



WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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Date: April 26, 1988
To: The World Service Conference
From: Jim Wymore, Chairperson
WSO International Ad-Hoc Committee

This report is a summary of the events which have taken place within the WSO International Ad-Hoc Committee for the past Conference year. It will include information about meetings of the committee as well as an International activities update.

The committee was formed by action of the Conference in 1987 to address some specific concerns of the Fellowship with regard to the International community of Narcotics Anonymous. Two meetings were held during the year, one in Denver at the WSC workshop in October and another on Saturday, April 23rd, prior to the Conference.

In October at our first meeting, we began discussing a preliminary research report concerning a cost equalization plan, the purpose of which would be to spread the cost of attendance to the World Service Conference participants among all the regions attending. Next we discussed how translation of N.A. materials was being accomplished by the Office as well as a proposal from the Select Committee to consider the desirability of Continental Conferences. Also discussed was action being considered by the WSO Board to open a branch of the Office in Europe.

At our meeting prior to the Conference we reviewed the progress accomplished on the cost equalization draft advanced by the WSC Administrative Committee and recommend its further development. That report is presented on page seven of the Conference Agenda Report. Also we discussed our support of the direction in which the Select Committee is moving toward development of the concept of Continental Service Conferences. Another agenda item was review of the WSO Translations Policy into which input and suggestions had been included from Ad-Hoc and Advisory members of the committee. We now feel that it is acceptable for presentation. It is attached to this report for your information.

There are three events of interest scheduled in the International community in the coming months. The agenda for the European Service Conference will be discussed in Paris, at a meeting the last week in May. The ESC is scheduled for July 22, 23, 24 in Paris and we anticipate a very organized meeting with wide participation. There was a rather amusing expression of apprehension at the meeting prior to the Conference that

Americans would see the European Service Conference as sort of a rebellion against WSC. We were reassured that it is simply a forum for the sharing of European concerns

Scheduled also for the last weekend in May, is another meeting of the National Service Committee in Brazil. They have requested that WSC give them guidance concerning the use of the name Toxicomanos Anonimos. It would be very beneficial to have participation of members from World Services at that meeting to explain the WSC position to the Brazilians. At the same time other South American N.A. communities could be visited. On a previous trip to Brazil made by WSO staff, it was discovered that the Brazilians were distributing and using in their groups, literature which was liberally adapted and translated from sources such as the Basic Text. After the Conference we expect to have some dialog with them about this issue.

During the last several months we have had a substantial amount of activity both in translations and development within our International communities. The volume of communication continues to rise steadily and translation efforts are achieving consistency in all the different language groups with which we are currently working. Spanish, French, Portuguese, German and to some degree Italian translations of the I.P.'s and the White Booklet, are all reaching a stage of completion. In accordance with the Translations Policy the plan would be to next translate the Basic Text and various service materials.

When the WSO Board met in March, members of the WSO staff presented several concerns directly related to the translation process. At that meeting the WSO Board reaffirmed their support of using the English name Narcotics Anonymous along with the accepted translated version of our name on the front cover of all translated pamphlets. The WSO Board agreed that this practice should be confirmed by the WSC. Prior to the meeting in March the office was contacted by members in Montreal, who objected to this practice. Subsequently they found it to be acceptable upon discussing the issue at a meeting of the Quebec RSC. We are now finishing the typesetting and should have the new French translations in stock shortly and ready for distribution.

We also discussed the continuing problems with our Portuguese translations and the significant differences evolved in that language between continental Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese. Previous discussion of the issue with members in both countries did not render a common understanding regarding one version acceptable to all, as was the situation with our Spanish members. Consequently, two versions of Portuguese are being developed.

Other language translations that are in a very early stage of development include: Dutch, Swedish, Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, and Chinese. Japanese translations are on hold. We hope that further work will be accomplished with the Japanese while they are here for the Conference.

Generally, WSO staff comprehension of the overall translation process has improved. WSO in its attempts to provide accurate and useable translations of our literature has learned many lessons which improve our

ability to respond to the needs of the different language groups. Although some problems continue to exist, credibility in the process is gaining respect and acceptance.

Underlying all this translation development process is the negative effect of constantly changing our literature. This makes it impossible for members within the various International communities to proceed confidently in their translation committee efforts. The quibbling over changes in our literature is seen by some as "luxury problems." Until we stop the flow of constant revisions to our literature the translations process is effectively held up. Addicts all over the world should be able to derive benefit from our literature. Unfortunately, what we do here seems to prevent that.

Other input indicates that some of our literature is so poorly written that problems of comprehension are not caused exclusively from translating from one cultural background to another as much as they are from trying to translate the original source into another language.

Communication is on the rise from different points around the globe. The Caribbean area has all of sudden become a hot spot for growth; especially Puerto Rico, the West Indies, the Virgin Islands, and Jamaica. Groups in India continue to grow and establish themselves and WSO was recently notified of a new ASC in Bombay that serves seven groups. Other inquiries have also been received from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Growth in South America is steady and includes new groups forming in Uruguay and Brazil. WSO is now receiving more communication and information from Central American countries and Mexico. Most of these concern Tradition questions (i.e., how do we pay rent?, involvement with drug prevention groups, and how to inform the public of their existence) and reports of the number of new members now attending meetings. Unfortunately, no word has been received lately from our members in Argentina. If they are anything like their Brazilian neighbors, they may already be off on their own track, not understanding their association with the worldwide Fellowship.

The WSO International Ad-Hoc Committee believes that it should continue to meet at the Conference next year and again at one other time during the year at possibly the World Convention or another suitable location such as the European Service Conference. We have begun to learn a great deal about the diverse problems of reaching the International community of recovering addicts. We appreciate the opportunity to enter into new areas of development within Narcotics Anonymous.

WSO TRANSLATION POLICY

(Revised March 23, 1988)

Narcotics Anonymous literature carries with it a worldwide copyright. Therefore, when translating material it should not be adapted or changed without permission from the World Service Office, prior to printing and/or publication. All of our translated literature should conform to the spirit and meaning of the original version, although some application and understanding of the N.A. philosophy is affected by local customs and culture. All translations are required to be submitted to the WSO for review and approval before permission is granted to print or reprint.

For the purpose of translating Narcotics Anonymous literature the following process has been developed as a general guide:

1. Translated material is originated by N.A. members (it is preferred to have a native language translation committee when possible) who are native speakers of the language into which the original material will be translated, or by the WSO using the services of a translation company preferably in the country where the translation would be used.
2. Translation of material shall be done in the following order: I.P.'s and Little White Book, Group Starter Kit, Basic Text, service material, unless there are extenuating circumstances to the contrary.
3.
 - a.) When material is developed it is sent out for review and comment to the appropriate committee or to all members on file at the WSO known to be native speakers and skilled at communication in that language.
 - b.) All comments received within a reasonable period of time are evaluated and may be reflected in a subsequent or final draft. In some cases it may be necessary to send the drafts out more than once to the appropriate committee or members; in this situation the review and comment process is continued until a final draft is achieved.
 - c.) When final comments are received they are evaluated by the Translation Advisory Committee and the final translation is then prepared for publication, distribution, and placed in stock.
4. The World Service Office Translation Advisory Committee shall be made up of the following members:
 - a.) Two WSO Directors appointed by the WSO Chairperson.
 - b.) Two WSB members appointed by the WSB Chairperson.
 - c.) Two members of the World Literature Committee appointed by the WLC Chairperson.

- d.) WSO Executive Director.
- e.) Two WSO staff members assigned to the Translations Department.
- f.) Additional members who are participants in a specific language translation process as necessary and appointed by the committee.

The administrative responsibilities of translating N.A. literature is the function of the WSO staff members. The WSO staff members shall inform, consult, and communicate with the Advisory Committee as described above, on a regular basis regarding the status of all translation activities. After concurrence with the local Fellowship, the WSO Translation Advisory Committee has the responsibility for final translation approval. In addition, it is the responsibility of the committee members to initiate and/or recommend action regarding issues, problems, policies or procedures which are presented.

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