

DOCUMENTATION

# SEDOS

31

Rome, October 10, 1969

To the Superiors General  
To their Delegates for Sedos  
To the members of all Sedos groups

Enclosed please find:

1. Assembly of Superiors General
  - a) Minutes of the XXIV Assembly page 780
  - b) Mission Policy 789
2. Varia  
A proposal for SEDOS branches 794
3. Educational Work  
- Results of the enquiry on priorities 801
4. Important documents available at the Secretariat 803

We wish to thank the Sisters Theresina and Martha scmm-t who helped us with the typing during Antonella's illness, this week. We also thank the three secretaries of the Assembly groups for promptly forwarding to us their reports.

Miss Overboss' brother and sister have asked the Secretariat to express to all the Generalates their appreciation of the sympathy shown to them after their recent bereavement.

Please note the following dates:

October 16, 10.00: ad hoc group on Catechists

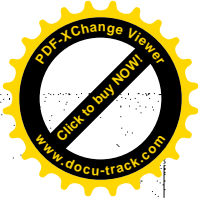
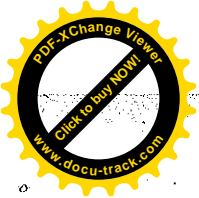
October 17, 16.00: Executive Committee

Sincerely yours,

*Benjamin Tonna*

Benjamin Tonna

Executive Secretary



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ASSEMBLY OF SUPERIORS GENERAL

Minutes of the 24th Assembly of Superiors General, held at the Scholasticate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Rome, on September 30th, 1969, at 4,30 p.m.

Present were:

Fathers/Brothers

Biggane Edward sma  
Buttimer Charles Henry fsc  
Cussac Georges mep  
Deschatelets Leo omi  
Fecher Vincent svd  
Goossens Willy cicm  
Gottwald Vincent fsc  
Grosskortenhau W. pa  
Hardy Joseph sma  
Holzner Ferdinand cmm  
Lautenschlager Georg cmm  
Lazzarotto A. pime  
Maertens Joris cicm  
McCormack Arthur mhm  
Mertens Victor sj  
Mesters G.P. OCarm.  
More Thomas cfx  
Müller Karl svd  
Reuver Marc OCarm.  
Sackett Frederick omi  
Schotte John P. cicm  
Staab Giles ofm cap  
Walsh Thomas mm  
van Kerckhoven Joseph msc

Mothers/Sisters

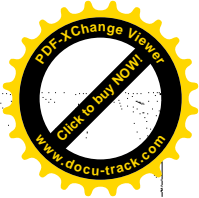
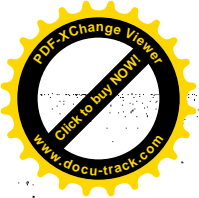
Bankes Louisa Mary snd (observer)  
Barnett Thérèse Mary scmm-t  
Bland Joan snd (observer)  
de Moraes Anna Maria crsa  
de Vreede Annemarie scmm-m  
Demey Suzanne icm  
Duarte Marie fmm  
Gates Arlene sa  
Goncalvez Marguerita Maria rscm  
Jacqueline sfb  
Keenan Marjorie rshm  
Keyes Michael Marie scmm-t  
Lietz Monica sds  
Pereira Leite Inès crsa  
Pionkowski Agnetta ssps  
Romualdez Bellarmine ssps  
Schellekens A. sa  
Schweitzer Marie Chantal snd (observer)  
Walsh Marie Thérèse osu  
van Dun Marie José osu

President: Fr.H.Mondé sma

Secretariat: B.Tonna  
AM.Kohler

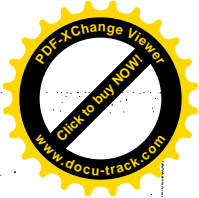
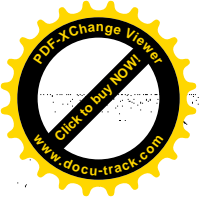
Excused: sm, Fr.T.O'Driscoll

- 1) Fr.H.Mondé sma opened the Assembly with a prayer for the late Miss Joan Overboss. He then proposed that Bro.Charles Henry Buttimer be moderator of this Assembly. The motion was carried nem.con.



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- 2) The minutes of the XXIII Assembly, distributed on June 20th, 1969, were take as read and were approved.
- 3) The application of the Mariannhill Missionaries to join SEDOS was unanimously accepted.
- 4) It was agreed that SEDOS be one of the participating organizations in the Planning Session on Credit Unions scheduled for September-October 1970.
- 5) It was agreed that the Executive Committee appoint a secretary of the SEDOS-MISEREOR Scholarship Fund and that he or she be asked to prepare a short report for the next Assembly. It was also agreed that the applications received from the Episcopal Conference of Congo Kinshasa be forwarded to MISEREOR. During the course of the discussion of the SEDOS-MISEREOR Fund, the following points emerged:
  - a) MISEREOR expected SEDOS to render the service of screening applications.
  - b) The initiative for applications could come from any quarters but the final word had to be given by the interested Bishop' Conference (where it existed).
  - c) Local development seminars must be envisaged as the best launching pads for proposals connected with the Fund.
  - d) This fund seemed the most promising of the SEDOS cooperative ventures.
- 6) The Moderator asked the Executive Secretary to present Fr.L.Volker's report on his activities in Geneva. During the discussion which followed, the following points emerged:
  - a) It was hard to evaluate, in a less than a year's time, the work done by Fr.L.Volker. Rather than seek concrete results, Sedos should consider the Geneva representation as a long term investment.
  - b) However, things would become clearer if the Executive Committee knew more about the day to day work of Fr.Volker.
  - c) The Executive Committee would then be in a position to guide Fr.L.Volker by progressively specifying his job and by establishing criteria for the periodical evaluation of his performance.
  - d) Because international agencies were becoming more open to mis-



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sionary work, it was very important to foster direct contact with them. As there was an official Vatican representative in Geneva, Fr. Volker could be asked to work with and through him.

- e) There was no question of the personal abilities of Fr. L. Volker. The difficulty was the fact that his mission was taking one seventh of the SEDOS budget.

It was agreed that Fr. Volker should be asked to submit a report to each Assembly and to keep in constant communication with the Executive Committee through the Secretariat. The object of such reports would be: what he has done and what he plans to do, in terms of specific projects rather than in terms of ideas. The Executive Committee was then asked to consider the insertion of Fr. Volker's mission in the SEDOS budget for 1970 (19 votes in favour) and to present it again on occasion of the next Assembly.

The Assembly then broke into three groups to discuss the working paper prepared by Dr. W. Kusters. The following are the reports which were presented to the reunited Assembly after supper:

REPORT OF THE FRENCH-SPEAKING DISCUSSION GROUP.

Chairman: Fr. Joseph Hardy sma

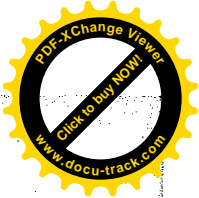
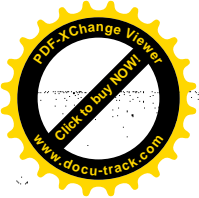
Secretary: Sr. Marjorie Keenan rshm

The group began its study of Dr. Kusters' paper by examining the objectives of SEDOS as described by Dr. Kusters. It was felt that these objectives did not adequately describe SEDOS. Rather, however, than call into question the aim of SEDOS, the group felt that it should pass immediately to the evaluation of SEDOS activities (p. 713).

Evaluation of the SEDOS activities.

1. Interview program

Father Tonna informed the group that a report on the interviews was in preparation. This report would try to bring out what the Grassroot missionary thinks, country by country. The original idea of this study was to publish a report that would serve as a realistic link between the Grassroot missionary and the Generalates in their approach to problems.



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The group agreed that the problems isolated by Dr.Kusters,

- the development of the local church
- cultural differences between the sending and receiving churches, were of prime importance and could well be the guiding themes of the report.

It was brought out that care must be taken not to duplicate work but rather to profit to the full of information available and share information with other groups engaged in similar studies.

It was felt that serious consideration should be given to the question of seeking expert help in the work of analysis of data received.

In conclusion, the group recommended that the working group for interviews make a maximum utilization of the information already on hand and produce a report as rapidly as feasible. The methodology and basic orientations of this study would be determined by the group.

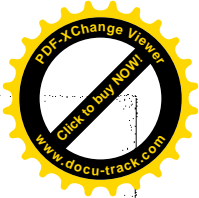
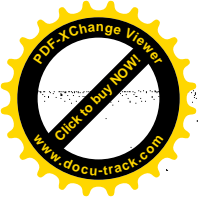
#### 6. Questionnaire on Catechists

This project was undertaken in order to help the SuperiorsGeneral concerned prepare realistically for the Council of 24 meeting. Since then, Propaganda Fide has drawn up a similar questionnaire. In view of this, the questionnaire is no longer a SEDOS project. However, those concerned felt that there was a real utility in sending out a questionnaire to their mission areas in preparation for the meeting. The questionnaire will be circulated among the other SEDOS generalates and anyone interested may use it.

#### 5. Mission Theology Symposium

Concrete projects for follow-up have been drawn up.

- The results will be studied by a group of Superiors General at a series of meetings at Frascati (Jesuits).
- Father Power sma has nearly finished his work on the resume of the symposium. The manuscript will be circulated among



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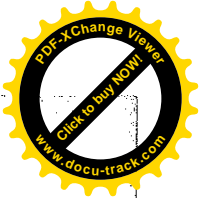
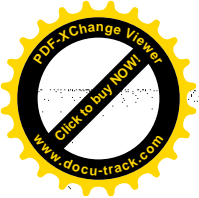
several specialists for their criticisms and suggestions and will then be published.

A suggestion was made that SEDOS organize similar symposia in Africa, uniting African theologians. It seemed more feasible to suggest certain subjects for study to symposia which are already organized.

### Conclusions

The group makes the following recommendations to the Executive Committee

- establish priorities in the work undertaken by SEDOS
- examine the question of the working groups and see that they are working in the most efficacious way possible.
- establish closer links between the Executive Committee and the Working Groups.
- consider the possibility of studying the questions proposed by Father Goossens (SEDOS 69/627)
  - periodical distribution of statements prepared by member institutes about the policy they intend to follow in missionary activity.
  - study of missionary training of candidates
  - recruiting of autochthonous candidates for institutes.



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REPORT OF THE 1st ENGLISH-SPEAKING DISCUSSION GROUP.

Chairman: Bro.Thomas More cfx  
Secretary: Sr.Monica Lietz sds

Dr.Kuster's paper was used as a point of reference for the group discussion. In this critical paper he referred to SEDOS as a study bureau or research center which the group felt was not accurate.

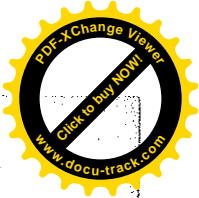
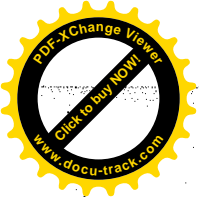
SEDOS exists to provide opportunities for collaboration between mission societies, and is like an instrument to find the means to cooperate with all religious organizations for the needs of the Church. It becomes a body which enables its own members to transmit valuable information concerning missionary developments going on within their own respective Congregations or Societies. It is the first time in the history of the Church that such a religious organization has been set up for collaboration, and this effort seems to be invaluable in the solution of common problems.

The group generally agreed that SEDOS is not an organization to carry out something. It is not strictly action-oriented insofar as it is not its function to interfere with local missionary activities. Rather it should be more of an information service regarding projects which could be brought to the attention of the Episcopal Conference. It is a channel for wider distribution and could be an information liaison not only for Episcopal Conferences and Conferences for Major Superiors but also for the Roman Curia.

Regarding the criticisms by Dr.Kuster some members agreed with him believing that SEDOS has not as yet reached the mission field. One member felt that SEDOS has leaned too much on the theoretical level. In general it was believed that more contact and information must be obtained from the grass root missionary in order to gain more concrete knowledge of existing problems. It was also stated that if individual member congregations would submit individual study papers in detail to SEDOS this would be an invaluable service.

The discussion group then turned its attention to the present structure of SEDOS, especially to the Secretariat and to the working groups. The number of personnel in the Secretariat





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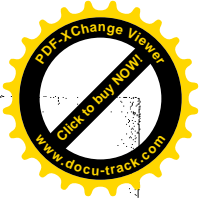
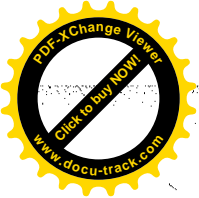
amounts to 3 with volunteer religious coming in to help part time. A suggestion was made to have a person in the Secretariat to coordinate the working groups; however, the discussion groups felt it was first necessary for the executive Committee and the executive secretary to examine the function of the personnel of the Secretariat and present the recommendations to the next General Assembly before we begin to add more personnel to the Secretariat. The members of the discussion group were aware of the fact that the reorganization of the secretariat would involve reconsideration of the present budget.

Some dissatisfaction was expressed at the present functioning of the working groups, asking if it is possible to have more stability in the leadership and membership of these groups. It was felt by <sup>the</sup> group that a similar evaluation should be made by the Secretariat & the Executive Committee regarding the nature, end and purpose of the working groups.

#### Conclusions:

1. The member institutes should send more information to the SEDOS Secretariat (individual study papers, Information on Chapters, Grassroot Missionaries, etc.). Feedback is considered a "must".
2. The SEDOS secretariat should inform the institutes of information and material received (by means of the bulletin, etc.)
3. Evaluation of the SEDOS secretariat by the Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary with regard to the function of the personnel and the employment of further personnel (including job specification for each member of the staff)
4. Evaluation of the Working Groups by the SEDOS Secretariat and the Executive Committee with regard to their nature, end and purpose, taking into consideration the employment of a secretary to all Working Groups.
5. Reports on 3 and 4 above are to be given to the next Assembly of Superiors General.





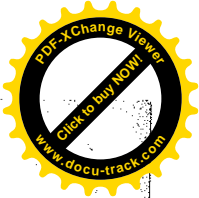
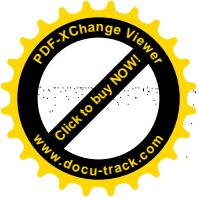
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REPORT OF THE 2nd ENGLISH-SPEAKING DISCUSSION GROUP.

Chairman: Brother Charles Henry Buttimer fsc  
Secretary: Sister Bellarmine, Romuáldez ssps

The group had an enlightening and fruitful discussion. Brother Charles Henry, the Chairman, ably and skillfully led the participants -- drawing out, encouraging, and challenging each one present to contribute towards a constructive exchange of ideas, reactions, and frank appraisal of Dr.Kusters' memorandum on SEDOS' activities: its potentiality and vitality. The discussion was marked by the active participation of all in the group. The free discussion highlighted the following conclusions:

1. Although one may not agree with every point in Dr.Kusters' critical evaluation, Sedos is to be commended for its honest self-examination. This is a step in the right direction. A good hard look into ourselves and our various activities will, hopefully, open the way to a more dynamic and functional service to the missions.
2. The group believed there is no need to re-define the objectives of Sedos. Rather, there should be a re-emphasis on the objectives already laid down in the Sedos statutes. In this connection, a more realistic stand on the "research function" is called for. This means also a pragmatic consideration of our limited existing and/or available resources--personnel, expertise, material, etc. The consensus was to shift emphasis to the more practical aspect and "action" level.
3. There was agreement that there should be continued encouragement of exchange of information among the Sedos members. We should develop the attitude: Give out even if we do not think the material in question is very important. Perhaps, somebody could make excellent use of it.
4. The participants believed we should endeavor to pool our resources together for the implementation of specific projects. As a team working together, we can accomplish successfully what the isolated efforts of a single congregation cannot hope to achieve.

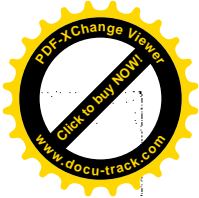
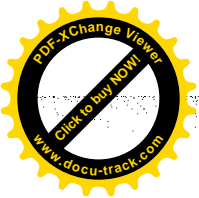


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5. The group recommended that in order to utilize the Sedos Secretariat to maximum advantage, we should ask ourselves:
  - a) What do we expect from the Secretariat?
  - b) Is it understaffed?
  - c) Are we making the best use of the talents, training, background, experience, etc. of each individual?
6. The participants suggested that the valuable "research" material and other documents now available at the Sedos center be put to greater use. We need to consolidate, evaluate and communicate more effectively what is already there and relevant to our needs. The idea was presented that instead of sending out long bulletins, a condensed form of the material would usually serve our purpose better. Most of us do not have the time to read lengthy communications. On the other hand those who are more interested could go to the Sedos Information Center and secure whatever he would like to have.
7. Basic questions: Are we attempting too much in too short a time with too limited resources? Would it be advisable to cut down some of our activities and concentrate on a few which are more attainable and according to priorities?

In CONCLUSION the participants of Group II voiced the opinion that the critical evaluation now being undertaken by Sedos is a healthy development. This is a valuable study. Are we going in the right direction? How can we reach our goal more effectively. What can we do to increase the potential and vitality of Sedos?

The Group discussion ended with an expression of sincere gratitude, faith, and confidence in Sedos.



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ASSEMBLY OF SUPERIORS GENERAL

The SEDOS secretariat recently received the following document from the Congregation of the Missionaries of Marianhill: "Resolutions of the General Chapter 1967" With reference to Fr. W. Goossens' suggestion of 20-VI-1969 (Sedos 69/627: "...distribute periodically a statement, prepared by the member institutes, about the policy they intend to follow in their missionary activity..."), we consider part III of that document to be of interest to the other SEDOS member institutes, and therefore, we publish it herewith:

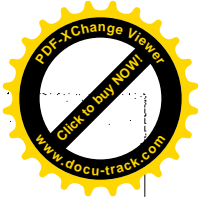
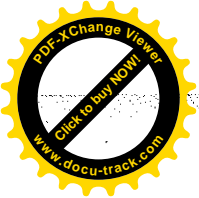
OUTLINE OF A PLAN FOR THE MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF OUR CONGREGATION

With reference to the General Chapter of 1967 and its resolutions, the Generalate tried to clarify the ways and means of the missionary apostolate of our Congregation.

In February of this year a provisional outline of our plans was discussed with our European provincial superiors. After the conference a letter was sent to all the provincial superiors, in which the particulars of our plans were outlined more precisely. As we are very anxious that every confrère thinks, plans and works with us, we herewith submit the fundamental ideas behind our plan.

To offer suggestions and general guidelines, to promote communication within the Congregation and to co-ordinate the tasks and undertakings of the various provinces-especially with regard to the relationship between the home provinces and the mission fields-is the special responsibility of the Generalate.

For this purpose it is necessary that the Generalate be well informed about the different provinces. Although the task of general planning in the mission provinces belongs to the Bishops, it is desirable that the Generalate informs the home provinces of what is being projected and done in the missions because the home provinces perform an auxiliary function towards the missions and must, therefore, direct their planning accordingly. The Congregation as such will co-operate in the missionary apostolate and not only serve as a supplementary organ. In the initial stage of our planning it is necessary to procure a summary of the existing possibilities. Hence we have asked the Provincials to draw up realistic



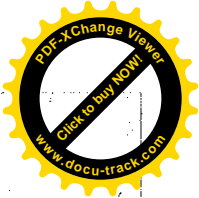
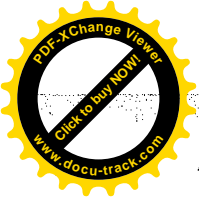
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and detailed schemes for the missionary apostolate and to submit them to the Generalate. We have also requested the provincial superiors to provide informative material regarding the situation and development of their respective ecclesiastical provinces, so that the position of our Congregation in these various countries can be rightly judged in the light of the specific environment of each country.

Based on a careful study of this information we shall endeavour to find an answer to the fundamental question: how can our Congregation on the basis of the evangelical counsels successfully perform its missionary service in the Church at present and in the near future? Each member of a province should deliberate seriously about the matter and each respective provincialate should send us their reply and its own opinion on it. Recent ecclesiastical and social developments demand our attention and farsightedness. Three aspects seem to be especially important:

#### 1. The spiritual side

Until the Reform Chapter in 1970 the Generalate considers the preparation of new Constitutions and a conforming spirituality to be one of the most important tasks for itself as well as for the whole Congregation. The General Chapter of 1967 has entrusted this task to the Central Commission. However, the work of the Central Commission can only bear fruit if it secures the personal assistance of every confrère. Once more we wish to make an urgent plea for this co-operation. Not only the provincial commissions, but also every community and every single member must feel bound in conscience to assist in the appropriate renewal demanded by the Church. This requires fraternity, co-operation, confidence, courage and perseverance. For this reason, we have requested the provincials to introduce their communities and individual members to the different aspects of the renewal in the Church and in the Congregation, as requested by Vatican II. The Superiors have great responsibilities in this matter. They shall, for example, make use of the weekly instructions, organise discussions, and enable participation in courses in order to meet these responsibilities. They should also see to it that libraries are supplied with contemporary literature, magazines and papers. With regard to this, the mission procures in the home provinces recommended by the General Chapter have an important function to perform, e. g. by supplying missionaries on isolated posts with relevant literature and by drawing their attention to current courses on matters of renewal. The documents of Vatican II merely tell us that something must be done; the "how" is to be found by the Congregations themselves. Hence, the



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Generalate would like to hear about new missionary initiatives, religious ways of life and ideas carried out in the various provinces and houses. We likewise want to encourage a lively and fruitful interchange of ideas through our FN.<sup>+</sup> With interest we are looking forward to every proposal, every contribution and every constructive criticism.

## 2. Personnel

For some time now our Congregation has felt the lack of a sufficient number of candidates. This is a matter of priority that concerns all confrères but especially the provincial councils. Therefore, we asked every provincialate to submit to us a detailed plan of the present employment of its personnel as well as its further intentions with regard to this matter. This will give us a general idea of the situation of the personnel in our congregation, thus making planning by the Generalate possible. Although the home provinces will take great pains to recruit new vocations and to release members for the mission fields, missionaries will be obliged to face the serious fact that only few confrères will be available during the years to come. Therefore, in the missions, existing man-power is to be coordinated in order to enable fulfillment of the present as well as the future responsibilities. We must also direct our attention more seriously to the recruitment of indigenous vocations. In the home and in the mission provinces we will have to aim at a close co-operation with other institutions and organizations as well as with the laity and with secular priests. It stands to reason that we must thoroughly revise our traditional ways and means of recruitment and education and at the same time find the new ways which will have to be followed. Equally we have to endorse existing new possibilities of missionary activity for today's youth, both within the congregation and in conjunction with it.

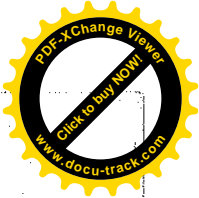
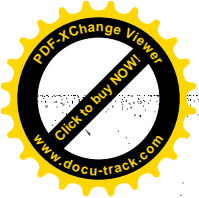
Those who attempt tackling this problem feel the heavy burden of recruiting and educating the personnel necessary for this work. However, to train and to educate these candidates is of decisive significance. Each province shall, by every means at its disposal, so concentrate on an adequate employment of its personnel that the education and formation which corresponds to our responsibility is guaranteed for each candidate. Evidently this task can only be achieved by the close co-operation of the home provinces and the missions.

## 3. The economic side

The deployment of our personnel and the use of our material goods shall be dictated by the scope of our duties. Therefore, we asked the provincial

+ The internal bulletin of the Congregation.





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superiors to examine to what extent our finances, houses, schools, boarding schools, workshops, farms, land etc. correspond to the task of our Congregation and likewise how these means and institutions can better serve the missions. We also suggested to the provincial superiors a new scheme for the visitation reports and the yearly reports. These and the financial reports should assist us in obtaining an exact and reliable survey of the general situation of a province and/or of a house. They will also help us to periodically inform provinces and individual houses with regard to the state of the personnel and the financial situation of the Congregation.

The lack of vocations, the age of our personnel and the increasing work load necessitate that every available person be employed as effectively as possible. This applies to those whose activity may be confined by illness or age. Each one's job ought to be assessed in order to ascertain whether the work corresponds to the task of our congregation, and whether better results could be achieved by a closer co-operation, a more effective division of labour and/or the employment of better equipment. It also has to be kept in mind that the spirit in which we do our work truly bears a positive witness to the world.

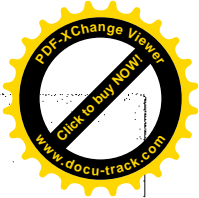
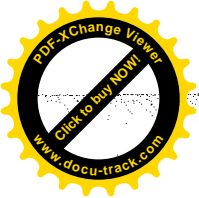
For a proper assessment of the organization and management of the different establishments (workshops, farms etc.), professional experts have to be called in. This is especially important for the various financial administrations which have to supervise the efficiency and profit of the various establishments, and their financial development.

Every new project influences the further development of our congregation because it requires money and personnel. Consequently, any such project necessitates a careful examination of whether or not it fulfills our missionary objective and of whether or not it will be profitable in the long run.

Furthermore, besides the technical planning of any project the financial results have to be considered:

1. What are the initial costs of building and/or equipment?
2. Who pays for it and under what conditions?
3. Will the finished project pay for itself financially and prove beneficial to the province and the Congregation?

Because of the far-reaching consequences, the superiors are not to bear the responsibility of great projects alone. They are to consult both the community and the Generalate in order to find out what effect it will have on the province and on the congregation.

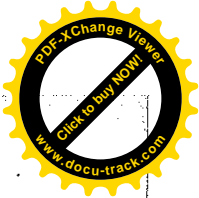
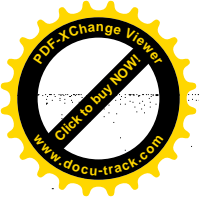


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Our present time is posing many questions, directed to the communities as well as to the individuals. Some of these questions we shall be able to answer well, others but imperfectly and others perhaps not at all. This fact should not worry or discourage us. Our Christian hope will overcome pessimism. In the spirit of our founder we can boldly face our time which is a challenge to our faith, hope and love.

This experience will be realised especially by those confrères who find themselves in difficulties for some reason or other or have to pass through a crisis. Such times of trial are coming to many of us - today more than ever. In such situations we must seriously become fraternal in our communities and give one another confidence and love. We have to live with uncertainties and doubts, but not like those who have no hope. Let us humbly and courageously take up our tasks, convinced that the Lord is in our midst. "The God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace in faith that you may overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom 15:13).





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VARIA

The following note was written at the request of the Secretariat. Fr. Maestrini had been in contact with Sedos for some time. On the occasion of his recent visit to Rome he had the opportunity to present his ideas to the Secretariat. As these were very closely connected to the often expressed idea of Sedos being "Action oriented but only at the Generalate level", it was considered useful to submit them to the whole Sedos group. Please send in your comments to the Secretariat.

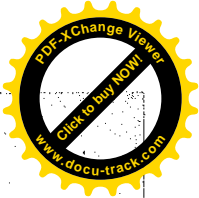
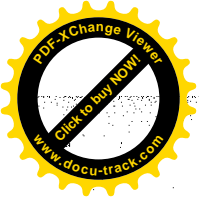
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September 30, 1969.

Dear Father Tonna,

First of all, I wish to thank you again for the time and the very enlightening information you gave me during our last conversation in Rome. I was delighted to meet you and to learn how much SEDOS is doing. I read practically all the material that you gave me on board ship during my return trip to the States.

As you requested, I have prepared some remarks and observations regarding the establishment of SEDOS branches. I am enclosing a short paper which will convey to you my ideas in this regard. Probably the paper is much longer than you anticipated, but I hope it is not too long! Of course, what I have expressed in this paper reflects my personal opinion only. I have not yet had time to discuss this matter with other Provincial Superiors of mission-sending societies. My personal background in this field of missionary activities is this:

I have been an active member of the Mission Secretariat in the United States since its very beginning; I have been a member of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men also since it was established and I have been a member of the Mission Commission of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men since its very beginning. As a member of this Commission, I have participated in all the meetings which have led to the recent establishment of the National Mission Council of the United States. Even though my term of office as Provincial Superior expired in March, I have still been retained as a member of the Mission Commission and of the National Mission Council. I am giving you this background just in order to justify my assertion that SEDOS branches are necessary in order to bring



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some order in the field of missionary activities.

I hope and pray that you will have an opportunity to present my paper to the Executive Committee.

With very best wishes and looking forward to hearing from you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Nicholas Maestrini, PIME  
U.S. Missions Director.

A PROPOSAL REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEDOS BRANCHES  
By Rev. Nicholas Maestrini, PIME

INTRODUCTION:

The "Second SEDOS Plan" (SEDOS 69/490-495) on page 494, under ~~19~~, calls for: "a network of correspondents in the various countries; an ongoing communication system among the SEDOS members and with the field."

These questions then arise:

- a. How can these individual correspondents supply the expanded work of information, documentation and studies called for by the "Second SEDOS Plan?"
- b. How can the ongoing communication system among the SEDOS members and with the field be carried out?

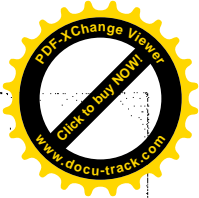
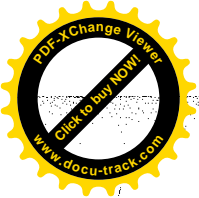
The obvious answer to these questions seems to me to be: the establishment of Sedos branches which would work in collaboration with and dependence on Roman SEDOS and would carry out both at the national level and the level of the Provincial Superiors, the directives of the Superior Generals and of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

I -- THE NEED FOR SUCH BRANCHES

The need for these branches stems:

- a. From the very structure of the mission-sending societies.

SEDOS, in order to be really effective, needs to have organized collaboration not only at the level of the Superior Generals, but also at the level of the Provincial Superiors, both in the home countries and the mission fields, since they are really the ones who



must execute the plans and the directives of the Superior Generals. These branches, therefore, would be in accordance with the general structure of the mission-sending societies. As these societies carry out their work through the "Curia Generalitia" and the Provincial Councils, so SEDOS would work under the Union of the Superior generals and down the ladder, by means of its branches, through the Provincial Councils of the mission institutes.

b. From the structure of the missionary organization within the Church as it exists today.

The mission-sending societies which carry on the "Pondus Diei et Estus" of the missionary activity of the Church have always felt the need for getting together, not only at the top level, but also at the national level, in order to discuss their own specific problems, even though circumstances and the general mentality prevailing before the Vatican Council made this collaboration difficult. Still, scattered attempts were made here and there. An outstanding example was the Mission Secretariat in the U.S.A., organized as far back as 1949. Today, thanks to God, the situation is different and the organization of SEDOS is a splendid and intelligent attempt to bring some order out of the terrific chaos which prevails in the field of missionary activities. However, because it is the missionary institutes which practically carry on the missionary work, they need to get together, gather information and study their problems at all levels of work both in their home countries and in the mission fields, not only at the top level of the Superior Generals.

c. From the very nature and plan of work of SEDOS.

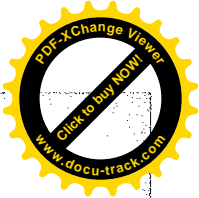
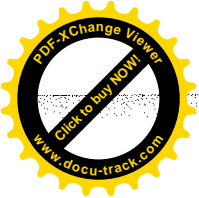
1. The purpose of SEDOS:

"SEDOS is a cooperative venture in which men's and women's missionarysending institutes join forces to serve the Church more effectively in Her missionary activity."

It is obvious that this cooperative venture must be extended from the Superior Generals down to the Provincials and even local Mission Superiors, as it is only at these levels that collaboration and cooperation become realistic and effective.

2. Method:

The gathering of information and documentation and the promotion of SEDOS requires a vast network of collaborators. If these collaborators are only individual correspondents, working in isolation



in every country, their work cannot be as effective as would be the work of local branches of SEDOS, which would bring together the mission-sending societies at the national level. Furthermore, even though it is true that collaboration with international agencies can be better obtained by an international organization like SEDOS, it is also true that collaboration with a national agency can be better achieved through a national group such as a local branch of SEDOS would be.

### 3. SERVICE:

Even a superficial reading of the seven services conducted by SEDOS reveals that these services, to be effective, require the collaboration not only of one correspondent in each country but of an organized group of workers. Let me illustrate this briefly with only two examples:

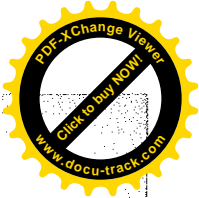
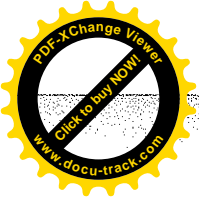
a. Suppose that the Superior Generals, through SEDOS, issue jointly some directives about some specific mission activities, as for instance, credit unions, educational matters, missionary information, etc. These directives will obviously have to be applied to different countries in various ways according to the degree of development within each country and the differing local conditions. Who will do this at the national level? If every Provincial Council does this separately, it will follow that every religious order will apply the same directives in a different way; thus again causing confusion and a lack of unity. On the other hand, a local branch of SEDOS would insure unity of action and, therefore, effective collaboration.

b. It is suggested in one of the SEDOS papers that in order to carry on the continuous opinion survey of the missionaries in the field, each Superior General should send his representatives to interview his missionaries. This would mean, for example, that in a country like the U.S.A., where there are well over 100 mission-sending societies, we should have something like 100 representatives making these opinion surveys. Conversely, a local SEDOS branch of Provincial Superiors and work groups could achieve the same results much more efficiently, effectively, economically and with a real understanding of local conditions.

## II --SEDOS, THE NATIONAL CONFERENCES OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN AND WOMEN AND THE NATIONAL MISSION COUNCILS

### A) SEDOS branches and the Conferences of Major Superiors.

Father Seumois', omi, working paper published in the SEDOS bulletin 69/680, states, on page 683:

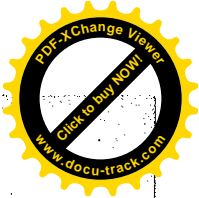
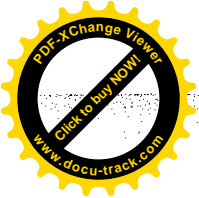


"On the home front, it is especially important to establish a well organized department or a missionary commission, serviced by a really competent secretariat, within the different Conferences of Major Superiors. It is the sine qua non for the effective action of the Missionary Institutes in the management of Missionary cooperation at the national level."

I am, of course, in complete agreement with the necessity of a well organized mission commission as visualized by Father Seumoïs, as this fully supports all that I have been saying so far. However, I disagree entirely with his suggestion that these missionary commissions, at the national level, should be organized within the different conferences of Major Superiors. My personal experience in this regard has been completely negative. I have been a member of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in the United States since its very beginning and I am convinced that Father Seumoïs' proposal would not work for the following reasons:

1. These Conferences of Major Superiors are mainly and primarily concerned with their own national Catholic affairs. In fact, mission activities represent only a minimal part of their personnel and of their concerns.
2. The greater majority of the Provincial Superiors attending the meetings of the Conferences have only a very small percentage of their men in the missions and very often they, themselves, have hardly any knowledge of mission problems or any mission experience.
3. These Conferences, organized by the Congregation for Religious, are subject to it and have very well defined statutes and by-laws which hardly allow for any one commission to have much autonomy or financial independence.
4. Most of the Major Superiors of exclusively mission-sending societies, especially those without vows, feel ill at ease within these Conferences because of their specific religious and national outlook; a number of Superiors seldom even attend these meetings.
5. If, according to Father Seumoïs' paper, these National Mission Commissions are organized within the framework of the Conferences of Major Superiors, independently of SEDOS, the net result would be more confusion and greater chaos. In fact, every commission in every country will act independently; will probably start new projects;





will experiment new ways and means of solving their problems; will probably make different surveys; and, as a result, each commission will go its own way. Moreover, since these commissions will depend juridically on the Congregation of Religious, it cannot be expected that they will receive much autonomy or much encouragement from that quarter. On the contrary, juridical disputes could arise which certainly would not help the cause of the missions. I emphasize again that unity of action, collaboration and cooperation in the specific field of mission endeavor can only come through the Major Superiors organized under the Congregation of Religious. In reality, the very fact that SEDOS was organized outside the framework of the Conferences of Major Superiors seems to prove my point.

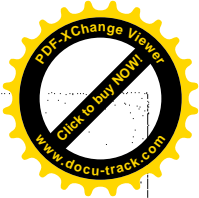
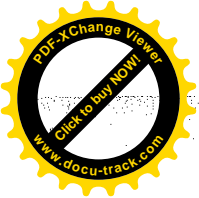
I wish to emphasize, however, that these mission commissions within the Conferences of Major Superiors should be definitely continued because it is only through these Conferences, and not through SEDOS, that the mission-sending societies at the national level can dialogue with and be heard by the local Episcopal conferences.

B) SEDOS branches and the National Mission Councils.

The mission commissions at the national level, as visualized by Father Seumo's paper, cannot very well be organized and be properly effective within the framework of the different National Mission Councils. The purpose of these councils is obviously: (a) to bring about a more needed collaboration among the mission-sending societies, the Bishops and the directors of the Pontifical Works; (b) to integrate mission activities within the mainstream of Catholic life in each respective country. However, mission-sending societies have many other specific problems and needs which cannot be met by these National Mission Councils and which can only be studied and discussed among themselves under the directives of the Superior Generals.

III -- ORGANIZATION OF THE SEDOS BRANCHES

I would like to suggest that branches of SEDOS be gradually organized in each region or country where there is an Episcopal Conference. Great care should be taken that these branches do not become autonomous and independent organizations, but remain strictly dependent on the central organization in Rome. This could be achieved if these national branches are organized along the model of the Roman



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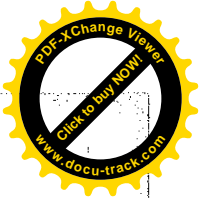
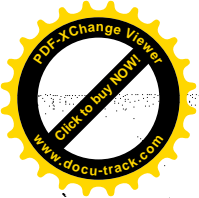
organization and have an assembly of Major Superiors, an Executive Committee, a President, a permanent Secretariat and their own working groups. It might be objected that this method of establishing local SEDOS branches would add still another mission organization to the too many already in existence. However, I disagree with this view. I visualize these SEDOS branches as the best way to bring some order and coordination to the chaotic field of mission activities; provided, of course, that they work in close collaboration with the National Mission Councils and the Conferences of Major Superiors.

On the point of view of economics, the organization of these branches should not be very expensive. In fact, I do not see any need for special buildings, large staffs, libraries, etc. The permanent Secretariat of every branch could be located in the office of either the National Mission Council or of the Conference of Major Superiors, wherever it seems most suitable. In the United States, we could have an ideal location in the office of CARA, which is a short distance from the Office of the Conferences of Major Superiors and of the National Catholic Conference.

#### CONCLUSION:

What I have written above is certainly not a study in depth of the pros and cons for the establishment of local SEDOS branches. It is only a simple outline which points out the need for extending the spirit of collaboration, cooperation and research from the level of the Superior Generals down to the national levels, the levels of Provincial Superiors, of local mission Superiors and, possibly, to the very base. It is precisely this collaboration, cooperation and study of mission problems which are of paramount importance. I hope and pray that even if these ideals cannot be achieved through the establishment of local SEDOS branches, at least the General Assembly of SEDOS will study other ways and means of achieving them.





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## EDUCATIONAL WORK

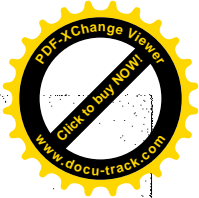
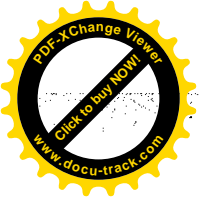
As a preparation for the general meeting on educational work, now scheduled for October 21st, 1969, the SEDOS ad hoc Group had issued a questionnaire to test priorities as regards I) mission countries, IIa) levels of education, and IIb) problems of education (see page 69/733). Ten of thirty Generalates have answered up to now and the following is a summary of the returns. The first figure indicates the total number of times mentioned, the figure in brackets indicates the number of times the country or subject was given top priority (there were five levels of priority, the two first levels were taken as top priority). Countries mentioned once and subjects mentioned less than three times do not appear in the following summary.

### I) COUNTRIES TO BE STUDIED FROM AN EDUCATIONAL POINT OF VIEW

|                      |               |       |
|----------------------|---------------|-------|
| <u>Latin America</u> | Brazil        | 6 (5) |
|                      | Chile         | 3 (3) |
|                      | Bolivia       | 4 (1) |
| <u>Asia</u>          | Philippines   | 5 (3) |
|                      | Indonesia     | 4 (1) |
| <u>Africa</u>        | North         |       |
|                      | Algeria       | 2 (2) |
|                      | Central       |       |
|                      | Congo         | 2 (2) |
|                      | East          |       |
|                      | Tanzania      | 3 (2) |
|                      | Kenya         | 2 (2) |
|                      | South         |       |
|                      | S.A. Republic | 3 (2) |
|                      | Rhodesia      | 2 (1) |

### IIa) LEVELS OF EDUCATION

|                            |       |  |
|----------------------------|-------|--|
| Secondary                  | 8 (6) |  |
| Technical and Professional | 9 (5) | incl. Agricultural & Mechanical            |
| College and University     | 4 (4) |  |
| Middle Schools             | 5 (1) | incl. Upper Primary, Junior & Senior High) |
| Primary                    | 3 (-) |  |



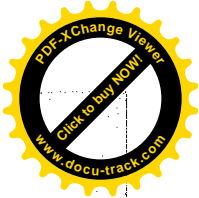
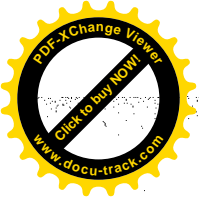
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IIb) PROBLEMS OF EDUCATION

- Adaptation of the educational system to the culture of the country 8 (6)
- Orientation of curriculum of schools so that they are functional to the total system of the country 5 (3)
- Training of native teachers 5 (3)
- Nationalization of schools 5 (2)
- Cooperation with government sponsored organizations of an educational nature 5 (2)
- Cooperation with Christian educational activities 3 (2)
- Alphabetization 3 (2)

N.B.

By educational work is meant the apostolate of the missionary sending institutes in so far as it attempts to serve the education of people outside the same institutes. As such it is distinct from formation work, which is understood as the "education" or training of the members of the institutes (i.e. the people within the institutes).



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IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE SEDOS SECRETARIAT

1. THE EVANGELIZATION OF BRAZIL UNDER THE JESUITS (1549-1568): an evaluation.  
by William T. Reinhard omi (Gregoriana, Rome, 1969)

This is a 96 page extract from a longer thesis which shows how the Jesuits tried to break the language barrier in the first years of trial and error. The odds were against them but their Superior P. Manuel da Nobrega rethought his former policies and profited from his mistakes to transform, with his men the old missionary methods.

(15 copies of the book are available: please phone Fr. F. Sackett omi at 6370251 if you are interested in a copy.)

2. THE RELOCATION OF THE THEOLOGATE: Phase 1, June 1969  
by Flinn & Ahner SVD. (38 pages, bound. One copy).

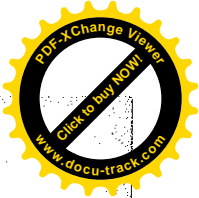
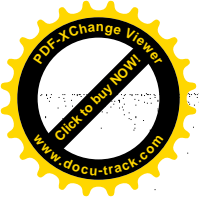
As of September 1969, Divine Word Missionaries in the U.S.A. have discontinued their independent theologate at Techny, Ill., and sent their scholastics to take their regular theology course together with other Catholic groups either in Chicago or in Washington D.C. The present booklet aims "to digest the reasons that dictated our move into a stronger and more professional theological setting." Composed of introduction and appendix with four chapters entitled: (I) New Design of Theological Education in the United States; (II) Toward a Decision on Amalgamation; (III) The Second Phase: Toward Establishing a Cooperative Program of Mission Studies; (IV) Goals of Priestly and Missionary Formation.

3. SOCIETY RESEARCH AND SELF EVALUATION

by Richard Rashke SVD. Date: 12 Sept. 1969. (Pages: II & 29, loose sheets in plastic binder. Two copies).

The 1967/68 General Chapter of the Divine Word Missionaries gave a mandate for a thorough survey of the Society's personnel, works, and resources. The said survey is to take advantage of techniques and criteria of modern sociological (or behavioral) and management sciences, and should be completed for the next SVD General Chapter in 1972. The present proposal "was prepared in consultation with Fundamental Systems, Inc., a systems analysis consultant firm, and with a financial consultant from Booz & Associates, Inc., consultants in the management of business enterprise."

After an introduction, the six sections of the proposal are headed: (I) Objectives; (II) Other Recommendations; (III) Project Organization; (IV) The Regional Coordinators; (V) Action Plan; (VI) Budget.



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4. RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER 1967 and OUTLINE OF A PLAN FOR THE MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF OUR CONGREGATION by the Generalate of the Missionaries of Mariannhill. (booklet of 24 pages. 4 copies in English, 2 copies in German).
5. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REFORM CHAPTER OF THE MARIAN-HILL MISSIONARIES prepared by the "Forschungsgruppe für religionssoziologische Studien", Vienna; sent to all members of the Congregation. (1 copy in English)
6. CHAPITRE GENERAL 1969, deuxième session Juillet-Aout. de l'Institut du Sacre Coeur de Marie. (1 copie en français)
7. RAPPORT STATISTIQUE, présenté au chapitre général, Juillet 1969. de l'Institut du Sacre Coeur de Marie. (1 copie en français).