



World Organization  
of the Scout Movement  
Organisation Mondiale  
du Mouvement Scout

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**CIRCULAR**

June 2000

**Circular N° 15/2000**

To: International Commissioners

Dear colleagues,

In accordance with the World Scout Committee's decision that, following each of its meetings, National Scout Organizations be given a summary of the most important items discussed and decisions made, we are pleased to attach the information circular concerning the meeting of 6-7 May 2000.

Please share the attached information with key officials of your Association as well as members of your National Board who may be interested in it.

Yours sincerely,

Garnet de la Hunt  
Chairman, World Scout Committee

Jacques Moreillon  
Secretary General



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Annex to Circular  
15/2000

June 2000

To: International Commissioners

Dear colleagues,

**MEETING OF THE WORLD SCOUT COMMITTEE,  
WORLD SCOUT BUREAU, GENEVA, 6-7 MAY 2000**

The World Scout Committee held its first meeting in 2000 in the World Scout Bureau on 6-7 May. This meeting was attended by all but three members and by three Regional Chairmen, in addition to the World Scout Bureau staff concerned. Several guests were also invited to take part in the discussion of various items. The World Committee meeting was immediately preceded by meetings of the Audit Committee, the Strategy Task Force, the 2007 Task Force and the General Assembly and Board of SCORE International.

A summary of some of the main items discussed and decisions made is given below:

**FINANCES**

- The Committee considered the **audited Accounts and Balance Sheet** of the World Scout Bureau for the year ended 30 September 1999. The Committee was pleased to note that:
  - the **Geneva Headquarters** was able to close its fiscal year ending 30 September 1999 with a **surplus of CHF 20,780**, thus maintaining the practice of having balanced yearly accounts for the last 14 years, with the exception of the year 1993-1994.
  - except for the Africa and Eurasia Regional Offices, all **Regional Offices** ended up with a surplus which enabled us to close this 1998-1999 fiscal year with a **consolidated surplus at world level of CHF 98,174**.

The Committee followed the recommendation of the Audit Committee and approved the 1998-1999 accounts.

- The Committee then considered the **current financial situation** as at 30 April 2000. It noted that the intermediary balance sheet was sound and that both income and expenditure of the Geneva Office were well in line with the budget, with the exception of one item, the operational allocations paid by Geneva to the six Regional Offices, due to US\$/CHF ratio. About 40% of the World Scout Bureau's budget consists of operational and field activities allocations which are paid to the six Regional Offices in U.S. dollars, whereas

most of the Bureau income is in Swiss francs. The structure of the Bureau budget is such that when the US\$ strengthens against the CHF, any increase of one point in the exchange rate results in an additional expense of about CHF 15,000. On the basis of experts' advice, the Bureau had prudently budgeted a rate of US\$ 1 = CHF 1.50 for 1999-2000 (against CHF 1.45 for the preceding year). However, projections by the end of September 2000 indicate that the average rate for this period of time will be closer to CHF 1.68 – 1.70, representing a net additional unbudgeted expenditure of more than CHF 250,000, if we maintain the allocations to the Regional Offices at their budgeted level. This deficit could be compensated, at least partially, if the total fees are paid and/or with the support of the World Scout Foundation.

- The Committee therefore considered with particular attention the updated information on the **payment of registration fees arrears and registration fees for fiscal year 1999-2000**.

Concerning the 1999-2000 current fees, the Committee noted that from 1 October 1999 up to 30 April 2000, 83 NSOs (out of 149 invoiced) had paid their current fees, either totally (74) or partially (9) for a total amount of CHF 3,110,497, leaving CHF 1,839,252 to be collected from 73 NSOs. The Committee regretted that about 50% of NSOs had not yet paid their fees which are due upon the reception of the fee invoice, thus putting unnecessary pressure on the Bureau's cash flow.

- The Committee was then left with the delicate task of looking at the situation of NSOs which had been provisionally suspended with *limited* application of the sanctions at its November 1999 meeting and which had still not cleared their arrears. Despite the small amounts involved – around US\$ 4,000 in total – the Committee considered that it had no other alternative but to pronounce provisional suspension with *full* application of sanctions on the seven countries concerned. This figure was subsequently reduced to four, i.e. Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Gabon, since three NSOs cleared their situation right after the meeting.

Concerning Liberia, the Africa Regional Office reported that this NSO had complied with the criteria set by the Committee to regain full membership. Since financial support had previously been secured to assist Liberia in the payment of its fee arrears, the Committee decided to revoke the provisional suspension with *full* application of the sanctions affecting Liberia.

The Committee then briefly considered the estimate for the 2000-2001 budget. It acknowledged that, despite a hopefully substantial increase in the annual grant from the World Scout Foundation – the only source of income for which an increase could be foreseen since registration fees remain unchanged until the next World Scout Conference – the 2000-2001 budget will be very difficult to prepare because of the unfavourable evolution of the US\$/CHF exchange rate. Indeed, simply renewing the same regional allocations at their 1999-2000 levels in US\$ would cost the Bureau an additional CHF 260,000 because of a more expensive dollar. The Committee noted that Regional Offices had been informed that, next budgetary year, they would have to face a reduction of their global budget of up to 10% in order for the total budget to remain balanced in Swiss Francs.

- Concerning **SCORE International**, which had held its General Assembly and Board of Directors meeting two days earlier, the Committee was pleased to hear

an encouraging report presented by Neil Westaway, Chairman of the Board. Sales were progressing in accordance with plans and the newly created sub-site on the WOSM Web page was beginning to generate good sales. The Committee was also pleased to record that SCORE Intl would contribute some CHF 30,000 to the World Scout Bureau's 2000-2001 budget.

- The Committee then heard the report presented by John R. Donnell, Jr, Chairman of the **Audit Committee** that had met the day before. This Committee was established in 1998 to assist the World Committee in fulfilling its constitutional responsibility to oversee the financial management of the World Scout Bureau.

This meeting was the first opportunity for this newly created Committee to review the full accounts of the World Scout Bureau, which were audited for the first time by the newly appointed auditors Arthur Andersen.

John Donnell reported that the Auditors delivered a clean opinion on the Bureau's accounts and financial statements. He however also reported that if the audit revealed no significant issues for the Geneva Office, there were internal control matters, in varying degrees, raised in each of the Regional Offices. Although most of those issues were, in themselves, small, they could cause problems in the future if not properly addressed.

The Secretary General welcomed the recommendations of the Audit Committee aiming at overcoming these problems and at strengthening financial management in Regional Offices.

## WORLD EVENTS

- Concerning the **11<sup>th</sup> World Scout Moot** (Mexico, 11-24 July 2000), the Committee received a comprehensive progress report from Mario Arreola (Mexico) representing the Executive Director of the Moot. Preparations for the event are progressing well. Attendance is satisfactory, since it includes 3,000 participants from more than 70 countries. However, the vast majority are from the Interamerican and European Regions; if the trend is not changed, the presence of the other four Regions will be extremely limited. Moreover, this has serious negative financial implications on the Moot's income. The rather sophisticated programme of youth activities is also progressing in accordance with plans, with some delay due mainly to the number and the diversity of partners involved, particularly in relation to the Global Development Village.
- In relation to the **36<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference and 8<sup>th</sup> World Scout Youth Forum** (Greece, July 2002), Christos Lygeros (Greece), the Conference Director, presented the preliminary plans for the hosting of these events. He also showed the logo concept; the logo itself will be submitted to the Committee for approval in October. The Committee approved the proposed dates for the two events: the *Youth Forum will be from Monday 8 to Thursday 11 July*, and the *Conference from Monday 15 to Friday 19 July 2002*. The Conference fee and budget will be approved by the Committee in October.
- Concerning the **20<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree** (Thailand, 28 December 2002 – 8 January 2003), you will recall that at its meeting in November 1999 (Circular 24/1999) the Committee had received with satisfaction the report from the

Executive Director, Dr. Sasithara Pichaichannarong, and had expressed a vote of confidence not only in the National Scout Organization of Thailand (NSOT) but also in Dr. Sasithara personally, whose leadership would enable the Jamboree to be held in accordance with the requirements of WOSM.

Since then, Dr. Sasithara had met locally with a number of problems, arising mainly from differing concepts and approaches to the Jamboree, which would have been incompatible with WOSM's criteria and conditions. This had led to a serious situation and had required several visits from World Committee members and Bureau staff to Thailand. Finally, after extensive negotiations, and thanks in particular to the Minister of Education, H.E. Somsak Prisanandakul, who is also the Chairman of NSOT and of the Jamboree Organizing Committee, the situation was solved by a new ministerial decree and through an operational and financial agreement with the World Scout Bureau. The agreement was signed in Geneva during the World Scout Committee meeting, which was attended by H. E. the Minister of Education and by Dr. Sasithara.

Both the decree and the agreement have since been ratified by the Council of Ministers of Thailand. It confirms the appointment of Dr. Sasithara as Executive Director of the Jamboree, under the immediate authority of the Chairman of NSOT and Minister of Education. It also guarantees an autonomous managerial structure of the Jamboree Office, as well as funds allowing WOSM to bring to that Office the necessary assistance in the fields of general organization and youth programme to ensure that this major world event complies with the requirements and quality standards requested by the World Scout Committee.

The World Scout Committee expressed its sincere appreciation and trust in the Minister of Education for the decisive measures he had taken to solve this issue.

## REGIONS

- The Committee was informed in detail of the situation of the ***Africa Region***, following the tragic death of Regional Director Kiraithe Nyaga in a plane crash last January. Since then, several members of the Geneva Office have visited the Nairobi Office to take interim measures, particularly in the delicate area of financial management and accounting – which required stricter control – until a new Regional Director is appointed. A call for candidature has been made; a decision for the appointment of the new Director should, in principle, be made with the Africa Regional Committee on 19 August.
- The Committee was also informed of the situation of the ***European Region***, where Jocelyne Gendrin-Guinebault had just been appointed Regional Director to replace Dominique Bénard, following his appointment as Director of Youth Programme in the Geneva Office. A Staff Management Conference had been held the week before the World Committee meeting to arrange for the hand-over of Dominique to Jocelyne, which is taking place smoothly. The Committee was also informed that the financial deficit within the Region had been erased and that the financial situation was now good. The work of the Region on the Strategy for Scouting and the Mission, and the plans for the next Regional Conference in Prague in 2001, were reported to the Committee.
- In relation to the ***Eurasia Region***, the Committee noted with considerable concern that the Regional Chairman, Harout Haroutunian (a senior executive

with the Armenian state television network) was still in prison since 5 January when he was arrested. Although there was no evidence whatsoever, he was accused of having links with the five terrorists who murdered seven people, including the Prime Minister, in the Armenian Parliament last October. The Scout Movement, at national, regional and world levels, had worked very hard to help secure his release, in cooperation with international human rights organizations. This included a private prison visit (without the presence of Armenian officials) by the Secretary General of WOSM, at the end of March, during a much publicized visit to Armenia which helped to put additional pressure on the authorities. It was hoped that he would be released by the time the Committee met, but unfortunately this had not yet happened. The Committee sent a new and strong message, individually signed by all its members, to the Public Prosecutor in Armenia.

[On 2 June, shortly after the Committee meeting, Harout was finally released from prison. All charges against him have been dropped.]

## OTHER ITEMS

Among the many other items considered by the Committee, the following are noteworthy:

- The Committee received the report of the **Strategy Task Force**, that had met the day before. Work on the Strategy/Mission since the World Scout Conference in Durban last July, which had adopted the mission statement, was progressing very well. A first document, entitled "*A Strategy for Scouting: from Durban to Thessaloniki: 1. Understanding the Mission Statement*", which described a number of ways to facilitate the understanding and use of the mission statement by the wide range of national associations, was published and sent in March. A second document entitled "*A Strategy for Scouting: from Durban to Thessaloniki: 2. Achieving the Mission of Scouting*", which will be a tool to help associations to examine the challenges involved in achieving the mission, is presently being drafted and will be published this summer. The Committee was also informed of further plans of the Task Force till the next World Conference; these include the use of wider networks, which will also involve young people, to test the material it produces and the involvement of Regional Conferences in 2001 in the process leading up to Greece in 2002.
- The Committee also received the report of the **2007 Task Force** for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scouting that had met the day before; the report was presented by Mr. Derek Pollard, Chairman of the U.K. "Scouting 2007 Limited". Two youth members from the planning team of the World Scout Youth Forum have been invited to join the Task Force. The meeting agreed on a plan of action covering the period through the next World Conference in Greece in 2002. The next step will be the "August 1<sup>st</sup>" distribution this year of a special booklet to all associations about the Anniversary (the date is the official 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2007). The booklet and covering letter will call the attention of associations to seriously begin making plans for the Centenary. The design of related emblems/logos for the Anniversary and the World Scout Jamboree is now in the final stages and they are expected to be presented to the next meeting of the Committee for approval.
- Concerning the **Fact-Finding Study on WAGGGS/WOSM** (Durban Conference Resolution 14/99), John Beresford circulated his written notes to Commit-

tee members to read and comment upon during the meeting. He emphasized that this was not a draft of his report, but simply his notes as they stood at the time of the meeting. They still need to be reworked, completed and put in final form. The Committee thanked Mr. Beresford for the very impressive work he had done and reiterated its full support of the approach he had adopted, and Committee members made a number of suggestions concerning various aspects of the report.

The WAGGGS and WOSM Fact-Finding Studies would, as far as possible, each cover the same headings and structure; the actual format and presentation would be agreed between the WAGGGS and WOSM representatives. The facts concerning WAGGGS and WOSM would be respectively validated by the WAGGGS and WOSM representatives and the final presentation would be ready in September, before the October meetings of the World Scout Committee and the WAGGGS World Board. The meeting was advised that the WAGGGS internal Strengths and Weaknesses Study would also be available in September.

In consultation with WAGGGS, the World Committee agreed not to hold meetings of the joint Consultative Committee until such time as the basic Fact-Finding had been completed.

- On the question of ***recognition of Scouting in new countries***, the Committee considered two cases:
  - First, ***Russia***, concerning which the Committee reaffirmed its decision of November 1999 (Circular 24/1999) to open the way for the recognition of ARNSO as the only National Scout Organization of Russia under the WOSM Constitution, subject of course to the completion of the processing of the ARNSO statutory documents by the Constitutions Committee. The Committee took that decision after a detailed consideration of NORS-R's letter of April 2000. That letter was the subject of a circular in May (N° 11/2000) to all National Scout Organizations to which was attached a copy of the Committee's answer to NORS-R's letter and a detailed response to all points raised in that letter.
  - Second, ***Azerbaijan***, whose Scout Association had applied for WOSM membership. Following approval of its constitution by the Constitutions Committee, the World Committee agreed to recommend its recognition to the World Conference by postal vote.
- The Committee discussed the subject of developing a ***"World Scout Portal"*** on the Internet; this was also the consequence of a proposal initially made by non-Scout entities, and most recently, two members of the Scout Association of Australia. (This would be a large Internet site providing information and services for all members of the Movement, and be a portal to national Scout organizations and local resources.) The principle of developing a World Scout Portal was accepted, subject to finding the resources needed through sponsorship. The Committee thanked in particular its member Toby Suzuki and Lars Kolind, a member of the Fundraising Committee of the World Scout Foundation, as well as several other volunteers and professionals who had done a lot of work on this subject.
- The question of the ***Policy on Involvement of Young Members in Decision Making***, including the future of the World Scout Youth Forum, had, you will recall (Circular 24/1999), been entrusted to the Educational Methods Group, in consultation with associations that have offered their support. The Committee

was pleased to note that, as a contribution to the work of the E/M Group, the UK Scout Association will be collecting input from a wide spectrum of opinion within WOSM and will be offering a number of alternative models to stimulate thought and opinions on youth participation within the Scout Movement at all levels.

- On the question of **Child Protection**, the Committee was happy to note that Dr. William Wells (Australia) had accepted to work on a project, involving other National Scout Associations, which consists of collecting information in order to produce a document for the use of all WOSM National Scout Associations as well as other youth organizations.
- In relation to the **World Scout Foundation**, the Committee was pleased to note that the results of its financial year are better than anticipated, which will enable the Foundation once again to make a substantial increase in its grant to the World Scout Bureau.