

October 1969

A memo from 

## The First World Service Meeting

**S**URELY the time will come when our overseas AA population may well exceed that of the United States and Canada. In *The Third Legacy Manual* and in other writings, the principle has already been enunciated that the General Service Office in New York should one day become the "senior service center" among a number of national and zonal offices around the globe.

This attitude has already been of immense value in forwarding our effort overseas. It has banished all possible suspicion that GSO in New York is going to run the whole world of AA.

It is obvious that we cannot actually manage and conduct public information and relations with medicine and religion in South Africa, Australia, the British Isles, or anywhere else, for that matter. In the area of literature, distribution centers are needed that take into account both language and shipping problems. We are too remote to do these jobs, and for psychological reasons we should never make the attempt.

But we can help by sharing with other countries the thirty-year history and experience of GSO. AA is taking a giant step toward

worldwide AA unity in New York, October 9-11, 1969.

The first World Service Meeting will be held for these three days, bringing twenty-six Delegates from twelve countries overseas, the zone of Central America, and the North American Conference. These Delegates will sit in sharing conferences in New York with Trustees on the General Service Board and the staffs of GSO and the Grapevine.

This meeting is, of course, undertaken with the approval of our General Service Board, the North American Conference, and the Boards or Committees of all participating countries.

The objectives of the World Service Meeting are: (1) to consider the future development of World Services; (2) to strengthen general-service work already existing abroad; (3) to increase the number of service centers; (4) to provide for them an orderly plan of evolution; (5) to assist in strengthening their self-support.

We welcome our Delegate friends from around the world as we join together to assure that help will always be available for the sick alcoholic wherever he is or whatever language he speaks.

*The story of AA around the world begins  
always with the sick and suffering alcoholic.  
In whatever faraway place he finds AA,  
his personal recovery builds AA in that place.  
On the following pages the Grapevine  
presents personal AA experiences  
from some of those faraway places.*