

UNOFFICIAL TWO - WAY AMBASSADORS

"For ten years, in Paris, Brussels and Rome, I have been able to observe the growth of FAWCO and the extension of its influence. It has now become an essential link, not only among American women abroad, but also between the American and European communities. It has succeeded in opening channels of communication, in correcting false impressions, and generally in 'making friends and influencing peoples' in areas where official information services cannot always penetrate."

"I congratulate FAWCO in its past achievements and hope that it will continue to be, in the years to come, one of our most valuable allies in projecting a sympathetic image of our country among friends abroad."

From a letter written by Cultural Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Rome, Dr. John Brown, now Professor at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. and bi-lingual author of books in English and French.

The story of the origin and development of

FAWCO *

as an instrument for promoting
international understanding and lasting peace

* Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas

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It is no longer a matter of "one-way" communication. It is a matter of "two-way" communication. It is a matter of "two-way" communication. It is a matter of "two-way" communication.

FAWCO's network of knowledge is a network of knowledge. It is a network of knowledge. It is a network of knowledge. It is a network of knowledge.

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F A W C O *

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Membership size and budget are not the gauge for judging the importance of FAWCO. Its impact and influence are far broader and its achievements are far more significant than its vital statistics might indicate. Its individual members are an elite of responsible women who, as Americans living abroad, are in the unique position of having two points of view and knowing two countries - America and the foreign country. Their foreign experience includes several countries, several cultures, several languages. Inevitably these women think and feel differently from their mother generation. It follows naturally that FAWCO's role is to reflect new values and to contribute to the role of individuals as ambassadors for these international-minded American women overseas.

*** Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas**

FOREWORD

As FAWCO approaches its 40th birthday, a history of its origins and its pioneer years is most timely. A glimpse only of its past accomplishments proves again and again its strength, vitality and influence. Its importance and impact in foreign communities abroad grow and expand. Its impact on the American scene is no longer a vague hope but becomes reality. It is stronger each year. It is modern and, as always, keeps in step with the problems and issues of the times as this brief history so well describes.

FAWCO's network of member clubs in Europe stretches from Scandinavia to Spain and crosses oceans to include Barbados in the West Indies and Perth "down under" in Australia. It is made up today of 15 clubs in 12 countries: Amsterdam, Basle, Barbados, Brussels (the largest with over 1,000 members), Cologne, Copenhagen, London (founded 1899, oldest and second largest), Madrid, Oslo, Paris (2 clubs - AWG and AAWE), Perth, Rome, Seville and Zurich. FAWCO's 40th anniversary conference takes place in Paris in March with some hundred delegates and visitors expected for its four days of discussions, workshops and committee work. Through such conferences FAWCO has insured continuing personal contact between clubs, maintaining them between conferences with FAWCO headquarters serving as coordinator and information clearing house.

Activities and achievements? The most important are: a growing number of scholarship awards to foreign national students for study in the U.S.A.; a myriad number of local welfare and cultural projects; and a Peace Through Knowledge program. Ways to obtain absentee voting rights for Federal elections for the disenfranchised Americans overseas have been on FAWCO's study agenda for 15 years and its efforts have contributed towards legislation now under consideration in Congress. Special committees more recently have probed the problem of bilingualism and dual heritage. Test cases are now in American courts. Through FAWCO's Liaison Committee in the U.S., ties with like-minded organizations have been strengthened and cooperation in fields of mutual interest continue to develop. An important milestone in FAWCO's history was the establishment of the FAWCO Foundation which, although as explained in the history is an independent entity, is equipped to assist FAWCO and its member clubs' educational, scientific and philanthropic projects.

Membership size and budget are not the gauge for judging the importance of FAWCO. Its impact and influence are far broader and its achievements are clearly out of proportion and of far more significance than its vital statistics might indicate. Its individual members are an elite of responsible women who, as Americans living abroad temporarily or permanently, are in the unique position of having two points of view and knowing two countries — increasingly often these days their foreign experience includes several countries, several cultures, several languages. Inevitably these women think and live more internationally than their mothers' generation. It follows naturally that FAWCO's role is to reflect new values and ideas and to continue its role of leadership as spokesman for these international-minded American women overseas.

FAWCO's objectives defined in Berlin in 1932 are still valid: "to promote friendship and cooperation among American Women's Clubs Overseas and to secure the support of their members for any efforts which they believe might help to bring about a better understanding between the U.S.A. and other nations, provided such support is not used as propaganda for political purposes."

Brussels
January 15, 1971

Marge Ganseman
FAWCO President 1953-1955

"American women living and working all over the world are more or less permanent ambassadors, two-way ambassadors, explaining American ways to host countries and interpreting their ways back home. In transplanting the American woman's favorite mechanism, the woman's club, you of FAWCO have taken an important step towards creating a true image by showing your neighbors in your host countries one of the most typical and one of the best facets of American life."

From the 1963 FAWCO Conference address by the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs, Department of State, the Honorable Katie Louchheim.

"May I congratulate you on all your projects and programs. I have been a part of them and I know their value in bringing about closer understanding between our country and others."

Wrote Mrs. Esther Peterson, Consumer Advisor to the President of Giant Foods, Inc. when serving as Assistant Secretary of Labor, Director of the Women's Bureau, and Special Assistant to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson for Consumer Affairs. A former President of the American Women's Club of Brussels and Chairman of FAWCO's Absentee Voting study program.

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FAWCO

The Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe came into being in the spring of 1931, evolving later into the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, or FAWCO.

ORIGIN

1931 - London

The growing threat of another war in Europe was one of the many social and political circumstances which contributed to the Federation's emergence. Credit for its actual creation goes to American-born Mrs. Caroline Curtis Brown, for years President of the American Women's Club in London. It was her conviction that enlightened women, working cooperatively throughout the world, could do much to help achieve permanent international peace.

Her firm belief that American women living abroad are especially equipped to promote peace inspired Mrs. Curtis Brown to attempt a federation of existing American women's clubs in Europe. She pointed out that such club members acquire special experience living in foreign lands among foreign peoples and foreign customs. Their clubs provide not only "a home away from home," but, she emphasized, also serve to promote sympathetic awareness of the needs and problems in countries other than their own.

An idealist who possessed practical driving energy, Mrs. Curtis Brown had made her own London club outstanding with a membership of some 1,500, a magnificent clubhouse and a thriving community service program. With equal dedication, she worked to bring the federation into being.

Early in 1931, supported by her colleagues and encouraged by other American women's club leaders in Europe, especially the Berlin Club president, Mrs. Curtis Brown invited some ten of the existing European clubs to send representatives to London to discuss her Federation concept: an association of American women's clubs to work towards international goodwill and the preservation of world peace, to help one another solve problems common to them all and to aid women whose citizenship rights were being ignored or restricted.

Clubs in Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, Paris, Vienna and Zurich accepted her invitation with enthusiasm. A preliminary planning conference to meet in the London clubhouse was immediately arranged for May 1931.

Out of this conference, attended also by a number of distinguished foreign guests and well reported by the press, came the determination to establish some form of cooperative organization. Berlin was chosen as the site for a working conference dedicated to bringing it into being.

I CONFERENCE
1932 - Berlin
Exactly one year later, in May 1932, representatives from the Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, London, Paris, Vienna and Zurich Clubs meeting in Berlin brought THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB IN EUROPE into being, electing Mrs. Curtis Brown as its first president and establishing two years as the term for all its officers.

The Federation's Charter specifically stated as its primary objective: The furtherance of international peace. It also guaranteed the autonomy of each member club with regard to its internal operations. An annual meeting was established with a different club to act as host each year.

II CONFERENCE
1933 - Vienna
Vienna hosted the 1933 conference during which an ugly demonstration by Hitler's military forces and a counter demonstration by the Austrian Landwehr created an atmosphere of tension that emphasized the importance of the Conference's themes: disarmament and the need to educate children to think tolerantly and to develop an international outlook.

The American Literary Club of Belgrade joined the Federation during the Vienna Conference. With a membership of only 14 it established the feasibility of small clubs, as well as such giants as London, 1,400 members, and Paris with 1,300, taking part in promoting the Federation's objectives.

III CONFERENCE
1934 - Paris
In 1934 representatives of the 8 member clubs convened in Paris. Ways to maintain peace again dominated their discussions. To obtain world harmony, it was agreed, it is essential that education develop peace loving attitudes in children.

The need for unbiased history books was urged since distorted version of history only serve to poison national pride, prejudice young minds and encourage international intolerance.

Birth control was discussed and emphatically advocated.

Before resigning as President, Mrs. Curtis Brown warned against isolationist attitudes and self-righteousness. She declared that lack of faith in democratic government was largely responsible for the emergence of dictatorships.

Conference headquarters were the Paris's beautiful rue Boissière clubhouse. Mrs. Louise Connett, of Paris, was elected as the Federation's second President.

IV CONFERENCE
1935 - The Hague
This Conference, held in the Hotel des Indes, marked a definite advance in the Federation's activities. Three new members, Copenhagen, Hamburg and Oslo had joined the Federation bringing its membership to eleven.

Adherence to the World Court of Justice was strongly urged as a means for strengthening machinery to obtain peace.

Again arms reduction was advocated and objections voiced against the then common practice of military training for the young as having harmful effects.

The problem of the citizenship status of American women married to foreigners was introduced and its often ambiguous character emphasized.

The publication by Scribner in 1935 of James Truslow Adams' history for American children, RECORD OF AMERICA,

was hailed as an achievement since the Federation felt it had played an important part in bringing about "this commendably unbiased version of American history."

1935 also saw the birth of the Federation's publication, THE BULLETIN, a quarterly which immediately met approval for its high literary standards and stimulating contents. To finance it, a temporary head tax was introduced during The Hague Conference as the Federation's dues were not sufficient to adequately cover operating expenses.

As the Conference closed Mrs. Gasque of London offered to donate \$ 1,000 a year to the Federation's scholarship fund. This was continued for two years only but made it possible to launch two promising American candidates, a Mrs. Chapman and Miss Helen Hiatt, on their studies in Europe.

Between the 1935 and 1936 Conferences, the Federation's name was changed to THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUBS OVERSEAS in order to permit clubs beyond the boundaries of Europe to become members.

V CONFERENCE Hosted by this two-year old member Club, the 1936 Conference was rated most successful. Credit for this was attributed in large part to the stimulating presence of the honorable Ruth Bryan Owens, the American Ambassador to Denmark.

Eleven member clubs attended the Conference which was held at the Phoenix Hotel: Antwerp, Berlin, Copenhagen, Hamburg, The Hague, London, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm (a newcomer), Vienna and Zurich.

The Equal Rights Bill and the problem of education for American children resident in Europe were the principal topics of discussion.

The Federation elected a second member of the London Club, Mrs. James B. Mennell, as President for the ensuing two year term.

Otherwise 1936 was a bad year for the Federation. The international scene had become extremely somber, precipitating the return of many Americans to the United States. As numbers decreased, so did club memberships. Even the Paris Club was forced to close its splendid clubhouse.

VI CONFERENCE The Federation's 7th Conference at the Hotel Baur au Lac in Zurich was marked by the adoption of the acronym FAWCO as its ordinary title.

In addition to discussing the dilemma of the stateless woman, a condition resulting sometimes from an American's marriage to a foreign citizen, attention was drawn to FAWCO's past achievements in two ways:

Mrs. Connett, FAWCO's President, summarized them: the ongoing scholarship program, the Truslow Adams history book, the excellent quarterly BULLETIN, plus many intangible benefits, particularly warm, broadening friendship crossing national boundaries.

Documentary evidence of these achievements were presented in meticulously compiled scrap books. The work of Mrs. Seavern of London, these beautifully bound records of FAWCO's early history are today one of the Federation's highly valued assets.

VII CONFERENCE This was a critical year and The Hague, Paris and Vienna were unable to send delegates. For those who did attend it was a memorable experience, not all of it happy to recall.

German officialdom offered sumptuous entertainment in support of the Hamburg club's efforts. Included were numerous specially arranged outings, theatre and opera performances, even excursions to Berlin and Potsdam.

The FAWCO delegates found themselves ill at ease despite such lavish hospitality. Militarism was too blatantly displayed. "Heil Hitler" greetings and terrifying rumors were rampant. The general conformity in the name of efficiency was oppressive and dispiriting.

The Conference itself had cheering aspects. The scholarship program was continuing to hold its own through generous donations of individual club members. Child labor regulations, the Equal Rights Bill and the education of American children abroad were discussed. A suggestion that every FAWCO club hold a yearly Peace luncheon, perhaps to coincide with November 11th memorial services, was presented.

Mrs. Mary Volkmann of Zurich, the new President, stimulated the delegates with her acceptance speech which emphasized the social responsibilities of Americans living in foreign lands.

VIII CONFERENCE Despite mounting international tensions, FAWCO managed to hold its scheduled conference in London at the still maintained London Clubhouse. Ten clubs participated: Antwerp, Berlin, Copenhagen, Hamburg, London, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna and Zurich.

A highlight of the Conference was a report about a successful lecture tour throughout the United States by Miss Helen Hiatt, FAWCO's second scholarship candidate. Based on her studies at the London School of Economics and research on dictatorships in Paris archives, her lectures were enthusiastically received.

The suggestion that a similar scholarship sometimes be given to a European for study in the United States was not generally supported.

The problem of indigent and helpless Americans stranded abroad was discussed. It was recommended that the American Government provide its Consulates with funds for such emergencies.

Again, a proclamation of faith in FAWCO's aims was made at this meeting, this time by Mrs. French of London. She pointed out that in times of strain in international relations the need for pacification was more important than over.

PLANS FOR Stockholm was scheduled to host the FAWCO Conference in 1940 and Oslo in 1941. With the declaration of war in September, all plans had to be abandoned. FAWCO's activities lay dormant for the war's duration.

BLACKOUT FAWCO's President, Mrs. Volkmann, left Switzerland for the United States in the summer of 1939, entrusting the Federation's affairs to the Vice-President, Mrs. Morgenstjerne of Oslo.

Current documentary material was sent to Oslo, including, it appears, the detailed minutes of the 1939 London Conference.

At that time no one could have foreseen the Nazi occupation of Norway and, despite efforts since the war, no trace of how or when this FAWCO material disappeared has been found. Mrs. Morgenstjerne is said to have suffered greatly during the occupation and died of leukemia on December 26, 1946.

The great bulk of FAWCO'S archives, fortunately, had been kept in London where they happily escaped destruction. For the time being, London continues to be the repository for the archives.

What is known of the 1939 conference was contained in a condensed version of the conference minutes among the Zurich files, together with the BULLETIN report of the Conference.

From 1939 until well after the war's end, FAWCO endured a decade of "Dark Ages." The war years passed slowly and fearfully, especially for those forced to remain under the hostile scrutiny of the Nazis. Despite occupation of their countries, the clubs in Copenhagen, The Hague and Oslo managed to maintain a sort of identity. Meetings were held in secret; club monies were taken out of banks and entrusted to individual members. Club records became a hazard and, for the most part, were destroyed.

Then, four years after the war ended, FAWCO emerged with renewed vitality. Mrs. Carl Briner of the Zurich club, urged and assisted by Mrs. Blattner, opened correspondence with all FAWCO clubs surviving the war as well as with newly established American women's clubs interested in international activities.

IX CONFERENCE Copenhagen, also a survivor, responded with enthusiasm and was chosen to host the first postwar conference to be held at the Codan Hotel in October 1949. Eight clubs accepted membership in FAWCO but only 6 were able to send delegates: Berlin, Brussels (a newly organized club), Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm and Zurich, with Amsterdam and London unable to do so. What this small group lacked in numbers, however, was more than made up for by abundant vitality.

Both old and new problems were faced: how to prevent another world war, how to maintain the precarious peace. Arms limitations was urged, as well as measures to prevent the spread of Communism and Fascism.

Socialized medicine, recently established in Denmark, and the unfavorable criticism of it from American quarters was discussed, as well as the problem of double taxation for Americans living abroad.

The Conference recommended study groups on international affairs in individual clubs; also the fostering of friendship between FAWCO clubs and other clubs in their host countries.

In 1949, finances were a primary problem. FAWCO's pre-war assets, some \$460 including scholarship funds, were frozen in Barclay's Bank in London. The Federation's membership dues were minimal at the time, with little hope or any substantial increase in the immediate future. As a temporary measure, the voluntary dollar fund was reintroduced — donations of dollars by individual members of FAWCO clubs, a system used in 1936 to implement the scholarship fund.

For the sake of economy, no formal publication for inter-club communication was undertaken. Instead, a Round Robin exchange of newsletters between all the FAWCO clubs was instituted until finances would permit something better.

FAWCO conferences were re-scheduled to meet biennially instead of yearly, shortage of funds the determining reason.

Mrs. Carl Briner of Zurich was elected President for the two ensuing years. The next conference was scheduled for Stockholm in 1951.

In 1950, Mrs. Briner was urged by the then President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the U.S. to invite clubs of other nationalities to join FAWCO, and make the Federation truly international.

Mrs. Briner, firmly supported by her fellow officers, replied negatively to this suggestion, pointing out that such an alteration in the composition of FAWCO would compromise its distinctive American character and interfere with its particular purpose. This point of view has remained unaltered to the present day.

X CONFERENCE The conference took place at the Grand Hotel with the Federation's membership increased to nine as an Athens club had joined FAWCO. The Federation's financial situation was given top priority. Barclay's Bank still refused to release its pre-war funds. Again the voluntary dollar fund was suggested but rejected. Instead, FAWCO dues were raised from \$3 to \$5. (Before the war they had been \$10). Delegate fees were fixed at \$2, the money to go towards the conference expenses of the host club.

Club problems in general were also discussed at length: money-raising projects, libraries, club rooms, social programs, children's education and scholarships. Hope was expressed that FAWCO itself might soon be in a financial position to re-institute its scholarship program.

As a way of maintaining close contact with club women in the United States, it was recommended that individual clubs take out membership in both the General Federation of Women and the National Council of Women of the United States.

As a formal publication was still not possible, "The Federation News Exchange" was introduced. It was an improvement on the unsatisfactory Round Robin letters in that the material of individual clubs was assembled at a central point and then redistributed.

Mrs. Tom Hoyer of Oslo was elected President with Brussels chosen to host the 1953 Conference.

XI CONFERENCE Despite FAWCO's financial insecurity, its membership had increased to 15 when the conference convened at the Hotel Gallia and Britannique in Brussels: Antwerp, American Women's Organization of Greece, Basel, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, The Hague, Hellenic-American of Greece, London, New Delhi, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm and Zurich. However, not all of the clubs were able to send representatives.

This was a particularly forceful conference; great optimism prevailed at the meetings despite the as yet unsolved financial problems. FAWCO's finances were given a slight boost by raising membership dues to \$10.

The Brussels club gave an interesting report about its own special fund-raising project, "Hints for Living in Brussels", a Club-edited booklet which had not only won much praise but also provided a steady source of income for the club.

At this time members voted to reestablish FAWCO's BULLETIN on a modest scale. Two issues were to be printed each year. Member clubs were urged to assist in its financing by obtaining advertising for it.

It was agreed that FAWCO should work cooperatively with other interested bodies to achieve absentee voting privileges for U.S. citizens residing abroad. As the status of American women married to foreign nationals was still ambiguous in many countries, further study of their problems was urged.

The fact that most FAWCO clubs individually raised substantial sums each year for scholarship purposes was reported at the Brussels conference — and warmly applauded.

In 1954, Abqaiq (Saudi Arabia) joined the Federation, bringing its membership to 16. FAWCO clubs now comprised approximately 2,600 members.

XII CONFERENCE 1955 - Zurich

Mrs. Jean-Paul Ganseman of Brussels was elected the new President in 1953 and Zurich chosen as the site of the 1955 conference. Once again delegates met at the Hotel Baur au Lac. Mrs. Ganseman's presidential report included a summary of FAWCO's history and accomplishments; she noted especially the steadily expanding membership, the widespread dedication to welfare projects and their contribution to international goodwill.

Mrs. Ganseman reported that the results of a FAWCO questionnaire sent to each member club had produced valuable information about each club and recommended that it be updated and made available to all member clubs at regular intervals. One fact cited: the combined philanthropic contributions of FAWCO clubs exceeded \$ 25,000 yearly.

FAWCO Clubs numbered 16. Three, for various reasons, had left the Federation (Berlin, New Delhi, Stockholm). During

the same period, however, three new clubs had joined: Beirut, Bombay and Ras Tanura (Saudi Arabia).

While the new BULLETIN was making good progress, it was in need of further advertising revenue. Mrs. Ganseman urged that FAWCO members regularly exchange their publications and provide the BULLETIN with a yearly summary of their activities.

It was reported that Barclay's Bank had finally released the Federation's pre-war funds and that they were deposited in a Zurich bank, ear-marked for scholarship aid. This good news was added to when Mrs. L. L. Moore, Dhahran's representative, announced that her club wished to donate profits from cook book sales to FAWCO's scholarship fund. The two amounts totalled some \$ 900.

It was decided to turn over this sum to the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund to be used at the Fund's discretion. As a result, members learned at a later date, Mrs. Carmela Renner, the African widow of a doctor, was awarded the scholarship money and used it to great advantage for social work in Sierra Leone.

The question of absentee voting in American elections aroused great interest at the Zurich Conference. A special Citizenship Committee was appointed to work on this project and to keep members informed of its progress.

It was agreed that FAWCO undertake a fund-raising venture — a FAWCO cook book. Recipes were to be provided by members of individual clubs so as to include a great variety of national dishes. A committee was established to work on this scheme.

Mrs. L. L. Moore of Dhahran was elected 1955-57 President.

XIII CONFERENCE 1957 - Athens

The 13th Conference was scheduled for Athens, where the two member clubs — the American Women's Organization of Greece and the Hellenic-American Women's Club — were jointly to serve as hosts in 1957.

The Athens Conference activities were partly at the Hotel Grand Bretagne and partly at the Athens YWCA. For the first

time an observer attended a conference, a representative from Madrid. Madrid shortly afterwards joined FAWCO, bringing its Member Clubs to 17.

Of special interest was the new INTERNATIONAL COOK BOOK. Its initial sales were very encouraging and it was hoped that its eventual profits, shared by the Federation and the member clubs, would help replenish the treasury depleted by the scholarship award.

The BULLETIN was again discussed; again there was an appeal for help in obtaining advertising. Delegates decided to enlarge the format to help attract advertisers, stipulating that the deficit incurred not exceed \$ 500.

A Mutual Aid project, introduced at an earlier conference, was put into effective operation in 1957. Conference delegates voted \$ 200 of Federation funds to be used to aid victims of the calamitous Thessaly earthquake. A number of FAWCO clubs made donations also, bringing the combined contribution to around \$ 900.

Absentee voting in U.S. elections was again on the agenda. One of the basic obstacles to absentee voting, it was pointed out, is that many states require payment of residence taxes as a prerequisite to voting privileges.

Club programs were discussed; program planning, club publications, and sponsorship of teenage groups. To clarify the position of the FAWCO representative, delegates urged that she should be a member of the club's executive committee but not an officer of her club lest she be faced with conflicting duties.

Some members voiced concern about the preservation and storage of FAWCO's archives which, it was estimated, weighed some 70 pounds. (Today the weight is probably more than twice that amount). Recommendations included bookbinding of conference minutes and a metal locker for safe storage.

Hostesses of the two Greek clubs provided delightful social interludes for their visitors, in particular an audience with Queen Fredericka and tours to sites of Greek antiquity.

Mrs. Moore, FAWCO's President, a firm believer in personal contact as a means of vitalizing the Federation, travelled extensively during her administration, visiting 12 clubs in 10 countries.

The conference elected Mrs. Marcel de Gallaix of Paris, the new President.

1957 - 1959 During the interim year of 1958 there were important developments for the Federation. The Rome club joined in 1958. It had come into being in 1954 and had rapidly developed in prestige and numbers. It brought a large source of energy to FAWCO.

Another new development was the emergence of a new, enlarged publication, THE FAWCO REVIEW. As editor, FAWCO's officers appointed Mrs. Anna Brady, a foreign correspondent resident in Rome. The REVIEW's primary purpose was to serve as a unifying instrument for all FAWCO member clubs and help bridge the long distance to clubs in the Near and Far East.

Again a cook book was proposed as a special money-making project: Volume II of FAWCO's INTERNATIONAL COOK BOOK. Once more, FAWCO clubs supplied special recipes and the REVIEW provided helpful publicity.

In 1958, Seville and, a little later, Barcellona joined FAWCO. Salonika, a branch of the Athens club, also asked to be affiliated. The membership was now 18. Ras Tanura had dropped out leaving Antwerp, Athens, Abqaiq, Basel, Barcellona, Beirut, Bombay, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, The Hague, London, Madrid, Paris, Oslo, (Salonika), Seville, Rome and Zurich.

Another international crisis, the Suez confrontation, called into action a Mutual Aid Program. Beirut and Rome in particular gave much assistance to refugees from the affected areas.

XIV CONFERENCE The 14th Conference of the Federation took place in Paris in May 1959. Of the 18 member clubs, only 13 were able to send representatives. The Grand Hotel was the focal point for operations.

Mrs. de Gallaix, referring to the change in outlook of FAWCO clubs, observed that "back in the Thirties, FAWCO discussion often bordered on political issues; now these are avoided as much as possible. Today we concern ourselves with problems of the individual, and with cultural, educational and welfare activities."

Finding enough funds to finance publication of the REVIEW was still a problem. In spite of its excellence, members felt that it should be published only twice a year instead of four times as originally planned.

Finances in general were discussed. It was decided to raise FAWCO dues: for clubs under 100 membership, \$ 7.50; for clubs over that number, \$ 15.00. To further improve the Federation's finances, a "Head-Tax" was proposed by Mrs. Elizabeth Tiné of the Rome club, or, failing this, a special FAWCO fundraising event.

Volume II of FAWCO's International Cook Book was now on sale and proving profitable. It was suggested that the first volume be published on a commercial basis, but this was left undecided pending investigation of the difficulties involved.

A new project proposed by Copenhagen was to be undertaken, again with a profit motive—a handy-sized reminder book, neatly bound in red, called "Jot and Blot."

The Absentee Voting Committee of the previous administration, renamed the Citizenship Committee, reported its conviction that the only solution to the problem of absentee voting was through uniform State voting qualifications. It added that such uniformity could be brought about within the U.S. and that the League of Women Voters was working on this problem.

The most important of all this conference's discussions concerned scholarship awards. The Paris club in particular attached great value to scholarships; they are the club's only welfare project and upwards of \$ 3,000 are awarded each year. Dr. Dorothy Leet of the American Educational Center of Paris gave an informative talk on the techniques of choosing scholarship candidates. A safe approach, she said, is through the Fulbright organization, adding that a member of the local club

might profitably serve on the Fulbright committee of her host country.

David Schoenbrun, C. B. S. Paris Chief, was among the conference's memorable speakers. He envisaged a new role for a united Europe of 160 million people as a third major power and peace-keeper in a troubled world.

1959 - 1961

Mrs. Robert St. John of the Hague was elected President for the next two years and The Hague Club's offer to host the 1961 conference was accepted.

Confidence in the Federation's strength led to the introduction, in 1960, of an interim meeting, the first yearly meeting since FAWCO's re-activation in 1949. Only the Federation's executive groups were involved in the meeting which was held at the Hotel Excelsior, Rome. The meeting was highly successful; unfinished Paris business was completed and preparations for the Hague Conference more easily made. During the Interim Conference the Rome Club held a FAWCO Benefit with the cooperation of Mrs. James D. Zellerbach, wife of the American Ambassador to Italy.

XV CONFERENCE

1961 - The Hague

In May 1961 the Federation assembled for its 15th Conference at the Hotel Kurhaus in The Hague. Three member clubs had resigned before the meeting: Antwerp, which had become a strictly social club; Beirut, because of the local political situation, and the Hellenic-American, leaving a membership of 16 since Salonika was a branch of AWOG Athens.

Mrs. Alicia Paolozzi gave the Conference an enlightening talk about the People to People Program initiated during the Eisenhower administration and strongly supported by President Kennedy. Its purpose was the promotion of good relations between the United States and other nations on a personal, non-governmental exchange level. Mr. Kennedy was quoted as saying, "American women speak for our country more directly and more personally than any other representatives sent abroad by the U.S.A."

An important lecturer at The Hague Conference was Mrs. Heroma Meilink. In her talk, "Professional Training for Social Workers in Europe," she recounted the history of European social work and also emphatically asserted the potential value of ordinary, untrained men and women who possess warmth, time, energy and perseverance. She suggested three groups of persons who could benefit particularly from voluntary social workers: (1) old people — visiting in their homes, and Meals on Wheels, as in England and Holland; (2) children — inviting under-privileged children into our own homes; (3) youth groups — bringing them music and art.

The Federation's Peace-promoting aims were reaffirmed at The Hague Conference. It was decided that the time had come for FAWCO to broaden its scope by associating with international activities while continuing to serve the more immediate needs of its members. Cooperation with the People to People Program, with the Peace Corps, and, in particular, with the National Council of Women of the United States was proposed. In this connection, Mrs. St. John reported on her impressions of two U.S. armed forces women's organizations whose conferences she had attended during her presidency: The American Women's Activities in France (AWAF) and the International Conference of American Women's Activities (ICAWA).

Extending FAWCO's activities involved financial outlay. In May 1961 FAWCO's bank balance amounted to nearly \$ 4,000 but income sources were not assured; the "Jot and Blot" books had not been an outstanding success; the proposed commercial publication of Volume I of the INTERNATIONAL COOK BOOK had met with obstacles; per capita dues had not proved acceptable as yet (12 of 17 member clubs replying opposed this plan). A continuation of voluntary contributions was urged, the means of obtaining funds for them left open.

The Conference voted to publish a brochure explaining the Federation's aims and past achievements, to help make FAWCO known and to increase its prestige.

Revisions for FAWCO's By-Laws, presented by Mrs. Marcel de Gallaix of Paris, were voted on.

Four out of the five post-war Presidents of FAWCO were among the delegates who attended the Hague Conference. They

served as an advisory board and during the term of the newly elected President, Mrs. Elizabeth Tiné of Rome, were designated as "Counsellors," a title they have retained.

1961 - 1963

The 1963 Conference was scheduled for March at the Castellana Hilton Hotel in Madrid. Again it was felt that an interim meeting of Officers would prove advantageous and it took place in Brussels in 1962. The meeting was concerned chiefly with the implementation of the 1961 recommendations. Mrs. André Deflandre, Executive Officer of the U.S. Educational Foundation, discussed scholarships. She explained that the Fulbright Act of 1946 had made U.S. counterpart funds available for scholarships, making an increased number possible. In 1960 there were, she added, 52,000 foreign students in the U.S. and 15,000 U.S. students abroad, 9,000 of them in Europe.

Fund raising projects were discussed and it was agreed that a fashion show was consistently the most successful. Rome and Madrid also reported excellent results from their engagement calendars while Oslo had found specially designed Christmas cards profitable, as had clubs publishing "Hints for Living" in their host cities.

Delegates voted unanimously to seek voluntary contributions as the principal means of resolving the Federation's need for funds. Fifty-cents per capita of each club's membership was proposed as the desired goal, with FAWCO's President to be informed yearly of anticipated contributions. It was also voted to continue promoting FAWCO's INTERNATIONAL COOK BOOK and the "Jot and Blot" memorandum books.

Furthering the 1961 decision that FAWCO join in the larger work of the world, it was voted that FAWCO be affiliated with the National Council of Women of the United States. Through this affiliation, FAWCO automatically became associated also with the International Council of Women and the United Nation's Non-Governmental Organizations.

XVI CONFERENCE

1963 - Madrid

The Federation's 16th Conference took place in Madrid, with "FAWCO in the World Community" as its theme. Of the

now 19 member clubs, 15, including three new clubs: Frankfurt, Luxembourg and Zaragoza, sent representatives to Madrid.

For the special benefit of newcomers, President Tiné outlined FAWCO's basic aim: peace through harmonious relationships with other peoples. She said, "Peace is to work for, not to fight for." She emphasized the value of the Federation's association with the National Council of Women, especially endorsing its vigilance as regards Human Rights and the status of women.

Constitutional changes were adopted in 1963 enlarging FAWCO's membership possibilities.

Recommendations included:

1) encouraging associate memberships for non-Americans in FAWCO member clubs;

2) cooperation in established local community service projects rather than always introducing American methods;

3) appointment of a committee to investigate possible cooperation with international organizations such as UNICEF, the Peace Corps, etc., possibly aided by FAWCO's U.S. "Liaison;"

4) contributions to local U.S. Consulates to be used on behalf of needy Americans stranded abroad, investigation having shown that no such funds are available;

5) further citizenship study to be undertaken. Alleged injustices inherent in the Nationality Act were discussed. Pursuit of voting privileges for overseas Americans was urged and, once again, it was pointed out that individual State qualifications result in many voters being disenfranchised.

The Conference's two major speaker were women. Both discussed the present status of women:

Mrs. Mathilde Medina, Assistant Director of the Fulbright Committee in Spain, told of revolutionary changes in the status of women in her native Spain. While still primarily homemakers, she pointed out that Spanish women are entering the professions and business in increasing numbers.

Mrs. Katie Louchiem, Assistant Secretary of the American State Department, made a global survey of this century's progress by women towards attaining equal status with men.

OTHER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Panel discussions were introduced and proved popular. Mrs. Soren Egerod of Copenhagen recommended such club self-analysis as: is it snobbish, clique-ish or friendly? Does it offer activities that serve all classes of its membership — the youthful, elderly, serious, frivolous? How can FAWCO help it achieve the best possible club spirit?

The Conference probed how to strengthen "FAWCO Spirit" within its member clubs resulting in suggestions that a club's FAWCO representative be a member of her club's executive board; that she serve a two-year term aided by a working committee; that more emphasis be put on club publications exchange; that, in addition to the Club's delegates, more members be encouraged to attend the biennial FAWCO conferences; that club stationery carry the legend "Affiliated with FAWCO" and that FAWCO's Officers visit different clubs between conferences.

Mrs. Richard Bagney of Madrid commented that the most effective way to stimulate interest in FAWCO was to host a biennial conference; while President Tiné reported that the Rome club's special FAWCO fund-raising functions had developed an increasing interest in the Federation's objectives and achievements.

On the financial front FAWCO dues became more realistic: \$ 10 annually for smaller clubs; \$° 20 for the larger ones, but still far below the Federation's needs. Voluntary contributions had been made by only half the member clubs but it was decided to continue requesting them rather than introduce an overall fundraising project again.

Madrid's hospitality closed with memorable Spanish splendor highlighted by regional groups from Spanish provinces dancing during a magnificent banquet at the Castellana Hilton.

1963 - 1965

The newly-elected FAWCO President was Mrs. Stanley Hale of Zurich. London's invitation to hold the 1965 Conference there was enthusiastically accepted.

The REVIEW saw a change of editors in 1963. When resigning during the Madrid Conference, Mrs. Brady pointed out that the editor should always live in the same city as the president and that, unless there was cooperation from every club with regard to its financing, it was impossible to make it self-supporting. While its format had been praised, she felt it was unnecessarily expensive for the purpose it served and urged the adoption of a newsletter as more viable.

Mrs. Gertrude Kunstenaar of Zurich, an experienced journalist, was appointed editor by President Hale and it was decided to continue the REVIEW in its present format.

FAWCO's U.S.A. Liaison, Mrs. Alicia Paolozzi, stimulated the Conference's interest in the then new awareness of man's persistent destruction of his environment. Rachel Carson, author of SILENT SPRING, speaking at the New York Conference of the National Council of Women, had urged women to take action to check "Man's irresponsible use of nature's bounties." Mrs. Paolozzi reported on the NCW's discussion and recommendations.

INTERIM MEETING Following the precedent set by the two previous Presidents, an interim meeting was held in March 1964 at Copenhagen's Codan Hotel. Attended by FAWCO Committee Chairmen as well as the Federation Officers, plans for the London Conference were finalized and its theme determined: "FAWCO's Inter-Community Climate of Accord."

During the meeting Mrs. Kunstenaar reported that the REVIEW's advertising revenue continued to be inadequate and it was suggested that she approach an advertising agency for professional assistance in obtaining ads.

March expenditures reduced the 1964 treasury balance of \$2,208 to less than half. The Zurich delegates proposed a new fund-raising project: a "Cooking Wheel"—a cardboard wall piece with a novel wheel-turning device, offering varied culinary suggestions. The response from most clubs was tepid but the "Wheel" was produced and sold late in 1964 with limited success.

The adoption by FAWCO of a single communal non-money-making project was discussed but rejected so that each club might choose its own FAWCO philanthropic program. Three locally successful projects, however, were recommended for consideration: 1) Peace Through Knowledge, conceived and implemented by Madrid; 2) School to School programs presented by Frankfurt, and 3) Educational Rhythmic Program for Handicapped Children, carried out by Zurich. An International Cultural and Services Committee was established to investigate these and other appropriate philanthropic initiatives for FAWCO.

As usual at all FAWCO meetings, the host club provided delightful social events including attendance at the celebrated Danish ballet.

XVII CONFERENCE The 17th Federation Conference convened April 4th in London. The Carlton Tower Hotel, located near the London clubhouse served as residence for the delegates and provided banquet and assembly space on those occasions when the clubhouse facilities were inadequate.

Mrs. Hale, opening the Conference, pointed out that this was London's first conference since the fateful one of 1939. Emphasizing FAWCO's role as a clearing-house, she advocated the adoption of a common FAWCO enterprise to consolidate the objectives of the individual member clubs, which, despite geographical distances, share many common interests.

WHAT IS FAWCO? a newly printed brochure to publicize FAWCO's purpose and achievements was presented to the delegates, together with a report that it had been favorably received.

Progress reports were made regarding investigations and action on:

1) Dual Nationality Citizenship Status, by Mrs. Marcel de Gallaix of Paris. She had collected much valuable information regarding marriages between Americans and nationals of other countries and the nationality of their children in preparation for deeper study.

2) Citizenship rights for overseas Americans, by Mrs. John R. Garzero of Rome.

Following up President Kennedy's Commission to investigate non-voting Americans, Mrs. Garzero had conducted an inter-club survey which disclosed a great need for simplified and unified means of obtaining voting rights for overseas Americans. While no obvious progress had been made, Mrs. Garzero reported that some encouragement might be derived from the experience of Washington, D.C. citizens. Their long quest for voting privileges had been rewarded in 1964. It had required a constitutional amendment, however.

She strongly urged all overseas Americans eligible to vote to exercise their right and proposed that FAWCO persist in its efforts to obtain voting rights for all American foreign residents.

She pointed out that the League of Women Voters and other agencies also are engaged with this problem, and that, since the Federal Act of 1955 gave voting rights to federal personnel, military and civilian, stationed abroad, it seems reasonable that they could be extended to *all* Americans required by circumstances to live in a foreign country.

3) FAWCO relations with organizations in the United States. Mrs. Alicia Paolozzi, FAWCO's U.S. Liaison, reported on her work as FAWCO delegate to the National Council of Women of the United States and also as delegate of NCW to the United Nations.

Much was to be gained by these contacts, she remarked, adding that FAWCO should strive for much greater prestige which an international undertaking could help attain. 1965, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations, she said, had been proclaimed International Cooperation Year and could be significant for FAWCO.

Mrs. Paolozzi also reported that the possibility of forming a FAWCO foundation to receive tax-exempt donations, was under study. (Without waiting for its realization, however, later in 1965 the Federation began to publicize its Peace Through Knowledge project in the hope that donations would be encouraged).

4) A specific FAWCO project. Mrs. Jean-Paul Ganseman of Brussels, speaking on "FAWCO, Where to and by What Means", reviewed the tangible and intangible achievements of

the Federation and recommended the adoption of a philanthropic project which, while benefitting others, would also unite the clubs.

As a result of the investigations begun at the interim meeting, the Conference adopted "Peace Through Knowledge" as the FAWCO project with each member club left free to determine its own means for implementing it.

A new type club became a member of FAWCO in 1965 - The Association of American Wives of Europeans (AAWE) of Paris. One of its objectives is the recognition of the values of a dual cultural heritage and multilingualism. In welcoming the new member it was pointed out that AAWE had been very cooperative in connection with the FAWCO investigation regarding dual heritage of member club's children initiated by Mrs. de Gallaix prior to the 1964 Interim Meeting in Copenhagen.

It was regretfully reported that Frankfurt and Zaragoza had resigned because they found they could not take an active part in the FAWCO conferences.

The Dowager Marchioness of Reading, D.B.E., founder of the Women's Voluntary Service of Britain, was the Conference's outstanding speaker. She initiated this service group at the beginning of World War II to relieve war distress among civilians and the military. Since the war her organization has expanded into most areas of community service, with its best known activity "Meals on Wheels."

Lady Reading's subject was "Voluntary Service within the Community and its Links throughout the World." Her talk was full of humor—and deeply inspiring, bringing a standing ovation at its conclusion.

The London Conference's entertainment program included a buffet reception at the House of Lords, as well as a banquet at the Painter-Stainers Hall with the Lord Mayor of London as guest of honor.

1965 - 1967 Mrs. Edward A. Mag of Rome was elected Federation President and the Rome club chosen to host the 1967 biennial conference. Administrative guidelines, issued in pamphlet form, were introduced by President Mag, increasing FAWCO's operational efficiency.

The FAWCO Constitution and By-Laws, as revised in 1963, were distributed in 1965.

Before the London Conference two issues of the REVIEW and four Presidential Newsletters were edited during Mrs. Hale's administration. With the election of Mrs. Mag, a new editor, Mrs. A. C. Perkins of Rome, was appointed and a final issue of the REVIEW published. An expanded Presidential Newsletter sent out three times a year has since served as a direct link between FAWCO and the individual members of its member clubs.

In addition, to assist member clubs in developing leadership and sound club procedures, President Mag distributed to each Federation Representative over forty "Community Action Series" leaflets published by THE COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE of New York. Among the subjects treated were: club leadership, program planning, group discussion, etc. Copies of a Paris petition to extend Medicare benefits to include overseas U.S. citizens were sent by Mrs. Mag to the FAWCO Citizenship Status Committee and to each FAWCO member club for study and any action they deemed advisable. Unfortunately, when the Medicare bill was passed the following year, overseas citizens were excluded.

Mrs. Mag attended with Mrs. Paolozzi, FAWCO's U.S.A. "Liaison," the 1965 Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of the United States in New York. They investigated the possibilities for obtaining tax-free status for the Federation now that the "Peace Through Knowledge" project had been established, only to discover that the Federation did not qualify for it.

FAWCO's depleted Treasury rendered impractical an interim meeting in 1966. The Presidential Newsletters, however, were continued. They were provocative as well as informative. One called attention to the courageous stand taken by the National Council of Women of the United States on the civil rights issue. The 1966 Newsletters also contained reports of Mrs. Mag's Far East travels where, in her contacts with women's groups, she was impressed by the spectacular progress made by women in the Orient in recent years, their entrance into professional fields of work, their frequent elevation to high political office.

In 1966 FAWCO directed more attention to youth and its problems. Its "Peace Through Knowledge" project was designed to help young people in host countries learn more about America, and, vice-versa, for American children living abroad to learn more about their host country.

FAWCO-sponsored advantageously-priced charter flights for its club members were investigated in 1966, but response was insufficient to pursue the idea.

In the course of the 1965-1966 period, Madrid and Brussels announced the establishment of their own clubhouses. Including London and Dhahran, FAWCO clubhouse operators now numbered four. Mrs. Mag, commenting on this, observed that such headquarters not only facilitate community activities but also give a measure of prestige to the club.

XVIII CONFERENCE The 18th Conference of the Federation assembled in Rome on February 27, 1967, at the Parco dei Principi Hotel. The highlight of the special events so imaginatively planned by the host club was a special audience with Pope Paul in the Vatican. This proved an awe-inspiring experience for all conference participants, whatever their religious affiliation.

Pope Paul declared that FAWCO's work in pursuit of international peace and understanding between Americans and host countries was to be greatly praised. At the close of the audience, Mrs. Mag, FAWCO President, on behalf of the Federation, presented Pope Paul with a selection of American books used by Rome's "Peace Through Knowledge" project for Italian school children.

A great loss was felt when the Hague club, for so many years associated with FAWCO, resigned in 1966. The Beirut club, obliged at one time by local conditions to resign, rejoined, maintaining the Federation member clubs at 17.

THE FAWCO FOUNDATION A momentous event in Federation history took place in 1966: the establishment of The FAWCO Foundation. Undaunted by the negative results of the investigation to obtain FAWCO tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization, President Mag con-

tinued her efforts resulting in her electrifying announcement at the Rome Conference that the Foundation had been "born."

The FAWCO Foundation, Mrs. Mag explained, had been created after it had been established that no matter how worthy its objectives, FAWCO itself could never qualify for donation tax-exempt status in the eyes of the Internal Revenue Service, without reorganization of its structure, and therefore, another approach had been undertaken.

U.S. law requires that to qualify for donations to be tax exempt, a foundation must be created within the boundaries of the U.S.A. and its bank account maintained there. With the help of a prominent law firm in Kansas City, Missouri, instead of attempting to reorganize FAWCO, it was decided to establish a separate organization to be known as the FAWCO Foundation, having as its sole purpose the "raising and distribution of funds for charitable, scientific or educational purposes or for the prevention of cruelty to children." Meeting the legal requirements, the Foundation's funds can be disbursed to the Federation, or to any of its member clubs for use in qualified projects.

Mrs. Mag emphasized that the establishment of the Foundation was only the first step if its potentialities are to be realized, for the major task—raising funds—lay ahead. She reported that modest initial contributions amounting to \$ 200 had already been received which augured well for the future.

In 1967 the Foundation made its first grant to aid the victims of the Lisbon floods.

OTHER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

1) Voting Rights - Mrs. John Garzero of Rome, FAWCO's Citizenship Status Chairman, noted that efforts exerted by the League of Americans Residing Abroad (LARA), by the Bi-Partisan Committees on Absentee Voting in London and Paris, and, not least, by FAWCO, were beginning to have noticeable effect. The involved problem of franchise for Americans abroad is now a frequent subject of debate in Washington. She added that the problem is far from solved and if voting rights are not extended by State governments they will have to be obtained through the Federal government, a Congressional bill, or a lawsuit ruling

by the courts. Progress has been made, she repeated, and more is to be expected as the number of those participating actively in their own particular civil rights campaigns increases.

Mrs. Mag urged all the Federation clubs, as well as all their individual members, to press their congressmen to help them exercise their voting rights as American citizens.

2) FAWCO Operations: Mrs. Richard Bagney of Madrid, Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, proposed some changes, and suggested that some conference routine details be clarified.

3) Relations with Other Clubs: Signora Jolanda Torraca, General Secretary of the National Council of Women in Italy, sent an appreciative speech to be read expressing gratitude for the help and encouragement of Americans received by Italian women in their struggle for improved citizenship status.

4) Florence Floods: Mrs. Joseph Wheeler, wife of the American Consul General in Florence and former member of AWAR, FAWCO's Rome club, was the guest speaker at an especially enjoyable luncheon at the Hilton Hotel. She presented a brilliant, vivid and very moving account of her personal experiences during the calamitous flood which had recently overwhelmed that city.

5) Regions: It was suggested at this time that regional division of FAWCO's member clubs might result in greater inter-club cooperation, as well as greater overall unity. Six separate regions were proposed: North Europe, Central Europe, Western Europe, Southern Europe, North Africa, and the Near East.

After a somewhat involved election session at the close of the Rome Conference, Mrs. Edward A. Mag was persuaded to accept a second term of office as President. She protested that a second two-year term was not only unprecedented, but in many ways undesirable. Mrs. Mag was elected. Brussels invitation was accepted for the 1969 conference.

1967 - 1969 In 1967 the National Council of Women of the United States invited each member organization to nominate candidates for recognition of work carried out in the field of Human Rights. Mrs. Marcel de Gal-

laix was chosen as FAWCO's candidate to receive the National Council's "Woman of Conscience Award" for her outstanding achievements in Franco-American relations. A member of the American Women's Group (AWE) and of AAWE, both of Paris, Mrs. de Gallaix had dedicated herself for many years to problems pertaining to dual nationality, bilingualism and the education of young Americans resident abroad.

The FAWCO Pamphlet Series was introduced in January 1968. Its first publication, FAWCO TODAY, written by Mrs. William H. Ahrens and Mrs. Edward A. Mag, was followed by others. These were the joint work of FAWCO's editorial staff and individual club members on subjects of particular interest to the Federation clubs' members.

FAWCO TODAY summarized present day FAWCO activities and objectives. It recorded that FAWCO's clubs in 1965-67 had raised \$ 80,000 for philanthropic and scholarship projects.

Successive pamphlets have been devoted to "Peace Through Knowledge," Bilingualism, Fund-raising for FAWCO, Scholarships, the Clubhouse and other subjects.

The Presidential Newsletters, initiated in 1963 and published regularly since, have included many topical problems: education, including preparation of young Americans abroad for American college entrance, the Generation Gap and growing separatism in present day society.

In 1968 Congressional investigation disclosed that individual States had failed to facilitate voting for overseas Americans, as had been recommended. Mrs. Robert Rennie of London undertook privately to correspond extensively with American officials in every State to discover what voting facilities currently exist for the overseas U.S. citizen.

XIX CONFERENCE The Federation's 19th Conference assembled in Brussels on March 9, 1969, at the Hotel Hilton. Athens, together with its Salonika Chapter, had resigned from the Federation, but Perth, Australia, organized in 1968 and having a membership of about 50, had joined FAWCO so its member clubs still numbered 17. Not all however, were represented in Brussels.

Mrs. Edward A. Mag, opening the Conference, expressed disappointment that, due to limited funds, there had been no interim meeting to facilitate preparations, but pointed out that Brussels had planned the details of the Conference with admirable skill and efficiency. Some visitors to the Conference had come from California, New Jersey, Antwerp, Bonn and Cologne, all of them welcome to attend the working sessions and participate in the social program.

Mrs. Mag mentioned that this was the third FAWCO meeting hosted by Brussels, the others being the 11th Conference in 1953, and the Interim Meeting in 1962. She praised its remarkable record of achievement and its membership of over 1,000 outnumbering that of all other FAWCO clubs. It was justly proud of its new clubhouse (to which the FAWCO assembly was invited for lunch and a tour of inspection during the conference week); but even more commendable was its splendid, uninterrupted philanthropic program.

Mrs. Mag's Presidential address was impressive. "We must face the urgent problems that the United States is facing today." She quoted Thurber: "Not to look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around us in awareness."

She asked if the member clubs of FAWCO were helping individual members in need—extending friendship beyond the bridge table and the cocktail party circuit to serve the lonely and the sick. Clubs should, she said, examine the amount of money spent on assisting others in comparison to the amount of money spent on amusing themselves.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. Frank J. Berberich of Paris, Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, proposed that FAWCO membership qualifications be amended, so that, instead of the minimal 60 percent American membership now required for eligibility as a FAWCO club, American women as a group should constitute a higher percentage of the entire membership of the Club or Association than that of any other nationality, and the President always be an American. This amendment was rejected as not practical.

Mrs. Antonia H. Chayes, Dean of Jackson College for Women, Tufts University of Boston, was guest speaker at the Conference.

Mrs. Chayes discussed the present scene on American college and university campuses. Her keynote address was entitled "The Rebellion of Youth."

Dean Chayes called upon the Conference delegates as American citizens to re-assess their views of their government's policies — especially regarding Vietnam. The present era, she continued, is one of rapid change, and, as a result, today young people face different problems than the youth of other times. If the reality of this change is rejected, a major part of the population — the young — must be rejected. "We must pay attention to youth — its hopes and rebellions — or we will exhaust the best of our natural resources."

Later a panel discussion was devoted to the subject "Bridging the Generation Gap." Delegates heard the views of students, as well as of the older generation. There was general agreement that we must listen to what our children have to say, but that does not mean we are to accept drugs and violence.

Countess Plater-Zyberk of the Belgo-American Society gave an enlightening talk contrasting American and Belgian domestic routines and the resulting differences in leisure time.

Mrs. Peter Van Brunt, who had replaced Mrs. Paolozzi as FAWCO's U.S.A. Liaison Officer in 1967, reported on various international conferences. She urged that FAWCO join Women United for the United Nations, and offered to pay the yearly dues. She was thanked but as a matter of principle this offer was declined. The delegates then voted to join the organization.

The President of the FAWCO foundation, Mrs. William T. McEwan of London, gave a brief outline of the structure of the Foundation: its two committees — fund raising and awards; its essential connections in the U.S.; its election of officers and their responsibilities. Several award had been made: the first to victims of the Lisbon floods in 1967, the second to Sicilian earthquake sufferers in 1968; the third to cover transportation costs for the keynote speaker at the Conference in 1969. Only modest funds remain in the Foundation's bank account but she expressed confidence in its future development. A brochure explaining the Foundation, as well as the Federation, was planned for the immediate future, Mrs. McEwan explained, to publicize its good works and to attract donations.

Mrs. Mag reported a gratifying improvement in club voluntary contributions to FAWCO's support, regretting that, unfortunately, this financial boost was offset by the rising costs of Federation operations.

Mrs. Mag also explained that on further inquiry regarding the possibility of an extension of Medicare benefits to overseas Americans, she had been advised that the time was not yet ripe for pressing this cause.

Cooperation with host countries was discussed by Mrs. Erling Skovsgaard. The most effective cooperation, she maintained, was through the host country's philanthropies.

The possibilities for arranging inter-country hospitality — exchange holidays by FAWCO club members — was presented at the 1969 Conference. A committee was appointed for its implementation with the expectation that many such exchanges involving both parents and children would take place in the near future.

There were many delightful social interludes at the Brussels Conference. One special one was the visit to the Royal Palace, where Her Majesty, Queen Fabiola, personally greeted the FAWCO group and conducted it on a tour through a section of the Palace.

Mrs. Charles Mincbère of Paris was elected President and Paris chosen to host FAWCO's XX Conference in 1971.

As it enters its fifth decade, FAWCO can look forward to continuing its work toward expanding the rights and opportunities of others, and of harnessing the energies and abilities of American women living overseas with the aim of achieving international peace through understanding, the ideal urged by Mrs. Curtis Brown when she first proposed the Federation in 1931.

FAWCO MEMBER CLUBS *

- 1931 — 7 — Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, London, Paris, Vienna, Zurich.
1932 — 7 — Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, London, Paris, Vienna, Zurich.
1933 — 8 — Antwerp, Belgrade (Zagreb), Berlin, The Hague, London, Paris, Vienna, Zurich.
1934 — 8 — Antwerp, Belgrade, Berlin, The Hague, London, Paris, Vienna, Zurich.
1935 — 11 — Antwerp, Belgrade, Berlin, Copenhagen, The Hague, Hamburg, London, Oslo, Paris, Vienna, Zurich.
1936 — 11 — Antwerp, Berlin, Copenhagen, The Hague, Hamburg, London, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna, Zurich.
1937 — 11 — Antwerp, Berlin, Copenhagen, The Hague, Hamburg, London, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna, Zurich.
1938 — 11 — Antwerp, Berlin, Copenhagen, The Hague, Hamburg, London, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna, Zurich.
1939 — 11 — Antwerp, Berlin, Copenhagen, The Hague, Hamburg, London, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna, Zurich.

WAR YEARS 1939-1949

- 1949 — 8 — Antwerp, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, London, Oslo, Stockholm, Zurich.
1951 — 9 — Antwerp, Athens, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, London, Oslo, Stockholm, Zurich.
1953 — 15 — Antwerp, AWOG (American Women's Organization of Greece), Basel, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, The Hague, Hellenic-American-Greece, London, New Delhi, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm, Zurich.
1955 — 16 — Abqaiq, Antwerp, AWOG, Basel, Beirut, Bombay, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, The Hague, Hellenic-American-Greece, London, Oslo, Paris, Ras Tanura, Zurich.
1957 — 17 — Abqaiq, Antwerp, AWOG, Basel, Beirut, Bombay, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, The Hague, Hellenic-American-Greece, London, Madrid, Oslo, Paris, Ras Tanura, Zurich.
1959 — 18 — Abqaiq, Antwerp, AWOG, Barcelona, Basel, Beirut, Bombay, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, The Hague, London, Madrid, Oslo, Paris, Rome, (Salonika), Seville, Zurich.
1961 — 16 — Abqaiq, AWOG, Barcelona, Basel, Bombay, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, The Hague, London, Madrid, Oslo, Paris, Rome, (Salonika), Seville, Zurich.
1963 — 17 — Abqaiq, AWOG, Barcellona, Basel, Bombay, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, Frankfurt, The Hague, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Oslo, Paris, Rome, (Salonika), Seville, Zaragosa, Zurich.
1965 — 17 — Abqaiq, AWOG, Barcelona, Basel, Bombay, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, The Hague, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Oslo, Paris, Rome, (Salonika), Seville, Zurich.
1967 — 17 — Abqaiq, AWOG, Barcellona, Basel, Beirut, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Oslo, Paris-AWG, Paris-AAWE, Rome, (Salonika), Seville, Zurich.
1969 — 17 — Abqaiq, Barcelona, Basel, Beirut, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhahran, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Oslo, Paris-AWG, Paris-AAWE, Perth-Australia, Rome, Seville, Zurich.

* Listed according to members at the beginning of each administration. Total FAWCO Clubs memberships, inevitably fluctuating, averages over 4,000 yearly.