

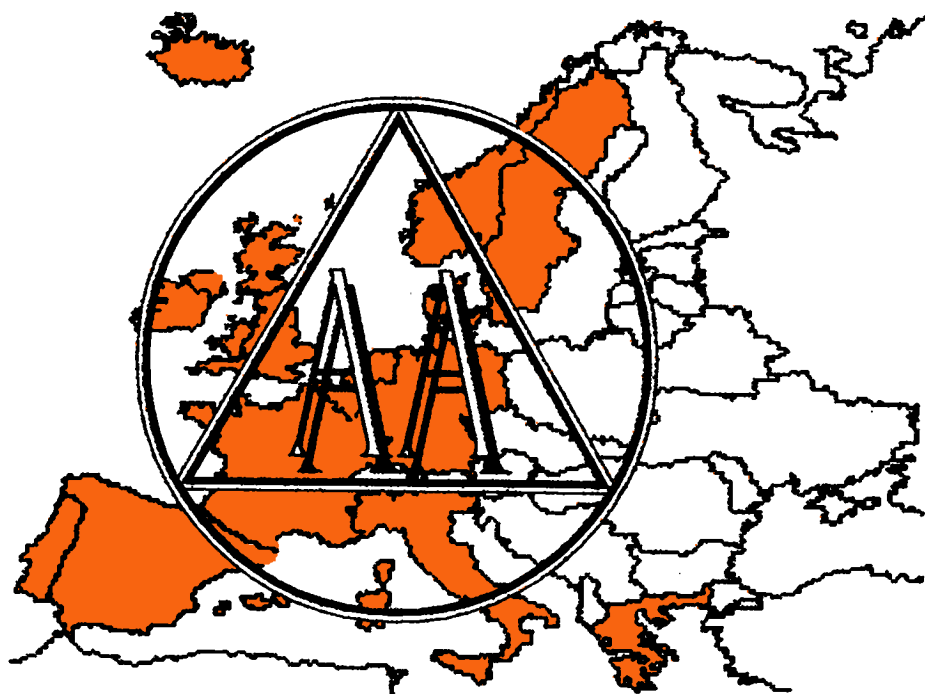
# **Ninth European Service Meeting**

**of**

## **Alcoholics Anonymous**

**24th - 26th October 1997**

**Frankfurt**



**WELCOME ADDRESS**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**COUNTRY REPORTS**

*Produced by the European Information Centre, PO Box 1, Stonebow House,  
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## GERMANY CONT'D

### GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

OUR GSO IS LOCATED IN MUNICH. IT IS COMPOSED OF: GENERAL MANAGER AND 4 PAID EMPLOYEES, ASSISTED BY AA FRIENDS FROM MUNICH.

THEY FOSTER COMMUNICATION WITH THE GROUPS OUTSIDE INSTITUTIONS AND THE PUBLIC. ALL PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ALL MINUTES, REPORTS FROM BOARD, CONFERENCE ETC., NEWSLETTERS AND OUR MONTHLY MAGAZINE IS CARRIED OUT BY THE GSO AS WELL AS DISTRIBUTION OF GERMAN SPEAKING LITERATURE.

### GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

ALL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD ARE FULL MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE. THE CONFERENCE WORKS IN SIX COMMITTEES TO FIND SUGGESTIONS CARRIED OUT BY GSB AND GSO AND TO GUIDE THE GROUPS IN CARRYING OUR MESSAGE AND SOLVE GROUP ISSUES. WE INVITE OBSERVERS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND AL-ANON. THIS YEAR WE HAD GUESTS FROM BELGIUM, HUNGARY, THE NETHERLANDS, SOLVENIA AND AL-ANON. ON RECOMMENDATION OF THE CONFERENCE TEAM WE WANT TO CONCENTRATE OUR INVITATIONS ON COUNTRIES WHERE A STRUCTURE IS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT.

THIS YEAR OUR MAIN TOPIC IN WORKSHOPS, FLOOR DISCUSSIONS AND SHARING SESSIONS WAS "UNITY IN AA". UNDER THIS TOPIC WE AGAIN DISCUSSED THE DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS WE HAD WITH SO-CALLED "BIG BOOK STUDY GROUP", WHICH PRINTED OUR CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE WITHOUT PERMISSION AND SENT IT TO ALL GROUPS. THE COVERING LETTERS LOOKED LIKE LETTERS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE.

THE CONFERENCE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD AND THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE AND DECLARED THAT THE MEASURES TAKEN WERE SUITABLE.

### CONVENTION

WE HAVE A GERMAN SPEAKING CONVENTION EACH YEAR. IN 1997 ABOUT 5100 MEMBERS AND AL-ANON (INCLUDING 271 GUESTS FROM ABROAD) MET IN NUREMBERG. THE NEXT CONVENTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA MAY 35 1998.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

AT EVERY BOARD MEETING THE GSB TALKS OVER WITH THE OFFICER FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION THE ACTUAL ISSUES OF PI. SO WE MAKE SURE THE ACTUAL PI WORK CAN BE DISCUSSED ON REGIONAL LEVEL. GROUPS ESTABLISHED TO OUTSIDE INSTITUTIONS AND TO THE PUBLIC ACCORDING TO THE FIFTH TRADITION. PI FOR GREATER EVENTS IS DONE BY THE REGIONAL PI TEAMS. A PI MANUAL IS SERVING AS A GUIDELINE FOR THIS WORK. WE ALSO HAVE PRODUCED AN AUDIO CASSETTE WITH A RADIO SPOT WHICH IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE REGIONS OR TO GROUPS BY THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE TO GIVE IT TO THE REGIONAL RADIO STATIONS IF REQUIRED.

## SWEDEN CONT'D

### GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

TODAY OUR GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE, SITUATED IN STOCKHOLM IS STAFFED BY TWO FULL TIME EMPLOYEES AND A FEW VOLUNTEERS. SOME OF THE REGIONS HAVE OFFICES OF THEIR OWN BUT THESE OFFICES ARE MANNED ONLY BY AA VOLUNTEERS.

THE MANAGER OF THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE ALSO SERVES AS SECRETARY BOTH IN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND IN THE PUBLISHING COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

GSO PRODUCES THE MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE, THE "BULLETTINEN" (THE MEETING BETWEEN MEETINGS), WHICH IS PUBLISHED SIX TIMES A YEAR. GSO ALSO PRODUCES A 4-PAGE NEWSLETTER WITH INFORMATION ON SERVICE MATTERS, THE ECONOMY, REPORTS FROM THE BOARDS AND SO ON. "SERVICEBLADET" IS PUBLISHED SIX TIMES A YEAR AND IS CIRCULATED FOR FREE TO ALL AA GROUPS. GSO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GROUP AND MEETING LIST, WHICH IS PUBLISHED EACH YEAR.

### LITERATURE

THE LITERATURE LIST CONTAINS 10 BOOKS, 26 PAMPHLETS, TWO AUDIO CASSETTES AND TWO VIDEO TAPES. MOST OF THESE ITEMS ARE TRANSLATIONS BUT A FEW ARE SWEDISH ORIGINAL PRODUCTS. THE HISTORY OF AA IN SWEDEN WAS PUBLISHED IN 1996 AND A VIDEOTAPE CONTAINING THREE LIVE STORIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING 1997.

A TRAUMA OF A SPECIAL KIND FELL UPON THE PUBLISHING COMPANY AND ON EVERY MEMBER WHO IS CONCERNED WITH AA'S FUTURE IN SWEDEN. IN 1997 THE SWEDISH VERSION OF THE BIG BOOK WAS COPIED BY A GERMAN AND DISTRIBUTED IN PAPERBACK FORMAT FREE OF CHARGE TO THE SWEDISH AA GROUPS AND TO MANY TREATMENT CENTRES. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROTESTED, CONTACTED WORLD AND EUROPEAN SERVICE OFFICES FOR ADVICE AND IS NOW KEEPING ITSELF INFORMED OF A LEGAL PROCESS THAT THE GERMAN AA HAS STARTED.

THE WORK ON A NEW VERSION IN SWEDISH OF THE BIG BOOK IS WELL ADVANCED. IT WILL PROBABLY BE PUBLISHED IN 1998



### COUNTRY SPONSORSHIP

RESPONDING TO THE INITIATIVE TAKEN AT THE EIGHTH EUROPEAN SERVICE MEETING WE HAVE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH THE LITHUANIAN AA. THE AA IN SWEDEN WAS HONOURED BY GUESTS FROM LITHUANIA AT 1997 SERVICE CONFERENCE. A SMALL DELEGATION FROM SWEDEN VISITED LITHUANIA IN JUNE FOR A SERIES OF MEETINGS. WE HAVE EXCHANGED A LOT OF EXPERIENCES BUT MOST IMPORTANT ENJOYED MEETING NEW FRIENDS SHOWING US LOVE AND GREAT HOSPITALITY. WE ARE NOW VERY HAPPY THAT LITHUANIA WILL BE REPRESENTED ON THE NINTH EUROPEAN SERVICE MEETING.