

Minutes of the Meeting of the International Participants to the National
Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth Conference
Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel, September 28, 1983
Washington, D.C.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Jan Krogh, Norway
Kathleen Michael, Canada
Joan Gitelman, Canada
Eloise Opheim, Canada
Glenda Kombies, Canada
Dr. Clare Sprague, Australia
Gerald Williams, Australia
Dr. Cornelius Keogh, Australia
Rev. Brian Power, Ireland
Rev. Paul Lavelle, Ireland
Carol Samuels, Jamaica
Dr. Charles Thesiger, Jamaica
Margaret Lescene, Jamaica
Lloyd Williams, Jamaica
Jonas Hartelius, Sweden

U.S. PARTICIPANTS

[redacted] National Federation of Parents (NFP)
Robert Retka, Dept. of State Bureau of International Narcotics Matters
[redacted] NFP
[redacted] ACTION
[redacted] NFP
Frank Nelson, Florida State Office of Drug Abuse Control
John M. Keller, USIA

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John Keller chaired the meeting. He opened by inviting [redacted] of the NFP to say a few words. STAT

[redacted] welcomed the group and expressed NFP's willingness to cooperate with the international participants to help create an effective international network of drug abuse awareness groups. She also explained that NFP is severely limited in resources but will help to the extent possible. STAT

Mr. Keller said that the breakfast meeting of international participants held on September 27 had informally agreed to form an international coordinating committee to help establish effective international linkages. As articulated at the breakfast meeting by Mr. Hartelius, the major points of contact for the international steering committee were to be the annual meetings of the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth (NFP) and of PRIDE (Parent Resources Institute for Drug Education). Mr. Keller said that he would like the group to continue discussion of this proposal made by Mr. Hartelius. Mr. Keller also explained that this proposal had not yet been submitted to PRIDE and that everything that was suggested would, of course, be subject to the approval of both PRIDE and the NFP.

Mr. Hartelius continued the discussion by suggesting that the international committee appoint a board consisting of two or three members each from PRIDE and NFP and a representative from Canada, Jamaica, and Europe. (It was later proposed that one of the Australian participants currently in the U.S. also serve on the board). [redacted] expressed her concern that the NFP could not afford to fund transportation for NFP members to international conferences, but Mr. Keller explained that most meetings could be held at the NFP and PRIDE conferences. STAT

Mr. Hartelius and Mr. Keller both proposed that future NFP and PRIDE meetings include an international focus. Mr. Keller said that the upcoming PRIDE Conference in March, 1984, would be built around an international perspective in any case.

Robert Retka broke in to say that, unfortunately, Asian countries were not represented at this meeting and that there were significant groups to be contacted in Asia. He suggested that the international coordinating committee get in touch with the Federation of Non-government Organizations in East Asia. The contact is Mr. Pio Aberro, the Colombo Plan Drug Adviser, who is perhaps the most knowledgeable person regarding the Asian situation. Mr. Retka further opined that it would be dangerous to get over organized too fast. There is always the danger, Mr. Retka said, that a group like this would develop too heavy an administrative agenda and that members would get the reputation of accomplishing little and spending time attending conferences. He cautioned that it was very important to develop solid roots in the community before developing an elaborate administrative overhead.

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Dr. Sprague said that she was enthusiastic about the formation of an international coordinating committee because it could be the focus for a tremendous sharing of information. By offering the opportunity for international participants to attend conferences and to meet with American groups which are already well organized against drug abuse, the international committee can make an impact quickly.

Mr. Keller stressed the importance of information exchange and expressed his opinion that this could be the most significant role the international committee could provide. He said that he thought an informal newsletter to get the flow of communications going would be necessary. Mr. Keller expressed his willingness to act as an intermediary between USIA and NFP/PRIDE to investigate the possibility of getting some support from USIA's Private Sector Program Office for the international exchange. ([redacted] mentioned that NFP has had a policy of not accepting U.S. Government funding for grants and that she would have to explore Mr. Keller's idea further before commenting on it).

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[redacted] said that there already was an established network of international therapeutic communities and that she recommended that the international steering committee establish ties with this group.

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Mr. Krogh said that he thought "how to" information would be very useful internationally. Countries wishing to form drug awareness groups often do not know how to get them started. Every country seems to have to go through the same process and to make its own mistakes. However, if "how to" information could be exchanged, it would facilitate a country's task considerably. He thought the American experience could be pivotal and that the U.S. could help share its knowledge of how to form drug awareness movements.

Dr. Keogh asked whether it would be possible for the international committee to focus on urgent international problems. For instance, Australia was facing an imminent decriminalization of marijuana. Could the international committee help work on such urgent problems? Mr. Hartelius said that the NFP Nancy Reagan Speakers' Bureau was exploring the possibility of establishing an international component. Mr. Keller suggested that it would also be useful for groups to get to know the Narcotics Coordinating Committee at the U.S. Embassy in their country since the NCC could help obtain information and provide advice.

Mr. Hartelius read a resolution (see attached) which met the approval of the international participants establishing the guidelines for the formation of an international coordinating committee. It was agreed that the international participants on the committee would be:

Jonas Hartelius, Sweden
 Dr. Charles Thesiger, Jamaica
 Dr. Cornelius Keogh, Australia
 Eloise Opheim, Canada

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These participants committed themselves to attending the PRIDE Conference in March, 1984, in Atlanta.

It was also agreed that the resolution would be submitted to PRIDE and the NFP for approval.

RESOLUTION

We, the international participants at the Second Annual Conference of the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth in Washington, D.C., September 25-28, 1983, hereby move:

1. that the NFP and PRIDE open their annual conferences to an international sharing of the experiences which parents and young people throughout the world have encountered when dealing with drug abuse.
2. that NFP and PRIDE form a joint international coordinating committee with two members from each organization to streamline efforts.
3. that the following international participants serve in a consultative or associate capacity to the international coordinating committee:

Dr. Cornelius B. Keogh, Australia
Mrs. Eloise Opheim, Canada
Dr. Charles Thesiger, Jamaica
Mr. Jonas Hartelius, Sweden
4. that all other international participants serve as corresponding members of the committee.
5. that a joint newsletter be circulated to review efforts, projects, and news of interest to the international community.
6. that a separate international body be considered for incorporation at a later time.
7. Finally, that NFP and PRIDE provide staff and logistics for the above-mentioned committee until other arrangements are made.

Read and approved
September 28, 1983


