

72/29

Rome, 29th September, 1972

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

This week:

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 The Executive Secretary introduces a masterly exposition on information cooperatives by an expert: Prof. David O. Moberg.
2. TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON RELIGION by David O. Moberg (ADRS) pp. 603/611
3. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS pp. 612/614
 A further step towards internal communications.
4. NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GENERALATES pp. 615
 Preparations for SMA and CMM General Chapters. With the return from the summer diaspora we look forward to receiving more information from and for the Generalates.
5. LIST OF MEMBERS OF 4 MLC GROUPS pp. 616
 An up-to-date list to help all concerned.
6. COMING EVENTS:
 - Oct. 5 - M.L.C. Français N° 2 - 4.00 pm - SJ Curia
 - Oct. 6 - M.L.C. Français N° 1 - 4.00 pm - PA Generalate
 - Oct. 10- M.L.C. Eng. Gp. N° 2 - 4.00 pm - SJ Curia
 - Oct. 23- Internal Communications Group - 4.00 pm - SEDOS
 - Oct. 25- Development Work Group - 4.00 pm - SEDOS

Sincerely yours,
 P. Leonzio BANO, fscj

DOCUMENTATION COOPERATIVES
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The prospects

N.B. A documentation service, like credit and agricultural products and houses, is perfectly amenable to the cooperative process. In other words, it can be thrown into the pot to make the soup tastier. Indeed, our experience at Sedos has shown that only by entering upon a cooperative of documentation service can we hope to "cover" the missions; because it has also forced us to narrow our focus (and, consequently, our selection criteria), we are reduced to a state of "incapacity" to answer requests for information outside that focus.

The only way out is to concentrate on what only we can cover (= experience and ideas of member institutes) and then join up with other specialized documentation services of missionary relevance. Each would give us material covered by their focus and we would give each of them material covered by ours, as the requests come in.

We have not reached this stage yet. But we are in touch with ongoing explorations for the setting up of a cooperative of documentation services of interest to us. One of these is ADRIS - the Association for the Development of Religions Information Systems. Its moving visitor is Professor David O. Moberg, of Marquette University, Milwaukee, who visited our system some months ago. We thought it useful to circulate his ideas as a follow up of the work of the 36th Assembly.

TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON RELIGION
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by David O. Moberg

Following a decade of discussion of the need for comprehensive information systems in religious organizations, the Department of Research of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) sponsored a meeting in November 1969 on information needs in the churches. Papers were presented on information systems and their applicability to church organizations, the informational needs of Roman Catholics, the indexing of the H. Paul Douglass Research Collection at NCC, the Missions Advanced Research and Communications Center (MARC), in Monrovia, California, and the potentialities of electronic data processing for religious research and administration.

A social scientist's paper on "A survey of needs for religious research data retrieval" presented the necessity for improved methods of data storage and retrieval, as well as for coordination of the various programs already in existence or in the planning stages. The rapidly increasing flow of materials on religion in research monographs, articles, books, chapters in books, and other relevant reports (even those not dealing with religion ostensibly) has made it impossible for anyone to keep up with the ever-increasing flow of new publications. Much material related to the scientific study of religion comes from disciplines outside one's own field of specialization. Since the conscientious scientist desires to know about all the work that has been done on any specific problem of investigation prior to embarking upon his research, the task of exploring books, journals, bibliographies, indexes, and archival resources is becoming monumental. Similar problems emerge in the work of church administrators, planners, and others involved in the practical endeavors of religious bodies.

An informal survey of scholars, researchers, and church administrators revealed a widespread feeling of need for a data retrieval system for religious research materials. The success of MEDLARS in the field of medicine, ERIC in education, and information systems in other disciplines suggested that such a system was technologically possible and organizationally feasible, provided the practical considerations of costs, personnel, and administrative coordination could be resolved. Several religious information services and other systems which included religion among other components were identified. Numerous overlapping centers and projects in which people were attempting to do the same thing, at least in part, were either in existence or in the planning stages. If their efforts could be pooled, a great deal more could be achieved with the same amount of energy and fiscal expenditures, so it was recommended that a committee be set up to develop a planning proposal to establish a consortium of religious data systems, ideally on a worldwide basis.

Subsequently the Department of Research of the NCC gave a small grant to Marquette University to direct a study on the feasibility of a consortium of religious information systems. The first step in conducting the project was to establish an advisory

- 1) eighteen persons who 1) already were involved in information systems research data analysis or were knowledgeable about them; 2) represented a cross-section of religious bodies, types of applications, and uses of religious information; 3) were capable of handling their own financial costs for participating in advisory board meetings; 4) had a breadth of perspectives cutting across disciplines: natural science research, professional identifications, and administrative functions in religious bodies; 5) were influential gatekeepers of communication; and 6) were creative and imaginative thinkers.

"Religious information systems" were broadly defined to include bibliographical reference services, research archives, computerized administrative services in religious bodies, including the storage and retrieval of policy reports, research studies, and personnel files, services to disseminate information on specific topics relevant to religion or churches, news services, and denominational archives, as well as other academic and administrative research tools pertinent to religion.

The Rationale for Cooperation

During its five meetings in 1970 and 1971, the Advisory Board reached several conclusions and assisted with two major projects. By its second meeting the first major decision was made: the need for cooperation among the various religious information systems was obvious, so the basic question became that of how to cooperate. Among the many reasons for cooperation, several were especially prominent:

1. Duplication of effort will be reduced whenever the services of one agency make it unnecessary for another to produce the same services. Given the scarcity of resources, it is inefficient and wasteful for every agency to attempt to develop all of the kinds of information needed by its clientele.
2. Cooperation will facilitate, enhance, and enlarge the available services of each information system, making it possible for members to secure information which otherwise would be unavailable or prohibitively costly.
3. Researchers of religion, educators, and church administrators, planners, and policy makers have overlapping needs for various kinds of information and data. Cooperative activities of religious information systems can facilitate their work, enlarge their scope, and improve the quality of their efforts. Ignorance of pertinent work done elsewhere, whether in applied or pure research, is very common; cooperation would reduce such ignorance.
4. The gaps between theory and practice and between pure and applied research can be bridged through the overlapping activities, interests, and needs that would be satisfied through cooperative information services.

5. Many costly errors could be prevented, for cooperation would help the members share their mistakes and failures as well as their successes.
6. The efficiency of research and the quality of policy studies would be improved by having a single source of information about resources pertinent to religion.
7. The credibility gap between the educated laity and church bureaucrats would be reduced if the religious bureaucracies would use modern technology and cooperate with each other to conserve their resources.
8. Numerous practical needs of each member agency could be met through cooperation with other religious systems. Among these are assistance with problems related to input, storage, output, and conceptualization; sharing solutions to facilitate both internal and external communication; knowledge of external sources of information; administrative tools and techniques, including client and staff relationships, costs of services, dissemination difficulties, public relations, computer programming, and electronic data processing hardware; in-service training of staff members; educational services for the users of archives and other information systems, and criteria for the evaluation of data, services, and systems.

Steps Toward Cooperation

A second major conclusion of the Advisory Board was that cooperative arrangements must not infringe upon the autonomy and specific tasks of any member. It was felt that a centralized system with a single information service to meet the needs of all agencies was neither administratively nor financially feasible. Instead, a division of labor by which each agency has a central focus or area of specialization and a primary responsibility within the overall system seemed appropriate. This would enable a high degree of excellence and broad scope of coverage by the total system that otherwise would be impossible.

In effect, this conclusion suggested an organizational structure similar to the Educational Resources Information **Center** of the US Office of Education (ERIC). ERIC has both a centralized office and services and decentralized activities operating through twenty relatively autonomous clearinghouses, each dealing with a particular subject area. A comparable Information Center on Religion might have independent clearinghouses dealing with such subjects as ecological and community studies of churches, religious education, foreign missions and overseas ministries of churches, religious research data archives, philosophical resources on religion, youth research, church-state relations, the ecumenical movement, biblical archaeology, documentary analysis, and studies of the clergy, in addition to those focusing upon specific disciplines (sociology of religion, psychology of religion, etc.), nations, or religious bodies (denominational archives, studies of Catholic religious orders, etc.).

A third conclusion was that the collection and sharing of information about existing and proposed information systems constitutes an important step toward cooperation. A questionnaire was therefore prepared and distributed internationally in the summer and fall of 1970 to agencies known to have or believed possibly to have pertinent information systems on religion. This provided data about eighty information systems in fourteen nations besides sixteen states of the USA. Of these, sixty-five indicated an interest in exploring cooperation with others. These data were used to compile an International directory of religious information systems which includes the names and addresses of each system, the types of information it includes, and its purpose, type of storage, clientele, accessibility, financial support, and anticipated changes. Indexes by type of information system (abstracting services, administrative data archives, etc.), religious faith or denomination, and location make it a useful tool.

A fourth conclusion of the Advisory Board was that experiences in the indexing and classification of documentary materials should be shared. Agreement on basic questions of concepts and classification for indexing and cross-referencing purposes will make it possible to coordinate the information systems more easily than if each has its own unique procedures. Discussions of these problems centered around the use of KWIC and KWOC at MARC and the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, but two major projects eventually received the most attention. One of these was the experience of the NCC Department of Research in indexing the H. Paul Douglass Library collection of religious research reports. Experiences in developing the computerized inventory, determining the criteria for including documents, quality control of the index coding, development of the index format, and other details were shared. The classification and indexing procedures of this project, as well as the microfiche publication of the entire collection, constitute a significant model for other religious information systems.

The other significant project was the development of a descriptor-based information system at the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Using the methods of the ERIC system for the development of a thesaurus, a classification system for documents dealing with religious education and related topics was developed. This can provide a basis for coordinated thesauri in other areas of religious research and administrative services.

Policies and Principles for Cooperation

The Advisory Board for the study concluded that a number of general principles should be sustained in whatever cooperative activities emerge:

1. The overall, idealistic conception of a master information system of religious information materials as well as the specific, immediate, applied needs of the moment should be kept in mind in all planning. Even if the ideal of one network of coordinated systems is never completely attained, retaining that goal will make immediate efforts much more likely to contribute to that ideal.

2. The earlier cooperative endeavors are initiated, the earlier the work of existing and new information systems will be influenced by them. Delays in the sharing of methodologies, resources, and other activities will increase the ultimate costs of cooperation, so there is a healthy advantage in moving together speedily to develop a symbiotic network while each agency also works to fulfill its unique objectives.
3. The autonomy of each member must be protected. Cooperation with others must be an asset to each agency, not a threat to its independence.
4. Agencies that generate information, such as by research studies, have a moral responsibility to make that information available to others who can benefit from it. Documents, reports, and research materials which have contents of lasting value should be retained. One difficulty in this context is that data which seem to be of no value to one researcher or administrator may be of great value to another, provided he knows of its existence. Similarly, materials of no use to one information system may be of great use to another. Materials discarded because they seem to be of no value may become highly desirable at a subsequent day for follow-up research or policy needs. The criteria of "value" differ from one group to another as well as in the same group from one time to another. Priorities change within an agency and within an entire sociocultural setting. A partial solution to this problem is the establishment of archives in which pertinent research materials are stored. These can make it unnecessary for most agencies to retain extensive back files and yet make it possible for them to recover pertinent materials at subsequent dates.
5. Whenever a literature search or other study is made using the resources of an information system, it is desirable to put the summary results back into the system in order to help subsequent users at minimum expense.
6. It is better to start cooperative activities small and succeed than to begin on a large scale and fail. A modular approach of building segments of a system to which other segments can be added later therefore seems appropriate. However, the grand design or "utopian scheme" should be kept in mind as the ideal goal, so that expansion will occur within a coordinated framework of objectives instead of on a piecemeal basis.
7. Precautions must be taken against releasing materials too early during the development of the coordinated system. If products are produced hastily and are of poor quality, the system may be destroyed by members' or clients' loss of confidence.

8. Existing agencies, organizations, and channels of information should be considered as a basis for cooperative activities in the development of the system. The Religious Research Association seems naturally related to the interests and objectives of a consortium of religious information systems. Other relevant societies are the Association of Statisticians of Religious Bodies, Council for the Study of Religion, Religious Education Association, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and Association for the Sociology of Religion, to mention but a few examples.
9. Cooperation with other information services and consortia is of great importance. Many data banks and information systems for other academic disciplines include materials pertinent to religion. The cooperative system should incorporate plans for linkages with those systems at an early date.
10. Informal exchange of information and coordination of indexing and reference services constitutes a step toward formalized cooperative relationships in the future, since cooperation necessitates compatibility of communication systems and languages, coordination of techniques, and the development of channels for sharing information and experiences.

Projects Proposed for Cooperation

During the study a large number of cooperative activities were proposed. On the technical level, it was suggested that documentation standards or specifications be developed to serve as guidelines for the respective agencies in order to facilitate present and future cooperation. As agencies adopt the same standards and specifications, the linking together of their information services and even direct on-line computer communications will be facilitated.

Closely related is the building of a thesaurus or dictionary of concepts for each subsystem of the consortium. By sharing definitions, classification lists, and procedures, it should be much easier to interrelate all systems in a single, coordinated information system.

Suggestions for sharing information and communicating with others within the proposed consortium included the following:

1. A newsletter to share reports of new materials in the respective systems, news of their personnel, information about pertinent resources outside the system, technological developments related to religious information systems, announcements of meetings, publications, concepts added to thesauri, and similar information.

2. Directories of key persons, groups, and documents on various subjects in the area of religion could provide members with information about resources. They also could help to orient new personnel to the system and facilitate their work, reducing considerably the lag in initiating new projects and personnel.
3. Directories of research and projects in progress could help scholars and administrators to communicate with each other at a much earlier date in the development of new projects.
4. Catalogues or inventories of available resources in the cooperating systems (including their standards, communication channels, indexing procedures, hardware, and other details) could be very useful. The resources should be classified by quantity as well as subject matter, and information about sales and lending policies should be included.
5. A master index of significant social science research on Christianity since 1960 or some other appropriate date could be compiled through searches of in-house research, books, abstract periodicals, information systems indexes, etc. It should include machine-retrievable indexing and could disseminate the abstracts of studies via microfiche or other microreproduction techniques.
6. Conferences to disseminate information about information systems on religion can be considered.
7. A clearinghouse of information on religion to disseminate selected materials from all subsystems in the cooperative program and to answer or refer requests **deserves** continuing consideration, although its attainment would be very costly and cannot be anticipated in the near future.
8. Linkages between the religious information system members and other systems should be created. Public opinion poll archives, social science research centers, and many other "non-religious" information services and centers include material on religion, and research on religion frequently necessitates the use of materials which are not directly in that field of knowledge.

Problems Encountered

The project has suffered because of many difficulties, both internal and external. "Information Systems" were broadly defined. All participants saw the desirability of cooperation as a goal, but their most urgent needs were so diverse that the focus of attention tended to shift from one specific category of interest to another, none of which seemed to be of immediate relevance to all participants. Furthermore, the agencies were at different stages of development, so the needs of their representatives varied. Some wished to gain information about others' experiences for the purpose of planning systems that were only in the dreaming stage, while others had highly sophisticated systems and were impatient with discussion of elementary details.

Having different users and divergent purposes, the needs of the respective systems were of necessity oriented in different directions. Some agencies were under heavy pressure to provide an immediate pay-off for their activities, while others had long-range interests with no demands for immediate returns or benefits. (In some respects, building an information system is analogous to building a library. The collection can hardly be expected to "pay for itself" in its first several years of operation, if ever. Yet many administrators and policy makers insist upon receiving tangible benefits from information systems as soon as they are established.)

The project has suffered because it has been a marginal activity for everyone involved. No one has worked full-time at the tasks of coordinating and planning the activities of the Advisory Board; in fact, not even one-tenth of anyone's time could be devoted to it, for there were no funds to employ personnel.

The times were not propitious for major projects related to religious and educational institutions, at least in the USA, because funds for both types of institutions were being reduced in 1970 and 1971. The employment of several persons initially involved in the project was terminated, and several information systems were discontinued because of reduced financial support.

This also contributed to difficulties within the Advisory Board. At no two of its five meetings were the participants identical; only the director and associate director attended all five sessions. This meant that much time was needed at each session to review past activities and orient new people. Since the cost of attendance was paid by participants' agencies and there were no funds within the project to finance participation, no administrative technique could induce more faithful participation. The total expenditures for attending the meetings totaled several thousand dollars; nevertheless, it was difficult to demonstrate to the management of the representative agencies precisely how much money could be saved later by participating in a consortium. Their fiscal problems contributed to insecurity among their personnel and to increased duties for those who remained after other staff members were dismissed.

Closely related to the problems of time and finances is the great distance that separates agencies in the USA. Travel time and costs were especially great for the board member from California, for all the meetings were held in the eastern one-third of the nation. When the international dimension of information services on religion is considered, these complications are greatly magnified.

ADRS

At its last meeting the Advisory Board concluded that it had fulfilled its function and should be replaced by a new organizational structure, the Association for the Development of Religious Information Systems (ADRS). Central coordination of its activities will be under the leadership of David O. Moberg at Marquette University, but three or more special interest sectors will work as modules or affinity groups.

The first sector will deal with Academic Bibliographies. Its coordinator is John A. Peltz, Asst. Editor, Index to Religious Periodical Literature, 800 West Belden Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60614.

The Administrative Sector is coordinated by Douglas W. Johnson, Director of Research, NCC, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027. Because of the large number of potential information systems included in it, subgroups may be formed to deal with certain specialized interests, such as denominational archives, personnel files, home missions and ecological-demographic research projects, overseas activities and foreign missions, and news services.

The third sector deals with the Social and Behavioral Sciences. Its coordinator is David O. Moberg, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisc. 53233.

A European sector, one on the use of computers in literary analysis and theological research, and other modules are also under consideration.

While each sector will serve its own unique clientele and interests, certain problems of acquiring, indexing, classifying, storing, retrieving, and disseminating information are common to all. Therefore, the participants within each sector need to be kept in communication with the other sectors in the context of the ultimate master system of cooperative relationships that ideally should prevail among all the systems of all types.

Meanwhile, each member system will work on its own cooperative relationships, analyzing the needs of users and clients, developing patterns and processes for coordination to enrich the consortium, and identifying the components of a composite proposal for funding.

The hope is eventually to have an international network of information systems on religion which will draw together the resources of numerous independent systems and clearinghouses. The most important immediate activity, therefore, will be the establishment of communication channels among information systems related to religion. Additional steps toward cooperation will develop naturally out of those relationships. Because a master system imposed from above or initiated solely because of a short-term grant from a funding agency is not likely to survive, efforts will be made to develop cooperative relationships primarily in and through the respective agencies involved. These relationships eventually can be facilitated greatly by having the resources needed to employ some personnel on a full- or nearly full-time basis. If a system is once established on a firm foundation, then it may be possible to maintain it on the basis of dues from the budgets of member agencies or fees for services rendered.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

The above work group first met after the summer break on 18th September '72. Present were: Sr. Carolyn Carte icm - Sr. Ancilla Cottar scmm-t - Sr. Jaqueline Dumont sfb - Fr. Hubenig omi - Sr. M. Ann Loughlin fmm - Fr. P. Moody pa - Sr. Veronica Nugent sfb - Sr. Conca Oliver rscj - Sr. Annemarie Ooschot scmm-m - Sr. Xavier Rowntree osu - Fr. Ruhling svd - Sr. Mary Schellings rscj - Sr. Vera Marie Wingarter osu
 In the Chair: Sr. Ooschot
 From Sedos: Fr. E. Tonna and Miss Ann Ashford.

1. The Chairman welcomed those present and opened the meeting with the news that a Sedos project was now completed: America Latina Comunicacion, a 'who's who' in the field of Lat. Am. communications, compiled by Ramon Aguilo, sj, and published by Nigrizia. It is now available price \$5.00 (\$3.00 for non-Sedos members).
 Fr. Tonna briefly explained that Frs. Bamberger and Reuver had initiated the project in 1970 with a view to listing the people in charge of Catholic Mass Media in Lat. Am. The project was drawn up and presented to Adveniat which allotted \$4,000.00, naming Fr. Aguilo project director and Sedos project holder.
 -From his research, Fr. Aguilo had seen the possibility of publishing a World Catholic Media Directory and this had been published last year. Copies can be ordered from Sedos, price \$2.00 (\$4.00 non-Sedos members).
2. AGENDA ITEM: Discussion of an analysis of the features common to the bulletins of 19 different congregations (Sedos 72/564 ff.)
 All present expressed their appreciation of Sr. Veronica's research, and the Chairman opened the discussion by asking whether, faced with this list, we feel confident that a) readers are getting what they want. Have they been asked?
 - The Sacred Heart Sisters sent a questionnaire to their provincials on the organization of bulletins and exchange of communications within bulletins, and offered to share the feedback with the Task Force members.
 - The White Fathers find that their readers send in their comments, favourable or unfavourable, without being expressly asked to do so.
 - The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary ask for news of what others are doing, and their International Newsletter centres round news of others' experiences and documentation.
- b) Personalizing of news
 - It is a basic rule of journalism that a story is built around people, yet few bulletins follow this rule fully. News of missionary activities is not enough without some personal details, which increasingly foster an exchange between interested field members and the writer or persons involved in the activities mentioned.
- c) Feedback
 - Sr. Veronica had listed this point as some bulletins expressly ask for feedback. Much depends on the set-up of the news system. It is certain that the producing of a bulletin is accompanied by more demand, receipt and exchange of information and material than could ever be absorbed in the bulletin.
 - An additional point made was that very often it is the same people who react to issues and the editor must therefore be very selective when reproducing letters etc.

d) Photographs - Illustrations

Sr. Veronica had noted that there are some good photos in some bulletins and one member asked for suggestions as to where she could get photos printed in Rome for her bulletin.

- Fr. Hubenig replied that from experience he had found that offset photos in Rome are too costly and also time consuming as delays are the rule.
- Another suggestion was that photos on cheap paper sent separately are far more economical.

e) Members who leave

The Chairman wondered whether the scarce references to this issue were a sign of taboo. It was thought not. Some institutes print a list once a year with their statistics whereas others give the news when the member leaves. The fact that those involved sometimes change their minds seemed a point in favour of not rushing the news.

f) Community Living

The Chairman expressed her surprise at the absence of this feature from the analysis.

- Fr. Hubenig explained that the Oblates do not deal with this in their bulletin but in their quarterly magazine. He also raised the question of why this news should come from the generalates and not from the dynamic centre involved.
- Sr. Mary Ann Loughlin said her sisters are asking for more about this side of missionary life, seeking more presence, witness and living than news as in the past about schools and hospitals.

g) Should provincial and generalate bulletins be independent of each other?

One opinion was expressed that provincial bulletins should limit their coverage to their own territories. Inaccuracies would then be confined to a particular area and a network of inexact interprovincial news would not develop.

h) Languages

- fmm - Eng, French, Spanish
- omi - Eng, French, Spanish, German, (Polish and Italian starting in the fall)
- pa - Eng, French
- rscj - Eng, French, Spanish
- icm - Eng, French, Dutch
- scmm-m- Eng, Dutch
- osu - (thinking in terms of Eng and French when they produce a bulletin)

Some problems

- delays caused by translation difficulties. (As one member pointed out, if the bulletin is a news bulletin, it must come out at least once a month.)
- professional translators are used but the phraseology is often missing. It is no good tapping students as more is needed than just a literal translation.
- there is even some resentment among English speaking readers Eng/USA.
- the FMM have a problem in India where there is less and less fluency in English since the exclusion of English from formation programmes.

i) Translators Pool

A previous idea to pool Sedos member institutes translators had not been pushed as professionals were being used increasingly. A suggestion came, however, to pool finances and resources instead of personnel so that a group of qualified translators could be kept at the service of the Institutes.

j) Hot News - To publish or not to publish

The Chairman stated that her sisters do not write to her when they are in a crisis. How do we get them to write? They are often not so badly off as they think. It was thought to be no good writing to them for news as they invariably skated around the explosive issues.

- One member thought hot news hardly beneficial to missionaries but another member said his readers clamoured for it. Explosive information can get into the wrong hands and the official organ is not the place for this kind of news which can be circulated privately, even leaked to secular authorities. Private letters should not be published without permission.
- Another institute had published news of Burundi in its bulletin, but this news did not appear in the Burundi issue of course.

3. NEXT STEP

Following upon the listing of features common to various bulletins, a list of topics was suggested. It was agreed that this could best be done by each individual member. Each member would make a content analysis of what has appeared in his/her bulletin since January 1972, along the lines of the systematic list of features (Sedos 72/ 565) but more detailed and including documentation.

This content analysis from each member should be in at the secretariate no later than October 6th.

The next meeting of the Task Force was set for 23rd October Monday at 4p.m. at SEDOS

(A. Ashford)

NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GENERALATES

1. SMA 1973 General Assembly will open in Rome, Thursday April 26, and will continue throughout May. In preparation SMA published in a Special NEWS-LETTER the findings of the EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL COUNCIL held at Tenafly, N.J., USA on April 22 to May 5, 1972 (23 pages).
2. CMM NEWS, 5 September 1972, report on the meeting of the Council of the Congregation at Rome on 4-13 September 1972 in preparation for the General Chapter to be held in Rome in September 1973.

REVISED LIST OF STUDY GROUPSENGLISH-SPEAKING GROUP 1

Sr. M. Luke Baldwin ssnd (Alter.Chairman)
 Sr. Th. Barnett scmm-t
 Fr. E. Biggane sma (Chairman)
 Fr. W. Cagney omi
 Sr. A. Gates sa
 Sr. M. Keenan rscm
 Fr. Denis Keoch ofm-cap
 Fr. G. Linssen cicm
 Fr. P. Moody pa
 Fr. G. Pecters msf
 Sr. X. Rowntree osu
 Bro. G. Schnopp sm
 Sr. E. Soetens icm
 Fr. O. Sina fscj
 Sr. A. de Vreede scmm-m
 Fr. F. Westhoff msc

ENGLISH-SPEAKING GROUP 2

Fr. T. Agostoni fscj (Chairman)
 Sr. J. Burke snd-n
 Sr. J. Clysters scmm-t
 Fr. Ary sj/Fr. Correia-Afonso sj
 Sr. B. Flanagan sfb
 Bro. V. Gottwald fsc
 Sr. H. Hoene ssnd
 Fr. G. Lautenschlager cmm (Alter.Chair.)
 Fr. H. Mondé sma
 Sr. A. Ooschot scmm-m
 Fr. F. Peters cicm
 Fr. J. Power sma
 Fr. Ch. Rühling svd
 Sr. E. Ryan snd-n
 Fr. T. Walsh mm
 Sr. J. Buerman icm

FRENCH-SPEAKING GROUP 1

Sr. F. Avonts sa (Chairman)
 Sr. C. Brandt icm
 Fr. W. Bühlmann ofm-cap
 Fr. A. Bundervoet msc (Alter. Chairma)
 Fr. Colombo fscj
 Sr. M.J. Der sa
 Sr. M. Duarte fmm
 Sr. J. Dumont sfb
 Fr. W. Goosens cicm
 Fr. J. Hardy sma
 Bro. Lamellin fsc
 Fr. Tourigny omi
 Fr. J. Urquia sm

FRENCH-SPEAKING GROUP 2

Fr. Bartolucci fscj
 Fr. Bouchaud cssp
 Fr. K. Houdijk cssp
 Fr. F. Kapsciak cm
 Fr. L. Kaufmann pa
 Fr. L. Kuntz sma
 Fr. N. LeMire sm
 Sr. J. Lohisse sa
 Fr. V. Mertens sj
 Sr. A. de Moraes crsa
 Fr. K. Mühlfeind msf
 Sr. C. Rombouts icm (Chairman)
 Sr. G. de Thélin rscj