



World Organization
of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale
du Mouvement Scout

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CIRCULAR

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To: International Commissioners

Dear Colleagues,

MEETING OF THE WORLD SCOUT COMMITTEE, WORLD SCOUT BUREAU, GENEVA, 28-29 APRIL 2001

The World Scout Committee held its first meeting in 2001 at the World Scout Bureau on 28-29 April 2001. The meeting was attended by all but two Committee Members and by three Regional Chairmen, in addition to the World Scout Bureau staff concerned. Representatives of the National Scout Organization of Thailand (in relation to the 20th World Scout Jamboree) and of Scouts of China (for the 12th World Scout Moot) and The Scout Association of the United Kingdom (in relation to the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in 2007) also attended parts of the meeting, as did other guests, including Klaus Jacobs (for the World Scout Foundation), Piotr Uhma (World Scout Parliamentary Union) and Neil Westaway (SCORE International).

A summary of the main items considered and decisions made is given below.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The meeting learned of the resignation, for personal reasons, of Felix Li Tai Ho (Singapore) as Committee Member. The Committee co-opted Habibul Alam (Bangladesh) to fill the vacancy for the period up to the next World Scout Conference, where six persons will be elected for a six year term and one person for a three year term.

STRATEGY FOR SCOUTING

John Beresford, Chairman of the Strategy Task Force, reported to the Committee on the progress being made on the Strategy for Scouting, following the adoption of the mission statement by the 35th World Scout Conference in Durban.

The task force had met in Geneva the day before the World Scout Committee meeting. It had considered the work completed to date, and the process to be followed up to – and beyond – the 36th World Scout Conference in Thessaloniki in Greece.

Current thinking was built on the six “key challenges” for the future which had been identified at the last World Scout Conference (see the World Scout Bureau publication *A Strategy for Scouting... from Durban to Thessaloniki: 2. Achieving the Mission of Scouting*). These are: relevance; complementary nature; membership; adults; relationships and partnerships; and unity. Arising from these challenges, three main areas of concern have been identified: **young people** (including such issues as adolescents, youth involvement, equal opportunities for both genders, and extending Scouting to all segments of society); **adults** (equal opportunities, reaching out to all, and the concept of volunteerism); and **structures and systems** (including the need for flexible and innovative organisations and to strengthen Scouting’s profile and

resources). Strategic priorities covering these kinds of issues would need to be agreed upon so that objectives and expected results could be defined.

The Strategy will be the main item on the agenda of the 36th World Scout Conference. Materials will be sent to National Scout Organizations prior to the Conference to help them prepare for the discussions and debates in Thessaloniki. The Strategy will also be considered in a variety of ways at the Regional Scout Conferences taking place in 2001.

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

The Chairman of the Educational Methods Group, World Committee Vice-Chairman Patrick Lyon, presented a detailed report to the Committee on work being undertaken by the World Programme Committee and the World Adult Resources Committee.

The **World Programme Committee** is focusing its work on three main themes: research and development; networking and dissemination; and educational partnerships.

Under the heading of *research and development*, work is continuing to help NSOs to implement the Renewed Approach to Programme; this includes the production of a Scout leader's handbook, an emphasis on the Rover age section, and the production of handouts as aids to unit leaders. The committee is also working particularly on the areas of spiritual development and social development; and on research on gender education and on youth participation (the committee is also supporting the preparation of the next World Scout Youth Forum).

In the area of *networking and dissemination*, WONDER (the World On-line Network for Developing Educational Resources) and cooperation with the Regions are the main emphases. WONDER incorporates specially prepared pages on the WOSM website, an e-mail newsletter entitled WONDERnews, regular Internet-based discussions using the name WONDERforum, and the development of a World Scout Resource Centre, to be launched later in 2001, which will also be Internet based. Regional cooperation is tailored to the specific needs and resources of each Region.

Educational partnerships are being developed in areas of mutual interest with a number of organizations, including UNAIDS, UNESCO and UNICEF.

The work of the **World Adult Resources Committee** had been hampered recently by the ill-health of the Director, Philippe Pijollet. However, it was expected that the recent appointment of a Deputy Director, Anne Whiteford, would help to improve the staff support situation.

The main priorities of the Adult Resources Committee were: publication of the *Adult Resources Handbook*; producing regular issues of *Information Exchange*; cooperation with the World Programme Committee on WONDER, on setting up the planned World Scout Resource Centre and on the gender research project; and child protection.

The two committees and the Educational Methods Group would hold their annual meetings in June in Geneva. A complete report on the outcomes of these meetings will be presented to the World Scout Committee at its next meeting in October 2001.

FINANCES

The Chairman of the Finance & Support Group, World Committee Vice-Chairman Margot Bogert, presented the Geneva Office **accounts for fiscal year ended 30 September 2000**. The Committee was pleased to note that – despite non-payment of fees from 41 NSOs resulting in fee collection being below projections by some

CHF 175,000 – this Office was able to close its annual accounts with a surplus of CHF 10,281, thanks to savings in expenditure and to an exceptional grant from the World Scout Foundation to offset the additional costs in Swiss francs of Regional allocations paid in US dollars. The Committee was also pleased to note that the balance sheet of the Geneva Office as at 30 September 2000 was a very sound one for the second consecutive year.

The Committee also considered the draft consolidated financial statements (consolidation of the accounts of the Geneva Office and of the six Regional Offices) showing a consolidated surplus of CHF 358,333. All Regional Offices had ended their fiscal year with a surplus. Since these surpluses appeared to be high in some cases when expressed in Swiss francs, the Committee noted that this was also due to the high value of the US dollar at the time the accounts were closed.

The World Committee approved the accounts and financial statements for fiscal year 1999-2000.

The Committee then considered the **financial situation of the current fiscal year**. It noted that, halfway through this fiscal year, income received was more than covering expenditure thanks to a good rate of collection of registration fees. The Committee noted, however, that balancing the budget at year end would largely depend on the collection of the remaining outstanding fees, a significant portion of which are usually collected only in the last weeks of the fiscal year.

The Committee then considered the situation of 12 NSOs which had been provisionally suspended for non-payment of **registration fees**, with *limited* application of the sanctions, at its previous meeting on 7-8 October 2000 and which still had unpaid fee arrears with the World Scout Bureau at the date of the meeting. Considering that its policy on payment of registration fees introduced in 1996 was of great help to the Bureau in the collection of annual fees, and that it should continue to demonstrate a firm stand on this matter, the Committee decided (as previously announced in Circular No. 17/2001) that the NSOs concerned should be provisionally suspended with *full* application of the sanctions. (Since the Committee's decision was made, some of the NSOs concerned have paid their fee arrears and their provisional suspension has been automatically revoked.)

Looking at the **budget for the next fiscal year 2001-2002**, the Committee considered that – since (1) no increase could be expected in the fees to be collected, due to the fee system; (2) it may prove difficult for the World Scout Foundation even to maintain its annual grant at the current level, due to the downturn in financial markets; and (3) the US dollar was still strong and no savings could be expected on that side – there was no reason to expect that the 2001-2002 budget would any higher than that of 2000-2001 – and could even be lower.

The Committee then heard a report from Neil Westaway, Chairman of the Board of **SCORE International**, on the Board meeting and the General Assembly of SCORE which were held two days prior to the meeting. He reported on the lower than expected financial result achieved by SCORE during 2000, mainly due to two factors: a decrease in the sales to NSOs' Scoutshops which are affected by the decrease in membership in industrialized countries; and the slower than expected growth in Internet sales through the WOSM website. He then explained that this situation, which was of concern, had led to a discussion on the future of SCORE, during which various possibilities were considered; the Board would monitor progress closely in the coming months.

The Committee also received a report from the **Audit Committee**. A meeting had been held with the Auditors, Arthur Andersen, earlier in April, as a result of which two recommendations dealing with the legal standing of one Regional Office and the deployment of staff resources within the Accounting Department of the World Scout Bureau had been made; these would be followed up as necessary.

WORLD SCOUT FOUNDATION

The World Scout Committee received a special report from the Chairman of a task force which had been set up by the World Scout Foundation firstly to search for a new Director of the Foundation (yet to be appointed) and secondly to examine the future of the World Scout Foundation as well as to consider strategic issues facing it in relation to its task of financial support to World Scouting. The task force had, in considering the second of these two points, looked at how the World Scout Movement should position itself in appropriate ways to meet the needs of young people in the 21st century. It recognised that this was primarily the responsibility of the World Scout Committee and had therefore, with the concurrence of its Chairman who saw this as a valuable contribution to be made by a group of “outsiders”, agreed to work in partnership with the World Scout Committee and to report its findings to the Committee.

The task force report covered various topics, including: *loss of membership* in industrialised countries and the consequent need to stimulate more interest among young people (especially adolescents), parents and the community; *strategic directions* for the future, including a clear understanding of the mission of the Movement and *agreed emphases* on such issues as the development of Scouting in new countries, vocational training, nature and environment, and equality between girls and boys, women and men; and *structure/delivery systems*, including the role and functioning of the World Scout Committee, World Scout Bureau, and the Regions. Finally, the report also dealt with the challenge of *fundraising* for World Scouting, and the matter of “value for money”.

Following extensive discussion of the report, the Committee agreed that it would be helpful if an external consultant would: examine the structures of WOSM and of the World Scout Foundation; identify and analyse the problems that may hinder the achievements of the objectives of the Movement and propose solutions; examine key management positions, including Chief Executive Officers and possible new Chief Operating Officer position, and present their job descriptions, role and mission. Steps were agreed to obtain an estimate of the cost of such a consultancy, and to identify possible funding sources since it was agreed that no money would be spent for that purpose that might prejudice World Scout Bureau finances. The Committee approved a mandate for a consultant covering these conditions and outlining in more detail the process to be followed if funding could be found.

WAGGGS/WOSM RELATIONSHIPS

As already announced in Circular No. 14/2001, the World Scout Committee considered this subject. While deciding not to pursue the question of creating one new world Scout and Guide organization until the 36th World Scout Conference in 2002, at which time the question would be considered, the Consultative Committee will meet in Prague in July and focus on the common ground that the two organizations were founded upon, as well as common elements and how it might be possible to work together in the future.

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

The World Committee decided to provisionally suspend Besa Skaut Albania's membership of WOSM. Fuller details are contained in Circular No. 18/2001.

WORLD EVENTS

The World Scout Committee received a progress report on preparations for the **36th World Scout Conference**, which will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 15-19 July 2002; these are progressing smoothly. The report covered such items as the Conference budget, theme, and outline programme and agenda. The Planning Committee for the **8th World Scout Youth Forum** was scheduled to meet in Geneva in June, to begin preparations for that event. An update was also provided on responses which had been received to the "call for invitations" to future World Events.

The World Committee also received a report from the Executive Director of the **20th World Scout Jamboree**. Excellent progress had been made to develop the Jamboree site and preparations for other aspects of the event were also well underway. (See Circular No. 19/2001 for information on a subsequent change in Jamboree management; and Circular No. 20/2001 for additional important news concerning Jamboree fees and dates.)

A representative of Scouts of China also attended the meeting to present an initial report on preparations for the **12th World Scout Moot**, which will take place in 2004. The theme of the Moot will be "Scouting: Unlimited Challenges".

The World Scout Committee also received the latest report on plans to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of Scouting** in 2007, including the **21st World Scout Jamboree**. The Committee endorsed the proposal that the maximum number of participants and staff at the Jamboree should be 40,000, and that "Join-In-Centenary" resource materials should be provided to all National Scout Organizations for use throughout 2007. Other aspects of World Jamboree planning include a "Starburst" programme which will see approximately one third of participants take part in off-site activities each day, and the holding of a symbolic camp on Brownsea Island at the same time as the Jamboree; on 1 August 2007, it is anticipated that one youth representative from every Scouting country will attend this camp. The designs of special badges for the 2007 Jamboree and for the 100th Anniversary year were also approved.

Finally, it was also agreed that centenary celebrations for adults in the Movement should be focused on the Founder's birthday, 22 February, to clearly separate them from the youth events around the world scheduled for 1 August; a special series of activities for adults would be planned in London around 22 February 2007.

A guest representing the **World Scout Parliamentary Union** (WSPU) presented a report of its 3rd General Assembly, which had been held in Warsaw, Poland, in August 2000. (Copies of this report have since been sent to all National Scout Organizations in *Scoutpak*.)

WORLD SCOUT PORTAL

The World Scout Committee received a progress report on the possible development of a World Scout Internet “portal”.

Some reservations and concerns had been identified concerning the content and form of such a portal, such as its potential impact on national policies and programmes. While recognising that these still needed to be addressed, the Committee agreed to continue the work currently underway and to approve the concept of seeking sponsorship for the development of the portal. No approach would be made to potential sponsors without the concurrence of the National Scout Organization of the country concerned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Moreillon', written in a cursive style.

Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General