

Djakarta, Aug. 4, 1958.

An outline report,
evaluation of the work
of Pax Romana in Indonesia.

Madame Chairman,
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



I write this in order to make it easier for the delegates of the PMKRI, Union of Catholic University Students of the Republic of Indonesia, in giving report of our recent activities, I have tried to make it as brief as possible. Moreover, in this you could also find our evaluation of the work done by Pax Romana in Indonesia. The PMKRI has nominated as its delegates Miss Mathilde Sumampouw, Mr. Joseph Oei Hak Liang and Mr Richard Kaptin Adisumarto.

First of all, allow me, on behalf of all the members of the PMKRI to extend the sincerest congratulations and best wishes to the Interfederal Assembly. Let us pray that the Holy Ghost would guide this meeting so it might bear good fruit, which would be of most useful for the perfection of Pax Romana, International Movement of Catholic Students, in fulfilling its tasks and achieving its true aims.

Fortunately this year the meeting is held in Europe, where there are Indonesian students studying whom we can appoint as being our representatives. Furthermore Miss Mathilde Sumampouw on her return back from the USA to Indonesia, could also attend the Interfederal Assembly if she could be succeeded in getting the grant for her stay. I would like to express the greatest gratitude to all those who are so kind for giving us help to enable us sending delegates of the PMKRI.

Unfortunately, due to its many other activities, PMKRI could never pay the costs for foreign travel with its own money. We have always been forced to beg other persons, especially from foreign foundations here in Indonesia. Since the beginning of this year, we decided not to ask any grant from any foreign foundation here in Indonesia. We are depending on Pax Romana and other Catholic institutions whether or not we are able to send delegate(s) to international meetings of Pax Romana. We are always trying to avoid any means which might be used by those opposing us for their own benefit but causes damage to us and the development of Christianity. And in that way it would also benefit those foreign foundations itself so that they will not be suspected in their activities. There are many reasons for consideration but I am sorry I could not explain them here.

Considering the fact that due to our finances PMKRI could never be represented in meetings organised by Pax Romana, we ask the Interfederal Assembly to deliberate upon the possibility of Pax Romana financial help, which might also be needed by other federations to ensure their representation in the meetings. The insufficient representation in the Interfederal Ass. because of finances is an acute one, which make it rather hard to talk about the value of meetings for a federation.

If we always have to send those studying abroad, we face the fact that those studying abroad while getting many experiences, but just because of the distance involved, they are unable to contribute it directly to their federation. While those working in the PMKRI at home might need experiences in international life especially in relation with Pax Romana in order to work for the progress of the PMKRI and the spreading of knowledge about Pax Romana among our members. We need a diversification of experiences to ensure the continuity of the life of the PMKRI and its development. Those facing day to day problems of the PMKRI need sufficient experiences in organisational life and sufficient formation so that we could make progress, internationally as well as nationally. And it is worth noting that leaders of the federation opposing us have got very excellent formations and experiences and they will be more productive because they are professionals. Given the facts that we can need more experiences, formations etc. to balance them, we might because of that unconsciously be influenced by them, just because their capability in using tactics,

We do not mean that Pax Romana should always ensure our representation in all the meetings but just that Pax Romana will help that the leaders of the PMKRI might have the opportunity to have excellent formation and experiences, which we needed for our progress. We hope that in all the coming meetings which will be of most useful to the PMKRI, we will be represented. I believe our delegates will discuss it extensively.

Now let me give you a report of the PMKRI activities in outline and as brief as possible. It will be divided into international, national and local level. On the international level, so far we have only achieved those mentioned below, which of course is far from being sufficient.

International Relations.

For her international relations, PMKRI has a secretary for external affairs, which is permanently in Djakarta. The address is, Djl. Dr. Sam Ratulangi 1, Djakarta II/16, Djakarta, Indonesia.

1. As a pledge of that heavenly favour and as a mark of his paternal interest and encouragement, the holy father had cordially imparted to all our members and those taking part in our Seventh Congress, His special apostolic Benediction. The holy father cherishes the prayerful hope that during the second decade of its existence, the PMKRI may achieve an ever greater success in spreading among its fellow students a knowledge and appreciation of the teaching of Catholic faith. The Apostolic Benediction is a source of particular graces for the success of our works and we will make his prayerful hope as one of the orientations of all our activities.

2. Pax Romana.

- Due to the goodwill of Mr Thom Kerstiens, the present General Secretary, there is an improvement in the relationship between the General Secretariat and the PMKRI. I wish to express the greatest gratitude and high appreciation for his excellent work.



- the candidate for the Directing Committee from the PMKRI is Mr. Joseph Oei Hak Liang
- Pax Romana had given aim to Lumen de Oriente,
- we received enthusiastically congratulations letters for our Congress and for the eleventh celebration day which is of course most useful to make Pax Romana known
- we had been asked to nominate a candidate willing to work in Fribourgh for one year
- serious efforts had been made by Pax Romana to raise funds to enable one Indonesian student gain experiences which will certainly be of most useful for the PMKRI
- we had been asked to send photos of our activities and I sent seven photos but unfortunately I do not know whether or not they reached the General Secretary (I sent it according to date).
- I am sorry to say that between the Asian Secretary and the PMKRI there was no contact. I am afraid that letters from both sides did not reach the destination. During my term of office, I only received one letter from Mr. Philip Hof Fookseng in which he stated: "I hope to write you a long overdue letter in May". But I have never received it.

3. Federations of Pax Romana.

ASIA

To prove that the spirit of brotherhood does exist, we had received messages and congratulations letters from Malaya, Japan, Hong Kong, and India, for our Congress last year.

The contacts between the Asian Federations and the PMKRI did not go as smoothly as we had hoped it would be. To the Korean Association, I feel sorry not to reply your letter of May 30, because I failed to find out your address.

With regard to Lumen de Oriente, the Asian magazine, for which publication the PMKRI is responsible for, we are sorry for its lateness in its first edition. Because of this it might seem that the PMKRI could not do well its task in relation to Pax Romana. But before you give valuation on that, please read the following facts first. In October 24, Mr. Thom Kerstiens wrote me about the decision of the Interf.Ass. concerning Lumen de Oriente. At our Congress in December we also discussed L.de O., since there was a probability that another branch would take over from the Djakarta branch ~~its~~ the responsibility for its publication. However it was decided that the Djakarta branch should continue its responsibility and so it got the authorization to appoint the editorial board.

Unfortunately because of last year experiences which were not encouraging, it was very hard for the Djakarta branch to find an editor. Last year the editorial board faced the problems of insufficient contribution of articles and money, which was one of the important reasons for the difficulties in finding an editor. Mr. Kerstiens would be ready to raise funds for Lumen de Oriente if I could draw a budget. On the other hand I felt not competent to draw that budget, without consulting the editorial board, because it is not me who will run the work and have the responsibility, incl. financial responsibility.

Also I don't know the needs of the editorial board. The editorial board could not be found without the assurance that there will be no financial difficulty. This is not because the FMARI is not willing to pay the expences, but plainly because we don't have the money. And you would certainly understand, that after knowing FMARI, she could not be expected to give financial help to any great extend (as was stated last year). It is of course beyond the capacity of an editorial board to raise funds to cover the whole expences. Moreover there was no one replying my letters of February in which I asked the four federations mentioned above to send their articles.

However after all, the problem has been solved but very late. And this was the reason for its lateness. Special note can be madethat of the 35 pages of the first edition, only 5 pages were filled by Burma, Malaya and Hong Kong.

Because we did not succeed in getting travel grants and our money was insufficient to cover the costs of attending the Leadership Training Course, we could only send the answer of questionnaire and our best wishes. However the theme of the L.T.C. was discussed in our discussion group some months before the L.T.C. took place. But it was regrettable that we could not get sufficient information so we were unable to discuss the theme more in line with that which was planned by the coming L.T.C. The purpose of such a discussion is that whether or not we send delegate, we do participate in trying to solve problems faced by Asian groups. But I am sorry to say that the idea was not received enthusiastically by the organisers of the LTC.

- Australia and New Zealand.

We also received several letters from those federations

- USA!

Besides the congratulation letter which we received, there was also a very good and cordial contact between NFCC and the FMARI, due to Miss Mary Frann Somers. It is a pity that the sufficient contact which then existed was only of a very short time, i.e. the last month of 1957 and the first year of period of 1958. I am afraid that due to postal difficulties the International Affairs Vice President did not receive our last three letters, i.e. about university autonomy, an article about "the FMARI and West Irian", and a letter asking whether or not my letters had been received.

Besides the contacts between FMARI and Pax Romana and with some of its federations, we also have contacts with other organizations abroad. In fact because it is very difficult to have personal contacts, I feel that FMARI should improve its international contacts by correspondence. But that however depends again upon the goodwill of other federations. From our side I'd like to ensure the federations that if there were letters of some federations unreplied, it happened only because we had never received them.

National activities.

To give you a report about our national activities, I shall restrict myself to our last working conference and congress which can be said were successful. If you would see the resolutions taken you could imagine the activities mentioned above.

The working conference was divided into 4 sections:

- internal affairs: discussion about organisational matters and improvement of the constitution
- external affairs: domestic and foreign.

Congress is a meeting especially meant to strengthen the spirit of brotherhood among our members. Besides the plenary sessions in which the results of the commissions are discussed, we also had discussions about study themes and the election of a new Central Board. Since last year the Congress will be organised once in two years.

I'll give you the main points of the results of the discussion about external affairs.

External Affairs.

Resolution on the situation of our country.

I. - Cooperation Body of Military and Youth Movement.

The Central Board is delegated to be in charge of it with considerations of the situation (we are now still a member).

- West Irian

= to all the members of the PKMRI and government:

considering the decision of the Asian African student conference and the danger of world peace, as Indonesian students having responsibility to all national problems and as catholic students who have the rights and duties to defend and to exercise catholic principles it was decided:

that it should be active, individually as well as organisational to try in solving the problem and to participate in the struggle, the activities should be based on catholic principles.

the government is recommended to mobilize university students as effective as possible.

= To Indonesian students studying in the Netherlands:

the tension in the relationship between the Indonesian and Dutch government has brought moral and material consequences to those Indonesian students studying in the Netherlands and so:

we express our greatest sympathy for their sacrifice and express our sincere hope that they will untiringly and carefully defend our national interests

= to all University students in the world, especially those who support the Asian African student conference: we ask that they will support the Indonesian claim and that they suggest their government, and that they will assist the Indonesian students in overcoming the difficulties because of their study in the Netherlands.

= To all the governments which have given their help to those students, we would like to express our sincere gratitude.

- As the consequences of the bad relationship between the Indonesian and Dutch government are felt by our people, the PKMRI is well aware that the problem should be solved only with national unity and without weakening national potency.

To all the Indonesian leaders the PKMRI urge to concentrate all their thoughts and attentions to the national claim;



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To all the members of the community it urges to help the government in its attempts to lighten the burden of our people and not to use the situation as a mean to individual or group benefit; and finally it asks all our people to obey government regulation.

- With regard to the Tjikini affair, the PMKRI expresses its sorrow. It expresses its prayerful thanks to the Lord for blessing the president of Indonesia and saving him from becoming a victim of the terror.
- II. To prove the national consciousness of all our members the Congress instructed all the branches to celebrate national celebration days. And in celebrating the catholic celebration days it should be marked also with national spirit.
- III. The PMKRI is well aware that the future of catholicism will mainly depends on the collaboration among all the catholic organizations, and so the collaborations which are already in existence should be improved to local and national level, e.g. by periodical meetings. The PMKRI should take the initiative.
- IV. For the continuation of the role played by PMKRI in our National Union of Students (PPMI), our Congress considered the importance of training cadres for the work in the PPMI; PMKRI should make PPMI truly representative.
Note:
Since the absence of PPMI, PMKRI has played an important role. The present secretary and treasurer of the executive committee are members of PMKRI. Many members of PMKRI were sent abroad.
In the Fourth World Student Congress of the IUS in '56, PPMI sent the General Secretary who is a member of PMKRI as an observer.
The problem we are facing is the relationship between Indonesian Student Council, which has a passive membership and PPMI with active membership.
If you are interested in the relationship between PMKRI and PPMI, our delegates would certainly give your further information.
The PMKRI urged the Executive Committee of the PPMI to realise the joint agreement PPMI-INDONESIAN Student Council and the formation of joint secretariat.
- V. The PMKRI felt the necessity of having more missionaries and so the necessity of having more government facilities to ensure the entrance of foreign missionaries, who could adopt themselves to the needs of Indonesian people.
- VI. The PMKRI urges the foundation of an Indonesian alumni association.
Note:
On May 15 the Catholic Graduate and Intellectual Association was founded.
- VII. The PMKRI felt the necessity that the mission and catholic universities abroad give scholarships to catholic students in Indonesia.

External Foreign Affairs.

Besides the matters concerning the aims and tasks of the Secretariat for external affairs which permanent address in Djakarta was reaffirmed again, the following things were decided:

- the Central Board should investigate the possibility of being host to Pax Romana meetings here in Indonesia, e.g. Asian Seminar;

Each branch is recommended to establish study circles to study international problems;

- "Pulsus", the PMKRI magazine should copy important articles from Pax Romana Journal, so it may be widespread, each branch is recommended to find out subscribers,
- Each branch is recommended to celebrate Pax Romana day scientifically, e.g. by organizing a study week,
- To give opportunity to the Bandung branch to investigate the possibility of establishing a subsecretariat for engineering students, while the Djakarta and Djokja branch are ready to establish the subsecretariat for mission, art and sociology;
- The Djakarta branch should publish Lumen de Oriente.
- With regard to West Irian problem the Secretariat is recommended to make the problem more understood by the considerations in the world.

Themes of the seminar during the Congress.

I. Lay **Fundação Cuidar o Futuro**

The speaker was His Excellency Mgr. W. Schoemaker MSC and Mr. Joseph Himawan who had been sent by the PPMI for a study tour and had the opportunity to attend the Lay Apostolate Congress in Rome. Mgr. Schoemaker is now the General Secretary of the Dewan Wali Geredja Pusat.

His Excellency spoke about:

- nota historica or historical background
- facta theologica theological basis
- status questionis or problems and difficulties
- the address of the Holy Father Pope Pius XII about lay apostolate.

The results of the discussions were:

- It is dangerous for a lay man to teach moral and catholic ethics without basic knowledge about theology and philosophy, and so it is recommended that catholic students should study them;
- Coexistence with communists is forbidden but we could have human approach; collaboration in specific field of religion will depend on the Hierarchy, but we have to be careful and should have basis formation to prevent their influence;
- Though we are members of the Church which is supra national, but individually we have to be nationalistic; between the Hierarchy and the laymen there should exist collaboration, they could work separately in their specific fields but they have to go hand in hand; the Church should and have to give informations and orientations;



- In fulfilling our tasks we ~~xxx~~ often faces difficulties arising from the facts that there some Dutch missionaries who, pro with their own government, they have to be punished for the interference with political issues if they express their opinion;

- To combat the opinion that our religion is identical with Dutch rule which were used by the Communists as an effective weapon, especially in this time, ther should be therefore a modern and evolutionary change in the mission, in its personal and financial aspects

Note: at this time as was said by Monsigneur, the Internuntius is making efforts to have more missionaries of non-Dutch nationality

- There is no sharp distinction between the laity and the spirituality because everything is animated with moral aspects.

- etc-

II. Autonomy of the University.

This theme is chosen as a preparation of the PMKRI for the World Congress of Pax Romana. Unfortunately the Secretary could not get information from Pax Romana to make the discussion follow the same line or at least in order to discuss certain aspects of that, which will be discussed in the world Congress. The law concerning the universities is now in preparation in Indonesia.

The speaker was His Excellency Mgr. Dr.N.Geisse OFM, Dean of the Catholic University of Priangan.

Results of the discussions:

- **University** autonomy means the freedom from any influence which will make hindrance in the efforts to achieve its ideals; **University** should be independent, especially from the authorities, whether it will be in legislative, executive or judicative; free from the influence of political parties.
- Though there are differences between West Europeans and Americans, the ideals of the university should be anyhow to serve the truth.
- Truth is not man made but man tries to find out objective truth
- Inorder to find out truth, it is not the duty of the authority as such;
- The authority should not interfere in the ideas of the university in serving truth and all it research - to force the professors to teach certain ideologies or for the benefit of the authorities;
- For the sake of social benefit, the authorities have the right to make qualifications, so the certificates may have effectus civiles; they have the right to forbid the immoral and anti-national education, for to give opportunity for such an education is extremely contradictory to the main task of the authorities, i.e. to work for social benefit.

III. The economy of the State.

The speaker was Drs. Frans Seda.

The results of the discussions were:

Difficulties are mainly caused by social economic aspects

- monetary policy to enable investment and domestic lending will be more effective than fiscal policy
- there have to be a clear foreign lending policy and efforts to attract foreign investment,

- to maintain liberal political economy
- social economic groups must adopt themselves to the economic situation and economic norms.

Note:

In Indonesia where the income per capita is very low, there is widening gap between the increase in population and the increase in production, which causes the lowering income. There have been deficit in government budget with only a small percentage used for investment. Besides, the position of our balance of payments is not so very good. The high income group used their income for luxuries, as the result of demonstration effects. To prevent the economic situation from worsening, there are many government plans, but we face lack of capital and skills. Another negative solution is e.g. New Life Movement as was suggested by President Dr. Ir. Sukarno who urges the Indonesian people to live in simplicity (of course this only valid for the high income group), family planning, birth control, etc.

From the national activities mentioned above, you can draw conclusion that PMKRI is active on national level, that she is able to think and has tried to find solution for the problems face by the government, student movements, church organizations, etc.



Local activities.

The local activities are mainly concerned with the integral formation of all our members, Catholic as well as non-Catholic, so that they may become good citizens and real servants of the Church in extending the Kingdom of Christ:

- Student's Sodality of Mary
- Religious courses given regularly. After ragging time, the new members have the obligation to attend it for some months, Catholics as well as non.
- Retraites given once a year, separately for Catholics and non.
- Lectures given on special occasions, e.g. Pax Romana day, etc.

This year to celebrate Pax Romana day all our branches had specific means in celebrating it. e.g. Holy Masses followed by a discussion about Pax Romana to make it known to the members, social evening, cultural entertainment, symposiums etc. As most of them were determined long before the celebration, the theme suggested by the Interfederal Ass. "Our brother the foreign student" could not have taken place, though we realise the value of it in this modern time as was stated in our letters for the President and the General Secretary of Pax Roman. In Djakarta, a symposium was organised with a theme "family planning", viewed from economic side and the Catholic Church. There were about 100 students in the morning and about 80 in the evening attending the symposium. It was opened with a Holy Mass.

- Forming study circles, which are running very well. In Djakarta for example, during '57-'58 academic year the following topics were discussed: evaluation of the Congress of the FPMI, formation of catholic leaders (the theme of the A.F.C.), free will and God's grace, discussion on the possibility to organize the Asian Seminar (results.. investigation of finances, government interest, and contact with Pax Romana. As there was no assurance that we might be host of the seminar, we didn't feel necessary to investigate other points

this year), marxism, prostitution, preliminary discussion on ragging, which was attended by some members of the PPMI, discussion on next year program.

We should be most thankful if Pax Romana could help the study circles in a concrete form.

- Developing cultural ability, sports, spirit of brotherhood, collaborations with catholic and non-catholic organizations;
- raising money to cover activities;
- social actions, etc.

While it seems to me that from the letters of Mr. Thom Kerstiens and our candidate for the Directing Committee, Pax Romana is interested in our social actions, which externally is used to prove our civic consciousness and Christian charity, while internally it is used to train our members in the apostolic work and to promote the spirit of collaboration. I will give you a brief report on it:

- Each year during ragging time we are always organizing social actions to collect funds, which will be distributed to certain institutions.
- On Catholic celebration days, e.g. Christmas, Easter, etc. we often visit and give entertainment to those isolated from the society because of their sickness, poverty, etc, to children of charitable institutions, to children in rehabilitation institutions, etc. The purpose is that we will prove that we are not a society apart, isolated from its community, that we do remember them, that we are trying to comfort them in their pitious life. And more important is, to make them aware especially those children mentioned above that they could become good citizens if they would make efforts.
- Incidental social actions were organized to make PMKRI known and to collect money for certain purposes.
- Economic secondary school and other secondary schools in Djakarta. Finding and doing assistance involved and the lack of time for preparation, I could only give the situation of the economic secondary school run by the Djakarta branch.

The economic secondary school or "SMEI Bellarminus" was founded in Aug.1, 1952. The purpose is:

- to response the needs of the society for specialised skilled workers, for the development of our country. In Indonesia there is lack of such workers. Through SMEP, we could contribute to the ability of PMKRI members in specialised education by developing the education and teaching in economic,
- To train our members in social work, and it is hoped that after the student leave the university they will work in specific social work;
- To give the opportunity to our members to serve community and work for social benefit.

Difficulties and development since 1952 to 1958:

- The low payment makes it very difficult to obtain teachers. For teaching one subject for one hour in one week, a teacher can only obtain Rp.15.- for one month. If you know that at the black market now the exchange rate for 1 U.S. dollar is Rp.70.-, you would know that for one month the teacher could obtain about 22 US dollar cents. You can said that for one hour a teacher get 7 cents US dollar.

Different from the other social activities which are organized once in a time and not continuously, teachers of the SMEP have to work seriously and continuously, so it had to be carried on by students who are willing to sacrifice their own interests. We could not expect much help from outside for teachers with such a payment. So, it depends entirely on the students themselves.

- Finances:

Its first capital was Rp.350.- or 5 US dollar at the present exchange rate. Fortunately from July 1954 the government has given subsidies Rp.30.- a month for each pupil. Each year a part of the money collected by our freshmen in the social action is given to the SMEP, besides other ways of collecting funds.

- Because most of the pupils are poor and the lack of capital SMEP could not supply books and other materials, so there have been difficulties in teaching.

As the SMEP specially trains the pupils for works in the economic field, e.g. commercial firms, they have to be able to type. But unfortunately there have been only 4 typemachines for 125 pupils. The PMKRI will be most grateful if some of you would be willing to help us in providing the materials needed for its progress. By giving the help and aid, you also help the poor boys to become good citizens.

I kindly ask you to pray for the continuation of the work, to pray that the SMEP would make progress and that the work would be more succesful so everyone will pass the financial test given by the government. We are very proud to say that the blessings and graces of our Lord in Heaven, the SMEP now entering its seventh year of existence.



- Priok Action.

Priok is the harbour of Djakarta, around which the workers of the harbour live. There are many workers coming from Flores, an island where most of the population is catholics. Their stay in Priok might effect their way of life, religious as well as secular.. Because there are not so many women coming from Flores there are many who married non Catholic women from Priok and surrounding. The purpose of the action is to make efforts for the improvements of the social and economic conditions and religious life.

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As a first step, in the last month, a social survey was organised. Each Sunday the students go to Priok to visit the worker and to chat with them. From this they get to know their status and were they were married (in the Church, Mosque, or somewhere else), the structure of their family, religious and social life, housing conditions, their parties, organisations, readings, etc. From this we hope to know the difficulties and how to give solution for the improvement of it.

As further steps, our women students give religious courses and teaching how to run a household. We provided a clinique for them with the help of some PMKRI alumni who had studied medecine. We also make preparations for the foundations of a cooperative movement.

As a result, there were several babtised. The clinique however, after in existence for some months, has to be closed temporarily because there was no permission from the government. It was understandable because there was no permanent doctor willing to be responsible, as the doctors have their own jobs. It is logis because after all if that was allowed, there might many clinique be opened , maybe only for collect-benefits. The solution will be: to have a permanent doctor or to assure the government that though there is no permanent doctor, the clinique will be responsible if there is wrong treatment which will caus damage and that it will work only for social benefit.

Those were some of our activities, internationa, national and local, which might interest you.

The PMKRI asks the Interfederal Ass. to deliberate upon the possibility of recommending all the federations to give their report of activities at least once a year to the General Secretariat and that it should be published and widespread to all the federations, to facilitate exchange of experiences, which is felt necessary for a young federations like ours. Moreover we feel it necessary that immediately after the interfederal Ass., the Secretariat will inform the federations, especially the most important relations and regional program of actions, which might be useful for a federation unable to attend. The program can be used as orientations in the activities of the federation. As it is now, the results of discussions were given after the minutes were made, which take too long time.

Now we come to the evaluation of Pax Romana. First of all, I would like you to know that this evaluation is most probably very subjective, because we didn't always kept informed. Moreover, we have no opportunity to give it objectively, because up to now I have not received the reports of the General Secretary and the President, which will be of most useful in evaluating.

The main point of our evaluation is:

Pax Romana did not pay sufficient attention to the development of Christianity here in Asia and Pax Romana should intensify its activities in Asia if it will achieve its ideals of widespreading the Kingdom of Christ. Following the historical events and developments we all have observed that great changes have occurred during the last decades. New countries have emerged in Asia as well as Africa. We have strong reasons to believe that those new nations will have an important role to play in the future of the world. What has happened and is happening in Asia and Africa is of unaccessably great importance to Pax Romana. Nobody would dare to say that Pax Romana does not have anything to do with it. The great succes of the African Seminar might prove that. We might thank our Lord for having given Pax Romana the opportunity to work in the areas where those new nations are coming up. In almost all the new countries there are students who are conscious of their important task as members of the Catholic Church. They have established federations and prepared them to take part in the work Pax Romana is doing. The aim of the federations is exactly the same as what Pax Romana is aiming.

The task they shouldered is important and noble, but it is also a new and very hard one. They need strenght and courage and means in order to be able to implement it. Principally, what they should be able to achieve is the same as what their brothers in Europe and America have to. But the circumstances under which they have to work are extremely different. Particularly we would refer to the fact that in those areas like Africa and Asia, Christianity is generally regarded as something alien, something which has still to grow. The Christian spirit has to be widespread among people who has other religions or worse, who think to be able to get better off without God. Unfortunately these people can widespread their ideology under far more favourable circumstances. They have very good formations so that they are well prepared to work. Their brothers in every part of the world show their solidarity. They can use any means to achieve their

aims, while we have to remember the principle of love. Those people can attack those contrary to their ideology as being imperialistic, colonialistic, capitalistic, etc, terms hate by our people. While we before we could spread our ideology we have to face our opponents working under favourable circumstances. We have to combat the people who regard our religion as a Dutch religion! We have to prove them that this is completely wrong. It is particularly against them that the modern Christians should fight. Unfortunately those kind of people, due to the circumstances has gained more followers here in Indonesia in particular and in Asia in general. Their followers increase day by day and their strength grows with the time! Unfortunately there is a gap between their progress and ours.



We know that the leaders of Pax Romana are conscious of the fact and we know that they are very interested in it. On the other hand in spite of all mentioned above, their interest in the work of the regional federations in Asia is still far from being sufficient. How far did Pax Romana pay attention to or have interest in the development of Christianity here in Asia? Mr. Patrick Hulede, Kumasi, Ghana has said: "we are here to make sure that when this giant, Africa, walks and runs, he will take the road of Christ". It is also of most importance that Asia will take the same road, and efforts have to be made to prevent them from walking another road which might endanger their souls and the Kingdom of Christ in general. Dear brothers, you too have the responsibility for it. You can not leave it alone to the Asian students. It is the duty of Pax Romana, which unites all Catholic students from every part of the world to give help and to make them aware of their responsibility. How far did Pax Romana coordinate the Asian students in the spreading of the Catholic Faith? How far did Pax Romana promote the collaboration of all the members of Pax Romana in Asia? My report of the relationship between the Asian federations in Asia and the PMKRI, and between the Asian Secretary and the PMKRI, can be used as a criteria in answering! It is not the fault of the Asian groups if they have had no collaboration among them. It is the fault of those having the responsibility! The facts were not stated because of the existence of sentiments, but just only as a warning: don't try to catch the train when it has gone too far. I hope you do not misunderstand. Don't let us be too late to widespread the Kingdom of Christ.

Now, PMKRI vis-a-vis Pax Romana.

From the report of Mr. Joseph Oei Hak Kiang, the candidate for the Directing Committee, we has been informed that PMKRI is one of the best federations. In the field of the relationship between the General Secretariat and the PMKRI, it was mainly due, as I has stated, to Mr. Thom Kerstiens. But in the field of the activities of our union in widespreading the Kingdom of Christ, it has nothing to do with Pax Romana. We honestly have to confess that most of our members would not be able to say that it is essential for them to join Pax Romana. And it is very difficult indeed to prove that without Pax Romana being in close contact with us, our union would not be able to keep itself running as it has been up to now. Or positively speaking, there has been so far nothing particular happened which could be credited to Pax Romana in the efforts to widespread the teaching of Christ. On the other hand,

it is also a fact that sofar there has been nothing particular in the life and development of Pax Romana which could be credited to the PMKRI. The fact is especially valid if viewed from the material point of view.

If we, members of the PMKRI have to observe that what was mentioned above as the prevailing situation in our relation with Pax Romana, we would wonder how the other federations feel about it. We hope such a situation exists only with the PMKRI.

Dear brothers, what had been said above were based on sincerity. Though it was not intended to say that Pax Romana has not made any progress in Asia, we would not like to hide what we feel, though it might also be subjected to errors due to the insufficiency of informations. We feel that taking into considerations the great task it has to carry out for the sake of the future of the world, for the sake of the wide-spreading of the kingdom of Christ and the difficulties it has to face particularly in Asia, Pax Romana should take any opportunity to intensify its activities in this part of the world. Pax Romana should make more formations to the Asian students.

Finally, before to close I would like to say a little bit about the importance of the PMKRI for students. As most of the universities are State's, integral formations for Catholic students as well as those sympathising with Catholic principles can only be achieved through the PMKRI. The formations are extremely needed because in our country we might get the opportunity to hold key positions where we might influence others with Catholic principles and not that we are being influenced or unconsciously let ourselves be influenced by others. The percentage of Catholic is 1,30%, i.e. 1.075.045 from a population of 82.111.700. The total amount of students are about 28.000 while members of the PMKRI are about 2500 or about 9%, from which 6% are Catholics.

With kind regards and wishing the Interfederal Assembly all the best succes, with prayers from far-off, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Central Board of the PMKRI

R.B. Suhartono
Secretary for external affairs.