

International  
Council  
of Voluntary  
Agencies

ICVA



# A brief history of ICVA

---

The beginnings of inter-agency co-operation among extragovernmental voluntary organizations go back to 1922, when the first permanent conference of such organizations was established in Geneva as the *Conference of nongovernmental organizations interested in Migration*. This was re-convened after the Second World War with strong United Nations support, and pursued its work until its fusion into ICVA in 1962.

In 1948 the *Standing Conference of Voluntary Organisations Working for Refugees* was established to help cope with the huge refugee problems of post-war Europe. Co-operation in this field was significantly stimulated by the Hungarian uprising and refugee problems in 1956, and here too the United Nations – through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees – gave major encouragement to a more integrated approach.

By the end of the 1950's it had become obvious that there was a need for much more regular in-depth consultation on refugee work than that provided by a twice yearly meeting of the Standing Conference. World Refugee Year, in 1959, demonstrated quite clearly the enormous strides that could be made when there was a common approach to a problem by all agencies, and an *International Committee for World Refugee Year* was established in Geneva. Once more this co-ordinating group benefited from the closest co-operation of the United Nations, notably through the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for World Refugee Year.

In 1962 the three organizations named above merged to form the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA). One of the main purposes of the merger was to build upon the ready spirit of co-operation which had been fostered in refugee matters and to extend this to other spheres. The words 'Refugee' and 'Migration' were deliberately not renewed in the title of the new body, in order to open the doors to work in all areas of voluntary agency activity that could benefit from a structured liaison, co-ordinating information exchange,



**H. Leslie Kirkley**  
"The achievements of ICVA that remain with me over the past eight years all stem from the special and exciting initiatives taken in the field of disaster relief co-ordination, in the Bangladesh-Pakistan crisis, in the Joint Development Programme in the Southern Sudan, in the UN Conference newspapers. That kind of activity justifies the organisation without any question."



**Lars-Gunnar Eriksson**  
 "Thanks to an efficient Secretariat ICVA has gained a recognition which I think makes it acceptable now by practically anybody who wants to speak about voluntary agencies. I think the first thing that strikes people is that ICVA has a status of its own. In co-operation with the UN agencies, ICVA has grown, and it is only logical that it must grow stronger and be more effective. There are of course problems, and differences of opinion in what agencies expect of ICVA. It has been openly asked 'Should the bigger agencies pay more for the sake of the smaller agencies?' My own feeling is there is no such thing as big or small. We are all there to do something humanitarian in the broadest sense of the term. It is not smallness or bigness, it's just the opportunity we have to share, and to share well. What we put into ICVA counts as much as what we get out of it."

and professional servicing. The inaugural assembly brought together sixty organizations and over the ensuing years membership has increased to around a hundred. All organizations are non-governmental, non-profitmaking and engaged in activities of a humanitarian, social, or developmental character, understood in the widest sense.

## How ICVA is organised

---

ICVA's constituent membership meets in a General Conference currently scheduled every five years. Between these meetings, the activities of ICVA are conducted by a number of standing commissions and working groups, by the Governing Board, and by a small Secretariat based in Geneva.

*The General Conference* is a chance for upwards of 150 senior executives, programme officers and administrators from member organizations to meet together to discuss common problems, and to share headquarters and field experiences. The 1968 Conference, in London, U.K., examined the problems under the overall theme "Human needs and social justice".

The 1971 Conference, meeting in New York, USA, surveyed the whole range of "International voluntary action for human need".

The 1976 Conference, being held in Leysin, Switzerland, is tackling some of the world's problems under the heading "Social injustice – our response."

*The Commissions and Working Groups* provide the regular meeting ground for groups of agencies with specialized interests.

*The ICVA Commission on Refugees and Migration* has 35 members, and has been meeting since the inception of ICVA in 1962. The Commission has held 28 meetings, covering just about every major migration or refugee crisis during that period: the Middle East, the Nigerian civil war, Vietnam, the Indo-Pakistan war, the Chilean revolution, the Uganda exodus, the Cyprus civil war. Also the brain drain, the recognition and comparability

of professional qualifications of migrants, relief, education and placement problems of refugees on the African continent. Cyprus and Africa have been dealt with in regular Working Groups, and frequently ad hoc groups have been constituted to focus on a particular issue and then in due course disbanded. This is a particularly flexible system that is one of the strengths of ICVA. Lastly, the Commission Officers also for many years managed an ICVA "Refugee Services Memorial Fund", now no longer operative but which channelled many grants to exceptionally deserving individuals whose needs fell outside the scope of normal agency programmes.



**Mrs Elizabeth Palmer**  
"If ICVA didn't exist, it would have to be invented. At this time in history organizations which are involved in practical work related to refugees, migrants and rehabilitation—and some aspects of development—can be more effective working together than they can separately."

*The ICVA Commission on Social and Economic Development* was established at the beginning of ICVA, originally in the form of a Commission on Relief and Development. It has 50 members, has held 14 sessions, and is particularly valuable as a forum where member agencies and members of the United Nations family can meet on equal terms. In 1975 the voluntary sector channelled US \$1,371,000,000 to development countries, equivalent to roughly 3.53% of the net flow of all aid, and 8.43% of official or governmental assistance. With such massive involvement, regular formal and informal meetings at international level are obviously essential. Topics that have been given significant attention at Commission meetings include the role of voluntary agencies in establishing development information clearing houses, in combating unemployment and under-employment in developing countries, in protecting and enhancing the environment, in working towards a new international economic and social order, in expanding development education in industrialized countries, in the transfer of technology to developing countries, and many other vital world issues. Regular participants have included representatives of IBRD, UNDP, UNEP, UNCTAD, ILO, UNICEF, FAO, OECD, etc., who come – and this is the unique feature of ICVA – as guests of the voluntary agencies in a voluntary agency meeting, where the diminished formality provokes and facilitates the search for common solutions without the handicaps of excess protocol, recordings, and other trappings of UN meetings. ICVA promotes genuine interchange in these discussions, and thereby doubly serves the participants and the programmes they are engaged in.



*The ICVA Commission on Emergency Aid* resulted from the dividing up in 1965 of the original Commission on Relief and Development. It has 23 members, has held 12 meetings, and has been concerned both to facilitate the voluntary agency response to individual emergencies (typhoons, floods, earthquakes, but also man-made disasters) and to strengthen international collaboration on pre-disaster planning (notably through the League of Red Cross Societies). In the period 1970-1973 the ICVA Commission and Secretariat were to the forefront of international action to establish co-ordinating mechanisms for disaster response – now more firmly based on the United Nations Disaster Relief Office, which began its activity in early 1972, and on an ICVA-spawned working group of some of the larger voluntary agencies supervising jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies a degree of structured pooling of resources when disaster strikes.



## Some of the services ICVA provides

---

One of ICVA's essential functions is to provide an effective information service to member organizations. Most member agencies send details of their activities to the Geneva Secretariat, and this information is available on file, enabling the Secretariat to answer detailed enquiries.

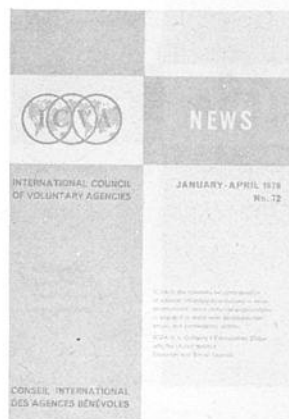
A lot of the information work, of course, is informal. Any day of the year – yes, including weekends and public holidays – the ICVA Secretariat may receive a dozen or more telephone calls or other enquiries from people who want to know something and think ICVA is bound to know the answer. Some of the enquiries come from developing countries – perhaps project leaders wanting to know how they can contact donor agencies. Other people want detailed background information on topics ranging from the Kurdish refugee problem to international road accident statistics.

ICVA acts like a switching office, a relay station. Where the information isn't on file, or in the library – or, as frequently happens, in the head of a staff member – the ICVA Secretariat refer the enquirer to the organization that can help. Over the years ICVA has built up a considerable reputation for usefully answering the widest variety of questions – that's why so many agencies regard its staff, its information, and its objectivity as so reliable.

Three times a year, the most important information is collated for publication in ICVA NEWS, a journal of from 40 to 80 pages which keeps members posted on ICVA activities, on the individual programmes of members and of other relevant agencies, coming events and other items of common interest. ICVA NEWS is the only permanent record of the voluntary extragovernmental sector's remarkable range of activities in development, social and humanitarian work. It is essential reading in governmental and intergovernmental as well as voluntary agency offices throughout the world.

ICVA also publishes a series of occasional DOCUMENTS, which cover key subjects of interest to members. Over

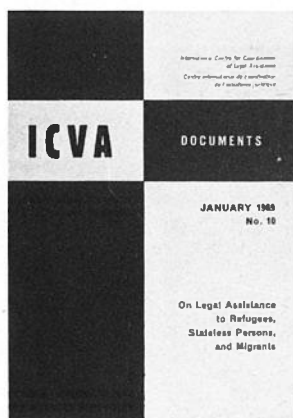
### The information service



### ICVA NEWS

### ICVA DOCUMENTS

## The role of ICVA as spokesman



## An independent voice at UN special meetings

the years, ICVA DOCUMENTS have been published on the Plight of Tibetan Refugees; Population Questions; Publicity and Fundraising; Development Aid Issues, Legal Assistance to Refugees, Stateless Persons and Migrants; and Co-operative Teaching and Rural Development in Africa South of the Sahara. Like ICVA NEWS, this valuable service could be greatly expanded but is hampered by severe financial constraints.

ICVA is often called upon to fulfil the role of spokesman for its members, the voluntary agencies – either because an issue affects more than one agency and a joint approach would be beneficial, or because it is too delicate for a particular member to tackle alone.

In the mid 1960's, for instance, officials of ICVA were able to exert considerable pressure on the German Government on the question of adequate compensation for victims of Nazism, particularly for those people whose health had been destroyed, and for surviving spouses. Working closely with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, ICVA kept up a constant pressure through telegrams, messages and visits to senior officials in Allied governments and Germany. Some German officials would have liked the issue to be quietly forgotten; but as a result of pressure and public opinion, the issue was brought to a successful conclusion.

In 1971 ICVA took up the plight of 10 million East Bengali refugees, living in desperately inadequate makeshift camps in India. Delegates were sent to the UN General Assembly to get Governments to act. All ICVA's member agencies were plied with information showing just how catastrophic the situation was for the host country, India. ICVA's initiative was most helpful, up until the moment that it was overtaken by events: the outbreak of war cut the Gordian knot.

Amongst the endless stream of words and interminable committee meetings at the UN, the important issues in development can lose their sharpness, their focus. This was why, in 1974, ICVA participated in a new kind of initiative – publishing provocative, straight-from-the-shoulder newspapers for distribution to delegates at special gatherings. Initial publications of their nature had been issued under the auspices of individual agencies at the Stockholm Environment Conference and the Bucharest Population Conference. It was natural for ICVA to



take up this role as the objective overall confederation committed to social justice.

The first of ICVA's newspapers, PAN, was produced at the Rome World Food Conference in November 1974. Headlines like 'A bellyful of cynicism' and 'Remember - They can't eat your words' brought an immediate readership. Weary delegates, used to the measured tones of official documents, and the bland partial truths of guarded politicians, rushed to get copies of PAN to find out what the *real* issues were. PAN was not by any means universally popular, and was severely criticized by a number of national delegates. But most people recognized it for what it was, a totally independent contribution to a vital debate.

## PAN

ICVA followed up its 1974 Rome initiative by publishing UNGASS as a daily commentary at the UN General Assembly Special Session on International Economic Co-operation and Development, held in New York in September 1975, and COSMOS at the Fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi during May 1976.

## UNGASS (1975) and COSMOS (1976)

Once again these independent publications were produced by professionals. As the Conferences progressed, UNGASS and COSMOS brought out the highlights: the appalling plight of the poorest countries facing crippling debt burdens; the 'sterile polemics' of some governments who use such conferences as a place to throw mud; the Kissinger policy initiatives; the genuine hope that a new international economic order would be hammered out. UNGASS and COSMOS were refreshingly blunt. They were knowledgeable. And they had just the right measure of conference gossip and inside information that made them compulsive reading.

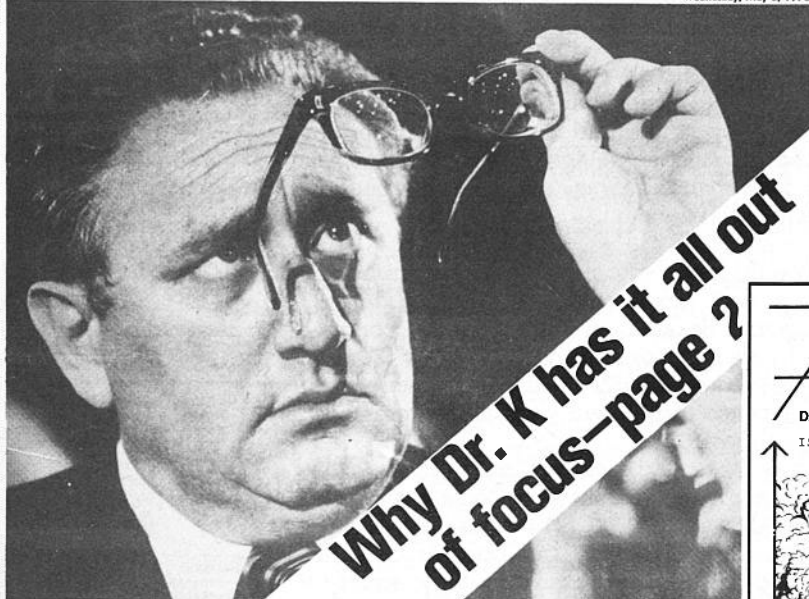
From the non-governmental point of view, these special publications serve a vital purpose. They demonstrate that the non-governmental agencies can act together at the UN, and they provide a free and honest forum for opinions that would otherwise be hard to express within the UN context.

# Cosmos

THE NEWSPAPER OF UNCTAD-IV

Issue No. 1

Wednesday, May 5, 1976

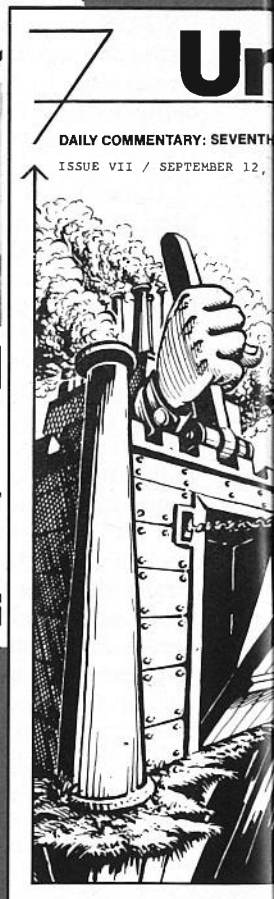


**GERMAN COP-OUT ON AID PLAN—**  
**Protests at ban imposed on NGOs—P.4**  
**PROFILE OF THE MAN IN THE HOT SEAT—**  
**UNCTAD in Swahili—P.7: News of the Junta—P.3**

COSMOS is the independent extragovernmental newspaper of UNCTAD-IV, published as a service to international co-operation by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, Switzerland with support from governmental and extragovernmental sources

Examples of the special newspapers produced by ICVA at special UN meetings.

PAN was produced at the Rome World Food Conference in November 1974. This was followed by UNGASS, produced as a daily commentary at the UN General Assembly Special Session on International Economic Co-operation and Development, in New York in 1975. COSMOS was produced at the Fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi, in May 1976. The forthright and lively newspapers were very much welcomed by delegates, and were an important contribution by ICVA.



# PAN

So there

SOME confusion has arisen over the PAN masthead. According to a Pakistani Arabic-speaker it reads, in Arabic, *La La Naz*, the closest translation of which is *monsoon*. According to an Egyptian delegate it doesn't make even that much sense. The word PAN does actually exist in an Indian tongue. It means beetle. But no ordinary beetle. Pan is the beetle which is given as a gift and a token of good luck.



Newspaper of the World Food Conference November 9, 1974 Number 5

## VIEWPOINT

# 'A bellyful cynicism'

gass

IAL SESSION

food, if not

re brought  
The Soviet  
cynicism --

pport thirty  
it, it claims.

has been  
because the  
t a tenth of  
the - sky

ar rich and

generous planet and man's  
undoubted technological  
ingenuity, at least 400 million  
people are malnourished and  
other millions face starvation.

We repeat these much repeated  
statistics of misery, because it is  
clear they have yet to penetrate  
the wooden cynicism of the  
Soviets.

We are forced to conclude from  
the supreme irrelevance of their  
comment that they are  
indifferent to this situation.

It is hardly a constructive  
contribution to solving the  
enormous problems of the rest of  
this century to speculate idly  
about the next.

The Soviet Union has yet to  
offer anything substantive to the  
progress required of this  
conference. While many  
delegations have welcomed the  
idea of a food information  
system, the Soviet Union has  
refused to endorse it.

Yet its intervention on the  
grain market, past  
and future, is a material  
threat to the wellbeing of  
the developing countries.  
These countries need  
not ancient political  
catchphrases but a new  
political commitment.  
Not pie-in-the-sky but  
pie-in-the-belly.

Report Page 2

## icy threat to food security

### PAN Reporters

In the conference's Committee II (on  
food security) Sweden introduced the  
idea of a sort of international spy-  
in-the-sky.

Together with senior FAO officials,  
the Swedes are promoting the idea of a  
space satellite tracking and receiving  
station to be built and run under FAO  
control.

The cost of such a station would be as  
little as \$1,000,000, not too much to be  
wring out of the Rome talks.

Fear of side-tracking the main work  
of Committee II has made the Swedes  
soft-pedal the issue in conference.  
They propose instead to continue the  
campaign with FAO.

The proposed tracking station would  
give FAO immediate information on  
harvests and weather changes.

American satellites now obtain the

information but release it to other coun-  
tries three months later.

A US delegate said yesterday that his  
country was not opposed in principle to  
"internationalizing" satellite infor-  
mation. But more research and  
development was needed and more  
money as well, before such a transfer.

The other super power was even less  
forthcoming. During the second com-  
mittee's discussions on a world food  
information system, the USSR  
delegation dismissed the idea that  
"full, complete and sincere" data  
sharing among nations was feasible.

Pooling of information, the Soviet  
delegation said, was simply giving  
speculators a chance to move in.  
Russia reserved its position until  
narratives were available that the  
information would not be used to  
bolster producing countries' profits.



## **Some examples of the kind of problems ICVA tackles**

---

### **Population**

For many years population issues were outside the brief of most aid agencies – despite the obvious fact that the population explosion was crippling development in many developing countries.

Many of ICVA's members felt strongly about this, and a Population Working Group was set up, which over the years has played a significant part in persuading a number of agencies to become involved in population issues. The United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations that deal with population have shown the importance they attach to this ICVA forum by their practical support and by participation at the highest executive level. As the World Population Plan of Action continues to unfold, ICVA will be needed in its catalytic role.

### **Migration**

In the last two years the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) has held seminars on the problems of adaptation and integration encountered by permanent migrants. They wanted as much voluntary organization participation as possible, but yet could not broadcast invitations to all voluntary agencies. For obvious reasons they equally did not want to leave out key potential participants. So ICEM made use of the ICVA mechanism of consultation with its membership to sort out who should attend, to the satisfaction of all and with the avoidance of the hazards of treading on people's toes.

### **World situations of conflict**

In the Nigerian civil war of 1968-69, the 1971 Pakistan civil war resulting in the flood of East Bengali refugees to India, and in the 1972 crisis involving the expulsion of Asians from Uganda, weekly consultations between the UN agencies, the Red Cross and the voluntary agencies were essential – but it was obviously impossible for 25, 35 or 45 voluntary agencies to gather around the table every week. So, as appropriate, the Red Cross, the United Nations, and/or ICEM held regular weekly meetings either with key ICVA member agencies or on occasion solely with ICVA officers, ensuring that through this mechanism all concerned member agencies knew

what was going on. In addition, ICVA officials spoke to individual Government representatives to step up pressure for permanent resettlement. Such services are always important in themselves, but especially so for the multiplicity of smaller agencies who cannot afford to be involved in every meeting and consultation, but whose input to solutions must not be neglected. ICVA services to such smaller agencies are of incalculable value to the causes they take up.

When the Six-Day War totally dislocated existing relief and development programmes in the Middle East, ICVA issued a special twice weekly information bulletin keeping members informed about relief needs, about action by Governments, and about shipments that had been promised, that were en route, or that had been delivered. ICVA kept this up for eight weeks, until "normal" information channels were resumed.

ICVA contributed to the pre-planning that now goes into disaster operations ; member agencies had for years felt that it was not enough to wait until disaster struck : there should be regular machinery in operation to surmount the chaos caused to normal channels of communication in any major disaster.

The 1971 ICVA General Conference endorsed the establishment of an international information and planning service to centralize information in disasters and to promote planning between disasters. ICVA representatives discussed this with the appropriate UN body, the Economic and Social Council, which recommended the setting up of a UN disaster office. ICVA also set up a special committee to look into action between the voluntary agencies, with a special appointment to the ICVA staff. Since June 1974 this function has been transferred to the League of Red Cross Societies, which now maintains a permanent disaster mechanism. Between disasters, the new service publishes a series of fact sheets, by country, giving emergency capacities of airports and harbours, prevailing winds, essential telephone and telex numbers and main geographical features. The new Red Cross-based team which also serves four other major voluntary agencies works closely with the UN Disaster Relief Office.

## **The 1967 six-day war**

## **Planning for disasters**

## The Sahel drought



**Dr R. Salas**

"ICVA has been very helpful to us at the UN Fund for Population Activities, particularly when UNFPA was very small. Population programmes were always well known in Asia, but in most parts of the world these were words to be avoided, even to the end of the 1960s. I think the voluntary agencies, particularly ICVA, helped us to make countries aware of the importance of the population problem. ICVA gives us a forum to be able to address voluntary organizations as a group, and this leads to better communication."

In the Sahel drought, ICVA provided a framework for action for many of its members. Once again ICVA did not engage in any operational activities. ICVA talked, and made sure its members talked. It provided the facilities for the talking, making it easier for the agencies to decide on the spending of over \$2,000,000. Without ICVA, these programmes would not have come to fruition so rapidly, or have continued, nor would the agencies have had access to all the information. On the fundraising side, the voluntary group came together to work out ways of getting the scale of the Sahelian disaster across to the public, through the mass media in the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Austria, Scandinavia and Britain.

## The value of ICVA

---

It is, of course, incredibly difficult to spell out the real value of a body like ICVA. International bodies, sitting in places like Geneva, plant no corn and reap no crops. Their value has to be seen in the way they help their member agencies to do a more effective job; and when this is achieved through intangibles like conferences, memoranda, newsletters and the like, it is easy enough for the sceptic to hold sway.

ICVA has its failings. But it provides one of the few forums where private organizations, citizens organizations, can meet and say what they really mean. This kind of frank discussion does not easily take place in UN meetings, where delegates may suppress facts in case they offend.

ICVA also provides a focus for pressure group activities related to the UN agencies. Through the existence of ICVA's Commissions, a useful information service has developed which has allowed individual voluntary organizations to take an active part in the work of UNCTAD, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organization of African Unity, the OECD Development Centre, and similar important international bodies. This is a useful service because even the largest NGOs would find it hard to keep up with all the meetings. It is also important that NGOs as a group are adequately represented in the UN system, for neither humanitarian

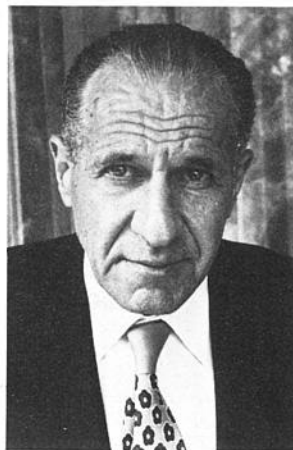


aid nor development assistance can any longer be treated solely as a charitable exercise. Development agencies have to operate as developing countries see things, and the UN is a natural forum for their views. The existence of a body like ICVA helps to speed change when change is called for. It is a factor in getting international and national agencies involved in new fields, in new relationships, in new co-operative plans, and in new understandings of their place and potential in the changing world.

The Southern Sudan provides a good example of the way in which action can be stimulated through a body like ICVA. When hostilities ceased in 1972, after the bitter civil war which had divided the country for 17 years, the Sudanese Government appealed to the world's voluntary agencies to help in reconstruction. ICVA, in co-operation with the Sudanese Government, called together meetings of member agencies. A specialist was sent to the area for several months to gather information and come up with working proposals. To implement these, a new inter-agency team initially called IACOD (International Agency for Co-operation in Overseas Development) later called ACORD (Agency for Co-operation in Research and Development), was established, and set about providing a vehicle maintenance centre in Juba, shortly developed this into a major manpower training centre for the Southern Sudan.

The training centre and workshop proved vital, and was recognized as such by the Government which now carries on the project under its own auspices. The success of this joint project in the Sudan was itself possible because ICVA's Working Group on Rural Development had previously got together an informal consortium of agencies to tackle a difficult situation in Burundi, and the accumulated experience was put to good use, by permitting rapid action to aid the Southern Sudan.

These were the kind of co-operative developments that would have been impossible at the beginning of ICVA. It provides a model of ways in which future specialist bodies can grow out of inter-agency co-operation.



**Paul Weis**  
**"I worked in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee's office until I retired, and I must say ICVA had a most positive role. Close contact with ICVA helped a great deal in stimulating and facilitating the protection work of the High Commissioner. ICVA had a decisive role. It was so much better to have one organization to address yourself to, than to have to deal with a great many agencies."**

# The possibilities for the future

---

ICVA, of course, is very much what its members want and encourage it to be. It has fulfilled a useful function on the international scene; but not all agencies would agree upon the amount of money that should be devoted to this kind of activity. Some agencies, perhaps with financial worries, or satisfied with their own information gathering services, see ICVA as having a fairly simple role. Others, unable to mount their own information services, or wanting to mount joint field operations with other agencies, or simply with a broader vision of the future imperative, would like to see ICVA become more of an active clearing house and stimulatory function.

*These are some of the possibilities, if money were forthcoming:*

## 1. Publishing

Up-to-date world and regional directories of voluntary organizations are needed, setting out clearly the roles and actual programmes of each agency. A proper data processing unit would mean that agency executives were better informed, and able to get in touch more easily with others working in their field, eliminating duplication. Through its 1967 Development Directory and its 1969 African Directory ICVA has shown it can do the job if the expanded resources were available.

## 2. Increased representation at the UN

With more backing, ICVA could step up its role as NGO intermediary and facilitator – not to replace any existing individual agency contacts, but to supplement and back up NGO representation and requirements. With the importance, for example, of the United Nations Development Programme debates, it is valuable for someone to be present throughout, to be able to say "The Lutherans are doing this in Zambia . . . Oxfam has this programme in India . . . IUCW propose this in Vietnam . . .". Otherwise, NGO programmes may continue to be given inadequate attention in UN deliberations. ICVA's standing throughout the UN is high, and could be built on if expanded resources were available.

Fundraising obviously has to be carried out by ICVA's member agencies. But given the resources, ICVA could play a useful role in providing back-up facilities. A film library would be valuable in providing background material for the production of member's own films. Again, given the resources, ICVA could organize seminars and disseminate information on the latest fundraising techniques.

### **3. Fundraising**

At the moment there is no career structure within the voluntary agency movement. Recruitment is random, and gives rise to problems on the national level, and even more so internationally. There is a strong case for the neutral body that is ICVA to run an international employment pool so that the best people can be made available where and when they are most needed.

### **4. An employment pool**

In a world in which Governments assume more and more responsibility for social and development issues, there is a danger that the value of the voluntary sector will be overlooked, not only by Governments themselves, but by the public at large. Is there not a case here for some spectacular annual award for voluntary services to humanity, something that could be an ICVA parallel to the Nobel Prizes? Such an initiative could raise the sights of everyone, and encourage future generations to be involved in voluntary activity in the development and humanitarian fields.

### **5. Awards for humanity**

Many of the larger international agencies already have representation in Geneva. It would make sense to look at the idea of a special NGO building, which could have shared reception, secretarial, printing and other services, saving individual agencies expenditure on rent and administration. As a professionally-run central confederation covering the widest spectrum of interests ICVA would be ideally suited to play the key role in such an initiative.

### **6. A joint Geneva HQ ?**

## ICVA Member Agencies

---

African Medical and Research Foundation  
International

American Council for Emigres in the  
Professions Inc.

American Friends Service Committee Inc.

American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees Inc.

American Joint Distribution Committee

Association for the Study of the World  
Refugee Problem (AWR)

Associazione Nazionale Famiglie Degli  
Emigrati

Australian Council for Overseas Aid

Baptist World Alliance

Brethren Service

Bureau International Catholique de  
l'Enfance/International Catholic Child  
Bureau

Canadian Council for International  
Co-operation

Canadian Hunger Foundation

CARE Inc. (Co-operative for American  
Relief Everywhere)

Caritas Internationalis

Secours International de Caritas Catholica

Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft eV

Catholic Relief Services - USCC

Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and  
Rehabilitation

Central Relief Committee (India)

Centre National de Co-operation au  
Developpement

Christian Aid

Church World Service

CIDSE (Co-operation Internationale pour le  
Developpement Socio-Economique)

Community Development Foundation Inc.

CONCERN

CORSO (New Zealand Council of  
Organizations for International Relief,  
Rehabilitation and Development)

Danish Refugee Council

**ICVA**  
**International Council of Voluntary Agencies,**  
**17 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva,**  
**Switzerland.**

Deutsche Stiftung Für Internationale  
Entwicklung (German Foundation for  
International Development)

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe

Euro-Action-ACORD (Agency for  
Cooperation in Research and Development)

European Council of Jewish Community  
Services

Federal Catholic Immigration Committee

Find Your Feet Ltd.

For Those Who Have Less

Foundation for the Peoples of the South  
Pacific

Free China Relief Association

Friends Service Council

Heifer Project International

Help the Aged

HIAS

HIVOS Foundation

Individuell Människohjälp (IM)

International Catholic Migration Commission

International Committee of the Red Cross

International Planned Parenthood Federation

International Rescue Committee

International Social Service

International Union for Child Welfare

International University Exchange Fund

Jewish Agency for Israel

Lutheran Council in the USA – Department  
of Immigration and Refugee Service

Lutheran World Federation

Lutheran World Relief Inc.

Maryknoll Fathers

Migration and Refugee Services – USCC

Norwegian Refugee Council

NOVIB (Netherlands Organisation for  
International Development Co-operation)

Ockenden Venture

OXFAM

Pathfinder Fund

Polish-American Immigration and Relief  
Committee (PAIRC) Inc.

Pontifical Mission for Palestine

Population Institute

Population Services International

Raphaels-Werk-Dienst am Menschen  
unterwegs

Salvation Army

Save the Children Fund (UK)

SOS Kinderdorf International

Standing Conference of British  
Organisations for Aid to Refugees

SWISSAID (Swiss Association for Aid to  
Developing Countries)

Swiss Central Office for Aid to Refugees

Tibetan Industrial Rehabilitation Society

Tolstoy Foundation Inc.

United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF

United States Committee for Refugees

Voluntary Committee on Overseas Aid and  
Development (VCOAD)

War on Want

World Alliance of Young Men's Christian  
Associations (YMCAs)

World Assembly of Youth

World Council of Churches

World Council of Credit Unions Inc.

World Education

World Jewish Congress

World ORT Union

World University Service

World Young Women's Christian  
Association (World YWCA)

---

*This brochure was produced from a grant by Voluntary and  
Christian Service, London.*

*Designed and edited by Exley Partners, Watford, England.  
Printed by Errey's Printers Ltd, Heathfield, England.*

IGVA