



71/34

Rome, 12 November 1971

To all Superiors General
To all their delegates for SEDOS
To all members of the SEDOS Group

A tous les Supérieurs Généraux
A tous leurs délégués de SEDOS
A tous les membres de SEDOS

This week;

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
2. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATES,
3. DOCUMENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST
4. LIST OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED
5. HEALTH GROUP MEETING - REPORT
6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - AGENDA

Cette semaine

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COMING EVENTS i

EXECUTIF COMMITTEE
18 NOV, 16,30
DEVELOPMENT WG
2 DEC. 16,00
EDUCATION WG
6 DEC, 16.00

PROCHAINES REUNIONS

COMITE EXECUTIF
Secretariat de SEDOS
GROUPE DU DEVELOPPEMENT
Secretariat de SEDOS
GROUPE DE L'EDUCATION
Marymount Sisters

Yours sincerely,

Frc Leonzio Bano, fscj

A meeting of the Executive Committee of Sedos was held on Thursday, October 28, 1971, 4:00 PM at the Generalate of the White Fathers. The following were present:.

Sr. M. Th. Barnett scmm-t	Fr. V. Goossens cicm
Bro. Ch. H. Buttimer fsc	Bro. G. Schnepf sm
Sr. Jane Gates scmm-m	

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

1. The minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting (SEDOS 71/582 ff) were approved, after an observation re 3 e, to the effect that no verbal information had been given to the Assembly on the follow-up of the round of meetings by neighborhood. The Committee then decided to discuss the more urgent matters first in view of the short time available to some of the members.
2. Fr. Buhlmann's Proposal; Fr. Buhlmann had proposed a periodic report on what the Missions could (and should) be doing, based on existing data. It was agreed that before embarking on this major project, it would be useful to: a) discuss it first within the sub-committee of Commission VI, and then within Commission VI which is conducting a similar project. Fr. Buhlmann is himself a member of this Commission; and b) after this preliminary discussion in Commission VI and its sub-committee, Fr. Buhlmann would be invited to the Executive Committee to present his project. It was stated that it would not be prudent at this stage to send questionnaires to the Mission field; that it would be useful to explore existing sources of Mission data and to scientifically collate it to confront what is being done with what has to be done and to flank the official Missionary reports with private reports based on the present and future needs of the Third World. The project would also give the Documentation Section of the Secretariat useful focus in its endeavor to select and disseminate relevant missionary information. The end product of the project could, of course, be a book - but for Sedos, the process of collecting, analysing and disseminating the information which could go into such a book would be a useful and valid objective in itself.
3. Fr. Van Asten reported on the situation as regards the financing by CIDSE of the CIDSE/SEDOS liaison Secretariat with the CMC. He mentioned that a meeting would be held late in November in Geneva and that a delegation from Sedos had been invited. It was agreed that the President and the Chairman of the Health Services Group would be present at this meeting. It appeared that four of the members of CIDSE would be approached for a contribution. Misereor would be one of these four and had already expressed its willingness to cooperate. Meanwhile, Fr. Van Asten as President of Sedos had also been invited to the annual CIDSE Assembly to be held on December 2 and 3, 1971.
4. It was agreed that the gesture of using the money for Christmas cards for some other, more meaningful, purpose would be too small if confined to the SEDOS group of Generalates. It was therefore decided that Sedos, through Bro. Charles Henry, would propose it to the Union of Superior Generals as a possibility for next year, since the bulk of Christmas cards for this year had already been sent.
5. Fr. McCormack's paper on the Missionary implications of demographic growth had already been studied by the Health Services group and was being studied by the Development Group, (it had also been distributed to the members of the Executive Committee.) It was agreed that a final decision on Sedos sponsoring the publication of the paper could be made during the next Executive Committee meeting.

6. It was agreed to accept Sr, Isabel for a 6-month "stage" with Sedos to help Sr. Agnetta. The Generalate involved was not expecting any financial remuneration..

7. The form of the next Assembly of Generals should definitely be different from that of the last two. This could be done by ensuring an Eucharistic celebration to conclude the year 1971 - perhaps in a spirit of penitence, A liturgical committee could be formed for this purpose. Another suggestion was that the Assembly would be followed by supper. The December Assembly would, of course, include a period for business because of the item on Budget. In any case, these considerations would be taken into account when preparing the Agenda during the next Executive Committee meeting.

8. It was agreed that it would not be wise to proceed too fast on the suggestion made by Fr. Stransky at the Committee meeting of the CV/ME as regards individual Catholic Institutes applying for membership in this Commission. Meanwhile, it was agreed that Sedos could sponsor, with the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity, the coming visit to Rome of a delegation from this Commission. This would entail a meeting for an informal exchange of views on mission for all Sedos Generalates and another meeting restricted to the Women Institutes in Sedos, Fr. Van Asten was also invited to take an active part in the Open Forum being organized by the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity for the Delegation on Sunday, November 7,

9. Other Matters! A) It was agreed to consider printing "Joint Venture" in Dutch in the context of next year's budget. Meanwhile, a questionnaire could be circulated to the Generalates as to: i.) Would you be ready to pay for "Joint Venture" if need be? and ii.) How many copies would you order if there were a Dutch issue? An indication of the costs would be given. The Secretary reported that the Development Working Group - at the request of the Executive Committee - had evaluated "Joint Venture" during their last meeting and had warmly congratulated the Editor and recommended that it should continue in its present form, S) It was agreed not to pursue the matter of commenting on the draft legislation on tax treatment proposed by Interphil, in view of the little interest shown by the Sedos Members.

10. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday, November 18, 1971 at 4:30 p.m. at Sedos.

B. Tonna
Executive Secretary

NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GENERALATES

1. An Italian alien couple in their 30's is seeking employment. The wife is a very good cook and the husband is a very reliable driver/handyman. They have worked at the Sisters of the Holy Child for 7 years, but due to a change to a smaller house, the Order is unable to retain their services» Their recommendation is excellent and contact can be made by calling Sr[^] Alma Cornely, 69-91-902,
2. The Medical Mission Sisters translated into Dutch the article "THE SITUATION: LIBERATION" from SEDOS Bulletin n°32, pp.679-690» Anyone interested may obtain copies of the Dutch translation directly from the SCMM Generalate, via di Villa Troili 32, 00163, ROME, Phone 62,28,098,
3. Sr Barbara Hendricks MM is presently visiting in Hong Kong, She plans to be in Rome in mid-December and to attend the SEDOS meeting
4. Une jeune fille étudiante Colombienne cherche un emploi de préférence dans une congrégation, comme réceptionniste ou traductrice de l'italien en Espagnol[^] Contacter SEDOS
5. Elisabeth Lux, German, 23 years old, seeks post as English speaking Secretary in African or Asian English speaking country. Knowledge of French and some Spanish. Contact SEDOS,

DOCUMENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- 1, LA COMMUNAUTE DE BASE DANS LES EGLISES AFEICAU^'ES, by Marie France Perring Jassy, pp-232.

The CENTRE D'ETUDES ETHNOLOGIQUES, Bandundu, Congo-Kinshasa (now ZaSre Republic), published in 1970 this study on the trends of local independent churches among a typical African races the Luc After a survey of the origin, migrations and social and political organisation of the Luc, the author deals with the impact of colonisation and missionary activity on the Luc of North Mara, and the consequences of different Christian denominations on the tribal set-up. The independent African churches are examined in detail, and in the light of the main themes La Communaut^ de base. Though dealing mainly with missionary activity of non-Catholic societies, it will interest anyone who follows with apprehension the development of Christianity in Africa.

2. FOE A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF OUR MISSIONARY ACTIVITY - 5 QUESTIONNAIRES ON THE LASALLIAN MISSIONS (1970-1971). English and French texts,

A work group prepared this study for the FSC Month's Session last October* Since the 5 questionnaires deal exclusively with mission topics, the study might be consulted with profit by any missionary. Some relevant passages;

"Upper Volta .^^ At Toussiana, the college has organised a garden with dams and irrigation canals. The young people in the village were initiated into vegetable growing, and with the profits thus obtained, some of the youngsters have been able to hv^ a moped. The experiment soon became known and now the Brothers have been asked to start similar schemes in other places. The people in the area are more impressed than the boys",

"In Japan, it has been considered possible to open a community, in a remote area, where the government finds it difficult to recruit lay teachers, A ta«5c which would be in accordance with the Lasallian spirit",

"In the East, there is a traditional importance attached to religious men, hence the importance of wearing the habit" (Penang),

"It is important to practise a certain ascetism".

LIST OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

compiled by Sister Agnetta, S»Sp.S.

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 4.328 | Ministry Studies Board (U<,SoA.) | Directions for ordering theological school inventory' materials. |
| 4.329 | THE TABLET (London) | A Nun on ,V7men in the Church. |
| 4.330 | World Bank IDA | International Development Association Annual Report 1 971 . |
| 4.331 | World Bank IFC | International Finance Corporation 1971 Annual Report. |
| 4.332 | CLM (Netherlands) | CLM (Centrum Lectuurvoorziening voor Missio- narissen en Kerken Overzee.) |
| 4.333 | CMC (WCC) | Christian Medical Commission Annual Meeting 1971 . |
| 4.334 | The Tablet | Justice in the World. |
| 4-335 | Commission Nati- onale de Cate- chese de Haute Volta | Les Catechistes en Haute Volta (1). |
| 4-336 | Ibid. | Les Centres de Formation des Catechistes en Haute Volta '(I), |
| 4.337 | University of Tübingen, | Attempto. |
| 4.338 | A. McCormack | Population Situation. |
| 4.339 | Raske, Rlitti and Schafer | Attempts to realize human rights within the Church. |
| 4.340 | WCC (DV7ME) | Meeting of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, Montretix, 1971- (Papers) |
| 4-341 | Cantess | Canterbury Slimmer School International and Ecumenicalo |
| 4.342 | Federagao Rodoviaria, Estradas na Amaz6nia< Internacional, Brazil | |

- 40343** Institute Tcologia e Ciencias de Comportamcnto Humano, Brazil Conferencia Nacional dos Bispos do Brasil Secretariado Regional Korte Ij Conferencia dos Religiosos do Brasil Regional de Manaus. January 1 971 »
- 4,344** Centre de Estudios de Comportamento, Brazil Relatorio do encontro do corpo docente do ITECIC,
- 1 .78 OFMCap Convention entre I'Eveche de Moundou et la Province Capucine de Foggia.
- 1 ,79 Ibid, "Mission in den neuen Satzimgen des Kapuzinerorden" by W. Buhlmann,

H E A L T H - LAHGE HEALTH GROUP MEETING

A meeting of the large SEDOS Health group took place on 20th October 1971 at the Jesuit Curia. All SEDOS Member Institutes were invited and also some non-SEDOS members active in the Health field. Other persons interested were also welcome.

Present were: Chairman Sr. Annemaria de Vreede scmm-m

Sr. Frieda Avonts sa	Sr. Ida Moaian pime
Sr. Margreet Biesterveld scmm-m	Sr. Genevieve Murray scmm-m
Sro Margaret Conroy fmm	Sr. Alice Nugent dm
Sr. Suzanne Demey icm	Sr. Annemarie Oosschot scmm-m
Sr. Georgine Foyster osf	Sr. Marianna Palumbo fmm
Sr. Luise Gamba fmm	Sr. Haria Pia Panfili soc
Sr. Arlene Gates sa	Sr, Clelia Philipppson osf
Sr. Jane Gates scmm-m	Sr. Marie Louise Plassart fmm
Sr. C^cile Gonthier sfb	Sr- M. Redempta osf
Sr. Gemma Gunn mmm	Sr. Josephine Rush osf
Sr. H^li^ne de I'.Annonciation fs	Sr. Gilmary Simmons mm
Fr- Joblin sj	Sr. Elza Soetens icm
Sr. Ludewina von Kessel osf	Fr. Joseph Stocker cssp
Sr. Michael Marie Keyes scmm-t	Sr, Dammina Tansini pime
Sr. Maria Cecilia Libreri soc	Sr. Mary ^alentine smsm
Sr. Mary Ann Loughlin fmm	Sr. Corinne Whitney dm
Sr. Mary de Lourdes osf	Sr. Marion Bohlen osu

Also present were Fr. B. Tonna and Ann Ashford from SEDOS.

The meeting opened with a report by the Chairman on

1. Development of SEDOS cooperation with the Christian Medical Commission (CMC). Geneva.

The CMC was formed by the World Council of Churches (WCC) in 1968 as a response to a need for advice and encouragement expressed by 16 different cotmtries after a survey of existing medical facilities had been made. Churches were faced with the problem of how to maintain their hospitals due to increasing operating expenses. There was no concerted planning or action and Christian medical activities needed to take a new direction.

In order to seek RC cooperation on an international level, Mr McGilvray, director of the **25** member Commission (no RC member) contacted SEDOS, and as a result, in 1969, the SEDOS Health Group was formed. Also in 1969, seven RC consultants were appointed by the SPCU in time for the 1969 CMC meeting. An exploratory committee was set up to examine possible closer co-operation. A recommendation widening RC influence and giving them a vote in policy making was sent to the Secretariat of State for approval.

Early in 1971 we welcomed the news that Sr. Gilmary Simmons **McD**, mm, after 17 years working in Korea, had been asked and had agreed to become a CMC staff consultant member. She took up this post on June 1st of this year. It has, been tentatively agreed that she will be employed by the joint **SEDOS/cidSE** group as medical secretary in Geneva, though the appointment is still under consideration by CIDSE as regards the financial implications.

The Chairman concluded by stating that if no commitment is agreed upon soon, we might have to withdraw for lack of funds.

2» Report on CMC Annual Meeting - by Sr. Gilmary Simmons

This meeting was held at Nemi, June 9-15» 1971-'

A. Sr. Gilmary summed up as follows the main characteristics of the first stage of the CMC's activities - up to 1971.

- a) The promotion of national coordinating and planning agencies to enable the churches to make better use of the resources already available and to provide a mechanism for joint planning with governments.

Research into the most appropriate methods for churches to engage in the healing ministry today. There is a need for community health care which would require changes in our present systems.

- c) The sponsorship of projects v/hich seek to demonstrate effective methods of delivering health care that are economically viable and culturally acceptable*
- d) The evaluation of projects† which are far too often the product of isolated planning with no regard to national priorities or consultation with others. The building of hospitals, the enlargement of existing ones or help in medical education - all form part of the apex of a health care system which still does not have an adequate base.

2B. Sr. Gilmary then outlined some of the priorities in the program for the second stage 1971-74-

- a) National and regional workshops to discover the most effective use of **chTtt**^ch resoiarces. Three of these workshops are being planned at the request of the countries concerned - in Ethiopia, Ghana and Camerotm.
- b) The creation of appropriate agencies for joint planning among the churches themselves and with governments.
- c) Responsible parenthood - appropriate ways are being developed to educate people in the consequences of over large families, or lack of planning in the size of a family.

- d) Theological Studies - Christians can only design a health care system within a Christian understanding of the meaning of life and death- Since in most so-called Christian countries death is considered a failure, cure is the **Criterion*** Therefore at present those who cannot be cured and require long-term care become the neglected and dehumanised members of society-
- e) Experimental programmes in community, maternal, child and mental health, and in the integration of leprosy treatment within community health care.
- ^) Contact - Sr- Gilmary concluded by mentioning this 'occasional paper' published by the CMC/WCC, Geneva^ on various topics eg. Leprosy, and Comprehensive Health Care. Copies can be requested from SEDOS Secretariate

3» "The Implications of the Population Explosion for the Missions" - talk by Ev» Fr» A» McCormack, mfm,^ demographer-

Father McCormack's talk on this topic referred to the main points expressed in his pamphlet of the same title, copies of which were distributed at the meeting?

Father began by decrying the fact that people preferred not to face up to the problem of population- In Vatican circles he has been alone in his preoccupation with this vital problem. Due to the controversy which arose over the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, Church circles prefer to avoid the issue.-

In Father's opinion the problem presented itself in simple factual terms- In Ceylon, for instance, there was an annual population increase of 2% - this meant a doubling of the population in **25** years. Recent efforts in the medical field over the last ten years have wiped out malaria; • the death rate has dropped and Ceylon now has an annual population growth of not **2%** but **5%*** Caracas was another example there the hillside slums have a population growth which results in a doubling of the population in **10** years*

WHAT IS THE CONCERN OF THE CHURCH, IF NOT THIS? Father asked. Not being a theologian, he could not base his arguments on *Humanae Vitae*, but preferred rather • to face the fact of Caracas and Ceylon and ask - **WHAT CAN AND SHOULD THE CHURCH DO?** He had the following suggestions to make:-

- (1) The Church should make people aware of the rising growth in population in the developing countries.
- (2) The Church should teach people that responsible parenthood and limiting one's family are not options but duties (ved. speech of Pius XII to a group of midwives **1958** 'Marriage and the Moral Law').

* Further copies of this 31-page pamphlet are available at the SEDOS Secretariat together with copies of his booklet - 'The Population Explosions A Christian Concern' published by the Commission for International Justice and Peace, London, price **250** lire-

- (3) It is important - and often overshadowed by the Humanae Vitae controversy - that the Church should take a positive and not negative attitude to whatever restriction there is» The Church is missing an invaluable opportunity to explain to people the dignity of marriage. Father mentioned the attitude of the West German government which only aids those family planning and population programmes that are incorporated into marriage guidance courses.
- (4) Father then posed the question - "What is the use of telling people to limit their families if they are not then given the means to do so?" The Church should do its best to provide facilities for family limitation in keeping with the conscience, convictions and religious teaching in the country eg- the integrated education programme in Mauritius.

Father McCormack went on to say that the rhythm method is not adequate - as it stands at present, it does not have a major part to play in stemming the population explosion. In Japan for example, it is used in conjunction with other methods by about 39% of the people. The BIG PROBLEM is: when the rhythm method does not work, what then? If a woman does her best to keep within the teaching of the Church and for one reason or another cannot, then she should be able to use the conscience clause of Humanae Vitae - "Responsible parenthood also and above all implies a more profound relationship to the objective moral law established by God, of which a right conscience is the faithful interpreter. The responsible exercise of parenthood implies, therefore, that husband and wife recognize fully their own duties towards God, towards themselves, towards the family and towards society, in a correct hierarchy of values."

Father concluded by saying that a pastoral guide must be available. A quotation from the statement of the Venezuelan Bishops on Birth Control seemed an appropriate conclusion to his talks "The State is equally obliged to provide to the population which requires it, easily available information and education about those methods which enable responsible regulation of births to be exercised according to Christian (ie. Catholic) morality, especially for the great majority of the Catholic population, even the most humble. The lack of economic means cannot be a measure of discrimination in this matter.... Being in a pluralistic society where there are non-Catholics and non-believers, it is not prohibited to State institutions to give information on other methods to those persons who are of mind to use them according to their own conscience".

Those present then broke up into five groups to formulate questions to put to the panel of: Sr. Gilmary Simmons M.D.
Fr. A. McCormack - demographer
Sr. Jane Gates M.D.

These were answered after a refreshment break.

QUESTION 1

"Could anyone present give a practical suggestion as to how to take care of this problem of education in over-populated areas where neither government or Church is taking action?"

The Chairman invited Fr= McCormack to reply.

Father admitted the problem was insoluble and that much had to be left to one's own discretion and judgement- It was, however, a right - a duty even - to educate v/omcn and girls in the teaching of the Church on love, sex, marriage and responsible parenthood. He suggested that religious could do much more on a personal basis eg. by keeping up to date with information in this field and in contact with doctors and sympathetic priests*

QUESTION 2

" How are people brought to an awareness of the implications of an uncontrolled population expansion and how is one to motivate people to participate in such programmes?"

Father McCormack replied that family planning programmes were seeking the same answer. It was evident that in developing countries, unless people had some sort of security they could have no motivation for limiting their families. A large family often gave them a feeling of security. The implications of an uncontrollable expansion are not simple to explain - they must be brought down to the level of daily life.

QUESTION 3

" Are there any directives from church organisations to inform priests, sisters and brothers in the field?"

According to Fr. McCormack, this is where religious such as those present had a part to play. Such organisations as the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council helped, but there is a great vacuum in the field and this is now being partially filled by SEDOS in trying to explore the problem a little further.

Sr- Gilmary was asked how she thought the CMC would cope with the problem- She replied that there was no set methodology, but that different groups were studying the problem from different aspects. The CMC has a positive approach, and though the different Christian groups are not in agreement on the various methods of birth control, they are trying to work on it together-

QUESTION 4

" Please explain further the Catholic Family Action in Mauritius. Can this be applied in other parts of the world?"

Father McCormack replied that this organisation of Catholic origin has made the Rhythm Method the basis of family planning, which has been integrated into overall training in a healthy attitude to love, sex, marriage and the family. An extremely valuable feature of their work has been the use of couples already trained in this method to teach others.

QUESTION 5

" How can we enlighten the sisters who are working in government hospitals as to the attitude of family planning when they receive no directives from the Bishop in the diocese where they work? This is a big problem in India. How can they cooperate with the government programmes eg. sterilization?"

Father McCormack suggested that the sisters in the absence of directives from the Bishops could discreetly and prudently give the teaching of the church regarding the Rhythm Method, if possible with the cooperation of a doctor. When working in predominantly non-Christian countries, they should be able to take part in any birth control programmes - excluding abortion - in operation. Every patient is entitled to the advice and appliances fitting to the 'ambiente' of his country it would be going against the religious liberty of the individual not to allow him to use any method he thought fit. Contraception is not a clear principle of the moral law, whereas abortion is - and most of the human race accepts this fact.

The Chairman rounded off the meeting by asking Father if Justice and Peace was the only organisation in the RC Church working on the population problem- Why **was** there so little on it in the Synod paper on Justice?

Father answered that Justice and Peace is concerned and many of its members give him their personal support. However, the fact remains that it seems that the Church as a body does not want to or cannot face the question right now, and is therefore avoiding the issue.

The meeting came to a close at 6.30 pm.

SEDOS 71/^24

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1971 > 4:30 PM at SEDOS

1. The December Assembly of Generalss

- Eucharistic Celebration
- Annual Report of the Executive Secretary (to be sent later)
- Statement by the Education Working Group (By Sr. Marjorie Keenan)
- Budget (to be sent later)

2. "Joint Ventiire" : Report on Questionnaire

3. The Buhlmann Project

B. Tonna
Executive Secretary

copy to: Sr. Marjorie Keenan rscm