

L'espere que tu as reçu les lettres écrites à
l'adresse de Paris
&

ROSEMARY GOLDIE

Associate Secretary, « Consilium de Laicis »

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Très affectueux

Rosemary

Piazza S. Calisto, 16

00153 ROME

July 21st, 1969

Miss Brigalia RAM
Associate Secretary
Department on Cooperation of Men and Women
World Council of Churches
150 route de Ferney
1211 GENEVA 20

Dear Brigalia,

Thank you very much for your letter of July 15th and the minutes of the informal meeting of the Women's Ecumenical Group held in Geneva on June 11th.

I note the dates of the next meeting of the Group, to be held at Cartigny in December. I note also the proposal to have another informal meeting here in Rome in October. As you know, the only reason why the date of this meeting, if it is to be held, must be October 16th is that the Consultation between the ^{DEA} and the Laity Council (for which, I hope, you and Frau Nold, as well as Pilar Bello-sillo and Rie Vendrik, will be present here) closes only on October 15th. I shall be grateful to know as soon as possible whether this meeting is actually to be held and how many people will be coming, because accommodation in Rome is quite a problem in October and will be more so than usual this year on account of the Synod of Bishops. Was any specific agenda proposed for the meeting?

Generally speaking, I agree with the tentative agenda for the meeting in December. I would only suggest that the stress should be throughout (as would seem to be intended) on factual information, "practical issues" and "strategy" for study and action. This includes, of course, the first item summary and analysis of replies sent to the Taizé participants. I would hope, too, that before the meeting there would be more of the type of information sent by Margaret Shannon for the USA, and also of studies and activities in which the people on "our side" are involved (WUCWO, Grail, etc.). I wonder if it is not premature to devote a whole panel discussion to "dialogue with non-Christians", even though that can be an important field for "ecumenical" collaboration in the strict sense. If we want an "open" session, Frau Nold's theme might be more appropriate for the Group at this stage.

I have written to Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo about the suggestion to invite Abigail McCarthy to the meeting in December.

As regards the difficulty which some people find in "the lack of clarity" as to the "aim and purpose" of the Group, I think this is inevitable at the present stage and is inherent in the "exploratory" nature of the Group. We cannot have a clearly defined purpose - except the "exploration" itself - until we have a clearer picture of the situations and activities in relation to which we must try to

stimulate and serve the ecumenical involvement of the women of the Churches.

The incorporation of the nucleus "post-Taizé" group is an important step, even though it necessarily complicates the picture. There may have to be some "operational" follow-up to Taizé. If so, we shall have to define very clearly to what extent the responsibility of the whole Group is involved, and who is doing what.

I look forward very much to seeing you in Canterbury,

Yours,

Rosemary Goldie

Cc. to Pilar BELLOSILLO
M.de Lourdes PINTASILGO

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

EUROPEAN CONSULTATION

Gud-Poelgeest, November 10-15, 1969Monday 10.11.1969

14.00 - 17.00 Arrival
 17.00 Opening Service
 17.45 Dinner
 19.30 Opening speeches
 20.00 "Who is who"
 21.00 Coffee

Tuesday 11.11.1969

8.00 Morning prayers
 8.15 Breakfast
 9.15 Lecture by a representative from the Third World on
 "The Christian layman in a world of rapid change and
 development"
 10.30 Coffee break
 11.00 Plenary session with the aim of formulating the problems and
 challenges and making the participants better acquainted with
 the subject of the Consultation.
 12.45 Lunch
 15.00 The theme of the Tuesday-morning will be dealt of in four
 fifteen minutes speeches from different points of view:
 a. the secular point of view
 b. the missionary perspective
 c. the experience of existing lay organisations
 d. story of a layman.
 After each of the four speeches the opportunity will be
 given to the plenary of getting a clarification, if necessary.
 At 16.00 tea will be served.
 17.45 Supper
 20.00 A film. Afterwards opportunity for the Kerk Overzee Committee
 to make acquaintance with the participants of the Consultation.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Wednesday 12.11.1969

8.00 Morning prayers
 8.15 Breakfast
 9.00 Bible study
 10.30 Coffee break
 11.00 "The responsibility of the European Churches for their laymen
 overseas".
 Three fifteen minutes speeches about:
 a. What can the Churches do?
 b. Pastoral concern
 c. What when they have come back?
 Plenary session for clarification

12.45 Lunch
 Afternoon Working Groups:
 1. Laymen as agents of social change and development
 (guiding principles and appeal to the Churches here)
 2. Recruitment and preparation of laymen
 3. Pastoral concern
 4. Relation of the laymen overseas to the indigenous Churches
 5. Involvement of the Churches in Europe.
 Each Working Group will discuss two subjects
 17.45 Supper
 19.30 Working Groups

Thursday 13.11.1969

8.00 Morning prayers
 8.15 Breakfast
 9.00 Experience of some laymen overseas
 10.00 Coffee break
 10.30 Working Groups
 12.45 Lunch
 14.00 Group excursion, e.g. to Amsterdam (Supper during excursion)
 20.00 Working Groups

Friday 14.11.1969

8.00 Morning prayers
 8.15 Breakfast
 9.00 Bible study
 10.00 Coffee break
 10.30 Plenary. Reports of Working Groups.
 12.45 Lunch
 15.00 Plenary. Reports of Working Groups
 (16.00 Tea break)
 17.00 Reception, where Dutch representative of Churches, sending agencies and cooperating bodies will be invited to.
 18.30 Special supper

Saturday 15.11.1969

8.00 Morning prayers
 8.15 Breakfast
 9.00 Final session. Approval of the reports. Discussion of the question how to continue our European cooperation.
 Recommendations.
 (10.30 Coffee break)
 12.00 Closing service
 12.45 Lunch
 14.00 Departure.

Because of the importance of the Saturday-morning all participants are expected to stay till the end of the Consultation.