

DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

A meeting of the above group was held at 3:30 pm. on 22 March at the Sedos Secretariat.

Present: Sr. Helena de Toledo CRSA, Sr. J. Burke SNDN, Bro. V. Gottwald FSC, Sr. Melanie Fernando HFC, Sr. M. Molte FMM, Fr. C. Ruhling SVD, Fr. F. Moody PA, Fr. A. Bundervoet MSC.

Chairman: Sr. D. McGonagle SSND.

Secretary: Fr. L. Skelly SMA

1. The Chairman welcomed back to the Group Fr. Bundervoet and Sr. Helena who had been away on visitation. For their benefit she gave a resume of the work undertaken by the Group between November '73 and February '74. She then extended a warm welcome on behalf of all those present to Sr. Melanie Fernando who had undertaken to give the meeting a first hand account of the rural-urban continuum situation in Sri Lanka. As the Holy Family Sisters had over 300 members in that country, she was in a position to speak with considerable authority on conditions prevailing there.
2. Sr. Melanie explained that the population of Sri Lanka was over 80% rural in character but due in great part to the economic system and the type of education--largely academic--which had prevailed until recently more and more people were crowding into the cities. While some obtained jobs many more could not obtain the sort of employment for which their education suited them. Furthermore there was simply not enough housing to cope with the influx of new city and town dwellers. Youngsters who went to the cities seeking education (even at University level) usually had to live in sub-standard accomodation. And when they graduated many of Sri Lanka's brightest products left the country.

In the rural areas there were also difficult problems to be faced. The traditional rural framework had been disrupted by modern economic trends which had tended to encourage the growing of cash crops at the expense of food. The result was that at the moment there was a serious shortage of even basic foodstuffs. There was still much fertile land available but it needed to be cleared.

The government was trying to deal with the enormous problems facing the country and the Church was doing what it could to cooperate with its plans. Previous to 1961 the bulk of the HFC Sisters had been engaged in education but in that year all schools were nationalized. Officially the Church had objected to the takeover but in fact many of the Sisters and other Religious had remained on in the schools. Indeed they are playing a prominent part in the government's campaign to reorganize the educational system along more practical lines by the introduction of subjects such as basic agricultural science, handicrafts etc. Others (including some compulsorily retired by reason of age) turned to alternative forms of educational and social apostolate. It was now recognized that nationalization had been a blessing in disguise, compelling the Church to rethink her priorities and basic strategy. Not that formal educational work was downgraded--if anything those involved in teaching had to take on more catechetical and youth-orientated work than before - but greater attention was given to other areas of activity which had

hitherto comparatively-speaking been neglected.

Many of the Sisters and other Religious are engaged in the usual works involving the care of the sick, the aged and orphans. Others again have become deeply involved in various forms of apostolate among the rural poor, especially among the tenant-labourers (mostly of Indian origin) of the great tea and rubber plantations. Though stateless these people have a very strong community spirit and the Sisters find they can operate very effectively through this. Their work involves helping these people in the fields of adult education of a practical nature, health care and catechetics. The Sisters in the rural areas live the simple, frugal life of the people among whom they are working. Some have gone to the new agricultural colonies established by the government in the forest areas now being cleared for cultivation. In places where the caste system still prevails the Sisters are doing what they can to gradually eliminate this form of prejudice and are helping girls belonging to the lower castes to overcome this disadvantage. This is necessarily a very delicate type of operation.

The HFC are also helping to staff Sedec, an organization for social and economic development, which aims at channelling aid from abroad into projects which, hopefully, will help slow down the exodus from the countryside into the larger towns e.g. small scale industries such as weaving, poultry rearing and cigar making. There is much to be done also in the field of the parish apostolate. The Sisters are giving invaluable aid to the parochial clergy particularly by family visitation and conducting catechetical courses. They are conscious at all times of the necessity for keeping in contact with school leavers as there is a danger of losing the next generation by concentrating too much on the adults. Youth needs are also being catered for in the urban setting by a group of Sisters who have established a couple of hostels for secondary school and university students. Bro. Gottwald intervened at this point to stress the importance of this work since large numbers of students were compelled to live and study in dreadful conditions. Sr. Melanie agreed that the problem was a huge one and the Sisters realize only too well that much still remains to be done.

The general picture which emerged from Sr. Melanie's talk was of a dynamic, self-sustaining Church (with a minimal number of expatriate personnel), which not only preached but lived the Gospel. After some initial hesitation there was now friendly cooperation with government in programmes aimed at improving the conditions and quality of life throughout the country. When she was asked what the people of Sri Lanka wanted and expected from the Church Sr. Melanie listed the following:

- a) they want the Religious to remain in all forms of educational activity;
- b) Catholics want catechetical facilities (including those involving the training of lay catechists) extended;
- c) all classes and creeds are aware of the need for a revival of religious values; Christians were aware that they might be lagging behind in encouraging such a revival as compared to, for example, the Buddhists and Hindus;
- d) there is a general desire for a better standard of living and better social services and it was hoped that in the latter sphere the Church (and the Sisters in particular) would play a useful auxiliary role.

3. Fr. Moody praised the stance taken by the Church in Sri Lanka vis-a-vis government policies. After some initial reluctance the Church had cooperated loyally with the

plans of the civil authorities. We must always be prepared to cooperate for the common welfare and make this desire for cooperation clear e.g. in school nationalization schemes. The Church in Sri Lanka now realized that she had in fact derived considerable advantages from what seemed initially an unfavourable development. But we should not embarrass the state by anticipating nationalization measures for which it is not yet ready due to scarcity of manpower, money or management skills.

4. It was agreed that at the next meeting Sr. Mary Motte would read the paper (which she had already given to the Agrimissio - Cesta gathering at the FAO Headquarters) on "The Woman's Role in Rural Development". The Group would then discuss the paper and examine its relevance to the general thrust of its work.

The next meeting of the Group was arranged for 3:30 pm. on Tuesday, 9 April at the Sedos Secretariat (unless members were otherwise informed).

L. Skelly SMA

DOCUMENT OF SPECIAL INTEREST

"EVANGELIZATION IN EASTASIA TODAY - AN OVERVIEW"

The Federation Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) held their first regional meeting for East Asia at Fujen Catholic University, Taipei, Taiwan on August 26-31, 1973. The Secretariat of the Chinese Bishops' Conference of Taiwan, have now published a booklet (January 1974), giving an summary of the proceedings. (50 pp.).

In view of the 1974 World Synod of Bishops, this publication is most timely. Using the Roman Document "The Evangelization of the Modern World" as a starting point, the Assembly faces the problem of bringing the Gospel of Christ to the modern East Asian. A review of the state of the Church in China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam affords a brief, accurate and authoritative presentation, based on the reports of participants in the Regional Assembly.

Position papers in the spirit of Vatican II were presented by delegates to the Assembly. These formed the basis of a fruitful dialogue, and were followed by Bishop Cheng's Progress Report on Theological Adaptation for the East-Asian region, which is basically a Confucian culture. Then come the General Conclusions, which have already received extensive publicity in international publications.

This booklet will expedite a fruitful dialogue in the Plenary Assembly of the FABC, which will be held in Taipei during the week of April 22, 1974.

Just one quotation from this tiny but densely packed 50-page booklet :

"If the Church is to become really credible in all that she affirms and teaches, she must bear witness to her own message by fully committing herself to making this world worthier of man through integral human development. This in no way deflects from her duty to show man his final destiny. On the contrary, it is perhaps the most convincing way to do so today, as well as to manifest in her own life, Jesus of Nazareth, our Brother".

"Here, perhaps, the Church in our countries would do well to address herself to the concerns and problems of people today, not from the stance of moralizing, but directly, in their full implications. In this way, the Church will identify herself with the people in their anguish and aspirations. She will thus reveal herself to be the incarnate Sign of Salvation." (p. 28).

The booklet is available for consultation at the SEDOS Documentation Service.

NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GENERALATES

SMA Generalate - Itinerary for March, April and May 1974.

Fr. J. Hardy has departed for Freetown, Sierra Leone on pilgrimage to the tomb of the Society's Founder. He then moves on to Liberia where he will conduct a visitation and attend the ordination of Mgr. Boniface Dalieh (the new Bishop of Cape Palmas). In early April he will go on to Abidjan to be present at the Episcopal Conference of the Ivory Coast. Later that month he goes to Nigeria for the ordination of the new Auxiliary Bishop of Ondo Mgr. Francis Alonge. He then returns to the Ivory Coast for a meeting of Regional Superiors which opens on April 30th. During May he will be on official visitation in the dioceses of Katiola and Korhogo (Ivory Coast).

Fr. J. Power will be going to Egypt on April 16th and then on to Ireland on April 29th to attend the opening of the new SMA Studentate at Maynooth. During May he will visit the works of the Society in Zambia and Zaire.

Fr. H. van Hoof, who has been on visitation in Spain and France, will return to the Generalate at the beginning of April.

SEDOS DIARY

FEBRUARY 1974

- 4. 2. Meeting of Health Working Group at SCNM-M Generalate
- 5. 2. Fr. Tonna went to Milan to attend Orientation Course for missionaries going to Asia and gave 6 lectures on the Urban Mission.
- 7. 2. Fr. Tonna went on to Basel for the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism.
- 11. 2. Meeting of Executive Committee.
- 12. 2. Fr. Tonna visited Fr. McCormack of the Mill Hill Fathers.
- " Fr. Tonna attended Roman Convegno.
- 13. 2. Sr. Agnetta SSPS attended documentation meeting organized by Cor Unum.
- " Meeting of Development Working Group.
- 15. 2. Fr. Tonna met Fr. Schutz and Mr. Zammit Tabore at Cor Unum offices.
- 18. 2. Fr. Tonna visited the FSCJ Generalate.
- " Fr. Tonna visited the SHCJ Generalate.
- 20. 2. Fr. Tonna attended meeting at the Seraphicum concerned with the Urban Mission.
- 22. 2. Fr. Tonna visited FSCJ and spoke on the Population Explosion to missionaries.
- 23. 2. Fr. Tonna visited the OSU, MSC and SX Generalates.
- 25. 2. Meeting of the Assembly of Generals at SJ Generalate.
- 25. 2. Fr. Tonna had working supper with Fr. Bamberger of Multimedia International and Fr. Blewett, of Educ-International.
- 26. 2. Fr. Tonna had discussion at SCNM-M Generalate with Sr. Gilmory Simmons. He later had a meeting with the General Council of the IMC.
- 27. 2. Fr. Tonna visited both the SMDN and SSPS Sisters.

MARCH 1974

- 1. 3 Meeting of new Executive Committee at FSC Generalate attended by Fr. Tonna and other members of Secretariat Staff.
- 4. 3. Meeting of Health Working Group at SCNM-M Generalate.
- 6. 3. Br. CH. Buttmer, Sr. C. Rombouts and Fr. Tonna had a meeting with Archbishop Gantin of the S.C. for the Evangelization of Peoples to inform him of the election of the new SEDOS Executive.
- 7. 3. Meeting of Executive Committee at FSC Generalate. Attendance same as at meeting of 1. 3. 1974.

(cont.)

8. 3. Fr. Schutz and Mr. Zammit Tabore of Cor Unum paid a visit to the Secretariat.
10. 3. Fr. Tonna attended meeting at SSND Generalate.
12. 3. Fr. Tonna attended a meeting of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications.
18. 3. Fr. Tonna visited the Cor Unum offices.
He later had a working lunch with Fr. Ary Croellius, sj. That evening visited SCMM-M Generalate.
20. 3. Fr. Tonna visited O.CARM Generalate to discuss with Fr. Thuis preparation for a meeting on Regional Structures in Latin America.
Later he visited SSPS Generalate and had a meeting with Sr. Eugenia.
22. 3. Meeting of Development Working Group at SEDOS Secretariat.
23. 3. Fr. Tonna visited SCMM-M Generalate and said Mass for the Community.
25. 3. Fr. Tonna had lunch at Generalate of the CMD. Meeting on Regional Structures in Latin America held at O.CARM Generalate that afternoon.
27. 3. Memorial Mass for Fr. L. Deschatelets at ONI Generalate attended by many SEDOS Generals and Councillors.
28. 3. Fr. Tonna directed Milan seminar on the Urban Mission for missionaries going to Asia. There he met the President of the Conference of the Buddhist Community of Sri Lanka, who addressed the gathering.

LISTS OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY compiled by Sister Agnetta, SSps

I. Internal Documents

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Institute</u>	<u>Title of Document</u> (Number of pages in brackets)
1.365	PA	Nouvelles Acquisitions de la Bibliotheque. (2)
1.366	PIME et al.	Terzo Incontro dei Professori di Liturgia dei Quattro Istituti Missionari Italiani. (16)
1.367	Ibid.	Quarto Incontro dei Professori di Liturgia dei Quattro Istituti Missionari Italiani. (24)
1.368	Ibid.	Quinto Incontro dei Professori di Liturgia dei Quattro Istituti Missionari Italiani. (14)
1.369	Ibid.	Settimo Incontro dei Professori di Liturgia dei Quattro Istituti Missionari Italiani. (38)
1.370	Ibid.	Decimo Incontro dei Professori di Liturgia PIME-FSCI-SX-IMC. (14)
1.371	Ibid.	Undicesimo Incontro dei Professori di Liturgia PIME-FSCI-SX-IMC. (51)
1.372	Ibid.	Dodicesimo Incontro dei Professori di Liturgia PIME-FSCI-SX-IMC. (11)
1.373	MM	Planning: Definition, Process and Application of Principles. (22)
1.374	Ibid.	Position Charter - General Council 1973-1974. (16)
1.375	Ibid.	Departmental Supplements to Position Charter - General Council 1973-1974. (46)
1.376	MM	Sixth General Chapter Chronicle, Vol. I. (95)
1.377	Ibid.	Sixth General Chapter Chronicle, Vol. II. (43)
1.378	Ibid.	Sixth General Chapter Chronicle, Vol. III. (55)
1.379	Ibid.	Provisional Constitution of Maryknoll 1973. (29)
1.380	CMM	FN, Nr. 3, 1973: Special issue about the General Chapter of the Mariannahill Missionaries. (152)
1.381	FSC	The Theology of the Missions, Yesterday and Today, by Brother Timothy McCarthy, FSC. (8)
1.382	SJ	Men for Others, by Pedro Arrupe, SJ. (24)

I. Internal Documents

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Institute</u>	<u>Title of Document</u> (Number of pages in brackets)
1.333	FSC	Apres l'Ecole, Quelle Alternative?, by Dr. M. Sauvetre, FSC. (1)
1.334	FSCJ	Orientamenti per gli scolasticati internazionali camboniani. (17)
4.1240	CBMS	CBMS Handbook 1973. (34)
4.1241	Basel Mission	The 153th Annual Report of the Basel Mission 1972-3. (66)
4.1242	East Asian Pastoral Institute	The Salvific Value of non-Christian Religions according to Asian Christian theologians writing in Asian-published theological journals, 1965-1970. by Asandas Balchand, SJ. (31)
4.1243	FAO	FAO Field Programme Catalogue (including WFP) October 1973. (119)
4.1244	Research Institute of Lutheran Church in Finland	Denominational Religious Instruction, by Hans-Olaf Kvist. (10)
4.1245	Kooperation Evangelischer Kirchen und Missionen, Switzerland (KEM)	Wie Mich der Vater gesandt hat sende auch Ich euch. (7)
4.1246	Institute of Development Studies	Seventh Annual Report. (52)
4.1247	Centraal Missionair Beraad Religieuzen	Denken over Missionair Beleid in de toekomst. (15)
4.1248	Catholic Media Council	Activity Report No. 4/1973. (3)
4.1249	Centre Inter-diocesain, Zaire	Circulaire No.5. (25)
4.1250	CBMS	In Whole and in Part, by George Hood. (146)

I. Internal Documents

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Institute</u>	<u>Title of Document</u> (Number of pages in brackets)
4.1251	USG	Conventus Mensilis Non-Officialis, Minutes. (9)
4.1252	Ibid.	Consilium USG, Minutes. (2)
4.1253	Ibid.	Orientations for Constitutions. (7)
4.1254	Ibid.	Concilium "16", Minutes. (4)
4.1255	Ibid.	Conventus Mensilis Non-Officialis, Convocation and Agenda. (1)
4.1256	IFC	Funds for private enterprise projects in developing countries, by Paul Lewis. (2)

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MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet at 9.15 am on Sunday 21 April in the FSC Generalate, Via Aurelia 476.

Topics to be discussed

1. Renewal of the Assembly
2. Mutual sharing in the interest of the Missions
3. The practical aspects of Evangelization to be explored
4. Study of the mission experiences of our members
5. Use of existing documentation
6. Business matters

Programme

- 9.15 First session on Core Group idea
10.30 Coffee
10.45 - 11.30 Second session
11.45 Eucharist
12.30 Lunch
14.00 Third session
15.00 Business meeting
16.00 Tea and departure.