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August 10, 1977

TO: CENTRAL (INTERGROUP) OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Dear A.A. Friends,

Many of your meeting lists carry the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions and the A.A. Preamble, and many of your newsletters quote from various publications such as the Big Book, the 12 & 12, "A.A. Comes of Age," the Concepts, the Service Manual and the A.A. Conference-approved pamphlets. These are certainly wonderful ways to carry the A.A. message, and all of us who have the opportunity to read your publications and see your meeting lists, etc. enjoy them and appreciate them very much indeed. However, the directors of A.A.W.S. are faced with something of a legal problem when A.A. copyrighted material appears without the proper credit in publications which are not themselves copyrighted. **Strictly speaking, this places our copyrighted material in jeopardy, and it is possible that the Fellowship could lose control of its own material in time.** The A.A. literature belongs to all of us and is a precious part of our A.A. heritage, and safeguarding its integrity for the benefit of the entire Fellowship is one of the responsibilities of the directors of A.A. World Services.

You are more than welcome to use this material, of course, but it would be very helpful if you could include the proper credit line when it appears in future meeting lists and publications.

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The insertion of the lines quoted above in the proper place will help all of us do our part in trying to protect our own literature from misuse. We know we can count on your cooperation and so we thank you in advance.

With warm and affectionate greetings from all of us at GSO to all of you, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s= Cora Louise/

Cora Louise Belford
General Service Staff