

70/32

Rome, October 16, 1970

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

This week:

Page

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Agenda focuses on a frank assessment of what actually happened at the Credit Union Conference should SEDOS be involved at all in this sort of Seminar? The Committee will also follow up the September Assembly (item 3).	736
ASSEMBLY OF GENERALS: The minutes of the September Assembly which approved a number of projects for the period 1970-71.	737
COMMUNICATIONS: The report of the task force on internal communications.	742
MISSION THOUGHT: How the Lutherans see the contemporary mission: the report of the Catholic observers at the meeting of the Commission on World Mission of the Lutheran World Federation.	743
FEEDBACK ON CREDIT UNIONS: The thoughts of Fr. Masson.	747
NEWS FROM THE GENERALATES: The movements of the CFX, SCMM-M, WF and OSU.	748
DIARY:	749
EDUCATION IN THE MISSIONS: The agenda of the next meeting. And a few thoughts.	750

Please note the following dates:

TASK FORCE, Internal Comm.:	19-10-1970	at 15.00	at OMI Generalate.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	: 21-10-1970	at 09.00	at the Secretariat.
EDUCATION IN THE MISSIONS	: 28-10-1970	at 16.00	at the Secretariat.

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin Tonna
 Executive Secretary.

SEDOS 70/736

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October, 13, 1970

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 21, at 09.00 at the SEDOS Secretariat with the following Agenda:

1. Post mortem on the Credit Union Seminar.
2. Decisions on the Health Services Seminar.
3. Circulation of opinions and information in SEDOS.
4. Consideration of the timing of the next SEDOS elections.

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin Tonna
Executive Secretary.

ASSEMBLY OF GENERALS

Minutes of the 28th Assembly of Superiors General held at the Scholasticate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, 78A, via della Pineta Sacchetti, Rome, on September 15, 1970 at 16.00.

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

van Asten Th; Bano L. fsci; Berning Eugenia ssps; Bland Joan sdn; Brandt Cécile icm; Buerman Julia icm; Bundervoet msc; Chauvin M. Paule ssfb; Dargan Herbert sj; Denis ofm cap; Deschatelet omi; Dumont Jacqueline sfb; van Dun Marie José osu; van den Dries mhm; Fecher Vincent svd; Gonthier Cécile sfb; Grosskortenhause pa; Keenan Marjorie rsh; More Thomas cfx; Paul Marie crsa; Panevska Maryann scmm-m; Pereira Leite Inês crsa; Périgny Yves omi; Poggi Vincenzo sj; Romualdez Bellarmine ssps; Scanlan sma; Schotte John cicm; Stanley Thomas sm; Tagliabue Edward pime; de Vreede AnnaMaria scmm-m; Wakamatsu Kiyoko rscj; Walsh Marie Thérèse osu; Walsh Thomas mm; Westhoff msc.

Excused: CMM, MEP, O Carm, FMM, SA, SCMM-T, SSC.

President: Sr. Jane Gates, scmm-m
 Moderator: Bro Ch. Henry Buttimer, fsc
 Secretary: Rev. B. Tonna.

1. Sr. Jane Gates scmm-m, as Vice President of SEDOS, opened the Assembly, expressing the hope that it would start off a year of fruitful cooperation among the Institutes in their endeavour to serve the Church as mission in the six continents. She explained that Fr. Mondé, President, was in West Africa. She then presented Bro Ch. Henry fsc as Moderator of the Assembly.
2. The minutes of the 27th Assembly, distributed on July 3, 1970, were taken as read and approved nem con. The motion of approval was presented by Fr. van Asten wf and seconded by Fr. J. Schotte cicm.
3. The Moderator introduced the first item on the agenda, the list of projects approved by the Executive Committee for 1970-'71. (see pages 70/615 ff and 70/623-625).
Preamble: A preamble to the list of projects stated the policy which had guided their formulation and approval: cooperation among the

Generalates to "inspire" coordinated action in the field must be "planned". And planning can only be achieved if the relevant data is available. Sedos is there to make the flow of this data possible. The preamble was approved.

Project 1: Do it Yourself Development session: Sr. Maryann Panevska, scmm-m, Chairman of the WG Development and of its Task Force for the Do It Yourself Development session, presented the basic documents of the same session and appealed for the active participation of the Generalates. She then introduced Fr. J. Van den Dries, mhm who restated the purpose of the session: to see what action could be taken by the Generalates in order to deploy missionaries on the credit union movement in those developing countries where it is still weak or non existent. He stressed that the reason behind such a purpose was the historical fact that, where it exists, the movement was started by missionaries.

Project 2: Health Services Seminar: Sr. AM. de Vreede, scmm-m, Chairman of the WG Health Services, reported on progress registered on the seminar on the future role of Catholics in Health Care in the developing Countries, scheduled for November 23, 1970. The International Confederation of Catholic Hospitals, as co-sponsors, had assured Sedos that it would secure a financial subsidy. Participants will mainly come from Rome and from Northern Europe.

Project 3: Directories on Social Communications: Fr. Y. Périgny, omi, Chairman of the WG Social Communications, announced to the Assembly that his Group would produce a directory of Catholic institutions active in the electronic media by the end of 1970. A second directory, of institutions and persons active in the same media in Latin America would be ready by mid 1971.

Project 4: Seminar on Social Communications: Fr. Périgny also announced that his group was consulting Generalates and media experts as regards the best ways of promoting better communications within each Institute and between these and the world. A seminar could be one way of doing it.

Project 5: Christian China project: Fr. Dargan sj, chairman of the China panel explained that his group was currently thinking on which forms the evangelization of mainland China could take when the doors of this subcontinent are finally opened. A group of missionaries were feeding Sedos with suggestions from the field. The China panel would strive to bring closer together current initiatives for China.

Project 6: Sedos-Misereor Personnel Development Programme: Fr. J. Schotte, acting for Bro Vincent Gottwald (Director of the Programme) noted that some Provincial Superiors were not yet clear about the objective of the Sedos Misereor Scholarship fund. This was to provide local churches with the development specialists they need in order to set up structures for future planning and action. The scholarships were intended for 2 to 3 year courses. It was recommended that the list of approved candidates be published in the weekly documentation service.

Project 7: Referral services: Fr. Tonna presented Fr. L. Bano, fscj, who had been seconded to Sedos by the Verona Fathers, after serving for 18 years in the Sudan and after his term of office as Secretary General of the Congregation expired. He would be responsible for the documentation services and would be "exploring" the secretariats of the member Generalates during the next months.

Project 8: SEDOS-PWG-Advisory Services: Fr. Van Asten wf presented Fr. W. Grosskortenhau wf, as the newly appointed Director of the SEDOS-PWG programme for advisory services. Fr. Grosskortenhau explained that the programme was intended to help the local churches come in contact with the PWG as well as to answer specific questions posed by the same PWG. The holders of the projects would always be the local bishops: Sedos would come in only to help and would, in no way, take their place at any stage of the advisory process. It was recommended that the terms of reference of the programme be circulated among the Generalates.

Project 9: Information Services: The Moderator explained that, in order to pass on the current thinking of Sedos to a wider audience, the Executive Committee had asked Fr. F. Moody wf, to produce a quarterly bulletin. He had been instructed to avoid giving the impression that SEDOS was (or intended to become) some kind of super agency or pressure group.

Project 10: Opinion Survey of Missionaries: Fr. Tonna expressed reservations about the feasibility of effectively eliciting the opinion of field missionaries through interviews. During the discussion which followed, the following points emerged:

- a) Both opinion and factual data on general missionary issues should circulate freely in Sedos.
- b) The basic sources of such opinion and data should be the member Generalates (ie: their policy and decision makers, their experts, their secretariats, their files and statistics etc.)

- c) **Examples of such opinion and data:**
- the conclusions of regional and provincial chapters of the member institutes
 - the reports of Superiors General and Assistants on countries visited
 - the travelling schedules of the members of the Generalates.
- d) The problem consisted in improving ways and means of ensuring the circulation of such opinion and data. A number of solutions were suggested:
- i) the identification of current "hot issues" in missionary activity and the deliberate generation of opinion on them
 - ii) the use of the weekly bulletin to elicit feedback on expressed opinion on these (and other) issues
 - iii) a three day "live in" where Superiors Generals and members of the Generalates can experience community sharing and support on the basic missionary issues
 - iv) the "meetings by country" could be developed as an instrument for the exchange of opinion and data, on a particular country: Superiors General and Assistants could comment on their recent visits to the country and thus promote more effective pooling of information
 - v) such pooling could be further promoted through the documentation services of the Secretariat - which should take an active part in "generating" opinion and data by constantly inviting the interested members of the Generalates to share their experiences and their knowledge.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee should take into consideration the above points in order to prepare a programme for promoting more effective communication of ideas and information among the SEDOS members for the approval of the Assembly.

The motion was approved nem con, with the suggestion that it was not necessary to wait until the next Assembly to implement some of the points made.

Project 11: Community, Diocesan and Country Files: This project was considered as another means of achieving the objectives listed under Project 10 (above).

4. At the request of Fr. Schotte, Fr. Van Asten reported on the situation in Geneva, after the decease of Fr. Volker. He informed the Assembly that Fr. R. Roch wf, a sociologist, had taken the post vacated by Fr. Volker. He also stated that this Father had been asked by Fr. de Riedmatten op to help in contacting the agencies represented in Geneva. This same Father was keen on promoting the missionary cause in Geneva and would be willing to represent Sedos gratis et amore, except for minimum office expenditure (postage, stationery etc.)

It was agreed that this latter point should be considered by the Executive Committee, who would then prepare recommendations for the Assembly of Generals.

5. The conclusions and recommendations of the Treasurer, Bro G. Schnepp, were approved as amended by the Executive Committee (see Sedos 70/618, 619 and 625).
6. It was agreed to convene the next Assembly for December 15, 1970, at 16.00 at the OMI Scholasticate in Rome.

The Assembly then celebrated the Eucharist in memory of Miss Joan Overboss, whose first anniversary fell on September 17, 1970. The principal celebrant was Fr. Deschatelets. Special prayers were also offered for Fr. Volker.

SEDOS SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Task-Force: INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS.

The Task-force on Internal Communications met on October 1, 1970, at the OMI Generalate.

Present were: Sr. Frieda Avonts sa
Sr. Ancilla Cottaar scmm-t
Fr. P. Kelkermans cicm
Sr. Helen McCarron fmm
Fr. Y. Perigny omi
Sr. Annemarie Oosschot scmm-m

The group discussed the possibility of collecting information about internal communications services already functioning in the SEDOS generalates. Fr. P. Kelkermans submitted a proposal with some pertinent questions that would give a picture of the situation. Sr. Annemarie Oosschot had also a roughly drafted form with her.

It was decided that Fr. Perigny will prepare a draft by the 15th of October, and fill in the OMI's answers so as to make it a sample sheet. He will send the draft to the members of the t.f. so that they can study it before coming to the next meeting. Once the draft is finalized it, be will sent to SEDOS secretariate for duplicating and mailing to the persons in charge of communications in all the SEDOS Generalates. On the basis of the answers to this questionnaire the group can decide on further action.

Next meeting will be on October 19, 1970 at 15.00, at OMI generalate.

Sr. Annemarie Oosschot.

REPORT OF THE CATHOLIC DELEGATION ON THE 22ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON WORLD MISSION (C.W.M.) OF THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (L.W.F.) HELD AT ST. LOUIS (USA) FROM JULY 5 TO 8, 1970

1. PARTICIPANTS AND AIM OF THE MEETING.

About 150 members took part in this annual meeting of the C.W.M. They were: members of the C.W.M., members of the LWF-staff (among them Dr. A. Appel, General Secretary), representatives from Lutheran Mission Societies and members of the Lutheran Churches in the Third World, Dr. Philip Potter and Dr. Hollenweger, representing the Division for World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches.

Catholic delegation

The board of the C.W.M. had also invited this year the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity to send two Roman Catholic observers. The Secretariat delegated the Rev. Dr. Joseph Metzler, presented by the Congregation for Evangelisation, and the Rev. Dr. August Hasler, staff member of the Secretariat.

By unforeseen landing of the plane, Rome-New York, in Boston the Catholic Delegation missed the Opening Session, but was during the first working session specially introduced and received with great applause.

The annual C.W.M. meeting deals first of all with practical, local questions effecting the various Lutheran Missions. This year these practical matters nevertheless did not predominate.

The C.W.M. meeting had especially the aim to prepare Section I of the General Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation. So the different papers and the following discussions in the Study groups were the essential part of this meeting.

The 22nd C.W.M. meeting had special significance because by the restructuring of the Lutheran headquarters in Geneva the Division for World Mission will cease to exist and will be incorporated in a new unit (Church Cooperation).

After a rather long discussion about the name of this new unit, the C.W.M. expressed the wish that the term mission should explicitly be mentioned and proposed the name "Church Cooperation in World Mission."

The topics were discussed following the three main papers.

2. a) Mission on six Continents.

The main introductory paper for this subject was given by Dr. M. Buthelezi

(Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa-Southeastern Region) and a reaction to this paper was read by Rev. James W. Mayer (Secretary for South-Asia, Board for Missions, Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod).

Since Mexico 1963 the concept of "Mission on Six Continents" or, as the Group proposed, "Mission in three Worlds" has challenged churches and mission boards of the Lutheran World Federation to reconsider their role in the Mission of the Universal Church. At this extended C.W.M. meeting of the Lutheran World Federation this concept has been grappled with anew. It has proved to contain new insights on the basis of missions. It has also opened up new perspectives when pondering "the missionary structure of the church."

First of all it has drawn their attention to the inter-relationship of "sending" and sharing in the mission of the church. It has been argued that in the history of the Christian mission, missionary zeal has been informed more by obedience to the missionary command than by love for the neighbor and that at the present moment the aspect of sharing should come into focus in missionary theology.

According to them, "Mission on Six Continents" means a life of sharing belonging to any Christian. The necessary inter-relationship between witness and service was specially stressed.

They stated: "Service without witness is one-dimensional. Witness without service is without mercy. A false dichotomy between service and mission can split up man."

The "Mission on Six Continents" contains - they said - an urgent call to partnership on a new basis, where sharing is performed in such a way that the integrity of the partner is enhanced. Different concrete proposals were made for the headquarters in Geneva to implement these new insights.

b) Internationalisation of Mission

It is already the fourth time that this subject was one of the main discussion themes of the C.W.M. meeting. That shows that this is one of the biggest problems for the Lutheran World Mission today.

Dr. Hans W. Florin (Evangelische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Weltmission, Hamburg) presented the main paper, resuming the results of the former meetings and developing new insights and suggestions.

The reaction was given by the Rev. Karl Erik Wienberg (Africa and Asia Secretary, Danish Missionary Secretary).

The Lutheran concern for internationalization of mission grows out of their need to give a more meaningful expression to their sense of oneness as the church in mission today.

Internationalization of Mission was understood as a process whereby national Lutheran Churches and agencies focus on the whole world in response to locally generated concerns through channels that are open to a flow of ideas, personal and financial support. As objectives of the internationalization of missions, the following were considered:

- to foster a climate of acceptance and mutual responsibility for internationalization of personnel and finances.
- to develop effective ways for mutually sharing personnel and financial support in mutually shared responsibility.
- to maintain a sensitivity for the interdenominational dimension of internationalization.
- to enrich the local church heritage in particular areas through sharing multiplicity of Christian traditions.
- to encourage good stewardship and to avoid overlapping in the mission enterprise.

The Lutheran World Federation was asked to define the role and to develop procedures for the internationalization of personnel by providing a mechanism for the exchange of ideas, personnel and funds between churches and/or Mission agencies. The difficulties with the internationalization of missions for the Lutheran Churches were extensively enumerated. The St. Louis meeting did not solve these problems and called once again for further studies.

c) Together in Mission.

This third theme was for the Catholic observers of special interest, because it involves for the Lutheran Churches not only the togetherness among Lutheran and other non-Catholic Christian denominations, but also - and some speeches underlined it especially - relationship and cooperation with the mission of the Catholic Church.

Prof. Dr. James A. Scherer (Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago) delivered the main paper.

He endorsed a clear ecumenical commitment of the C.W.M. Literally he stated: Let me say quite emphatically that there is no conflict between being Lutheran and being committed to ecumenical work, any more than there is (unless I am mistaken) a conflict between being Lutheran and being Christian.

The reaction paper was given by Rev. Dr. Kundala Rajaratnam, Promotional Director, Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India, Madras.

The group discussions on this theme were at times exciting, at other times not very vital, especially because some members of the group showed a traditional conservative confessional attitude.

The Assembly however recognized the essential harmony of the Church's confessional and ecumenical responsibilities and gave primary attention to the issues growing out of the apparent practical tension between the traditional Lutheran confessional stance and the Church's contemporary and often terribly practical ecumenical obligation.

Within the context of "Together in Mission" the nature of the Lutheran confession and the meaning of "it is enough" in Augustana VII were especially discussed. Attention was given to theological and non-theological (cultural, historical, sociological etc.) factors which contribute to action or non-action in the ecumenical field. The suggestion was adopted that C.W.M. initiate a study to determine the importance of particular theological and non-theological factors in the expression or hindrance of joint action for mission on the level of local congregations of the Church on the six continents. It was recognized that in the field of the missions something is ecumenically happening, particularly at two important points in mission, namely, evangelism and theological education.

3. ACTIVITY OF THE CATHOLIC DELEGATION.

The Catholic observers took an active part in all the plenary sessions and in the discussion group 3. "Together in Mission." In one of the plenaries of the first day one of them was asked to address the whole assembly.

Father Metzler said on behalf of the Catholic observers a word of greeting and stressed especially the necessity of collaboration between the Christian missions in all the activities where this is already possible. Literally he said:

"The dialogue which has been begun and which has developed topically since the Second Vatican Council, can not be extended ad infinitum. It is time for us to reach practical conclusions and this not only at the level of individual missionary Churches but on a higher level. Otherwise dialogue will remain sterile and we will only be marking time." The following applause showed appreciation and real readiness for cooperation from the Lutheran side. Of great importance was also the ample possibility of entering into contact and private discussions with many leading Lutheran from all over the world. Such contacts seem to us essential for creating a spirit of understanding and ecumenical cooperation.

4. ACTIVITIES AROUND THE C.W.M. MEETING.

The Catholic observers paid a visit to the Chancery of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. His Eminence Cardinal Carberry being out of town, they were received by His Excellency Joseph A. Mc Nicolas, Vicar General, auxiliary bishop of St. Louis. It was possible to have longer discussions with Msgr. Baker, Secretary of the Ecumenical Commission and Rev. Bernhard H. Sandheinrich, Archdiocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

CONCLUSION

While during the last meeting, in Asmara in 1969, the Ecumenical cooperation in the mission field became by a motion from the floor a main topic, at this meeting the ecumenical question was from the beginning a main point in the programme and characterized the Assembly. Nevertheless we got the impression that C.W.M. was not willing to take decisive steps in view of the General Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation from July 14-24, 1970 in Evian-les-Bains, which will lay down the policy of the Federation for the next six years.

Roma, August 8, 1970

Respectfully submitted by
Fr. Josef Metzler
Fr. August Hasler.

SEDOS 70/747

FEEDBACK ON CREDIT UNIONS

PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITA' GREGORIANA
Piazza della Pilotta, 4
00187 Roma

Le 11/10/'70

Cher Père Tonna,

j'ai vu avec beaucoup d'intérêt le numéro du 2 octobre et je souscris des deux mains aux nombreuses suggestions pratiques qu'il contient. Je me permets cependant deux remarques qui touchent le rapport du groupe Asie.

L'une est "de fond". La phrase: The very ground work of evangelisation is the total humanisation and the integral development of the whole man and all men me semble (et à d'autres aussi) très ambiguë. D'abord parce que le mot groundwork n'est pas clair: fondamental veut-il dire ici: préalable, comme les fondements pour une maison, ou essentiel, central, spécifique? Dans le second sens, la chose semble peu défendable!... Ensuite parce que les mots "humanisation" et "intégral" ne sont pas très clairs ni assez explicites s'il s'agit de l'évangélisation. Le but de celle-ci, en même temps qu'une humanisation bien sûr, est spécifiquement une divinisation: ut filii Dei sitis. Le Pape a tant parlé de cela, encore en son discours pour le dimanche des Missions, qu'on aurait souhaité plus de clarté. Une deuxième remarque concerne la proposition radicale (assimilée à n'importe quelle autre construction) sur les "places of worship". On ne peut pas en parler comme d'un autre bâtiment civil; le sens de leurs éventuelles "ampleur" et "richesses" (parfois exagérée je l'admets) a une fonction d'adoration et de kerygme, que la psychologie reconnaît normale pour toute entreprise de valeur, même purement humaine. J'aurais aimé ici moins de "simplisme"... Mais par ailleurs que de bonnes choses surtout celles qui regardent au concret notre style individuel personnel et nous obligent nous (pas seulement l'Eglise en général).

Bien à vous,

Père J. Masson

NEWS FROM THE GENERALATES

Itinararies.

- CFX : Bro. Thomas More and Bro. H. Boyle
USA: from October 31 to January 24, 1971
- SCMM-M : Sr. J, Gates.
N. Europe: from October 25 to November 14
- WF : Fr. Th. Van Asten.
Tanzania: from November 23 to December 15
- Fr. W. Grosskortenhaus.
Tanzania: from October 15 to December 6
- Fr. Perrier.
Tanzania: from October 15 to December 15
- OSU : Mo. Marie José Van Dun.
Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong,
Thailand: from October 1 to January 1971.

DIARY

- 12 - 10 - 1970 Fr. Tonna visits Fr. W. Groskortenhau on last details of the SEDOS-PWG programme procedure.
- Fr. Tonna visits Fr. Y. Perigny on the Pontifical Commissions draft directives and on the SEDOS Directories.
- 13 - 10 - 1970 Visit of Fr. King, cm, on his way back to his mission in Madagascar.
- 14 - 10 - 1970 Meeting of the China Committee.
- 15 - 10 - 1970 Visit of FMM missionaries to the Secretariat.
- 16 - 10 - 1970 Full meeting of the Development Working Group.

EDUCATION IN THE MISSIONS

Agenda for the meeting of October 28, 1970

I.

1. PWG questionnaire on education
 - résumé of report submitted
 - évaluation of method used
 - suggestions for future help in this area
2. Relationship with other SEDOS working groups and the utilization of the results of their work
 - catechists
 - development
 - Seminar on Credit Unions
3. Relationship with other groups studying educational problems
 - UISG - Commission d'éducation
 - USG - working group Justicia et Pax
 - EDUC - International

II. Nationalization of Schools

1. Review of work already done (see Annex 1)
2. Consideration of aims to be attained by study
3. Continuation of work (see Annex 2)

The members of the Group will receive the following documents :

- Annex 1 Education in the Missions: nationalization of Schools
- Annex 2 Questions under consideration
- Annex 3 SEDOS 70/147