

Dr. Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General
World Organization of the
Scout Movement

REPORT



JULY 26 - 30 JUILLET • DURBAN

1. It is never easy to speak after Frankie Roman. This man is such a natural speaker that I feel like a village choir singer having to follow Pavarotti! And on top of it: as Chairman he has first choice! So he takes all the nice things to say and leaves me with the hard facts. Well I suppose that is all due to a tough reality: I get paid for what I do while Frankie is paying for what he does! "Noblesse oblige": this is what it takes to be a volunteer, Mr. Chairman.

Paris, Bangkok, Oslo, Durban. This is my fourth Report to a World Scout Conference and on November 1st 1998 I completed ten years on the job.

This said, as in previous World Scout Conferences, my report will not go back further than the recent triennium and will cover those parts of that triennium which have not been covered by our Chairman and that will not be covered by Treasurer Pierre de Morsier; I will also deal with the future of our Movement, as has become a tradition.

For a more complete overview of the work of the World Scout Committee, and World Scout Bureau, I invite you to read the Triennial Report that has been distributed to all national Scout organizations, and also here at the Conference.

2. Another tradition is that I also start my report with a few basic statistics concerning the triennium:

Since Oslo I have spent 299 days in the field and done 78 missions to 38 countries, thus bringing to 119 the total number of countries visited for World Scouting since 1988. This still leaves me with quite a few countries whose Scouts complain that I have found time for others and not for them! They can trust this to be my priority for the next two trienniums.

As for the World Scout Bureau staff in Geneva Headquarters, 12 executives have been on 182 missions to 58 countries in six Regions of WOSM, not to mention of course the innumerable missions of our Regional executives within and even outside their respective regions.

3. At the World Scout Bureau in Geneva two of our most experienced executives, Abdoulaye Sar and Mateo Jover, reached retirement age and

unfortunately had to leave us, creating a great void of multi-faceted knowledge. For their long and outstanding service to Scouting, the World Scout Committee awarded each of them the Bronze Wolf award. Unfortunately they have not been replaced, mainly due to the material constraints of which Chairman Roman has just spoken.

However, at long last, we did strengthen our administrative apparatus for it had become an absolute priority to give an assistant to Luc Panisod, our Deputy Secretary General and to strengthen our staff support in the area of computers and electronic communication both at Headquarters and in the Regions. This was done with the appointment of Sonia Kunz, Deputy Director of Administration and Finance, and of Ray Saunders, Director of Information Technology.

We thus have today ten executives – myself included – at our Geneva headquarters (three fewer than when I arrived 11 years ago). Our regional staff has grown from 20 to 25, including two in the new Eurasia Region. Essentially we have the same number of staff trying to serve 30 percent more national Scout organizations - and it is these new members which need the most help.

There is no doubt that this is a worrying situation. Allow me to give you a quick run-down of our situation in Geneva:

Philippe Pijollet is still alone to handle matters related to Adults in Scouting, in addition to being the focal point in Geneva for Africa; organizing the world staff management conference; translating or reviewing all essential World Scout Bureau publications in French, in addition to his involvement in the work of the Educational Methods Division, of which I will speak later.

Jim Sharp handles everything to do with Youth Programme, along with Jean-Luc Bertrand, but he also handles the Honours & Awards Committee; takes the minutes of World Scout Committee meetings; is the focal point in Geneva for the Asia-Pacific Region, and does a lot of proof reading of our important English texts.

Jean-Luc Bertrand, quite apart from his work on

Youth Programme with Jim Sharp and the Educational Methods team, is fully occupied by the succession of Global Development Villages at World Scout Jamborees and now at World Scout Moots, and by the relationships these imply with UN agencies and other international organizations, and by the follow-up of special programmes developed in the context of these partnerships. He is also responsible for supporting the preparation and follow-up of the World Scout Youth Forums, and he has taken over from Mateo Jover and Abdoulaye Sar certain aspects of relationships with such organizations as UNHCR, UNESCO, AHM Leprosy Relief Organization, WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS.

As for Deputy Secretary General Malek Gabr, apart from being responsible for the Educational Methods Division, as well as for all constitutional questions in the Bureau, he is the main organizer of the World Scout Committee meetings, the focal point in Geneva for the Arab and European Regions, the liaison with WAGGGS and the main author of my Monthly Reports to the World Scout Committee.

Samantha Hall, who is the assistant director for Educational Methods Communications, is in charge of that Division's publications and audio-visuals including, incidentally, all A/V aspects of this Conference. Samantha is the main author of the important new document, "Scouting: an Educational System", and of a follow-up publication on "The Project Approach to the Scout Method", which is very near completion, and she is responsible for translation of main documents into English.

As to Jean Cassaigneau, he is not only the Geneva focal point for both the Inter-American and Eurasia Regions, but also has the direct responsibility of World Scout Jamborees, World Scout Moots, and of the World Scout Conference, in addition to all organizations that have consultative status with the World Scout Committee and all other international non-governmental organizations, as well as being responsible for following the process of development and recognition of new national Scout organizations.

Mark Clayton is also alone to deal with all that is related to Public Relations and Communication, including our regular publications such as World Scouting News and the Triennial Report; our ever-growing presence on the Internet, news media relationships, the 2007 task force, and many special projects. Mark also provides frequent support to the World Scout Foundation.

I should add here that the World Scout Foundation also depends on the help of Luc Panissod and his team for their financial operations.

As you can see, I am the only one in the office who does nothing except travel and have fun! More seriously I think that we can be immensely grateful, as Frankie just said, for the extraordinary work of such skeleton staff as we are grateful to our colleagues in the six Regional Offices, who do no less with equally limited means.

But we must also be conscious that, over the years, we have been doing more and more with less and less human and material resources and that something will have to change before we are expected to do everything for nothing. At this stage, we are still maintaining both our budget and the total fees due at the same level, taking only inflation into account in their increase; but by the time we are in Thessaloniki, three years from now, we must all be ready for a *real* increase of the means available to the World Scout Bureau and its six Regional Offices. Since Paris, we have been handling 60 more countries (recognised and not yet recognised) with the same means; solidarity will require from all existing national Scout organizations that they better facilitate the birth of new national Scout organizations.

This said, you can relax for now: as said, the increase in fees proposed to you here in Durban will only cover inflation, and our budget will stay at the same real value. I am just warning you to "Be prepared" for our next World Scout Conference, where I consider that a real increase in both fees and budget should be decided.

4. The World Scout Bureau has concentrated its efforts in Geneva, in the last triennium, in the

following areas:

4.1 The *Educational Methods* team has provided professional support to the important work of the Strategy Task Force, which included the production of the key document, "The Essential Characteristics of Scouting", as well as the extensive preparatory work for the handling of the mission at this Conference.

The EM team has also provided professional support on the gender question, which has led to the development of the "Policy on girls and boys, women and men within the Scout Movement", which is being submitted to this Conference.

The EM team has also produced several publications of a general nature to support associations in their work, foremost among which is "Scouting: an Educational System" which was mentioned earlier, as well as more specialised publications in the programme sector (such as "A Guide to Programme Development: an Overview"), in the adult resources sector (the publication of the new Adult Resources Handbook) and that of management (the completion of the Management Handbook).

4.2 The *Finance and Support Division* has focused on the implementation of the new registration fee system adopted in Oslo. The system is working very well and now more countries are able to pay their fees and to pay them on time. Unfortunately a few have not paid and the World Committee asked the Bureau staff to make every possible effort to help these countries. You will be hearing much more about this during the Conference.

Another new development has been the creation of an Audit Committee for the World Scout Bureau, and for the World Scout Foundation. The World Committee believes that their work will give you, our members, even greater assurance of our financial stewardship.

We have also undertaken a comprehensive review of the employee pension fund to ensure that it is appropriate for the situation today, and in the coming years.

Information technology is becoming an increasingly important part of our work at

all levels. It has a significant impact on our efficiency, and effectiveness. We have taken a number of steps to increase our financial and human resources in this quickly changing area. While we do not - nor could we - strive to be state of the art in these matters, I am assured that we are well positioned to utilize the technology available.

4.3 The focus of work in *Relationships and Special Events* has been on the World Scout Jamboree, two Moots, and of course the preparations for this conference, and on the invitations that we will be asked consider for future world events. Over these three years you will have noticed a substantial increase in the involvement of other international organizations in our work with young people. This is bringing many benefits for Scouting, and it is clear that more organizations are understanding the value of Scouting as an educational movement.

4.4 In the field of *Public Relations and Communication* we have taken a number of steps to increase our communication with members through electronic means, notably by providing much more information through the Internet. You will have noticed, for example, that all of the official documents for this Conference were available on the Internet. We hope this has helped to increase the awareness and understanding of the subjects involved.

The visibility of our World Movement was increased through the production of four television spots that have been shown worldwide on CNN International, and are continuing to be used in many counties. We must thank the World Scout Foundation for paying to make these important new tools.

5. As we look at the future on the basis of this brief recapitulation of the recent past, I would like to stress and select some key points, which, I believe, should be at the heart of our concerns for the beginning of the next millennium. In doing so, I shall consciously not deal with those points that will be amply discussed at the present Conference, such as our mission, the gender policy, or WAGGGS/WOSM relationships. I shall look beyond Durban, "look wider" as

we said in Oslo, and as Baden-Powell already said in the thirties, and try and identify the means and ways of keeping Scouting meaningful and strong in the years to come.

It is my conviction that Scouting has been, can be, and should be an active agent of social change. The expression “agent of social change” is just the modern way of saying that we must “leave the world a better place than we found it” in BP’s language. B.P. wanted to improve boys and girls from the inside not only so that they should become “better boys and girls” but indeed so that they should be more useful to others, to their friends, their families, their nation, the world, and this not just while in uniform but as future men and women, as citizens of tomorrow, locally, nationally, internationally. B.P. wanted young people who were autonomous and responsible, committed and supportive, young people who, today and the next, would make a difference in society, a society of which one could say that it was better thanks to the fact that these young people had made their Scout promise.

What is this, if not being an active agent of social change? But do we really see ourselves as a Movement that should improve society? Do we always have that objective in mind when playing the Scout game? We say “fun with a purpose”; but do we not forget the purpose in the fun? Are we ambitious enough in our vision of Scouting as an agent of social change?

Take education for instance. I have time and again spoken of the world’s global educational deficit of schools that teach but do not educate, of families that give early independence to their children but don’t teach them autonomy, of consumer society that tells kids the cost of everything but the value of nothing. But do we sufficiently understand and stress the potential of Scouting in compensating this educational deficit by its unique method of non-formal education?

Do we sufficiently make the world and national leaders simultaneously aware of these two factors: on one hand, the amplitude of the educational deficit and, on the other, that Scouting, Guiding

and other non-formal educational youth movements have real answers to this deficit? Not *all* answers, but concrete and credible ones, founded on decades of successful experience, with a unique and remarkable track record in our achievements for and with young people, and with our demonstrated capacity to produce a youth that is, indeed, autonomous and responsible, committed and supportive. A youth which is “just what the doctor ordered” for our sick world.

But Scouting alone cannot influence the mind-sets of world and national leaders. We must build long-term strategic alliances with those other worldwide youth movements which share many of our ideals and some of our objectives, such as WAGGGS of course, but also YMCA, YWCA, the International Red Cross and others. It is only by mobilising *together* our respective networks towards a *common purpose* that we can hope to achieve worldwide and long-term results.

What should be this common purpose? It should first be an awareness that education is a broader concept than just what schools can teach or families can transmit: education is also non-formal education, such as Scouting, but not only Scouting. It should follow with a growing awareness that our global educational deficit is possibly today’s and tomorrow’s biggest problem on earth, due to its incalculable and long-term consequences in all areas. And it should conclude with the realisation that an important part of the answers are to be found precisely in non-formal education, which is precisely the kind of education which our Movements are willing and able to deliver.

Concrete support of all kinds to our Movements should logically follow this new awareness amongst decision makers and thus produce an increase in our own efficiency and output, which – in turn – will increase our credibility and gradually put us in a stronger position in society by the increased educational benefits of our services to it.

One way to achieve these results is to insist that each government should have a long-term, consensus based, national youth policy, a policy aiming at the next generation and not just at the next election, a policy that recognises

that education is not just schools but, indeed, formal, informal and non-formal education, a policy which defines the kind of youth that each nation needs (why not: autonomous and responsible, committed and supportive?) and which recognises that non-formal educational movements like ours are ideally placed to “deliver the goods” in that respect.

This kind of advocacy is exactly what we have done with my colleagues the CEOs of WAG-GGS, YMCA, YWCA, the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Award Association and others. Those of you who have not yet seen our earlier document on *“The Education of Young People. A statement at the dawn of the 21st century”* and its more recent complement on *National Youth Policies* will be able to discover them here.

6. Another challenge which we will face in the next century is that of new Member Organizations. As Chairman Frankie Roman indicated, we have 35 new national Scout Organizations since Paris nine years ago. And between today and the hundredth anniversary of Scouting, in 2007, we may expect some 30 to 35 new members, mainly in Africa, the Asia-Pacific Region and Eurasia.

Frankly, I do not know how we are going to handle all these new countries with our present means and a frozen budget. It is already a miracle that we have been able to bring to birth, both constitutionally and materially, 35 new members in nine years with such a small staff. But there are limits even to miracles and it will be the main task of the next World Scout Committee to help us produce the additional means to bring to recognition an additional 30 new countries in the next nine years.

7. As we speak of the next nine years that will lead us to our hundredth anniversary, I do want to say a few words about 2007 and its preparation. More will be said here later, but I just want to make *one* point: *2007 is tomorrow*. And if we ask politicians to prepare youth policies for the time when they will no longer be around, we should be able to ask ourselves to prepare *now* for an event when many of us (and I for

one!) will no longer be in charge. For certain things (such as reserving 2007 for a special stamp) it is already very late in certain countries. We started the process two years ago and the *only* thing we asked national Scout organizations to do was to constitute a permanent organising committee composed not on the basis of personalities but of functions. I regret to say that only a dozen have bothered to do so! We know that Scouts are often *not* prepared, in spite of what B.P. asked them to be (after all, only 13 percent of you registered on time for this Conference); we are conscious that many of them count on the World Scout Bureau to “be prepared” for them being unprepared and late! But here, in the case of 2007, I would ask you to prepare yourselves *now*, for it is not you but your successors who will falter – if you do not get ready in time.

8. The last point which I wish to touch about the future is what I would call “reaching out”. Reaching out to young people who may not *naturally* become Scouts and yet who need Scouting more than anyone: the less privileged. Let us remember that, on Brownsea Island, B.P. consciously mixed all social classes. And when he said “look wider” only twenty years later, he meant: “Do not do Scouting for Scouts! Do Scouting for young people”. Reach out! Reach out to those in the inner cities where 90% of the kids come from one-parent families and where the role model of either a Scout leader – or even more a good Scout of their own age – is badly needed. Reach out in rural areas, where one grows away from it all. Reach out to the disabled, who can get much out of Scouting. Reach out to less developed countries, where Scouting can bring a key answer to the grave need for leadership building. Reach out to other organizations, which share some of your ideals, to other activities, to other adults. Reach out to more girls in Scouting, to female leaders. Reach out for a deeper spirituality and a more engaged life. Reach out for God through Scouting. Reach out for a full century and a great Scout Millennium

Jacques Moreillon

Secretary General

World Organization of the Scout Movement