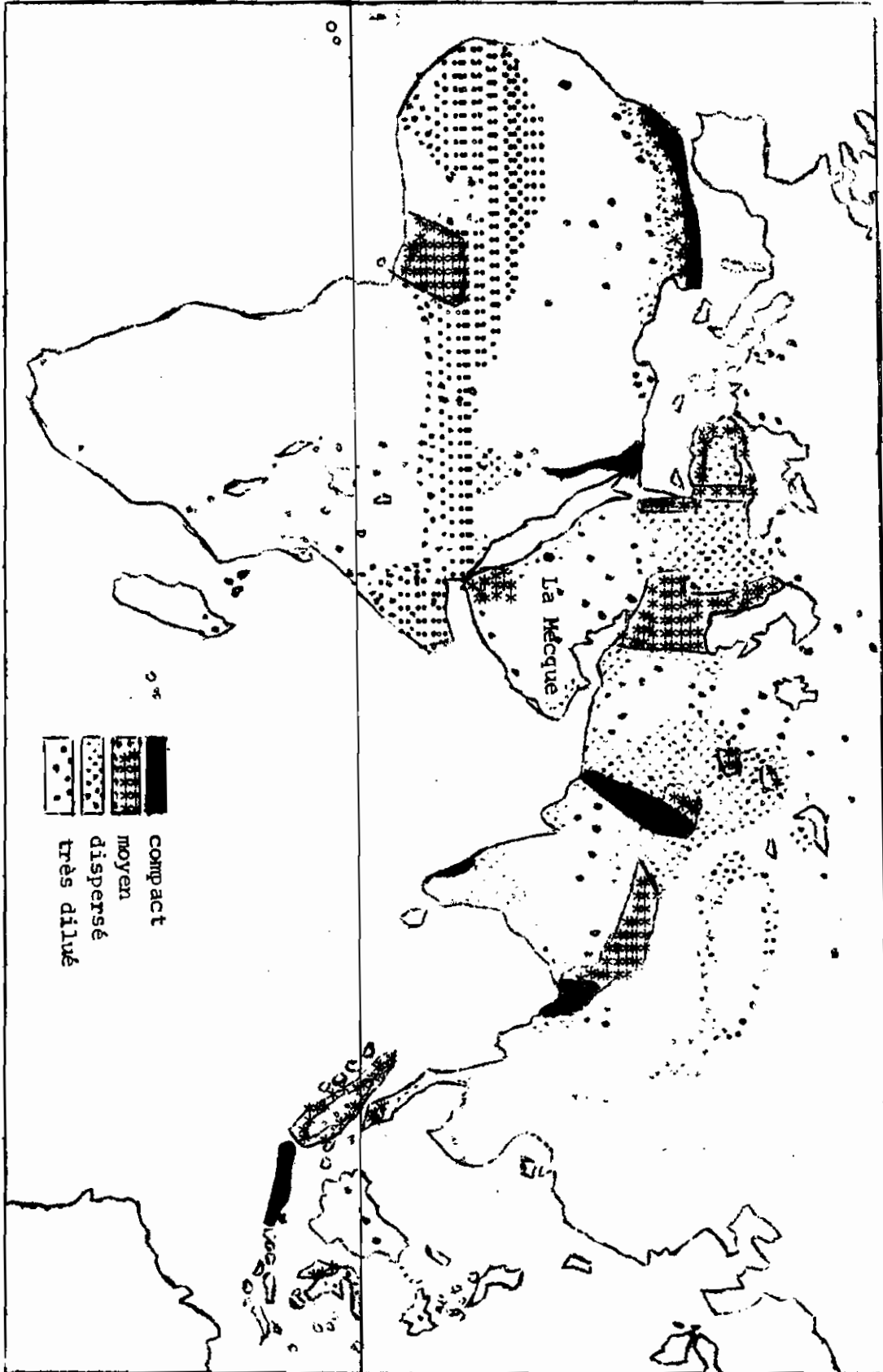
Antoinette FERNANDEZ

L'ISLAM EN AFRIQUE



D'après J.C Frœlich: "Les Musulmans d'Afrique Noire"

LE PEUPEMENT MUSULMAN



d'après Pierre RONDOT. 1959.

On the International Program for Prisoners' Children

1. Political prisoners are becoming a real cause of concern for our Missionaries. In particular, the problems caused by prison sentences impinge on their innocent children. Non-government organizations have been studying the question in some depth and a number of conclusions have been drawn. They are here listed in an effort to alert our Missionaries to the emerging problems.
2. Any program to help prisoners' children should include the following objectives:
 - A. Make the people responsible aware of the problem.
 - B. Change the attitude toward the prisoner and his family; Public Opinion should not continue to stigmatize the children -- not even the prisoner.
 - C. Change the current legislation and especially social laws, protection of youth and treatment of prisoners.
3. Action on behalf of prisoners' children:
 - A. The UN Organizations provide a useful platform. We should not expect the United Nations to produce directives, but remain only a forum where certain ideas could be promoted.
 - B. At the National level, especially among the professionals (judges, prison administrators, social services, police), in political circles and, of course, in the mass media.
4. The instruments for such action:
 - A. Studies undertaken by Universities and Research Centers -- some of these will soon become available.
 - B. Publications with maximum circulation -- we have already received an article by J. Van Muyland on the subject.
 - C. Activities by the National Committees of the non-government organizations interested in the topic.

It is at the level of these Committees that the Missionary could initiate action to serve prisoners' children. However, we must make sure that these organizations are critical of some of the current structures of their society. Otherwise, we waste a lot of energy simply by trying to justify the present system, often the result of an unconscious defense mechanism and even of sheer ignorance and incapacity to see the truth. The non-government organizations could be the best means to conduct action in the domain of social protection -- "prevention, defense sociale". Normally, we must not expect too much from action by the United Nations or by Governments, as these are too tied into the established order, which often includes established corruption. Their policy as regards crime often does not touch the authorities already in place and so does not attack the real problems. These problems could be tackled by the non-government organizations if they are strong and not committed to the system.

5. Action could be conducted as indicated above. It is to be noted, however, that the problem of prisoners' children is usually considered a minor one because people are unaware there are a large number of them. In fact, there are more prisoners' children than one would like to think -- and if the statistics are produced, Public Opinion could be alerted to the seriousness of the problem.

6. Type of action:

- A. Social Action: -- occasional charity is sometimes a fact, but social services for prisoners do not exist.
- B. Information disseminated among the professional circles through publications and through the organization of seminars. It would be wise to alert leading journalists to the problem.
- C. Political action: Pressure on political quarters in order to achieve adequate legislation -- such action, of course, presupposes "A" and "B" above.

For further information and comments, please contact directly the Executive Secretary of the Program:

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(SUMMARY BY THE SEDOS SECRETARIATE OF "Programme Pour Les Enfants de Detenus --
évolution ultérieure et esquisse d'une
planification" -- Louvain, le 10 Avril 1971)

D E V E L O P M E N T

SPOTLIGHTS ON DARK CORNERS NO. 16- Second United Nations Development Decade - Report of 2nd Committee

by Mr. Leonard Verceles

On the threshold of the 1970's, the Second Committee recommended that governments dedicate themselves anew to ensuring a minimum standard of living consistent with human dignity through economic and social progress and development.

The launching in 1961 of the First United Nations Development Decade marked a world-wide endeavour to give concrete substance to this pledge. However, the level of living of countless millions of people in the developing part of the world is still pitifully low. These people are often still under-nourished, under-educated, unemployed, and wanting in many of the basic amenities of life. While a part of the world lives in great comfort and even affluence, much of the larger part suffers from abject poverty, and the disparity continues to widen.

The ultimate objective of development is to bring about a sustained improvement in the well-being of the individual and to bestow benefits on all. This calls for a global development strategy in industry and agriculture, in trade and finance, in employment, education, health, housing, science and technology.

The primary responsibility for development rests upon the developing countries themselves; nevertheless, in designating the 1970's as the Second United Nations Development Decade, all governments pledged themselves to pursue policies designed to create a more just and more rational world.

The aims and measures of the Decade are set out in this document under 72 paragraphs filling 18 large pages. Among the goals and objectives it is stated that the average annual rate of growth in the gross product of developing countries as a whole should be at least six percent. An average annual growth rate of 3.5 percent per head will represent a doubling of the average income per head in the course of two decades. This target is calculated on the basis of an average annual population increase of 2.5 percent in developing countries.

Particular attention is to be paid to enrolling all children of primary school age, and re-orientating educational programs to serve development needs. Each developing country should also formulate a coherent health and nutrition program, and improve the average caloric intake and protein content of nutrition. Housing facilities should be expanded and improved, especially for low-income groups.

Policy measures are suggested for international trade (nn.21-38), as well as for trade expansion, economic cooperation and regional integration among developing countries (nn. 39-40). Financial resources for development are dealt with (nn. 41-52), as well as "invisibles, including shipping" which influence the net outflow of foreign exchange (nn. 53-55). Special measures are suggested in favour of land-locked developing countries (n. 59) and the least developed among developing countries (nn. 56-58).

The Committee Report includes sections on science and technology (nn. 60-64); on human development, embracing such topics as population growth, the labour force, education, health and housing (nn. 65-72), and the expansion and diversification of production (nn. 73-77). It concludes with a review and appraisal of both objectives and policies (nn. 79-83) and stresses the importance of mobilizing public opinion (n. 84).

(This document is on file in the Sedos Library as: World Council of Churches, Documentation Service on Development: Information Sheet 8/70 - annex 11.)

NEW DOCUMENTS

AVAILABLE AT SEDOS SECRETARIAT FOR CONSULTATION:

1. THE WHOLE MISSIONARY CHURCH - A statement of the United States Catholic Mission Council 8 pp.
2. CATECHUMENATE - MARRIAGE - SMA Bulletin No. 8 18 pp. Discussion on relevant missionary topics. In English and French
3. MEP - COMPTE RENDU DE MISSION 1970: Japon, Corée, Formose, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodge, Thaïlande, Malaisie, Birmanie, Inde, Madagascar. (270 pp.)
4. GUIDE TO CHINESE CATHOLIC DIASPORA 1971, Singapore Catholic Central Bureau, 225B Queen St, Singapore 7. (60 pp.)
5. THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE AMONG THE OVERSEAS CHINESE - by Bishop C.M.J. van Melckebeke, Singapore, 4-12-70. (17 typed pp.)
6. C.E.T.E.P. rue d'Assaut 18, 1000 Bruxelles, has sent us a copy of several studies, the most relevant to Mission activity being the following:
 - 68/7 - DIOCESES ET CONGREGATIONS MISSIONNAIRES AU CONGO - Jacques Meert, 28-2-68 4pp.
 - 68/8 bis SITUATION POLITIQUE, ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE DU CONGO - J. Meert, 7 pp.
 - 69/6 - LE DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL AU CONGO - J. Meert, Mars 1969. 49 pp.
- 62-24 Document de Travail "LE MOUVEMENT SAVOIR VIVRE" (aux villages Laba) - J. Meert 21 pp.
- 62-26 Document de Travail "DES VILLAGES QUI BOUGENT" (Lac Léopold 11) (24 pp.)
- 62-29 VOIR...JUGER...AGIR - Compte-rendu de J.O.C.F à Nkongsamba (Cameroun) avril 1962 17 pp.
- 62-33 LES JEUNES DE BENI-BUTEMBO (KIVU) AU TRAVAIL 14 pp.
7. THE WORLD YEAR BOOK OF RELIGION - THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION Vol.11 by R. Cutler, Evans Bros. London 1091 pp.