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Lade Gaard, 7000 Trondheim
Tlf. (07)920566

Raymond Mokoena
Chr. Kroghs gt. 32 A
0186 Oslo

Dato 20.11.87

Vår ref.:

Deres ref.:

With referance to our telephone call I enclose some papers to give you a little more information.

As mentioned, the Nordic Committee is going to have a meeting in Oslo 16 - 17 December. The South African issue will be om the agenda. At the Nordic conferance in Denmark last summer the committee was requested to seek information from ANC, and the ANC's representatives in Stockholm and Copenhagen were mentioned. The Swedish representative has not succeeded in getting information, but was referred to you, and therefore I took over. I suppose that the present chairman (Ole F. Hermansen) has been in contact with a representative in Denmark.

What we want the ANC's opinion of is:

- How can the Nordic schools support the struggle against apartheid ?
- Will a withdrawal of the Nordic schools from the international organization (IASSW) be of any importance ? Or ought we to stay there, to have the organization as a target and meeting place ?

There may be other strategies as well. One of these is to withhold the fee. The IASSW is in a very bad economical state. Another strategy is ⁱbocot of the international

conference in Vienna next summer.

I should very much appreciate your opinion on these matters.

Yours sincerely

Anne-Lise Sverdrup

Anne-Lise Sverdrup

~~1986-10-13~~

This is the motion presented at the International Conference (General Assembly of IASSW) in Tokyo in 1986 (summer)

My name is Birgitta Bruks. As the chairman of the Nordic Committee of Schools of Social Work, I today represent 26 universities/colleges of Social Work in the five Nordic countries. I am talking on behalf of these schools, out from a very carefully made decision at our General Assembly last autumn and with a strong support from our parliaments.

Internationalizing Social Work Education includes to be active and responsible in creating "the good earth". Mutual global solidarity, not only as words but guide-lines in acting, must be put forward for an International Association of Schools of Social Work.

According to the by-laws of IASSW, a member can be expelled acting against the by-laws or the rules of the Association.

We are not today accusing any member of not following the by-laws. We do not today want to expell any member for not being a worthy member. But we do want to take our responsibility as social work educators believing in human rights and in a non-racial society and we have to act against a country where systematical race-discrimination is written in the constitution. Our opinion is further on, that apartheid is a serious threat against international peace and safety.

We therefore are acting according to the UN guide-lines, the guide-lines from the anti-apartheid movements and the guide-lines from our own governing bodies. Considering that the suspension of formal academic contacts with South-Africa is an important measure in the international campaign against apartheid

* we request all memberschools to take steps to prevent all formal social work educational exchanges with South-Africa

- * and we urge all social work educational institutions to terminate all formal links with South-Africa
- * and we will encourage anti-apartheid and solidarity movements in their campaign for academic boycotts against South-Africa, and we will encourage informal contacts with colleagues in South-Africa, who support the anti-apartheid movement.

I therefore, on behalf of the Nordic Committee of IASSW, move the following three motions to be voted on at this very General Assembly:

- I The IASSW supports the UN cultural and academic boycott of South-Africa.
- II The IASSW rejects apartheid and expects all of its members to support the campaign against apartheid and to break off all relations with South-African organisations and institutions.
- III The IASSW will suspend South-African Schools from membership of the IASSW.

*There was a majority against
this motion when voting.*

1987-02-25

2

To the Board of Directors

We, the six Swedish member schools, with strong support from the twenty Nordic member schools, hereby wish to express our appreciation for being asked to hold the 24th IASSW Conference in Östersund, Sweden. Preparatory work was started the day the official request was made, i.e. 9th January 1987. A Swedish national organization committee has been set up and has met once. The necessary correspondence with the Parliament and local negotiations with local politicians and other local interested parties have been initiated. We feel quite confident, in spite of the limited time, that we shall be able to organize an excellent conference.

However, the Nordic schools once again, in the process of starting this preparatory work, face the problems inherent to the fact that South Africa still holds membership in IASSW. The Nordic countries are fully aware of the Constitution of South Africa. The question of boycotting South Africa under the Botha regime has never been a question solely for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is a question engaging all of the political parties and a question of equally important public concern, influencing it does the daily political life, which in turn is reflected in our daily news. Thus, hosting a conference for an association in which South Africa is allowed to retain its membership is a highly political question in the Nordic countries.

The Nordic schools have been active in this discussion for more than ten years. Although we do respect the majority vote in Tokyo, we have not changed our view on this fundamental question. We, as member schools, must face this issue very squarely. In view of the political situation and public opinion, hosting this conference could be a threat to Nordic cooperation; it could divide the Nordic member schools. It could even damage the cooperation existing with our sister organization, the Nordic body of IFSW, whose stand in this matter you are fully aware of. We are deeply concerned about possible effects on a "higher" level also. How will IFSW and IASSW in the future be able to adhere to the principle of having these sister organizations hold the conferences in collaboration?

We, as Nordic schools, shall probably remain as members of IASSW in the future. We shall probably see no need to withdraw our membership in the IASSW. None the less,

arranging a conference for and with South Africa will divide the Nordic member schools - even schools in the host country will refrain from participation.

To prevent South Africa from participating will not solve this problem in as much as this would contradict one important democratic rule for all organizations: time and venue must be open for all members on equal conditions. As you know the Nordic schools have acted in accordance with this guideline.

We, as Swedish host together with the Nordic schools and the Nordic Committee of Schools of Social Work do feel honoured by being asked to host the next conference. We would be pleased to do it and would gladly try to arrange an outstanding conference. We shall naturally continue with our preparatory work, for example finding the very best economical conditions, including transferring the registration fees to Vienna. But at the same time we cannot accept the responsibility of arranging and hosting this conference unless South Africa is expelled from membership.

On behalf of the Nordic Committee of Schools of Social Work and the Swedish Programme Committee I am looking forward to your soon response.

Birgitta Bruks

Birgitta Bruks
President of the Nordic Committee and
chairman of the Swedish Arranging Committee

NORDISK SOCIALHØJSKOLEKOMITE

Nordic Committee of Schools of Social Work

Formand/Chairman: Ole F. Hermansen

Århus, 19th October 1987
ofh/aa

3

To
The President of IASSW,
Dr. Heinrich Schiller
and The Board of Directors.

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Nordic Committee of Schools of Social Work, I wish to inform you about the content of the discussions in the Board and at the General Assembly of the Committee 19th August 1987, concerning the matter of South Africa as a member of the IASSW and the standpoint of our committee, so far.

After the Nordic motion about the South Africa issue was defeated at the General Assembly in Tokyo, the Board of the Nordic Committee has consulted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in our countries about their view in regard to our continued membership of IASSW.

We have received the answer that the Nordic Programme of Action against South Africa under the Botha régime is not an obstacle to a continuation of our membership.

On this background the Nordic Committee wish to confirm that we respect the majority vote in Tokyo and it therefore is our intention to stay as members of IASSW as long as we find it justified.

At the same time, however, we find that you Mr. President and the Board of Directors of IASSW ought to have in mind and respect the position taken by 27 Nordic schools of social work in this delicate matter.

After the Executive Meeting in Vienna, March 1987, we regretfully note, that you Mr. President did not find it convenient as a part of the agenda to inform the meeting openly about the content of the letter of 25th February 1987 from Birgitta Bruks, but only informed the meeting that the conference 1988 was to be sited in Vienna without any discussion of the content.

We find that the South Africa issue is of major concern and cannot be regarded as only being an unwelcome matter raised by and limited to the concern of the Nordic member-schools.

We kindly beg you to confirm, that the above mentioned letter is known to all members of the Board of Directors, also members who were not able to participate in the meeting held in Vienna, March 1987.

Another matter of concern:

At the General Assembly of the Nordic Committee 19th August 1987 professor Birgitta Bruks reported that you Mr. President and the

Adresse/Address:

Den Sociale Højskole i Århus

The National Danish School of Social Work, Århus

Søndervangen 90
DK-8260 Viby J.
Denmark

Telefon/Telephone
National: 06 142366
Int. national: +45 6142366

Secretary General planned an official visit in South Africa in spite of the fact that there was no clear majority in the Board for such a visit.

This is in contravention of acceptable organizational practice. We were informed that the Secretary General later, in fact, paid such a visit.

We are surprised that you find it appropriate in the current political situation in South Africa to let the Secretary General pay an official visit on behalf of IASSW, well knowing that 27 Nordic members must be firmly against such a visit.

According to information received, the journey has been financed by private business means from a South African firm; In our opinion a very critical arrangement.

Frankly speaking, we do find this arrangement being an unnecessary humiliation of the Nordic member-schools, and also being an aggravation of the situation as it put a strain on the relations which could have been avoided.

Therefore, I inform you that the General Assembly of the Nordic Committee have agreed on a statement to the effect that in these circumstances they have no confidence in the present President and Secretary General of IASSW, as regards the discharge of their office.

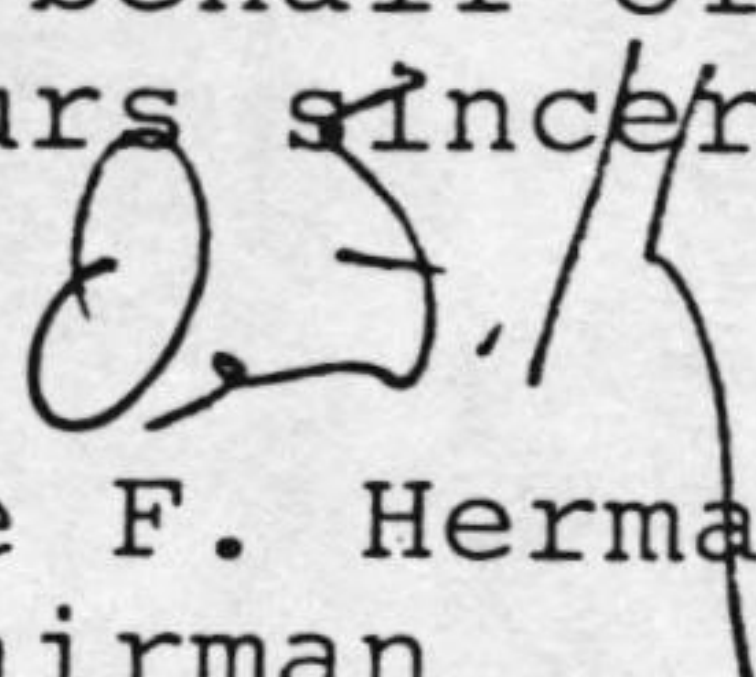
At the same time it was decided that the Nordic Committee at the general meeting in Vienna 1988 will reintroduce the proposal for exclusion of the JUC from IASSW.

Finally we want you to know - just in case - that it will be quite unacceptable to the Nordic countries if a representative of South Africa should be elected as a member of the Board at the next General Assembly in Vienna.

Today, several Nordic schools are inclined to resign from the IASSW, a decision each individual member-school has to make.

So far the Nordic member-schools have in complete agreement decided, that the individual schools and the Nordic Committee for the time being very carefully shall follow the developments and the proceedings of IASSW up to the next conference, and our relations to the Association will be discussed and acted upon accordingly.

On behalf of the Nordic Committee
Yours sincerely


Ole F. Hermansen
Chairman

Copy to the Secretary General and all Board members.