

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FRIBOURG (Switzerland)

Fribourg, 14 September 1955

14, Rue St. Michel

Circular C.D. No 9/1955

To Directing Committee members 1955/1956
To Directing Committee candidates 1956/1957
To directors of Sub-Secretariats



My dear friend,

It is two weeks since we said good-bye to each other and left London. I sincerely hope and pray that after a well deserved rest you have got rid of the disappointments you have had at Ratcliffe and Nottingham and are now ready to get down to our tasks with courage and determination.

Each day that is passing is bringing us closer and closer to our next meeting. Even though the minutes of our last meeting have not appeared I want you all to start working on two or three points which seem to me to be of vital importance for the future.

Journal

The first of these concerns the Journal. You all know that Ladislav Marothy had undertaken to try to prepare a plan for the Journal for the next year. The different numbers of the journal have to be planned in advance and we should know in advance what the central theme of each number will be in order to approach competent persons to contribute articles. My own personal view is that from number to number there should be some continuity. However, if you could put in black and white your ideas as soon as possible and send them on to Marothy, it would help him to prepare the draft plan to be presented in January. We had not discussed any theme at our last meeting and so each one has to suggest the theme that he or she considers is of the greatest interest to the student. From them Marothy could make the choice and if necessary consult the members again. Whether we accept the idea of having a central theme or not we have to find means to make the journal more useful and interesting to the students.

Seminário de Formação

The second item is the question of the Seminar for the formation of leaders. Though this has been accepted in principle the details as to methods to be adopted and the place and programme have yet to be decided. In this case also if all the members could put their ideas in writing and send them on to the General Secretariat the General Secretary will be able to make a final proposition based on your suggestions as well as his discussions with other competent people.

Questões de fundo

The third point I wanted to make is to request you to read carefully the report I had presented to the D.C. meeting in Leicester. Though I may be wrong, I believe that it is a certain work done and that what has been done should not be repeated again this year. I will be very happy to receive any comments that you will have to make on this report. I would draw your attention to paragraphs 5 and 8. I think they are important if we are not to repeat some of the mistakes we have already committed.

Assembleia Interfederal

I believe that the Interfederal Assembly should not be made a tribunal which has to decide on differences of opinions expressed in the General Secretariat of the Directing Committee. The members of the General Secretariat and the Directing Committee have the occasion at the D.C. meeting to express their points of view and then each one should have the humility to accept the decision taken by the D.C. Once this decision is taken we should present it to the I.A. perhaps with a mention of the different opinions expressed and explaining why a particular decision had been taken. But I am convinced that it will not serve any purpose to recommence a discussion between members of the General Secretariat and D.C. once again at the I.A. The members of the I.A. know much less about the different problems being discussed than the D.C. members and they should not be led into further confusion by us. If this is accepted we will not have unnecessary discussions at the I.A. and the delegates will have more time to help the directing bodies with their suggestions and experience. If matters that have been discussed in the D.C. are to be re-discussed on the same basis again in the Assembly how can any individual be asked to give any responsible leadership. We give the Assembly the impression that a single individual's views are being presented to it and not the collective decision of the D.C. Personal differences of opinion among the members of the General Secretariat and the D.C. should not be taken beyond the D.C. meetings. I would like you to let me know what you think about this matter. I have presented my point of view. Whether you agree or not I am eager to know your opinion and receive your suggestions in order to prepare already for the future.

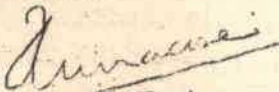
Estatutos

The general feeling had been expressed that some changes have to be brought in the statutes. If you have any suggestions to make please convey them to Zygmunt Marzys without much delay.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

The elected members of the Directing Committee are usually the most enthusiastic members of federations. Hence there is the danger that they may tend to programme the activities of the Movement as if all the members were as enthusiastic as themselves. They may become preoccupied with the development of their own ideas and ideals to the extent that they overlook both the need carefully to explain their principles to other enthusiastic members and the Movement's duty to provide for those who are less enthusiastic than themselves. That is why it is always best to put our heads together and not to insist too much on our own ideas. We are all working for the same goal. It is neither our competence nor experience that keeps the Movement going. We are only instruments in the Hands of the Almighty and so with confidence let us accept the opinions expressed by others and seek solutions which are acceptable to all. We are all doing what we can and for me at least one of the greatest encouragements will be to receive from time to time letters from you telling me frankly what you think should be done for the good of the Movement. Thus we shall work as a team and God's blessings shall be with us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,


Joseph Kuriacose
President

P.S.

I would have liked to write to each one of you separately. But I have to tell you all, the same thing and thought it best to polycopy this and send it on to you. I hope you will excuse me.