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TO: The Fellowship

FROM: Stu Tooredman, Chairperson  
World Service Office Board of Directors

RE: Report to World Service Conference for 1989/90

DATE: April 23, 1990

The Board of Directors and I would like to express our gratitude for having the opportunity to serve the fellowship. Serving on the WSO Board is a privilege, but is not the easiest service position. The board is highly visible and decisions are subjected to considerable scrutiny.

This has been one of the busiest and most important years for the WSO. Major issues were addressed and projects implemented to satisfy them. This report will address some of the more significant matters: An eastern shipping facility, illegal use of the logo, research of tax matters, operation of the European branch office, diminishing sales of the Basic Text, explosive growth outside North America, resolution of difficulties with literature distribution in Canada and many other issues.

As the year progressed, greater emphasis was made in developing coordination with the trustees and conference administrative committee on many matters. While discussions have ordinarily been held on important matters among the boards and committees, more attention was placed on the exchange of information and decisions that were supported by the other service arms. Having members of each service branch attend and participate in meetings of the others went a long way toward improving communication.

Decisions about travel, translations, and international fellowship assistance are good examples of the improved working relationship. At a recent trustee meeting, this was discussed and produced an even stronger commitment for seeking advice and consent for such matters.

#### EUROPEAN BRANCH OFFICE

Few discussions concerning the WSO responsibilities have been as long and widely publicized as literature distribution and the decision to open the European Service Office (ESO). The office presented discussions on this project in the Newline and Fellowship Report for two years before it was initiated. It was discussed at the conference last year. Support from the conference has been an important factor in the board's commitment to this project.

As you will probably recall from the conference last year, the office experienced the need to replace the employee originally assigned to this task. Soon after the conference was over, the search for a replacement was initiated. However,

by June, it became obvious that office income for the year might not be sufficient to meet the full expenditure plans laid out for the branch office.

We were fortunate to find a capable employee in the London N.A. community who showed the potential to staff the office alone, at least for a while. Her name, as many of you know is Lizzie Guest. She was hired in August, and spent the first few weeks of her employment in Van Nuys for orientation and training. She returned to London in September.

An office location had already been established and the equipment set in place. Lizzie was able to begin work almost immediately. She has done well, and we have worked out an effective way to supervise her activities from Van Nuys.

Although the office is now in operation, there continues to be discussion about its location. When the board was discussing the location of the ESO, other countries and cities were considered. We decided to open an office in London because we thought it would be easier to get the operation going, at first, in an English-speaking city. Consideration can now be given to finding a permanent location, perhaps somewhere on the continent.

There have been operational problems from time to time. We continue to have difficulties with the banks that handle the transfer of funds from the U.S. and with the bank that handles disbursements for us in London. The ESO does not yet produce much income from literature sales, but we expect that sales will pick up soon. In the meantime, all funds for its operation will come from the general fund at the WSO.

Getting the office active and involved takes time. For a while, there were relatively few phone calls or letters. But as time carries on and staff efforts are expended, the ESO is becoming more active. During the past few months, the office has been stocked with literature to sell, and production of literature through the ESO is now possible. Each month the office operates, new activities will begin.

The ESO will be an important resource to professionals and government agencies anxious to find out about our experience, strength, and hope for recovery from addiction. It can provide literature and respond to inquiries about N.A. from nonmembers, as is done currently from Van Nuys. The visibility and strength the ESO will provide for the fellowship in Europe will encourage more nonmember inquiries.

The office will be able to respond to requests for literature from anywhere in Europe, including requests from new groups. Groups will be able to obtain assistance and support when they encounter problems, and so will service committees. A one-person office cannot provide answers to all these service questions, but can locate needed resources throughout Europe or elsewhere and provide the connection to those needing it. A key value of the ESO will be to provide coordination and administrative support. Being responsive to the needs of the fellowship is the watch word for the office, just like the WSO is.

Already, the ESO has obtained the assistance of bilingual members in London in resolving questions and helping with translations. As this network of resources is expanded and as more inquiries are received, the ESO will become even more responsive and effective.

Arrangements were recently made to be able to print information pamphlets at facilities near London if that is proven to be financially prudent. Further study is being made on where literature for use in Europe should be printed. For any literature printed elsewhere, the ESO will serve as a single point of entry to the European Economic Community. However, if cheaper suppliers are found in Europe, fewer items will be shipped from the United States.

A decision was made several years ago at the European Service Conference to develop and publish a periodical for the fellowship in Europe. However, only a few issues of the European Newslines were published by the U.K. Service Office, and

with a recent change in UKSO staff, continuation of the publication has been uncertain. Therefore, the ESO has assumed responsibility for publishing the European Newslines. Although a small item, it will be expanded as members in Europe provide more input. The European Newslines will also help inform the European fellowship of those things which are more relevant to their needs than to the rest of N.A.

The ESO can also help to facilitate the implementation of service workshops like those held in the U.S. Workshops on H&I or P.I. would help strengthen these activities. Workshops that focus on how to effectively coordinate area committee services could also be held.

### **EASTERN SHIPPING BRANCH OFFICE**

In 1984, the WSO investigated the possibilities of either moving the office or opening a branch shipping facility near the center of the country. The subject has great appeal, and discussion of these alternatives has continued. For the past two years, the WSO directors and staff have studied the matter in earnest.

In preparing the 1990 budget proposal, a Cincinnati shipping office was considered. The board would have adopted this proposal if it had been cost effective. Unfortunately, the cost for opening and operating the facility was considerably more than would have been saved.

The matter is not over. The board feels committed to this project, but believes it can proceed only when it is financially practical to do so. Despite the office's fluctuating income in 1989 and 1990, our literature sales will increase which in turn improves the savings that would result. It may be desirable to initiate this office project even if it is not fully cost effective. An improvement in the shipping response time would be beneficial and it would reduce the cost for storage of the Basic Text held at the printer for bulk shipments to the Mid and Eastern United States.

### **IMPROPER USE OF THE N.A. LOGO**

At the conference last year, the WSO was authorized to include an unspecified variety of merchandise items in the inventory as one means of addressing the problem of outside enterprises using the N.A. logo on their products. This matter was debated extensively by the board, before and after last year's conference, and was the subject of a detailed proposal from the staff. The proposal was included as part of the budget for the current year, and provided for the purchase and marketing of jewelry items. The board adopted the proposal.

While we planned to market jewelry items first, there is a wider variety of items containing the N.A. logo being sold by outside vendors. Recent developments in the other major aspect of the issue have led us to reconsider the jewelry plan.

Letters have been sent and meetings have been held with representatives of outside companies that are violating N.A. trademark rights. These letters and meetings have sought voluntary action by those outside companies to respect and acknowledge N.A. ownership of the logo. All but one of the companies contacted so far has consented to the request. The one exception, discussed at the conference last year, is now the defendant in a lawsuit filed by the office.

It is not possible to discuss the litigation in detail, as it might negatively affect N.A. interest in the matter. However, as a result of the suit and other discussions, the issue of licensing these outside companies has arisen. In a licensing

arrangement, an outside enterprise would be authorized by written agreement to include the N.A. logo on products they sell.

Almost all of those who are making these items with the N.A. logo are members. They want to continue making and selling their products, yet they want to do so without being subjected to confrontations or anger as many other members challenge their right to make products with the logo.

Unfortunately for many of these businesses, the WSO does not believe it can or should include all their products in the WSO inventory, which is currently the only way they can legally market their merchandise. It would also mean that members who now get and use these products would find some of them no longer available. A natural solution to avoid having the office become the "Sears Roebuck" of recovery paraphernalia is to license these businesses so they can legitimately make and sell the things our members obviously want.

This alternative has received considerable discussion. The Board of Directors has combined forces with the World Service Board of Trustees and the WSC Administrative Committee to discuss this issue. We agreed that license agreements would clearly contradict Tradition Six.

This leaves us with two equally unpalatable alternatives.. Alternative One is that the office open the doors for a wide-ranging inventory of merchandise. Alternative Two is that WSO move to have vendors discontinue all production of merchandise using the N.A. logo.

The first alternative satisfies both the members who want these items and the merchandise vendors. While there is a growing concern about office income being able to meet operational expenses and growing fellowship needs, the board does not feel income from this alternative is desirable.

The second alternative would put the manufacturers of unauthorized products containing the logo out of business. It would also deprive our members of many of the things they like to own and wear. This alternative could not be implemented immediately. It would require a phased reduction in the business over a period of two years or so.

The office is asking for conference advice on this matter. Is our interpretation correct and should it be followed, or can the conference provide a different solution?

The use of the logo within the fellowship by boards and committees also needs clarification. We believe the 1981 conference motion did not adequately address the problem. During the coming year, it is our intention that this matter be more thoroughly discussed so the conference can consider it in greater detail next year.

## **N.A. AND TAXES**

This section is the long-awaited report on N.A. bank accounts and tax matters for groups and committees. These matters have been discussed and studied for years. We are now able to offer reasonable advice on both subjects.

The WSO has had a law firm researching these issues over the last year. This memorandum is a synopsis of that research. Although this memorandum pertains primarily to the N.A. fellowship in the United States, similar research is being done in some other countries. As that information becomes available, it will be distributed to those it affects.

N.A. groups and service committees must abide by banking and tax laws and regulations. Just because we consider N.A. to be "non-profit" or "tax exempt" does not mean it is or that we are excused from compliance with appropriate laws and

regulations. We believe that it is possible to comply while remaining faithful to our traditions.

The first issue can be handled quite easily. Every group that wants to open a bank account for managing its money, can and should do so. Before doing so, the group should obtain a taxpayer identification number for the exclusive use of that group. The form necessary to acquire this I.D. number is half a page long and easy to use. It can be obtained from the nearest office of the Internal Revenue Service. Ask for form SS-4.

Does this form make the group "non-profit" or "tax exempt"? No. Submitting the form simply gets a tax identification number, which the group then uses when it opens a bank account.

Is the group required to file tax returns? Well, yes and no.

NO. Those groups that take in less than \$5,000.00 a year and meet all of the requirements for tax exemption do not need to file a tax return. So that groups can find out whether or not they qualify for this exception, a draft revision of the Group Treasurer's Workbook is being prepared by the staff and the law firm, and will soon be given to the conference treasurer for evaluation and consideration. Groups that handle their affairs within the guidelines set out in the Handbook, should be reasonably well protected without applying for tax exempt status.

YES. For those groups that handle more than \$5,000.00 per year, whether or not they meet all the requirements for tax exemption, a return is required. Groups that handle over \$5,000.00 per year have two choices of action. The first choice is to function as a tax paying entity, but act on a non-profit basis without seeking tax exemption. Operating in this manner, the group performs as a "profit making" activity but, since the expenses will normally be approximately the same as the income, there will be little tax to pay. The appropriate federal and state tax forms are completed at the end of the year and taxes are paid if there was "profit" from the years activity. Donations made to tax exempt boards or committees by the group prior to the end of the fiscal year could eliminate most "profit" and allow for fellowship retention of that income. The disadvantage of operating "as a profit making activity" is that a member making a Seventh Tradition contribution to the group cannot claim the contribution on their personal tax report.

The second choice is for the group to obtain recognition as a tax exempt organization by filing IRS form 1023. This course of action has several alternatives that can be followed.

As a first alternative, the group could apply for tax exemption for its own activity and not include other groups. We believe an application for tax exempt status would be granted and afford the group relief from paying tax, but not from the requirement to complete a tax return each year. The group would not need to incorporate. It could submit its reports in the name of the group as an unincorporated association of individuals. The group could incorporate if it was decided that was a preferred choice. A handbook on the alternative of groups filing an IRS form 1023 can be developed, if the conference wishes, but is not available at this time. Because of the administrative ability essential to assure compliance if this alternative is followed, groups handling over \$5,000.00 per year may not find this alternative to be a practical solution.

The second alternative would be to consolidate the financial and tax reporting of nearby groups into a unit. Such a unit or units could file for and obtain a *group*

*exemption*. This form of IRS recognition is the type used by the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and would cover all of the groups in the unit. However, from our investigation of this alternative, we are of the opinion that it is inappropriate for the fellowship as a whole, and maybe even for smaller collections of N.A. groups. This alternative is designed for organizations that have a central administrative unit, with smaller units under its control and authority. Because our groups, according to our traditions, are autonomous, this alternative may not be acceptable for our groups.

There is a third alternative, but it would take a considerable amount of work and time to obtain. An application could be made by world services to the commissioner of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for a special letter of determination or ruling about how all N.A. groups should comply with the IRS reporting requirements. This special ruling procedure can be used any time the laws do not clearly instruct an organization on what it must do to satisfy the law. N.A. is a rather unique organization, and the laws do not seem to fit all of the components of N.A. very well. Consideration has been given to having world services make such an application to provide greater certainty for all groups and to try and obtain a solution that relieves groups that collect over \$5,000.00 per year from the reporting requirements. There is reason to believe that the overall position of the groups, and of N.A. as a whole, could be clarified and improved as the result of such a ruling.

We have decided not to appeal for a special ruling right now. The issue of preparing and making a request for a special ruling requires additional consideration and discussion. This is one of the issues the office has sought and received trustee input and involvement on. Filing an application could affect all of N.A. within the U.S. by attracting attention from the IRS to all of N.A.'s individual groups and activities. The office does not want to make such a far-reaching decision without further careful discussion and consultation.

All of the information above can be applied to area and regional committees. If your area or regional committee takes in less than \$5,000.00 per year, you may not need to file tax reports. Simply keep good records and meet the other requirements for tax exemption.

If your area or regional committee takes in more than \$5,000.00 then you must file a tax return. The committee has three options: filing a form 1023 to get the tax exemption determination, function as a tax paying entity but act on a non profit basis or obtain a *group exemption* determination.

The *group exemption* alternative might, provide an efficient way for area or regional committees to handle their accounts and meet the reporting requirements of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. If an area committee or region chose this alternative, would it have to incorporate? No. The area or region could operate and file its returns as an unincorporated association of individuals. However, if the area or region believed incorporation were the best way to proceed, that, too, could be accommodated.

How would this work? It is fairly easy, but requires attention and full participation. First, the area or regional committee obtains a tax identification number and then files to obtain a *group exemption* determination. Then, all subcommittees would operate out of a single account managed by the area or regional committee treasurer. This single account would be the basis of a consolidated unit tax return at the end of the year. Separate accounts for each subcommittee could be maintained, but if this were done, then all of the financial

data for each subcommittee (bank statements, checks, and records of receipts and expenditures) would have to be turned over to the area or regional committee treasurer for inclusion in the consolidated return.

## SPEAKER TAPES

Few responsibilities of the office have been as frustrating as the review and sale of speaker tape recordings. Although we've reported this problem to the conference each year, and have discussed it in *Newsline* articles and *Fellowship Reports*, the tape review program is still not working well.

The program did meet with some success, in that ten tapes were approved by the review committee and will soon be entered into the WSO speaker tape inventory. These are the first new tapes to be added in several years. However, fewer than two hundred tapes of each speaker are sold in an average year. The project, therefore, is not cost effective. WSO spends more money keeping the tape review process going than is made from tape sales.

The first difficulty is getting new tapes of acceptable quality. While many tapes with an excellent message may be received, that message does not come through unless they have an adequate recording quality.

We have sought to obtain tapes from many conventions by asking that copies be donated. These requests in *Newsline* articles have produced few responses. It has been necessary for WSO staff to seek out tapes to be reviewed. Even when this occurs, many of the tapes cannot be entered into the process until a copyright release is obtained. This frequently makes it impossible for many tapes to be considered.

Another difficulty has been an expensive and cumbersome review process. Each tape that can be reviewed, is reviewed. Copies are made and sent to members of review teams. Conference telephone calls are then held to discuss each tape. Progress has been made in this respect. The committee is more active and involved this year than in any previous year. However, in recent discussions with the committee, concern was expressed about actually getting the tapes from approval into actual sales. Entering newly approved tapes was delayed this year while work continued on a new catalog. The new tapes will soon be available for sale.

The committee had been working according to a system that required approval from two different review committees. The first was a screening committee that simply rejected unacceptable tapes and recommended approval on the others to the second review committee. The second review committee then voted on approving them for the inventory. There is great diversity in the N.A. message, and the review process screens out some of that diversity. The committee discussed this recently and felt unhappy about it. Although there may not be an easy solution, we thought you should know that all is not well in the tape review process.

At one time during the year, the board, based on committee discussion and staff recommendation, changed the percentage of vote among the committee that was necessary for approval of tapes. This was found to be unworkable, and it was changed. The committee plays a primary role in all of this, and their advice counts strongly.

We will continue attempting to work within the existing conference-authorized policy for another year. However, we expect to return to the conference next year with a concrete proposal for change.

### **BASIC TEXT SALES**

Every year since the text was first printed, there was a considerable increase in sales. That was true until this year. As reported in the executive director's annual report, there is concern over the number of Basic Texts being sold. Considerable research has gone into this to discover what happened and what affect it has on the fellowship.

Each summer there has been a drop in the sales of literature generally. By October, the sales level has usually returned to the level prior to the summer slump. This year, that did not happen until the beginning of 1990.

This had a general affect on literature sales within the Fellowship. It required some offices to rely more on money from other sources. Despite the general leveling of sales, the WSO still had an increase in the net income. The impact, therefore, was that the scope and extent of services which could have been provided were curtailed. For example, the European Service Office was affected by having less money available for its operation.

There were months when we did not have enough cash on hand to pay all of our bills. As a result, a large part of the reserve WSO started the year with has been depleted. It was necessary to restrict some expenditures. International travel was watched carefully, and some was deferred. Two additional staff positions the board had authorized were not filled because of the shortfall in income.

Review of the sales information contained in the executive director's report indicates that the dip in the rate of increase of Basic Text sales was related more to non-fellowship purchasing than to sales within the fellowship. The dollar value of sales within the fellowship continued to increase, although not at the rate of prior years. We have discussed this with a number of people, both in the fellowship and in the treatment industry. The single factor everyone seems to point to is the reduced coverage insurance companies are providing for addiction treatment. With this reduction in funding, many centers have fewer new patients, and therefore spend less on literature.

While this matter is of no real consequence to the existence of N.A. in a philosophical sense, we will continue to make adjustments as such forces impact literature sales. Narcotics Anonymous will exist and operate to meet our needs, regardless of such outside forces. We felt it important to discuss this issue, so as to alleviate any fears that WSO might be devastated by such fluctuations in sales outside the fellowship.

### **TRANSLATIONS AND EXPLOSIVE INTERNATIONAL GROWTH**

This year, more effort has been expended encouraging the international growth of N.A. than in any previous year, and there is more to show for it than ever before. Last summer, two teams of world-level trusted servants attended the European Service Conference, afterward visiting four other countries to get first-hand knowledge of the international fellowship. One team went to Italy and Israel, while the other went to Finland and Sweden. Later in the year, additional trips were made to Colombia, India, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Spain, and Germany. Reports on

all of these have been made in the *Newsline* or *Fellowship Report*, except those recently made; reports will be forthcoming about those trips.

Perhaps the most exciting international event was the printing and distribution of the Basic Text in French. An initial printing of five thousand books was completed in December, and the books were immediately shipped to Canada and to the ESO. The books in Canada were first made available at a Saturday event organized in Montreal by the Quebec Region. Hundreds of members attended the event, purchased books, and attended a meeting and dance that evening. Those who were present report this to have been a particularly emotional evening.

The texts were received in Paris in time for a New Year's Eve meeting and celebration. French-speaking members who have been in N.A. for years were finally able to read the message of recovery in their own language. For the past seven years, as the meetings in France started and hung on, very little of N.A. philosophy was available in French. Members there can now read and study the N.A. message of recovery.

A second printing of the French text has recently been completed, and will soon be distributed. The majority of the first printing was sent to Canada, as the French-speaking N.A. community there is quite large. With the book now available in French, the fellowship will grow stronger and quickly in all French-speaking communities.

Effort was made to maintain the translation efforts already in progress, and to expand translations into other languages.

When translations are made, there is always concern about being able to convey the true meaning of ideas into the new language. We have come to rely primarily on the member translation committee who does the work or refines the work to assure that the true meaning is translated accurately. When there is doubt about that, discussions are held with the translation committee to get assurance of the accuracy and if necessary make changes.

An example of this recently arose with the translation of the Second Tradition currently in use in German language literature.

In English, the second sentence reads "Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern." In the translation, the sentence reads more closely as, "trusted servants are but trusted servants, they do not govern." This situation arose because the most accurate term for leader is *Fuhrer*.

Since the word *Fuhrer* has a particular connotation to it, many German-speaking people--our members included--avoid using it except when discussing the individual who is most commonly identified with that term. Our members had long ago adopted the AA translation of the Second Tradition which used "trusted servants" rather than "*Fuhrer*."

While in Germany to discuss their license agreement for printing, a discussion of this matter was held with members of their translation committee. The Trustee present on this trip explained the difficulty the choice presented about a full understanding of leadership in N.A. The translation committee members volunteered to have their committee discuss the matter and forward any suggestions that come up. The matter was also discussed in a conference call among some trustees, WSO directors and the conference chairperson.

The translation efforts into Swedish and Finnish have not gone as well as expected. The committee in Sweden is not concentrated in one community, so the work goes slowly. Also, there are only a few people involved, so if one has difficulty keeping up--this is a problem we all have from time to time--it slows the work.

The committee in Finland ran out of steam for a while during the year. They are now reorganizing for another attack on translations, and have communicated several times recently about their efforts. In both countries, we expect to use the

services of a nonmember to prepare the first draft, which the committee can then refine. This may help the process in both countries and speed their efforts.

Work on a draft translation of the Basic Text into Spanish began this year. The draft translation of Chapters Four and Six, accomplished several years ago, was combined with draft translations of the rest of Book One done in the summer of 1989. Over a hundred copies were sent to members and committees in the initial mailing. Many more were subsequently sent. A cover letter accompanying this draft called for a meeting later in the year to begin work on refining the Spanish text for publication.

Input was received from members in Panama, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. At the meeting in Miami, representatives from Southern California, Puerto Rico, and Florida worked together. A general discussion was held about general Spanish language issues, and some work was accomplished on the draft. A second meeting was held in Miami a few months later. A lot of work was accomplished, but there is still more to be done. Future meetings will be held, and a Spanish Text will be published. More than one version of Spanish may be published because of the diversity of the language. While most members now believe a single Spanish Book can be produced, the point is open to question.

For example addicts in different Spanish speaking cultures identify drug use and even the same drugs of choice by different terms. When referring to such things, which term should be used.

Two weeks ago, we received a draft of the text in Portuguese from the translation committee in Lisbon, Portugal. They have been working on this for some time. Although this represents a major step in developing the final draft of a Portuguese text, there is still a lot of work to be done.

## ARABIC AND HEBREW TRANSLATIONS

The two surprises in translations efforts this year were the Arabic and Hebrew translations of the Basic Text. Both were reported to the fellowship during the year. Recent progress has been achieved in both situations. A meeting was held in early April 1990 with the people responsible for the translation into Hebrew. As explained in the *Newsline*, the translators wanted to have a credit included in the printed text acknowledging who did the translation. The member involved still sought an acknowledgement, but the trustee and the WSO director who met with the individual clearly communicated the unlikely prospects of that happening. Further discussion was held during a conference telephone call with an ad hoc group of trustees, WSO directors, and the conference chairperson; that call reaffirmed this position. A letter was sent last week, explaining the situation and seeking a solution acceptable to N.A. and to the addicts who need the book in Hebrew.

The meetings held in January concerning the Arabic translation were particularly rewarding. The translator had helped start an N.A. meeting in Cairo, Egypt that includes a member who came to the fellowship while residing in Australia. There is a small but dedicated fellowship community with five weekly meetings, and two H&I activities. These members were helpful with reviewing the draft translation.

Additionally, Arabic-speaking N.A. members residing in London and Bahrain were involved and gave favorable review of the basic translation. Work is continuing, and it is expected that an Arabic text will be produced this year. The translator has been very cooperative, and we expect an arrangement will be made so that the book can be made available soon in Egypt. Copyright release forms for the Arabic translation are being prepared, and they should be completed soon.

The office will probably have the Arabic edition of the text printed in Cairo. The economic situation in Egypt is little different than other less economically developed countries. Few of our members there will likely be able to afford to contribute sufficient funds to their meetings to permit them to purchase much literature, if any. The economic circumstances in Egypt, and especially for our members is such that N.A. literature may have to be given away to our members if they are ever to have a chance to read it.

It may be necessary to adjust the Text publication standards for books produced to be used in countries with such economic problems. The Arabic Text may not be printed on the quality of paper that the English Text is printed on. The same thing may also be done for other languages with such economic situations.

Although government regulation and commerce are conducted according to rules very different from Western standards, we believe production and distribution of the book in Egypt can be accomplished. It may require that we contract with a local company to handle the sales. Production, however, will very likely be done directly under WSO contract and supervision.

### FELLOWSHIP GROWTH IN INDIA

For more than eighteen months, the WSO has been concerned about the difficulties our fellowship was facing in India. Although communications with some members had developed, and some literature orders had been received, more information was needed. In the months since our first contact, the number of registered meetings in India has grown to over forty a week.

Discussions among the trustees, the office board, and the conference chairperson led to the decision to send two world-level members to India to investigate the situation. It was particularly important to develop a practical method of literature distribution. A detailed report on this visit will be included in the next *Newsline*.

In short, the economic situation makes it almost impossible for N.A. in India to be self-supporting in the area of literature. The income of the members, and therefore of the groups, is so low that they are unable to purchase their own literature. The country in general is so poor that even members in recovery who can find work cannot afford to send away for literature; they could not afford to buy it even from a closer source.

Simply put, if literature is going to be available at meetings in India or other places with similar economic circumstances, it is going to happen only at the expense of the fellowship outside that country. Unfortunately, the WSO will find it extremely difficult to sustain the expense for distributing free literature to every economic hardship situation. If it is the conference's choice that a free literature program be developed, the conference will have to develop a fellowship-wide plan to sustain the effort. Such a plan would require elements for seeking donations, establishment of criteria for application, and a management plan.

### THE FELLOWSHIP IN BRAZIL AND COLOMBIA

Communications with the N.A. Fellowship and Toxicomanos Anonimos continued during the year. After a number of letters and phone calls, it was decided among the world service boards and the conference leadership that several members should be sent to Brazil. The goal was to seek a possible reconciliation between the two groups. A division occurred in the fellowship two years ago when a number of groups decided to change their name from Toxicomanos Anonimos to

Narcotics Anonymous. It divided the existing fellowship almost in half. Over the past two years, discussions with both sides have taken place.

The September trip included representation from the conference leadership, trustees, and WSO. Meetings were held with both groups separately. Discussions were open, frank and positive. The Toxicomanos Anonimos leadership agreed to consider the matter at a national meeting of their groups. We are pleased to report that meeting was held ten days ago and the vote was taken. Ninety percent of the groups voted to become one fellowship known as Narcoticos Anonimos. This brings the total number of N.A. groups in Brazil to just over seventy.

This should be thought of as another phase in our own growth and understanding. If there is a victory here, it is victory for recovery.

The area committee of Medellin, Colombia, has existed for about three years. About two years ago, they began printing copies of Spanish literature. They were using a combination of literature translated and available from the WSO inventory, and a draft translation made several years ago of the steps and traditions portions of the Text.

When we were informed of this, WSO began communicating with the committee by letter. Over the past two years, there has been a series of letters sent both ways. Concern has been mounting in the last six months about the extent of their printing and distribution efforts. It was necessary to have a first-hand discussion.

After consultation with the trustees and the conference chairperson, a visitation team was selected. Two people were sent, one of whom spoke both Spanish and English. The visit coincided with a scheduled meeting in Medellin of representatives of N.A. groups from eleven of the twelve cities where meetings are held. There are currently eighty-four meetings in Colombia, and all but a few were represented at this meeting by members sent from their respective cities.

The meeting had been called in order to form a national N.A. service unit, to legitimize the office originated by the Medellin ASC, and to develop other unified services. A.A. has been very helpful to the fellowship in Colombia, and, as a consequence, there was strong interest in adopting the A.A. service structure as the system for N.A. This was narrowly avoided.

The meeting did adopt a series of motions that developed a national (regional) service structure. There was an election of officers, including an RSR and alternate RSR. It is expected they will send their RSR to the conference in 1991. The meeting adopted a motion to create an office, and accepted the offer from the Medellin ASC to have *their* office function as the regional office for the coming year. To provide greater balance, two members from outside Medellin were added to the office's board of directors.

The Medellin office is young, and has a frail financial base. It is not likely that the office can exist without support from their entire national fellowship community. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of money available to Narcotics Anonymous in Colombia. However, we are sure they will strive hard to make the office work.

The issues about their printing literature on their own was discussed. They acknowledged a desire to obtain literature properly, and will strive to make those arrangements. Discussion will take place at the next WSO board meeting about this matter, and hopefully a solution will be found.

## LEGAL ISSUES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

As with the American legal and tax matters discussed previously, there are investigations being done in other countries. Meetings were held during the year

with attorneys in Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Canada. Each situation is different, but in some countries, these matters need to be addressed immediately. Whereas the U.S. government relationship could be put on hold while research was conducted over a number of years, the issues need to be resolved almost immediately in some countries.

The situations confronting the fellowship in some of these countries is that they can be prohibited from getting meeting space until the registration matter is solved. In other places they may not get mail addresses or phone service. Some countries so closely monitor personal check accounts that they cannot do what much of the U.S. fellowship has done to open accounts using their own identification number.

We have not received reports from these meetings in Portugal, Spain, or Canada. The meeting in Sweden seemed to have resolved the issues there. Fortunately, their laws about organizations like Narcotics Anonymous are quite liberal. As more information becomes available, it will be reported.

## EASTERN EUROPE

The political changes taking place in Eastern European countries is beginning to have an effect on the fellowship. The first impact has been a major increase in the desire of current members to find out what is being done by N.A. in those countries. The answer is, relatively little.

The office has had its hands full trying to service the needs of the fellowship in places where it currently exists. Trying to start new N.A. fellowship communities in places far from the main strength of the fellowship, and in countries using languages different from any in which we have translations, is hard to do. The largest difficulty is the development of accurate translations. As discussed throughout the past years and in this report, we have major problems getting accurate translations, even when we have a committee of members in the country in question working on the translations. Doing translations without that support is risky. Nevertheless, effort has been made to translate two information pamphlets into Lithuanian. A draft has been prepared, but the member-contacts who asked for the work have not provided revisions.

Because of the constant stream of contacts with medical professionals from the USSR, work will soon be initiated to develop draft translations into the Russian language. Without members who understand the language, we are reluctant to officially publish the drafts even when they are done. We still have the difficulty reported about in a recent *Newsline* article. Copyright protection is not available in the USSR.

Additionally, we do not have the ability to transact literature sales in the USSR as we can in Western nations, primarily because the nation's currency cannot be converted into western currencies or taken out of the USSR. Other Western companies conducting business in the Soviet Union have had to make barter arrangements with the Soviet government. Pepsico, for instance, exchanges its products and services for Stolichnaya vodka and Soviet-built seagoing freighters. Narcotics Anonymous would probably not be able to engage in such an arrangement. Simply stated, if literature is going to be made available in the USSR, it will have to be shipped in, already printed, and given away free.

We recently received group registration information on two meetings in the USSR. One is in Kiev, in the Ukrainian S.S.R., and the other is in Leningrad, in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. Additionally, a long letter requesting

information and assistance was received. This was given to the trustees for response, and a reply was recently developed.

The office frequently receives information from members--usually members working in treatment programs--who are host to Soviet doctors visiting the West to learn about drug treatment methodology. We are usually informed that the member has given the visiting professionals copies of N.A. literature. We expect that there are numerous medical professionals currently engaged in translating our literature for use in government treatment programs in the USSR. Unfortunately, we do not have any way to find out what the translations will actually say.

We have had much less direct contact with other former East Bloc countries. On occasion, we have heard from members who have had contact with professionals seeking literature.

The situations highlighted above demonstrate the need to activate the WSO Translation Advisory Committee that was created several years ago. The committee has not been active since its inception because earlier translation problems were resolved without needing to engage the committee. It seems prudent to activate the committee to examine issues relating to the translation of N.A. literature for use in Warsaw Pact nations, and perhaps several other items that have come to light during the year.

## TRANSLATION POLICY

There is a matter that needs the conference's attention in the near future. The last general policy statement adopted by the conference on translation policy involved printing the name of the fellowship on publications. The only other major statement by the conference was in 1984. Much has transpired in that time, and our experience has begun to shed light on what should be included in a comprehensive policy.

The name of the fellowship is perhaps the most pressing. As reported over the last year, there are situations where equivalents to the name "Narcotics Anonymous" do not exist in a given language. Hebrew, Japanese, and Russian are good examples. What name is selected in these or other places is an important matter. This goes a little beyond the question of what the words "Narcotics Anonymous" mean. Some languages have the words for literal translations, but those words have somewhat different shades of meaning than their direct English-language equivalents.

Another important matter is the development and approval of personal stories for non-English editions of the text. The 1984 policy statement provided that when the text was translated and published, Book Two, which contains the personal stories, would not be translated. The idea was that new stories would be developed from the fellowship community using the translation. All of the non-English translation efforts have proceeded on this basis. Several of those committees are now ready to begin developing personal stories.

A procedure needs to be developed for conference approval of personal stories in numerous languages so that the WSO can include them in future non-English editions of the book. It is the intention of the WSO to develop a comprehensive policy proposal for inclusion in the *Conference Agenda Report* in 1991. In developing this proposal, we will involve all of the national translation committees, and we will seek input from the WSC Literature Committee, the trustees, and the fellowship at large.

## LICENSE AGREEMENTS

The board has discussed the status and effectiveness of license agreements at practically every meeting over the past four years. This experimental program, initiated in 1986, was intended to investigate licensing as an alternative way to supply literature to some portions of the fellowship. The idea arose because of the difficulties, at that time, with poor communications, currency transaction problems, pricing differences, excessive shipping costs, constant shipping delays and lost shipments, and customs charges. In some ways the experiment has proven to be successful. However, in other ways, the experiment has not worked well at all.

The successful side is that the small pamphlets--and in a few cases the White Booklet--were more easily available to the fellowship in the countries where the license agreements were in effect. Since the four national fellowship communities began printing their own supplies of pamphlets, there has been no delay in getting the literature, nor has the local community incurred any extra cost for shipping or customs.

On the unsuccessful side, the agreements were so long and complex that license negotiations were never completed and the agreements were never signed. The provisions of the agreement required things of the local fellowship community that they were unable to comply with. The financial obligations were seldom met. There were royalty payments to be made on each item printed. For those things purchased from WSO at a reduced price--texts, key tags, medallions, etc.--there was a deferred payment schedule. Unfortunately, the royalty payment provision and the deferred payment schedule both proved unworkable.

Meetings were held with the local committees involved in three of the four countries where the unsigned agreements were in effect. There was general acknowledgment that the agreements had not been fulfilled on either side and that some modified form of agreement was desirable.

The WSO has proposed eliminating the license agreements and initiating a direct sales agreement similar to the policies that are already in effect for North America. It may be desirable to have these national communities continue to print some items, but under different conditions. This matter requires additional work, and we are unable to inform you of clear or precise policies that can be immediately applied. As new arrangements are developed, that information will be provided in the *Newsline* and *Fellowship Report*.

The European Service Office was opened, in part, to provide direct access to literature for the growing European national fellowship communities. The ESO is nearing the time when it can fully perform that duty. When it does, the N.A. communities that develop in European countries not already covered by a licensing or direct sales agreement will purchase their literature from the ESO. At this time, the board does not believe that new licensing arrangements are likely to be made in the future.

## CANADIAN LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION

A meeting was held last summer in Ontario, Canada, between representatives of world services and each of the regional service committees in Canada. The meeting was organized for the purposes of improving literature distribution in Canada, reviewing the literature price structure, discussing an office for Canada, and considering possible changes in the World Convention zone boundary map.

The meeting was very successful. An important exchange of views was held concerning problems with literature availability and pricing. A commitment was

invited the RSR and the chairperson from two different regions to come to the board meeting at the expense of the office. This project was intended to encourage better understanding of how the board operates, facilitate direct interaction from regions with the board, and further remove fears about the WSO. The board has found this project to be valuable, and intends to continue the effort. An RSR who attended the October meeting was later asked to conduct a random drawing of numbers that set the schedule for subsequent regions to be invited to the January and March meetings. A new drawing will be held at the meeting this week to set future invitations. To offset the additional cost this project entails, the board elected to eliminate one of its regular meetings. The WSO will not have an August meeting this year.

However, efforts to reduce fear or misunderstanding about the WSO need to continue. A recommendation I will be making to the board at its next meeting is that two of the board's yearly meetings be held in different cities around the fellowship. These meetings would probably have a modified format. Very likely, the meetings would include both Saturday and Sunday sessions so that all the business could get done. Part of the Saturday morning schedule could include an input session from members of the fellowship from nearby regions. The October and March meetings are the most practical meetings to schedule away from Van Nuys. Moving the meetings would possibly increase the cost of travel, but, providing funds are available, it seems like a positive step toward N.A. unity.

Over the past seven years the geographical basis for Board membership has changed considerably. In 1983, only four of thirteen directors lived outside of California. Only one of the current directors was elected from California.

### **UPCOMING BOARD VACANCIES**

The following report on the membership of the board is provided so that the conference can fill those vacancies the conference elects directly and can select additional members for the pool of potential directors. The board experienced one resignation during the middle of the year. The position was not filled and remains vacant.

**One-year terms of office expiring in June 1990.** These directors' terms of office expire at the annual meeting of the WSO board to be held in June 1990. The conference may re-elect them or replace them for one-year terms or select them for the pool from which they may be selected to serve for a three-year term:

Oliver Stanley - Ireland  
Jamie Scott-Hopkins - United Kingdom

**Three-year terms of office expiring in June 1990.** These directors' terms of office expire at the annual meeting of the WSO board to be held in June 1990. These positions will be filled from the pool of potential board members at the annual WSO board meeting in June 1990:

Don Davis - Nevada  
Bob McDonough - Texas  
Stu Tooredman - California

**Three-year terms of office expiring in 1991.** These directors' terms of office expire at the annual meeting of the WSO board to be held in June 1991. These

positions will be filled from the pool of potential board members at the annual WSO board meeting in June 1991:

Randy Jones - Maryland  
Gerrie Durkin - Arizona  
George Krzyminski - Hawaii

**Three-year terms of office expiring in 1992.** These directors' terms of office expire at the annual meeting of the WSO board to be held in June 1992. These positions will be filled from the pool of potential board members at the annual WSO board meeting in June 1992:

Martin Chess - Oregon  
Mark Daley - Maryland  
Bill Winterfeld - Louisiana

**Directors pool.** In order to help the conference in providing an adequate pool of potential directors for the board, the following list of those already in the board pool is provided. People elected to the pool remain in the pool and eligible for selection as a director for three years. Consequently, those persons elected to the pool prior to 1987 have been dropped from the list.

In previous years, an arbitrary decision was made to eliminate from the list those pool members who were subsequently elected to a conference position. This practice has been discontinued, as it seems appropriate to do so.

These persons were added to the pool in 1987, and their eligibility expires at the annual meeting in 1990:

Henry B. (British Columbia)  
Tim Banner (Lone Star)--*served in 1989/90 as WSC Policy Committee chair.*  
Bob McK. (Mid-Atlantic)  
Jim M. (Chesapeake/Potomac)  
Bob G. (California)  
John V. (Colorado)  
Danny W. (Mountaineer)  
Reuben F. (San Diego)--*served in 1989/90 as WSC vice chair.*  
Joseph P. (Volunteer)  
Billy E. (South Carolina)  
Tony D. (New York)

These persons were added to the pool in 1988, and their eligibility expires at the annual meeting in 1991:

Steve N. (Connecticut)  
J.R. Friel (Philadelphia)  
Bob McK. (Mid-Atlantic)  
Jay V. (Florida)  
Randy J. (Chesapeake/Potomac)--*was selected from the pool by the WSO board to fill a vacancy.*  
Billy A. (Mid-Atlantic)  
Reuben F. (San Diego)--*served in 1989/90 as WSC second vice chair.*

These persons were added to the pool in 1989, and their eligibility expires at the annual meeting in 1992:

Dale Andrews (Florida)  
Mel Nosan (Utah)  
Mary Banner (Texas)  
Tim Banner (Texas)--*served in 1989/90 as WSC Policy Committee chair.*  
David Tynes (Nevada)  
Jamie Scott-Hopkins (London)--*was elected by the WSC in 1989 for a one-year term on the WSO board.*  
J.R. Friel (Philadelphia)  
Martin Chess (Oregon)--*was selected from the pool by the WSO board in 1989 for a three-year term on the WSO board.*  
Bill Winterfeld (New Orleans)--*was selected from the pool by the WSO board in 1989 for a three year term on the WSO board.*  
John Standen (Australia)  
Bob McKendrick (Mid-Atlantic)  
Oliver Stanley (Ireland)--*was elected by the WSC in 1989 for a one year term on the WSO board.*