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THE DAY IN VIENNA

Friday, July 11

By R. R. Hegstad

If delegates to the 52nd session of the General Conference don't become involved in a sharp clash before the session ends, the secular press probably won't find much newsworthy to report.

For the secular press majors on confrontations, as a look at your newspaper will demonstrate. I found enough evidence of man's inhumanity to man in this morning's international *Herald Tribune* to make me yearn for blissful illiteracy.

But the real news of this General Conference session will probably be that 1,729 delegates representing 193 countries met peacefully to chart the course of their church for the next five years. And that they did it for the first time outside the United States.

At 5:30 Friday afternoon they re-elected Robert H. Pierson to head the Adventist family. There never really was any great suspense. A vice-president told me before the meeting, "Elder Pierson is just too good a man and has done too good a job for the church to make a change."

A few moments later, C. O. Franz and K. H. Emmerson were re-elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Said an editor, "When a team has a winning record, you don't fire the coach or his associates."

Since it was learned that the conference would be held in Vienna, a number of questions have been debated. Is it worth the added cost? If anyone knows within a few hundred thousand dollars what that

figure is, I haven't been able to (1) find him, (2) get him to talk. Will the facilities be adequate? Austrian authorities cooperative? European Adventists responsible? And—a critical question—would Eastern European governments respond favorably to the site by permitting Adventist delegates and laymen to travel to Vienna?

I had these questions in mind Thursday afternoon as I headed for the *Stadthalle* which translates simply to "city hall," where the meetings are being held. *Stadthalle* is a steel, concrete, and glass structure that somehow would look more at home in Dallas, Texas, than in Vienna. Approaching it, one thinks more of hoedowns and rock concerts than Strauss waltzes. Even the restrained apartments and small businesses surrounding it seem to turn their plaster-and-stone shoulders disdainfully away.

But *Stadthalle* is one of only a few halls in Europe large enough to accommodate an Adventist General Conference. And on Sabbath it will surely be a few thousand capacity short of that. For European Adventists are not about to let the first General Conference session in their midst go unobserved. I learned that more than 125 ministers are here from Yugoslavia alone. And 350 laymen will travel back to Yugoslavia next week so that an additional 350 can take their places at the conference.

While the *Stadthalle* may not be architecturally compatible with its surroundings, in one

way its site already has proved ideal for the congress. Dr. Rudolph Kirchschläger, president of the Federal Republic of Austria, pointed up the reason in a message read to conference delegates at the opening session.

Said the president: "The Republic of Austria is happy to be considered a place where people with different political viewpoints, different ideologies, and religious convictions can meet." He predicted that the Austrian's respect for liberty of conscience would leave Adventists with the best of memories of their 52nd conference.

As I sat near the platform of the auditorium waiting for the first song, I reminded myself what a General Conference is and is not. Despite the Sabbath crowds and the occasional side shows, it is not a circus. Nor is it an evangelistic meeting or an

expensive form of international entertainment. It is a business session of the world church. And business sessions are not known for their inspirational content. Treasurers might get goosebumps on their offering hands while citing statistical reports that often fail to reflect the reality of an eroding dollar, parliamentarians might rise to the challenge of disputed rules of order, and administrators might breathe deeply when a chairman invokes Article 3, Section 1-a of the church constitution. I don't.

Perhaps I simply am not easily moved by emotion. Most Christians, I have observed, get tingles from walking the Holy Land. I don't. I do vibrate a bit when I hear my national anthem on an occasion more momentous than a ballgame, or the Hallelujah Chorus on most any occasion. All of which is to



Elder and Mrs. Robert H. Pierson greet a delegate from Madagascar outside the *Stadthalle*. Elder Pierson, who has been General Conference president since 1966, was elected to serve his third term on July 11.



For the first time in 57 years, delegates from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics attended a General Conference session. At the close of the opening meeting of the session on Thursday night, the six men and one woman making up the delegation caucused to choose their representative on the nominating committee.

say that my emotional threshold is pretty high.

I want you to understand this before you sit down by me at the opening session and find me taking deep-breathing exercises to keep from doing what many of the 9,000 in the auditorium are already doing—venting their joy into their handkerchiefs.

Let me brief you on what has already happened, so that you'll have the setting in mind. That's Caris Lauda up there leading the singing. His translator is K. Schmitz, a Berlin pastor. You can see without my saying so that Elder Lauda is an inspirational song leader. But we've already agreed that it will take more than that to ventilate me.

Those flags behind him are from 28 European and Eastern Mediterranean nations. They are hanging together on a stage in a country whose peoples, in their long history under a variety of governments, have been bloodied by booted invaders from a score of them. Before you sat down, C. L. Powers, president of the Euro-Africa Division, welcomed us to Vienna on behalf of 200,000 Adventists. Then, as already mentioned, we got the welcome of Dr. Kirchschläger. In another spe-

cial message, Kurt Waldheim, secretary general of the United Nations, spoke appreciatively of Adventist support for "goals of global peace and human well being". C. O. Franz, secretary of the General Conference (did I tell you he was reading the greetings?), referred to messages from a number of Adventist leaders around the world. We stood silently for a moment in tribute to the 953 workers who have died in the past five years. It was very quiet for that moment and very impressive.

But back to the music, because it was really this that made me forget all about approaching this business session with dispassionate detachment. First, we heard four nurses from our West Berlin hospital sing a special number in German. I couldn't follow the words, but their voices blended beautifully, as did the voices of the French quintet a few minutes later.

Then a spotlight turned to the right of the stage, and we saw the Czechoslovakian choir. My diluted portion of Slavic blood began to percolate. I had heard them before, one springtime in Prague, and anticipated the blessing their two songs brought. Then it was Charles

Brooks, Sabbath school and religious liberty director of the Southern Union, turning up the thermostat with a superb rendition of "The Holy City". And then a male quartet from Portugal, sounding like blood brothers of the King's Heralds. And by now I was feeling—that's the word, *feeling*—my privilege to be a member of God's great international family.

As at past sessions, some of the church family are not with us. A message is read from our brothers and sisters in Burma. And no one is here from Cuba. But now comes the high point of the conference. Stretch the session out six weeks and this will still be the high point. Theodore Carcich is recognized by D. W. Hunter. He tells us that, as a result of visits with Russian government authorities, for the first time in 57 years delegates from the Soviet Union are present. They come down the aisle—Mikhail Kulakov, Maimu Väli, Victor Kärmas, Sergei Tutski, Alexander Parasei, Yanis Oltin, Yuri Tomenko. (Another, a deacon in our Moscow church, has been granted a visa and will arrive soon.)

A moment later C. L. Powers introduces two delegates from Bulgaria, first in the more

than 80-year history of the Adventist Church in that land. Brother Nicola Tanev, president of the Bulgarian Union, and Cristo Kirov, pastor of the Sofia, Bulgaria church. And suddenly all of us are on our feet applauding and praising God. I see members of the Czechoslovakian choir clapping, and I know that Christian brotherhood transcends all the perplexing political problems and ideological boundaries that divide mankind. And I want to shout, "Over here, World! Here's how it's done!" And then I am doing things with my handkerchief. Yes, at a business session of the General Conference.

Exited and Happy

I slip up to Mikhail Kulakov and ask him how he feels at this moment.

"I'm very excited and happy," he answers. "We have brought in our heart greetings from all our believers in the Soviet Union. They are one with us in prayer that this session will make a meaningful contribution to those human and divine values that alone can unite the human family."

And I feel like saying something to those members of the Adventist family who have questioned the wisdom of meeting in Vienna. Elder Pierson says it for me in a short challenge to make this a "Decade of Destiny."

"The Adventist Church is not a North American church. It is a world church. Eighty per cent of its members now live outside the United States. The church belongs to them, and to all of us."

And so it does. The move was past due. Whatever it cost, it was worth it. Mark the decision down as an act of audacious and astute leadership.

Yes, the nominating committee was appointed after the meeting. Major institutions in North America were given delegates—as major institutions in other divisions likely will soon be. But the night ended with that walk down the aisle.

It is now late Friday afternoon. In a few minutes the nominating committee will bring a report to the conference. When it does, a peculiar phenomenon, rare in Adventist meetings, will occur: It will become quiet.

A General Conference, you see, has several dimensions, one of which is social. People

fall into other people's arms. People cry together. And laugh. And talk. In the corridors the noise is incessant—whispers, shouts, laughs, prayers, praise. Occasionally it interferes with conference sessions, bringing a good natured call for quiet.

A first-time visitor to the session may be surprised to see so many General Conference officials involved in everything but the nominating committee. The reason is simple: The constitution does not permit a member of the General Conference Committee standing for re-election to be a member of the nominating committee. It is the men who must work with and respect their leaders who will vote them in—or out.

I've been amused occasionally to hear the stories of politicking making the rounds. During my 16 years in the General Conference no one has asked me to carry a placard for him or sidled up to me in an incense-filled room to whisper a request for my support. And if anyone has used my first name with more respect just before a session, I haven't noticed it. Most church officials, I believe, have a certain holy awe of church office. Confided one delegate: "I just couldn't do my work if I didn't believe that God called me to my position. I've never wanted to try to take the decision out of His hands."

Varied Talents

During a General Conference you will find delegates exhibiting unsuspected and sometimes quite humble talents. Just before the first session I found G. T. Bertochini, associate secretary of the Temperance Department, carefully positioning a blue velvet cloth on the top of the celery-colored podium. "The enameled surface reflects light into the speakers face," he explained.

Another problem was not so easily solved. The emblem for the conference—a white dove with wings of flame—still hadn't gotten off the ground. It was sitting backstage, crated. Said Elder Bertochini, "We can't unpack it until it is cleared by customs."

Either customs cleared it, or someone thought customs did, for it was on the podium at 7:00 when I walked into the auditorium.

Inside the main hall Harold Reiner, associate director of the Communications Department, was checking out the sound system. "Will it work?" I asked. "We'll know tonight."

"Are the Austrian technicians cooperative?"

"Extremely," he said. "In fact, they're so cooperative that they hesitate doing something they feel might not be satisfactory. Thus we hear the phrase 'technically impossible.'"

A friendly Austrian told me that more than 1,200 transistor receivers are being used by those who want to hear the proceedings in their own language.

A last minute problem was narrowly averted—the translation booths blocked part of a passageway from the auditorium. In Austria, as in the United States, this is contrary to fire regulations. In this case the booths remained only because Adventists are non-smokers.

Finishing up last minute jobs was not facilitated by a police requirement that the auditorium be cleared between 4:30 and 6:30 before the evening meeting.

While the police inspected the hall, I ducked into the REVIEW editorial office to find Louis Reynolds, associate director of the Sabbath School Department, typing his report of the pre-session, while a nervous secretary stood by waiting for each sheet, which she took across the hall to a harassed looking editor. The deadlines posted on the door had the finality of an execution command.

And now I, too, have arrived at deadline time.

Just when I had planned to write a brilliant concluding paragraph, referring to the theme of my opening paragraph—the real news is that the Adventist family knows how to get along—remember?

And somehow I was going to mention two outstanding spiritual challenges of the day—W. J. Hackett's 8:00 A.M. devotion on repentance, and B. E. Seton's 11:00 A.M. study on spiritual gifts ("Outstanding" was George Vandeman's verdict).

They will forgive me. Who better than a speaker knows when it is time to use the noblest punctuation mark in the English language—the period?

Necrology Listing

During the past quinquennium 953 workers died. Many of these were retirees, but all were actively seeking to hasten the coming of the Lord. They now await the fulfillment of the Blessed Hope. Their service is recorded in the books of heaven. We miss them, but our eyes turn toward the resurrection morning.

A partial list of those who were widely known is here presented:

R. H. Adair
J. M. A. Adeoye
Wesley I. Amundsen
V. T. Armstrong
Richard C. Barron
W. E. Battye
D. Batubara
W. E. Baxter
A. A. Berchin
Erwin Berner
O. A. Blake
Henry P. Bloum
Harold M. Blunden
C. Lester Bond
Frederick Brennwald
Henry S. Brown
John L. Brown
A. J. Campbell
James T. Carrington
Faqr Chand
Mrs. C. F. Clarke
Robert E. Cleveland
Francis G. Clifford
J. F. Coltheart
Roy F. Cottrell
Mrs. G. Cupertino
M. P. Daniel
Henry De Fluiter
A. Orville Dunn
Otis B. Edwards
Assad Farag
Esther Feltus
Juan Ferri
Mrs. Desmond Ford
Orley Ford
Marius Fridlin
LeRoy Edwin Froom
Magoji Fukazawa
A. G. Galadjev
S. H. Gander
J. G. Garcia
Alexander Gardner
Mrs. Robert V. Gorle
Mrs. L. T. Greive
G. A. Grigoryev
Cecil Bennett Guild
H. K. Halladay
A. L. Ham
Mrs. A. L. Ham
Daniel Hammerly
Joseph Harker
Russell Jack Harvey
Richard D. Hayden
Charles Head
Hans Ludvig Henriksen
W. I. Hilliard
Mrs. W. I. Hilliard
Mrs. B. A. Howard
Cecil John Howell
N. V. Jesudas
Alger Francis Johns
M. R. Justin
Tetsuzo Kato
Wilfred Lawrence Kilroy
M. D. Kodan
K. A. Korolenko
D. B. Ladion

Mrs. F. A. Landis
Francis Lavanchy
T. C. Lawson
Andre Lecoultre
Mrs. Alyne Dumas Lee
Leonard C. Lee
Arthur E. Lickey
A. V. Likarenko
Roland E. Loasby
J. P. Lobo
Mrs. E. L. Longway
Mrs. Bertha Lowry
H. B. Lundquist
I. A. Lvov
Charles Henry Mackett
V. Z. Makarchuk
Rais Andrew Marx
Alma E. McKibbin
Tahay Moises
James Lewis Moran
John R. Moses
Wilhelm Mueller
Mrs. Todd Murdoch
James F. Mueyba
John Peter Neff
A. N. Nelson
Jay J. Nethery
C. L. Paddock, Sr.
Altamir Paiva
J. S. Pak
Nathaniel Payne
Braulio Marcio Perez
Henry W. Peterson
Juan Plenc
Mrs. R. M. Rabello
Mrs. Frank Graham Rampton
Harley E. Rice
Mrs. R. P. Robinson
E. M. Salazar
Mrs. Kollabathula G. Samuel
U. Saw
W. A. Scharffenberg
Otto Schildauer
Frederick F. Schwindt
Pr Saw Tun Sein
Lawrence Graham Shields
Miyake Shohei
David Sibley
S. F. Sitompul
Olaf A. Skau
I. Smik
Don H. Spillman
Ivo Souza
Mrs. Amy Tan
W. Homer Teesdale
Mrs. E. D. Thomas
Harry M. Tippet
Clifton G. Van Putten
D. E. Venden
Andrie Lilian Visser
N. L. Vovk
R. W. Wentland
Hans Werner
Robert M. Whitsett
Don Edward Wijesinghe
Llewellyn A. Wilcox
A. H. Williams
V. Yarmolenko

This Is Our Ebenezer

Report of the General Conference secretary presented Friday, July 11, 1975.

BY C. O. FRANZ



"Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (1 Sam. 7:12).

In this year of our Lord 1975, we shall not erect in this place a visible monument. No literal Ebenezer stone will remain as a testimonial and a memorial of our gratitude to God. Nevertheless, as the delegates to the fifty-second session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists meet here in Europe for the first time, it is altogether fitting and proper that we remember the way that God has led, guided, and helped His church in the 112 years of its organized existence. This is our Ebenezer.

Thus, in the spirit of the proclamation of the ancient prophet, let us consider yesterday and today in the experience of the remnant church. We shall not forget that there are tomorrows to be planned for. The future is in the hands of God and by assignment belongs to you and me and the two and a half million members of the family we represent. But reports have to do with the past and the present, and this report will offer some comparisons.

For the beginning, let us go back to 1864, the year following the organization of the General Conference in Battle Creek, Michigan. It was in this year that M. B. Czechowski, a Polish Adventist living in America, offered himself to the young church as an overseas worker. His burden, Europe, where he had labored as a Catholic priest in earlier times.

The founders and administrators of the church had vision, but for most of them that vision had not yet extended to Europe. Nor would it for another ten years. If they suffered a degree of myopia, we might be charitable when we understand the conditions of their day involving both men and means. Elder A. G. Daniells tells us how it was in 1863:

"The first General Conference Committee had three members. . . . No statistics of the denomination were given when the conference was organized (in 1863), but as nearly as can be ascertained from various reports and fragmentary statements in the *Review*, there were: six organized conferences, about thirty-five hundred Sabbath-keepers, thirty ministers, annual receipts approaching twelve thousand dollars, a small publishing plant, one weekly paper, one monthly [paper], and a small assortment of pamphlets and tracts."—A. G. DANIELLS, 1905 report to the General Conference session, in *Review and Herald*, May 11, 1905.

To say that their resources were limited understates the case. Their material resources were almost nonexistent. We should not be surprised, then, that the early believers were sometimes perplexed by the messages contained in the visions of Ellen G. White—visions that seemed to call for a world work. Twenty years earlier she had been given a vision in which the world was spread out before her, and she saw "darkness like the pall of death. What did it mean? I could

see no light, then I saw a little glimmer of light and then another, and these lights increased and grew brighter, and multiplied and grew stronger and stronger till they were the light of the world. These were the believers in Jesus Christ."—A. W. SPALDING, *Captains of the Host*, p. 509.

And then another vision came, and she was instructed to tell her husband, James White, to start a paper, "and from this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world."—*Ibid.*, p. 511.

If the little company of believers found it difficult to understand how they would be able to take their message of salvation and hope to all the world, imagine the reaction of the critics and detractors. They said, "'It will take you 144,000 years to do what you propose. . . . Three preachers—White, Mrs. White, and Bates—with not a penny, with fewer than a hundred followers, none of them with a red cent, going out with a few little tracts to conquer the world! Preposterous assumption!'"—*Ibid.*, p. 511.

This was the milieu that Czechowski encountered in 1864. Neither the finances nor the vision of the General Conference Committee extended to Europe in that day. But Czechowski had dreamed a dream. He would preach in Europe. He would not be denied. Finally, he persuaded a first-day Adventist group in Boston to sponsor him, and before the year was out he was preaching in a Piedmont Valley of Italy. He preached the second coming of Christ. He preached the seventh-day Sabbath. There were converts, but Czechowski did not tell them there was a Seventh-day Adventist organization, and his converts thought they were the only Christians in the world who observed the seventh-day Sabbath and looked for the soon coming of their Lord.

Later, Czechowski moved to Switzerland, and on New Year's Day, in 1867, he organized a company of Sabbath-keepers in the village of Tramelan. For two years he ministered to this group; when he left for Romania the believers at Tramelan were still not aware that there was an organized body of believers anywhere in the world who believed as they did. It was in the providence of God that one of the members of the Tramelan group, Albert Vuilleumier, found a copy of the *Advent Review* that Czechowski had left behind. Vuilleumier wrote to the publishers of the paper in Battle Creek, Michigan, and thus began the thrilling correspondence that finally resulted in the sending out of the first official Seventh-day Adventist worker to an overseas post.

J. N. Andrews Answers the Appeal

As a sample of this correspondence and the earnestness of the Tramelan believers, we quote from Vuilleumier's letter of January 6, 1869:

"Dear Brothers in Christ:

"Your very friendly and brotherly letter, so impatiently awaited, has arrived safely, and we rejoice and have read it with much gladness. First of all we wish to say that we will be very happy if you can write in French, but if the brethren who know the French language are away, the English language is not altogether unknown to us, and we can, with the help of a dictionary, translate sufficiently accurately your dear letters. So there should be no hindrances keeping us apart from each other. . . . We feel in need of the experience and directions of our brethren, and we therefore desire that a brother will come here and remain for some time, . . . in order to organize us, counsel us, strengthen us. . . . We stretch out our arms, our hearts, and we offer you our homes."

We note that the reply to Vuilleumier's letter was written by the president of the General Conference, who would himself five years later be the answer to this earnest appeal from Tramelan, and thus the first official overseas worker of the church. He was John Nevins Andrews. His letter, dated April 2, 1869, is a long letter. We shall quote only a few thoughts from it.

"We are striving to make ready a people to welcome the coming of the Son of God. We believe that such a people will be found walking in all the commandments and ordinances

of the Lord blameless. We believe that this is the grand purpose of life with you, and we bid you Godspeed. Our work is to save men by preaching Christ and His truth. We can but feel the deepest interest in your behalf. . . . Our General Conference will probably meet about the last of May. We will give your letter serious attention at that time, and do what we can to help you. Our laborers are comparatively few, and the field in this country, now destitute of any help, is vast. Yet we deeply feel your appeal and will prayerfully consider what can be done. We mean that men who go out to labor as missionaries shall be men of piety and of sober judgment, and that zeal and caution shall be mingled in their characters. . . . The sending out of missionaries pertains to the General Conference. So great is our lack of laborers to fill the urgent demand we know not what way to turn. . . .

"We do not think the time of deliverance can be very distant. We think everything indicates the swift approach of the day of judgment. We are rejoiced to hear of those who have received the precious truths of the third angel's message. May they greatly prosper in the Lord. Let us hear from you immediately, and we will answer you hereafter promptly."

James White added a postscript to Andrews' letter. He was in full agreement with the statements of Elder Andrews, he said, and adds, "We love you and feel a deep interest in your prosperity. At a special meeting of the church yesterday Mrs. White appealed to the brethren in a most affecting manner in your behalf. Nearly all were in tears. . . . We shall not remain silent and inactive respecting you." And so, on September 15, 1874, J. N. Andrews, accompanied by his son, Charles, and his daughter, Mary, and Ademar Vuilleumier, a relative of Albert, sailed from Boston bound for Europe and the continuation of the work that M. B. Czechowski had begun years earlier. Considering the slowness of travel in 1874, it is rather amazing that only one month passed before Elder Andrews arrived at his assigned field, Neuchatel, Switzerland. He threw himself into the work of preaching, visiting, writing, instructing, and soon churches and conferences were organized. A publishing house was established, and lights began to appear in Germany, in Scandinavia, in Great Britain, and in other parts of Europe.

Variations on the Story

The same story, with variations, has been repeated through the years in Australia and the South Pacific Islands, in Africa, in Latin America, and in Asia. Many times the first evangelist was not the flesh and blood variety, but a package of tracts or a book, those communicators so blessed by God, so despised by the critics. The medical work and the educational work have likewise played their parts in the development of the church in the 193 countries in which the Seventh-day Adventist presence is found today. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

We like to think of the 2,521,429 members of the church as one great family. We are indeed a family—God's family. We like to compare that little 1863 handful of believers with the "mighty army" that is the church today. This we believe is one measure of the blessing and direction of our heavenly Father on His church through the years.

You probably know that the largest group of your brothers and sisters is situated in what we call Latin America, which includes all of the continent of South America, plus the Central American republics, Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands. The Inter-American and South American divisions of the church direct the work of the church in this territory. Twenty-nine per cent of the Adventist family are in Latin America.

There have been many "explosions" all around the world, including the so-called population explosion, but Latin America has a new variety. They call it the "evangelism explosion." During the past quinquennium the ministers of the Inter-American Division baptized more than 200,000 souls.

The South American Division has also had its evangelism explosion, resulting in baptisms totaling more than 158,000 in this quinquennium. This represents an average of one new convert



The six-man delegation from the German Democratic Republic included, left to right, Johannes Koehler, Mecklenburg Conference president; Ewald Oestreich, West Saxonian Conference president; Georg Richter, German Democratic Union Conference Ministerial secretary; M. Boettcher, union president; Erwin Binayner, North-east Saxonian Conference president; and G. Mager, union Treasurer.

every 15 minutes in South America. Or to put it another way, a new congregation of 100 members is added to the South American Division family every day.

The second-largest segment of the Adventist family is found in Africa, with 22 per cent of the church membership. Four great divisions of the church minister to the African Continent. Three of them also have territory in Europe and the Middle East. We refer to the Afro-Mideast Division, the Euro-Africa Division, the Northern Europe-West Africa Division and the Trans-Africa Division. Africa produces diamonds—diamonds for the jewelers of the world and diamonds for the kingdom of God. One of the most thrilling stories of current Adventist mission is that of the great challenge facing the church in Zaire. Here entire churches and church organizations are knocking at the door of the Seventh-day Adventist Church asking for admission. Our valiant band of workers, supported in every possible way by the church in other areas, is coping with this most wonderful of all "problems," and working night and day to reap this rich harvest of souls. Time and personnel are of the essence. Pray for the members of your family in Zaire and in all Africa.

One fifth of the Adventist family, more than half a million members, are found in the North American Division, which includes the United States, Canada, and Bermuda. There is a new surge of evangelism in North America; 1974 was the greatest year in evangelism in the history of this division. MISSION '75, with its appeal to the laity, promises to be even better. The baptismal goal for 1975 in the North American Division is ten times the total church membership of 1863—35,000. God has blessed the North American members of our family with material means, and they are generous in sharing. We were visiting recently with a gentleman in the State of Ohio who is acquainted with Seventh-day Adventists but not a member of our communion. "I recently saw some statistics," he said, "which show that Seventh-day Adventists give more per capita than the members of any other church. I don't understand this, because the members of your church that I know are not wealthy people." He is right, of course, but Seventh-day Adventists not only in North America but around the world have proved the Lord, and He has opened the windows of heaven and poured out a blessing so large that they can hardly receive it. And they are, we believe, the most generous people on earth.

Next we come to the continent of Asia, including the Far Eastern Division and the Southern Asia Division. The population of these vast territories, including China, is approximately 1.9 billion persons. Among them there are nearly 400,000 Seventh-day Adventists, who represent 15 per cent of the Adventist family. Baptisms in the Far Eastern Division have exceeded 100,000 for the past quinquennium. The Southern Asia Division, with its large Hindu and Moslem populations, has been called the Gibraltar of heathenism. Today we can report that it is the fastest-growing division of the church. During the past four years, 41,225 have entered the

church through baptism. We thank God for every one of them. But they are so few among so many. In Asia, as elsewhere, we must be constantly alert to move in any direction when God opens the doors.

It is wonderful to be in Europe for this fifty-second session, and to realize that nearly 9 per cent of the Adventist family are in the European sections of the Euro-Africa and Northern Europe-West Africa divisions. We sense a new thrust in the work of the church in Europe. It is "old Europe" as far as history is concerned, but "new Europe" where the church is concerned. We note that the literature evangelist who annually distributes more Seventh-day Adventist literature than any other church member, is located in Europe. She (note the pronoun) delivered the equivalent of US\$141,533 worth of literature in 1974.

Research Center in Europe

An important step taken in this quinquennium is the establishment of the Ellen G. White SDA Research Center, Europe, at Newbold College. This center will serve the ministry and laity of Europe especially in matters pertaining to the Spirit of Prophecy. It represents the first of what is expected to be a chain of research centers around the world. I have read the reports of the presidents of these two divisions, which will be presented later in this session. It would not be fair to preview them, but you will be thrilled as you hear them.

One of the most interesting areas of earth is found in the islands of the Australasian Division. What a thrill to find an island, the population of which is entirely Seventh-day Adventist! Even though the Australasian segment of the Adventist family represents only 4.4 per cent of that family, the Australasian Division has the highest ratio of Adventists to population of any division. One person in 179 is a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

It was our privilege to visit many parts of the Australasian Division a few months ago. Everywhere we went we found faithful, dedicated, and active members of the remnant church. We were especially impressed with the medical work in such places as Auckland, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia; and the highlands of New Guinea. We found the young people training for service at Fulton College, in Fiji, at Avondale College, in Australia, and in many academies and elementary schools. We were told of the evangelistic exploits of the students of Sonoma Adventist College, in New Guinea, who were responsible for the baptism of more than 200 souls in 1974.

The health-food work in the Australasian Division is positively amazing! Retail sales resulting from the production of the 13 factories in Australia and New Zealand totaled US\$276,775,000 during the past quinquennium. Australia is out in front in the health-food work, and this industry, in addition to providing wholesome food for millions of people, has also

provided needed funds for the mission program of the church in the islands of the South Seas. We are proud of our Australasian Adventist family.

W. A. Spicer, that great leader who gave a lifetime of devoted service to the church, often said, "The Adventist family is the best family in all the world." With joy and with conviction we repeat his words today. We see here in the Stadthalle, in Vienna, a microcosm of that wonderful family. You have come from every part of the world. You represent the family of God scattered around the earth. You are the inheritors of the blessings that God has poured out upon His remnant church in the 112 years of its organized existence. Without doubt, the heart of every delegate overflows this morning with gratitude and praise to God for His blessings and His help to the church and to us as individuals.

As we meet here in the mid-seventies serious questions flood in upon us. Are we satisfied with the accomplishments of the past? May we now settle down quietly in our "spiritual rocking chairs" and take it easy? Have we done all that we should have done? When will the Eternal God of the universe pronounce those solemn words, "It is finished," and send His Son down through the clouds in the great Second Advent, for which we have waited so long?

These are questions we need to ask ourselves in 1975. There is an answer to each one. God has given us an especially clear answer to the last one: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a missionary church. It began that way. It has prospered that way. We believe it will continue to be a missionary church until the Lord comes. We should be in the forefront of the mission program and, although current and conclusive statistics are not available at this moment, there are those who are convinced that we have more missionaries in the field around the world than any other Protestant organization. In the year 1974, 342 new missionaries were sent out on regular full-term appointments from ten world divisions of the church. Three hundred and fifty others returned to their fields of assignment after well-deserved furloughs. In addition, 476 short-term volunteers went out to the mission fields for periods of one or two years in most cases. They served as student missionaries, Adventist Volunteer Service Corps workers, sustentation overseas workers, and in special service assignments. The total of regular and volunteer workers sent out in 1974 was 1,168. The grand total for the quinquennium is an almost unbelievable 5,367.

We wish to express here our appreciation to these front-line soldiers. They have given up many of the comforts of home. They are separated from their loved ones and friends in the homeland. Some will not return. They rest from their labors. During this quinquennium new missionary graves have been opened in Bangladesh, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, Malawi, Peru, Rhodesia, Singapore, Tanzania, and Zaïre. God has marked these special spots, and one day soon He will send an angel host to awaken these faithful warriors who have slept for a little season.

When will that day come? In terms of days and months and years, we do not know. But we know it will be soon. We know that it will come when, in the judgment of the great God and Judge of the universe, His people have prepared themselves and, with the power of His Spirit, finished His work. Nothing is surer than this. Nothing is more certain.

"We are standing on the threshold.

We are in the open door.

We are treading on a borderland

We have never trod before."

God will not fail us nor abandon us in the days ahead if we stay close to Him, for, in the words of W. G. C. Murdoch, "God never leads His church or His people to any place where retreat is necessary or advance is impossible."

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Summary of Missionary Appointments and Assignments 1970-1974

Year	New Workers, Regular Appointments	Returning Missionaries	Adventist Volunteer Service Corps	Student Missionaries	Sustentation Overseas Workers	Other Assignments	Totals
1970	470	488	10*	82*	0	27*	1077
1971	445	310	19*	167*	6*	25*	972
1972	354	331	41	157	20	108	1011
1973	316	388	64	160	30	181	1139
1974	342	350	53	188	26	209	1168
Totals	1927	1867	187	754	82	550	5367

*North America only

Proceedings of the General Conference

**Fifty-second Session, July 10-19, 1975
First Business Meeting**

July 10, 1975, 8:00 P.M.

V. W. Schoen, chairman of the session platform committee, informally opened the first meeting of the 52nd session of the General Conference.

V. W. SCHOEN: The representatives of the remnant people of God have come together from all over the world. You have come from the east and from the west. You have come from the south and from the north. You speak different tongues. You represent different peoples. But all of us are united in one family. And we are all merged into a spiritual brotherhood of all peoples. We welcome you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to this opening meeting of the 52nd

session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The song service of praise was directed by C. H. Lauda; his translator was K. Schmitz, one of our pastors in the Berlin Conference.

PRAYER: George Carambot, on behalf of the assembled delegates, thanked God for protecting all who traveled, sought His presence in the deliberations of the conference, and praised His name for the hope and peace that His truth provides.

M. E. KEMMERER: You can understand that a meeting such as this requires a large outlay of funds, not only by the divisions and their related organizations but also by the General Conference. Feeling that you would want to have a part in caring for some of the expenses of the session, we will invite you each evening to bring an offering. PRAYER: We are grateful, our heavenly Father, for Thy many blessings, personally and collectively. We all are in debt more than we can repay in word or in gift. But accept our offerings tonight as our expression of thankfulness.

C. L. POWERS: It is a pleasure to welcome the delegates to this 52nd session of the General Conference and we are happy that you have chosen to come to Vienna, the meeting ground of the east and west. Vienna is a city of history. It is said that, like Paris, Vienna belongs to the world. Our prayer is that Seventh-day Adventist history will be made here during our days in Vienna, and that the blessings received will reach out to every believer around the world. On behalf of more than 200,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the Euro-Africa Division, we extend a warm welcome to each one of you.

O. UEBERSAX: Welcome again! You have come representing the worldwide family of believers. I give you the best wishes of the city of Vienna. We are in the very heart of European history, civilization, science, and art. Some of the world's greatest musicians have lived and worked here. Several of them have been buried in this venerable city with its grand past. Vienna, in 1975, now faces its new function of bridging east and west, providing a place for communication between different nations. This may have been one of the reasons for choosing Vienna as the site of this important meeting. A great number of delegates who have come from socialist countries including the Soviet Union testify to the wisdom of this choice. May



The French Voice of Prophecy quintet provided music Thursday night.

the beauty of old Vienna and the practical utility of modern Vienna combine to provide a creative atmosphere conducive to a blessed and successful session.

C. O. FRANZ: We are very pleased to read a message of welcome from Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, the president of the Federal Republic of Austria:

"This year, 1975, for the first time the Seventh-day Adventist Church is convening outside the United States of America. It is a real pleasure to have this general meeting in Vienna. The Republic of Austria is happy to be considered a place where people with different political viewpoints and different ideologies and religious convictions can meet. This is one of the fundamental principles of the Republic of Austria.

"Liberty of personal conviction is of very high value. It has found its place in the Austrian constitution. Respect for this liberty is one of the characteristics of our people. I am therefore convinced—and it is my sincere desire—that the many thousands of Seventh-day Adventists from all the world who come to Vienna in these days of July will find a hearty welcome in our capital and will leave this country with the best of memories."

C. O. FRANZ: We have also received a message from another distinguished son of Austria, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the secretary-general of the United Nations:

"I extend my warmest greetings to all those who will be participating at the 52nd world session of the

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

"The close ties which exist between the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the United Nations, as well as your support for the goals of global peace and human well being, are of great encouragement. I especially congratulate your humanitarian contributions in the fields of education and health care.

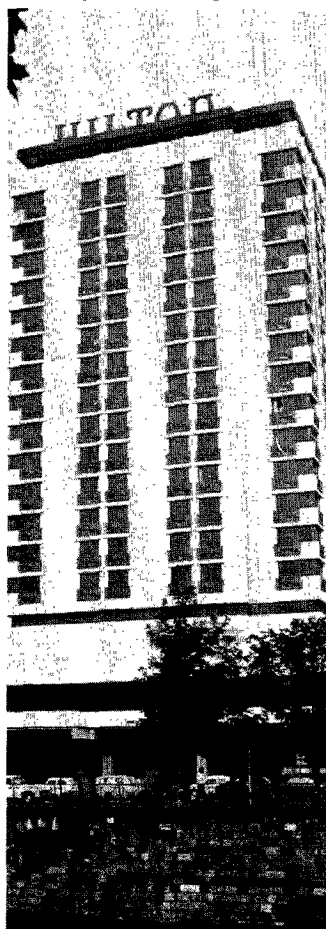
"It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to send to you my best wishes for a very fruitful and productive meeting in Vienna."

THEME SONG: "We Have This Hope" was sung in Spanish by Robert Folkenberg, in French by the Voice of Prophecy sextet, and in English by Charles Brooks.

V. W. Schoen introduced Robert H. Pierson, chairman of the General Conference session, and his wife to the assembly.

R. H. PIERSON: Thank you Elder Schoen. Mrs. Pierson and I both want to thank you very much for your kind introduction. Will you all stand with Mrs. Pierson to honor the hundreds of thousands of ladies around the world who are part of this great movement.

I am going to ask C. O. Franz, the secretary of the General Conference, to join me here now so that we can begin the business of the session. We have greetings tonight from a large number of people, and I am sure Elder Franz is not going to read all of the letters but he will bring us a few of these from different parts of the world.



The Vienna Hilton is the headquarters hotel for the General Conference session. About 300 rooms are occupied by delegates, many of them General Conference and world division officers. The hotel is in the central part of Vienna and the Stadthalle is on the outskirts, but delegates can get to the Stadthalle easily by train, bus, taxi, or streetcar.

C. O. FRANZ: Brother Chairman, we have selected a very few typical messages from a large number of greetings we have received. The first one comes to us from India, signed by I. K. Moses and W. F. Storz on behalf of the 84,000 believers in the Southern Asia Division. It says: "Greetings to the 52nd Session," followed by some very beautiful thoughts.

Then we have received a telegram from Pastor Jaruta of the Moldavia Republic. Because it is short, I will read it. "Cordial greetings to those gathered in the General Conference on behalf of your fellow brothers in the Moldavia Republic. We wish you God's blessings and good success."

From the "Burma Brethren" (and signed in that way) we have this message: "Burma brethren send Christian greetings to those attending the session. We pray earnestly the Holy Spirit infilling and guidance. Sorry none can represent."

Brother Chairman, I should like to move that we respond to these greetings with Christian love.

R. H. PIERSON: With Pastor Franz's permission, I would like to have us include Dr. Kurt Waldheim and Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger. [Motion was seconded and carried.]

We want to undertake the organization of the session at this time. There is certain business that we have to care for according to the constitution. Our secretary will bring us a report on the attendance of the delegates and other related matters.

C. O. FRANZ: Brother Chairman, Article 9, Section 1, of the Constitution of the General Conference requires that the time and place of the conference shall be voted by the executive committee and announced in the REVIEW AND HERALD. This has been done in three consecutive issues.

Article 3, Section 3-a, of the Constitution provides that all members of the General Conference executive committee shall be delegates-at-large. The present membership of the committee is 325. Of this number, 315 are present tonight.

Article 3, Section 4, provides for the appointment of regular delegates by union conferences and divisions. These delegates have been duly appointed in harmony with the constitution, and the secretaries of the divisions have reported the following numbers of regular delegates from their respective divisions:

Afro-Mideast	28
Australasian	20
Euro-Africa	159
Far Eastern	95
Inter-American	209
North American	271
Northern Europe—	
West Africa	75
South America	157
Southern Asia	41
Trans-Africa	97
Total	1,152



A. E. Birch, president, Cape Conference (South African Union), is an attentive listener during a conversation at the Stadthalle.

Brother Chairman, 1,152 regular delegates have been accredited by their respective organizations. When we add to this the members of the General Conference committee who are present, we have a total of 1,467 delegates. This is the basic group of delegates provided by the constitution and we present this delegation to you at this first business meeting of the 52nd session. [The names of authorized delegates appear on pages 11—14 of Bulletin No. 1.]

R. H. PIERSON: It is evident that we have a quorum, so I declare this 52nd General Conference session open for business.

D. W. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, the committee on the seating of additional delegates has a special group we would like to present tonight. Because of its special nature I would like Theodore Carcich to have the honor of introducing them.

T. CARCICH: Mr. Chairman, in 1974 the General Conference committee authorized one of the General Conference vice-presidents to visit the USSR for purposes of consultation. Chief among our purposes was that of obtaining the attendance of representatives from the Seventh-day Adventist churches of the USSR to this world meeting of the church. The results of that visit, and others by Pastor O. Uebersax of Austria, are now a matter of record. Due to the initiative of the General Conference and the kindness, courtesy, and cooperation of the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and due, above all, to the providence of God, we have with us tonight:

Maimu Väli from Tallin
Victor Kärmas from Tallin
Sergei Tutski from Brest
Alexander Parasei from Kiev
Mikhail Kulakov from Tashkent
Yanis Oltin from Riga
Yuri Tomenko from Alma-Ata

Mr. Chairman, this is an historic moment. In a little while we shall see erected in this world assembly a standard that we have not seen for 57 years. Therefore, it is my high honor and great privilege to introduce at this world conference of the Seventh-day Adventist church these true, loyal, and fellow church members. Elder R. H. Pierson, ladies and gentlemen, delegates of this world congress, I present to you our beloved brethren and sisters from the Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics. [Audience stood and applauded at length as the group, led by John Kozel, chairman of the committee on orders and ushering, proceeded to the platform.]

D. W. HUNTER: I move that these seven representatives from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics be seated as delegates at large to this 52nd General Conference session.

R. H. PIERSON: This is a moving experience. How happy we are to welcome our brethren and sisters from the Soviet Union tonight. We know that their presence and their fellowship will be a blessing. We are happy to have them here with us.

There is one other item of interest that Elder Powers has for us.

C. L. POWERS: I would like to have the privilege of presenting two of our delegates from Bulgaria. This is the first time in the history of the church that we have had delegates from Bulgaria. I would like to invite Brother Nicola Tanev, president of the Bulgarian Union of Seventh-day Adventists, and Brother Cristo Kirov, pastor of the Sofia, Bulgaria, church to stand. [Spontaneous applause by the audience greeted these representatives.]

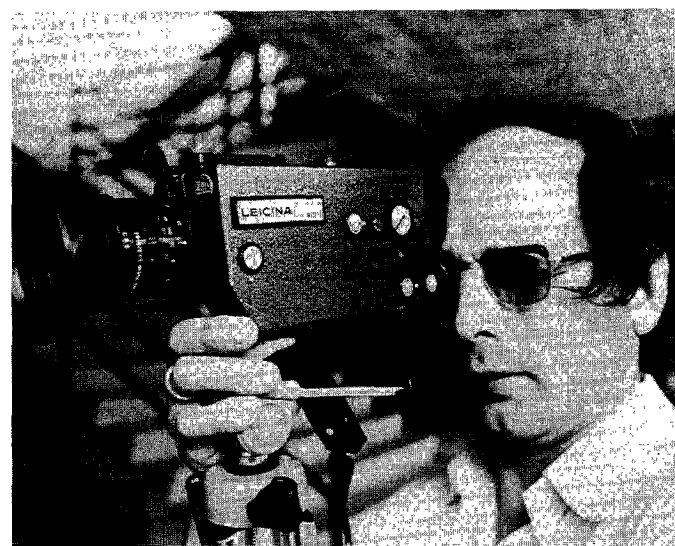
C. O. FRANZ: Article 3 of the constitution, Section 3-b, provides for the appointment of an additional group of delegates. These are delegates at large. They represent the general institutions, depart-

ments, and other interests of the church. In harmony with the constitutional provision, this group has received delegate credentials from the executive committee of the General Conference. The constitution provides that the number of delegates thus seated shall not exceed 25 per cent of the total number of delegates in attendance otherwise provided for. Since the basic group of delegates totals 1,474, this additional group of delegates at large could number 368. We bring a recommendation that 255 of these be seated. The names of these delegates are included in the minutes of the General Conference Committee. They will appear also in the REVIEW AND HERALD bulletins which will be placed in your hands tomorrow morning. [See page 14 of Bulletin No. 1.]

The final requirement of the constitution with regard to this group of delegates is that their credentials shall be ratified by the session. We have this list of 255 delegates here. We are prepared to read it if that is the desire of the delegation. In recent sessions it has been voted to ratify this list but to waive the reading since it has appeared in the minutes of the General Conference Committee and will be a part of the minutes of this session as recorded in the REVIEW AND HERALD bulletins. We await the pleasure of the delegation. [Voted to waive the reading and to ratify the list of additional delegates.]

C. O. FRANZ: We have now seated 1,729 delegates. There will be additional names to be considered, but these will come to us from the committee on the seating of additional delegates.

It has been the custom to invite a number of veteran workers to attend as delegates. We treasure this tie with the recent history of the church. We highly esteem the counsel and courage of these veterans. Because we are meeting in Europe the majority of the retired workers invited to this session are from the European part of our great



Among the many shutterbugs attending the session is Eric Metzting, pastor from Cambridge, England, who takes a turn at moving pictures.

family. I am pleased to tell you a total of 37 have been invited to this session. We ask this special group of delegates to please stand for a moment. We express our appreciation to them. We are thankful to have these brethren and sisters with us tonight.

We think now about those workers who rest from their labors. Every member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is, or should be, a missionary worker. This means that the working force of the church numbers approximately 2½ million. Of this number 73,513 represent full-time workers who are on the payroll of the church.

It is inevitable, but sad, that from such a large group some will slip away from us by death each quinquennium. During the past five years 953 workers, both retirees and those at their posts, have died. They await the call of the Lifegiver. We miss them. Tonight we honor them and their families. [A partial list of widely-known workers who have died since the last General Conference session appears on page 3 of this bulletin.]

Brother Chairman, would it not be appropriate for this delegation and our friends and visitors to stand in silence for a few moments as we remember the faithful works and example of these fallen warriors for Christ?

R. H. PIERSON: I would like to invite you tonight to stand in tribute to those who have died and to pray silently that God will help us as we continue the work that they have left to us. [Audience stood.]

The next item of business is to select the standing committees that will be serving during the time of the session. On pages 24 to 27 of your program booklet you will find these various committees listed, and I'm going to ask our secretary to say just a word about these. [The standing committees appear also on page 15 of Bulletin No. 1.]

C. O. FRANZ: These standing committees were voted by the General Conference Committee as a recommendation to this session. We already are aware that there are some inadvertent omissions. If you are aware of such, please see the chairman or secretary of the committee on additional standing committee assignments. W. D. Eva is the chairman, and D. W. Hunter is the secretary. I move that we approve this list, subject to future adjustments. [Motion was carried.]

R. H. PIERSON: Now we come to the president's report. I'm sure all of you will be patient and indulgent because you can understand that translation takes time. This is the only business session that is going to be conducted in two languages from the platform. We felt that all of you would like to know just how we operate and we wanted everyone to be able to understand easily what is said during this first business session. My full report will appear in the REVIEW and HERALD. [It appears on pages 5-7 of Bulletin No. 1.]

R. H. PIERSON: One of the most important duties of the session is the work of the nominating committee. The progress of God's work, under Him, is dependent upon men and women, God's men and women. So it is important tonight that we have a good nominating committee.

In connection with the nominating committee's work, there is an item that I would like to bring for your approval. It is a recommendation from the Annual Council. It is one that has been studied carefully by our world representatives at the Annual Council and reaffirmed by the home and overseas officers. On our nominating committee we want wide representation. Let each division select its nominating committee members with great care, so that all sections and areas will be represented. There is one area from which we do not have representation and that is from the large, complex, and important General Conference institutions. There are hundreds, and, in some cases, thousands of employees and workers in such institutions as Loma Linda University, Andrews University, Christian Record, Harris Pine Mills, Home Study Institute, Oakwood College, Pacific Press Publishing Association, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Southern Publishing Association, and the Seventh-day Adventist Radio, Television, and Film Center. These institutions have little or no opportunity of being represented on the nominating committee through the unions in which they are situated. Thus, our General Conference institutions are left out.

The Annual Council gave careful study to this problem and it has made a recommendation to this session. It has to do with representation for these institutions. If you approve, as we hope you will, these institutions can have representation on the nominating committee. Our secretary will read the recommendation at this time.

C. O. FRANZ: This is a recommendation that Article 2, Section 2, of the Bylaws of the General Conference be amended by the addition of a new-section. The proposed new sub-section would read: "One member of the nominating committee from each of the following General Conference institutions: Andrews University, Harris Pine Mills, Loma Linda Foods, Loma Linda University, Oakwood College, Pacific Press Publishing Association, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Seventh-day Adventist Radio, Television, and Film Center, Southern Publishing Association, and one member on a rotating basis from the following three institutions: Christian Record Braille Foundation, Home Study Institute, and Riverside Hospital."

Brother Chairman, I move the adoption of this recommendation from the home and overseas officers and the Annual Council. [The motion was carried.]

R. H. PIERSON: Now, the division delegates will caucus to select their nominating committee members. The division officers have been instructed about their representation. Their place of meeting has been assigned and the division president will be in charge of the division caucus. We have assigned General Conference officers to meet with the delegates from the

General Conference institutions. I am going to call a meeting of the nominating committee, members of which will be selected tonight, to meet in Hall A at 9:15 tomorrow.

BENEDICTION: D. K. Bazarra
R. H. PIERSON, *Chairman*
C. O. FRANZ, *Secretary*
D. H. BAASCH, *Recording Secretary*

Continued on page 14

The Nominating Committee

(Chosen by their respective divisions and unions July 10, 1975, 9:30 P.M.)

Afro-Mideast Division

D. K. Bazarra, Z. Bina,
R. M. Buckley, R. C. Darnell,
S. W. Andreas, B. Heye,
R. L. Kooreny, J. N. Kyale,
E. Okeyo, S. O. Omulo,
D. C. Swan.

Australasian Division

F. Bera, H. E. Clifford,
C. D. Judd, G. A. Lee,
O. D. F. McCutcheon,
D. E. G. Mitchell, S. M. Uttley.

Congregations of Seventh-day Adventists in Union of Socialist Soviet Republics

A. Parasei, V. Karmas, Maimu Vali.

Euro-Africa Division

H. Berg, M. Boettcher,
A. Casaca, E. Denkert, J. Hildebrandt, H. Knott, P. Langhoff,
S. Monnier, D. Popa, O. Sladek,
J. Slankamenac, G. Vandenvelde,
E. Vervoort, M. Zehnacker.

Far Eastern Division

N. R. Arit, F. M. Arrogante,
D. M. Barnett, M. T. Bascom,
M. M. Claveria, L. R. Colburn,
N. G. Hutaaruk, E. Y. Kim,
T. K. Kim, K. T. Kong, S. Kunihiro,
L. E. Montana, F. P. Penola,
C. P. Ranario, R. I. Sarumpaet,
K. Soneda, R. S. Watts,
A. Waworoendeng, P. G. Wick.

Inter-American Division

C. E. Aeschlimann, G. Carambot, J. Castrejon, G. M. Ellstrom,
Luis Ferreyra, L. H. Fletcher, Luis Flores, N. S. Fraser, S. L. Gadsby,
N. Garcia, P. A. Gomez, A. Gonzalez, N. Grunder, F. E. Hernandez,
L. E. Leonor, A. H. Maury,
S. N. McKinney, I. M. Nation,
F. Rodriguez, G. Sablier,
V. Salazar, X. Soto Valle,
G. R. Thompson, G. Valleray,
H. S. Walters, W. W. Weithers,
F. E. White.

North American Division

E. W. Amundson, C. P. Anderson, G. N. Banks, E. Benavides,
Marion S. Brown, W. J. Cleveland,
W. O. Coe, D. Cummings,
J. L. Dittberner, C. E. Dudley,
G. R. Earle, R. Fearing, P. Follett,
W. C. Hatch, J. Hayward,
N. R. Johnson, B. E. Leach,
W. S. Lee, E. L. Marley, C. Miller,

H. Oshita, L. R. Palmer, Jr.,
W. B. Quigley, L. L. Reile,
R. L. Reynolds, C. Sandefur,
H. H. Schmidt, W. G. Solonjuk,
R. B. Thurman, M. C. Torkelsen,
J. R. Wagner, E. R. Walde,
D. W. Welch, F. W. Wernick.

Northern Europe-West Africa Division

W. Aittala, S. Dabrowski,
E. H. Foster, S. Gustavsson,
J. Madsen, C. B. Mensah,
K. F. Mueller.

South American Division

J. T. Araujo, G. W. Boekenkamp, D. M. Borba, E. Cayrus,
G. Clouzet, Z. Deucher, M. Fuhrmann, R. Gomez, N. Gorski,
L. M. Grellmann, R. Gullon,
A. H. Kohler, G. E. Maxson,
D. Moroz, P. Salri, W. Sarli,
P. Stabenow, J. Tabuenca,
H. Targas, R. N. Wensell, J. Wolff,
E. Zorub.

Southern Asia Division

A. M. Akbar, M. E. Cherian,
G. J. Christo, D. David,
R. D. Riches, D. R. Watts.

Trans-Africa Division

A. E. Birch, A. Bristow,
P. H. Coetzee, P. Cnockaert,
H. C. Currie, E. T. Fusire,
A. M. Long, D. M. Malotle,
M. Mbyirukira, M. Mugemancuro,
E. Munyankiko, S. Nzarora,
J. Sitwala, H. W. Stevenson,
D. H. Thomas, H. C. Tsakala,
F. E. Wilson, P. G. Werner.

General Conference Institutions

Andrews University—
R. Hammill
Christian Record Braille
Foundation—F. A. Peterson
Harris Pine Mills—C. Fry
Loma Linda Foods—M. E. Dake
Loma Linda University—
D. B. Hinshaw
Oakwood College—C. B. Rock
Pacific Press Publishing
Association—W. J. Blacker
Review and Herald Publishing
Association—K. W. Tilghman
SDA Radio, Television and
Film Center—A. G. Munson
Southern Publishing Association—C. L. Paddock, Jr.

The committee chose the following for officers: Cree Sandefur, Chairman; Richard Hammill, Vice-chairman; L. H. Fletcher, secretary; A. E. Birch and S. Kunihiro, assistant secretaries.



Clockwise, beginning directly above: Two Italians enjoying a moment of leisure are Maria Bastari, wife of an evangelist in Florence, and Romeo Copiz, official church tourist guide in Rome. □ At the opening of the Ministerial pre-session on Monday evening, July 7, each delegate received a packet of materials. Mrs. Dunbar Smith, whose husband is Trans-Africa Division health director, assisted in handing out this material. □ The bond of church brotherhood is close between A. Artin, pastor in Barcelona, Spain, and J. Poljak, pastor in Yugoslavia. □ Jauntily setting out on his trip to Vienna is L. H. Grant, Columbia Union Conference youth director. The Columbia Union chartered a plane to take delegates to Austria. □ Brad Braley, long-time Voice of Prophecy organist, is one of a number of musicians taking a turn on the Stadthalle organ.





THE DAY IN VIENNA

Sabbath, July 12
By Don Roth

The first Sabbath of the 52nd General Conference session in Vienna, Austria, was a dramatic first—the first time in the 112-year history of the church that delegates to a General Conference session observed a day of rest in a European venue.

The 24-hour period beginning at 6:00 o'clock Friday evening was jammed with the most inspirational presentations I've ever witnessed and heard at a General Conference session.

The summer sun in Vienna comes up before four o'clock (much different than the 6:30 sundown-sunup regularity of equatorial Singapore where I live), and the sun sets about 7:30 P.M. Ample time was given to the delegates on Friday afternoon to prepare for the Sabbath. When the sun set, the 1,729 delegates, plus more than 5,000 visitors, were in the main auditorium of Vienna's City Hall singing praises to God under the direction of one of my favorite song directors, Charles Keymer.

For an hour before sundown I mingled with delegates in the hallways of this unique convention center. I talked briefly with the five men and one lady from the U.S.S.R. who were accepted as delegates during the opening business session on Thursday night. As I gripped their hands, I thought of the highly moving experience our family had last Sabbath as we attended the worship services of our church in Moscow, U.S.S.R. I'll not soon forget the "bear hugs" many of the brethren (and some of the older ladies) gave to me after the service.

Near the attractive Inter-American Division booth I met two delegates from Mexico, Luis Flores and Efrain Rivera, the first an institutional worker and the second a conference secretary-treasurer. Both are making their first trip to Europe and seemed almost dazed as they continually met people

from all parts of the world who have converged on Vienna in the past few days. "It's a thrill beyond description to belong to the great Adventist family," said Brother Rivera with a broad smile.

Near the Far Eastern Division exhibit (with a Japanese theme in honor of retiring division president, Paul H. Eldridge, who, with his wife, spent 38 years in the Far East) I had a joyful reunion with one of the most ebullient women I have ever known, Mrs. Marion Simmons, formerly associate director of the education department of the Far Eastern Division. With her usual enthusiasm she made a broad wave of her hands and said, "The meetings are simply marvelous, but the best part of this first-ever General Conference session outside of North America is the chance to make so many new friends from all over the European continent." She told me of her interesting trip from her retirement home in Hendersonville, North Carolina, to Vienna, typical of the experience of several thousand people who made their way in the last few weeks to this historic city in The Republic of Austria.

As I crossed the mammoth front hallway, I paused to look at an all-Adventist art display, one of the first of its kind to be exhibited at a world meeting. I learned from the press office that the artist was Bill Read, of Miami, Florida, an administrative assistant at the Hialeah Hospital. Thirteen of his contemporary impressionistic pieces in oil are on display. The painting that made the most impression on me was the one of Christ healing the blind man.

Further information from M. Carol Hetzell's busy press room revealed to me that the paintings eventually will be hung in the church's world headquarters office in Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Further down the hall I bumped into Australian Ernest

H. J. Steed, world director of the Temperance Department, who shoved a multi-color issue of *International Alert* into my hands. I glanced over the attractive eight-page paper printed in three languages as he told me in his usually enthusiastic way about temperance advances in countries such as Libya, Poland, and Norway.

I found it rather difficult to make much time going down the main hallways of the Stadthalle because of the many friends I met, mostly from my homeland. By the time I arrived at the REVIEW AND HERALD news desk near the platform, it was time for the evening meeting.

C. E. Bradford, associate secretary of the General Conference, was the vesper hour speaker in the main auditorium. [His address appears in Bulletin No. 3.]

I decided to see what was happening in nearby Hall B. This area is described in the official 32-page program booklet for youth and families. Programs are planned specifically for European youth by directors of the General Conference Youth Department.

What drew me to this hall was the scheduled speaker for the evening program—Robert H. Pierson. Barely three hours

earlier he had been unanimously re-elected world leader of the church, and this was his first public appointment since he began his third term as General Conference president.

I have heard Pastor Pierson speak many times since I first met him while I was a teenager in New York City during World War II, but never have I heard him give a more forceful and challenging message than the one he gave on Friday night.

"This is a great time in which to live," he said. "Young people are needed today in the work of giving the gospel message to the world. It is high time for every youth to wake up and lead the work of God here in Europe and in all other areas of the world."

Pastor Pierson described with intense feeling the spirit of the pioneers, most of whom were young people. "We must never forget those wonderful days in the early history of the church when our pioneers sacrificed all they had in order to extend the gospel message."

"Tonight I challenge the entire youth membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to renew the spirit of the pioneers with a complete dedication to the work of God," he said. "If God taps you on the shoulder, respond!"

"You can do it only when you have the power of God in your lives," he continued. "The challenge of the church today is to wake up, fire up, stand up, and speak up. With the power of God in our hearts, it is possible to turn this world upside down for Christ and His gospel message."

At the conclusion of his heart-stirring message to a quiet and attentive audience, our world leader asked for a public commitment. What a thrill it was for me as I turned around and saw the majority of the young people (and older ones, too) quickly stand to their feet.

The special program for youth on Friday night included musical numbers by a choir from Czechoslovakia, a Portuguese double quartet, and a ladies' trio from Berlin, and ended with a feature interview with Charles Axelsson of the Northern Europe-West Africa Division.

During the meeting I heard whispering in the row behind me, and I thought this might be caused by a couple of young ladies catching up with the



Theodore Carcich, recently retired General Conference vice president, tells the audience that as a result of recent visits with government authorities, a number of delegates from the U.S.S.R. are able to attend this session.

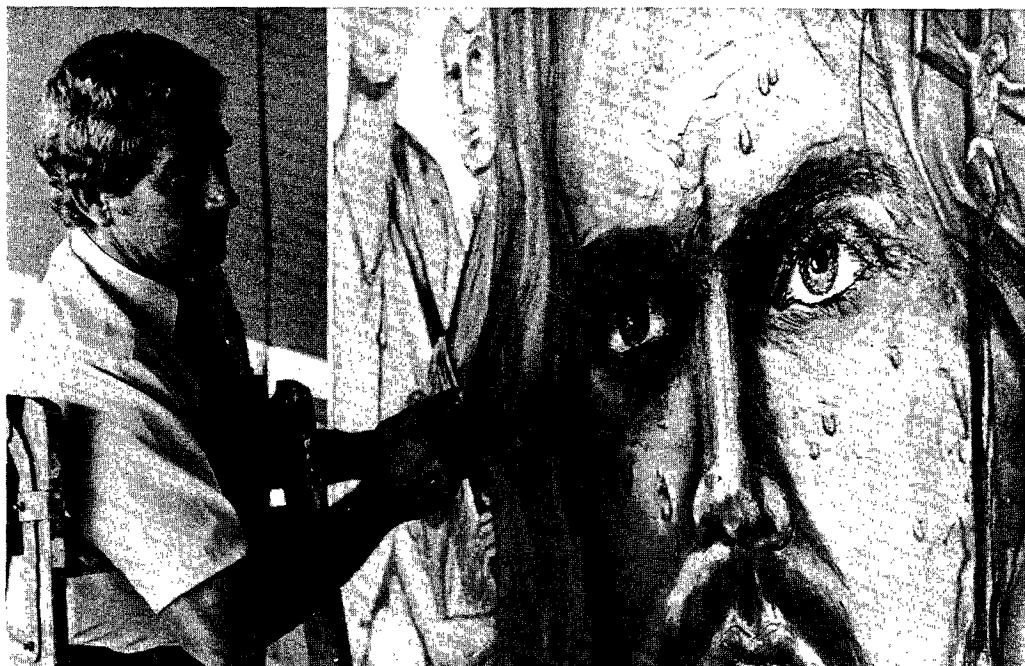
news of the day. But soon I realized that what I was hearing was a translation of what was going on during the meeting. After the service I met Carmen Lleran di Phipps, a young lady from Puerto Rico who came to the General Conference session as a non-delegate. She translated from English into Spanish for her friend, Isabel Rivera, also from Puerto Rico. She could not understand a word of English or German (the second official language of the General Conference session). I saw many small translation groups all over the 2,500-seat hall.

As I returned to the main auditorium of the Stadthalle I thought of the scores of nationalities and races represented at this world convention of our church. What a tremendous family to which to belong!

The togetherness of the Adventist family was emphasized anew to me on Sabbath morning. It was a cloudy day in Vienna as I left our hotel early and made my way across the city to the Stadthalle. People poured into the hall from every direction, all eager for a Sabbath day's blessing—the first ever Sabbath service of a General Conference session outside of North America.

From the size of the crowds going into the building I thought every seat would be filled. All of the letters, articles, and other types of communication I had seen predicted overflow crowds for the Sabbath services. I was disappointed to see many empty seats in the upper reaches of the vast hall, but was pleased to see that the main floor and the lower balconies were well-filled. Apparently the warning to "stay away because you may not be able to get in" had been taken seriously.

Sabbath schools were held in three different locations within the Stadthalle. I visited all three places Sabbath morning and decided that the most unique and interesting place was Hall A where small children gathered for a Sabbath school unequalled anywhere else in the Adventist world. The leader of the group, Miss Alice Lowe from the General Conference Sabbath School Department, spoke in English, and her words were translated into five languages in different parts of the room—German, French, Spanish, Yugoslavian, and Dutch. When songs were sung the five translators held up placards



GORDON ENGEN

Thirteen contemporary oil paintings hang in the main lobby of the Stadthalle, setting the mood for the session. The artist is Bill Read of Miami, Florida, and his paintings illustrate experiences in the life of Christ that parallel the work of the church today. For instance, Christ learning at His mother's knee corresponds with today's Christian home and Christian education; His healing of the blind man parallels the Adventist medical work around the world. When the General Conference session ends on July 19, the paintings will be hung at church world headquarters in Washington, D.C.

with the proper indigenous words.

The adult Sabbath school was directed by Fernon Retzer of the General Conference. Many musical groups appeared during the Sabbath programs, but one of the most interesting to me was a choir from Czechoslovakia, formed expressly for this world meeting. At Hall B I met the director, Ester Spinarova, from Prague, who told me that every member of the group belongs to a local church choir somewhere in Czechoslovakia.

Some of the other participants in the Sabbath school included B. J. Liebelt with an Investment feature, a frontline missions report by Tulio Haylock of the Inter-American Division, and the Sabbath school lesson by W. R. Leshner of the General Conference Sabbath school Department.

Stories of Adventist laymen in action for God always interest me. During the missionary period at the close of Sabbath school, the associate Lay Activities Director for Bible evangelism, Lewis H. Shipowick, interviewed Arcodio Colon, 35, of the Dominican Republic. In 1974 he was selected "Layman of the Year" for the Inter-American Division, and this year he was asked to come as a lay delegate to the General

Conference session. Even though he has a full-time job in the government income tax office, he finds time for personal visitation, small Bible classes, and public reaping meetings. Last year he won 110 persons and thus far this year he has accounted for 77 baptisms.

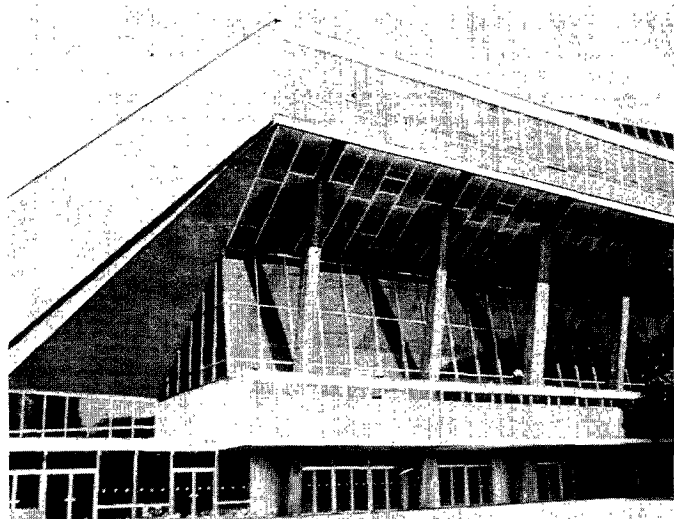
A statistic of interest to me was the fact that laymen in Inter-America during the past five years were responsible for starting 543 new churches. On Friday evening Pastor Shipowick told me that in the last five years laymen of the World Adventist church gave a total of 44 million Bible studies and were instrumental in leading 450,000 persons to baptism.

World church treasurer Kenneth H. Emmerson electrified the congregation at the morning service of worship by announcing that a total of US-\$ 2.5 million has been given in the Adventure in Faith offering. It is hoped that the total figure will swell to nearer US-\$ 3 million when offerings of Adventist churches taken at the same time around the world are totaled. Loud "Amens" were heard as Vice-President Willis J. Hackett enthusiastically told the audience that the morning offering will add to the grand total for evangelistic work around the world.

A chorus composed of ministers in Yugoslavia preceded the morning sermon by Pastor Pierson. It was evident to me that Pastor Pierson carries a heavy burden for the spiritual advancement of God's church as well as a concern for the penetration of the gospel message in all the world. His theme and text were different from those in his talk to youth on Friday night, but the message was the same. He appealed to members of Adventist churches around the world to take a new look at their personal habits of Bible study and prayer. "I appeal to every member to make a new commitment to God so that this coming five-year period will be marked by people studying God's word."

President Pierson also made an appeal in his sermon for unity within the church. "Let there be no racial or national differences, but let us go forward together in the proclamation of the good news of the soon coming of Jesus Christ. Now is the time for God's people to dedicate their lives anew to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

Summer rains descended on the Stadthalle roof as Pastor Pierson made a call for rededication. An appeal song by Frank Dietrich of the Southeast Africa Union touched hearts



The Stadthalle (in English, "city hall") is one of only a few halls in Europe large enough to accommodate an Adventist General Conference.

and brought tears to the eyes of many.

The most colorful program of the entire General Conference session is the Parade of Missions, usually held on the first Sabbath afternoon. Parades of past sessions often lasted several hours because every overseas delegate from every division took part in the procession. Today the parade was limited to those who carried placards and flags of every country where Adventists have some kind of organized work, a total of 380 participants.

Organized and directed by D. S. Johnson and R. F. Williams of the secretariat, the missions program, "Reaching the Unreached NOW" began promptly at 3:30 o'clock with a trumpet fanfare. An impersonation of the church's first for-

eign missionary, John Nevins Andrews, showed up in the spotlight as the narrator, Herbert Douglass an associate editor of the REVIEW, told about the traumatic experience of Andrews and his motherless family leaving for the continent of Europe as a missionary in a foreign land.

Andrews burned out his candle of life within nine years, but he was in Europe long enough to see the message of hope carried to Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Norway, and England, in addition to Switzerland.

Today, 101 years later, Adventist work is operating in 193 countries. This was colorfully portrayed to the mostly European audience as delegates from countries around the world marched across the hall and onto the platform with placards marking the date the gospel message entered each country and accompanied by a flag of that nation. Many delegates came dressed in the costume of their home nation. This added interest to the fast-stepping group of national workers and overseas missionaries. As each team arrived at a spotlighted raised dias, the narrator briefly told the name of the country and date Adventist work began there.

But not all nations of the world have heard the gospel message. The next group of marchers portrayed 28 countries in which Adventists have no work of any kind. Just before the parade of missions began I gave Duane Johnson the news that the first full-time worker just arrived in Portuguese Timor, one of the two

unentered areas of the Far Eastern Division. So the number dropped to 27!

After the spectacular parade, filmed by Austrian television and hundreds of amateur photographers, C. O. Franz, General Conference secretary, came forward and told the session about the church's missionary program. Into the spotlight came retired missionaries, missionaries now active in overseas work, student missionaries, and retired volunteer ministers.

I was particularly interested in the first mission personality Elder Franz interviewed, Ezra Longway, of Hong Kong, who first went overseas in 1918 and spent his entire adult life in overseas service. Most of this time was spent in China. Today Elder Longway is working as a volunteer sustenance (SOS) for the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital—as close to China as he can get.

Others appeared in the spotlight: Spencer Maxwell, 40 years in East Africa; M. E. Lind, 40 years in Africa; Reuben Bergstrom, 35 years in the Cameroons; Edgar Villeneuve, 35 years on Madagascar; Mrs. Olga Monnier, 25 years in West Africa with her husband; O. D. F. McCutcheon, 35 years in New Guinea and Fiji; Emma Binder, 30 years in India and Pakistan; and Dr. Olavi Rouhe, 26 years in Africa.

Pastor Franz also mentioned student missionaries, and suddenly 11 of them gathered around him on the platform.

For me the most moving moment of the day came when Charles Brooks "I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go," while 27 delegates quietly stepped forward and took the flags of the unentered countries of the world in response to Pastor Franz's challenge, "Who will take the flag, and by so doing, say, 'By God's grace I will go? I want to see the work finished.'"

Then the director of missions for the world church turned to the audience and said, "Who will give of himself and his means to finish God's work in this generation?" I shivered and tears came to my eyes as I saw 10,000 people get to their feet!

It was an appropriate end to the first General Conference Sabbath on the continent where overseas missionary work by the Adventist church had its beginning.

Additional Delegates

Certain delegates whose names appear in the list in Bulletin No. 1, p. 11, could not serve. Their names, as indicated below, were deleted by vote of the conference from the list of delegates.

Delegates at large

GENERAL AND INSTITUTIONAL

General Conference:
Leonard F. Bohner

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Joan Coggin, E. Morosoli,
Wilda Prushnok, Halvard
Thomsen, Sr.

NORTHERN EUROPE-WEST AFRICA DIVISION

I. Agboka, Elizabeth Larsson

Regular delegates

EURO-AFRICA DIVISION

Euro-Africa Division - Special

K. Alexe, G. Deak

Angola Union

E. Mandef.

Delete: Adolf Kinder

South German Union

H. Stoehr.

Delete: Heinz Tuchtenhagen

West German Union

E. Fischdick.

Delete: H. Heuser

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Southern Union

M. E. Joiner.

Delete: Eric Ward

Southwestern Union

Larry Vigil.

Delete: R. Callicott

NORTHERN EUROPE-WEST AFRICA DIVISION

Nigerian Union

J. A. Adeniji

West Nordic Union

J. Reichelt.

Delete: A. Lie

SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Austral Union

Marcelo A. Hammerly.

Delete: Fernando Soriano

Chile Union

Delete: Karen Wensell

East Brazil Union

Leong M. Jackson,

Sesostri C. Souza.

Delete: Lucindo Victorio

Inca Union

Jorge Quinto.

Delete: Pedro Leon

North Brazil Union

Delete: Ervino Gutzeit,

Lindolfo Gutzeit,

Adamor Pimenta

South Brazil Union

Antonio Nogueira, Jr.

Delete: Jesus N. Bronze

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

Central India Union

Delete: U. C. Dass

Northern Union

Delete: Samuel Dass

South India Union

D. I. I. Samaranayake.

Delete: Mr. Gnanakkan

TRANS-AFRICA DIVISION

Zaire Union

T. W. Staples

Nominating Committee Report—No. 1

[Presented and accepted at the third business meeting, Friday afternoon, July 11.]

General Conference

President: Robert H. Pierson
Secretary: Clyde O. Franz

Treasurer: Kenneth H. Emmerson

At its first meeting the nominating committee chose the following officers: Cree Sandefur, chairman; Richard Hammill, vice-chairman; Herbert Fletcher, secretary; A. E. Birch, assistant secretary; Shirou Kunihiro, assistant secretary.

Proceedings of the General Conference

**Fifty-second Session, July 10-19, 1975
Second Business Meeting**

July 11, 1975, 9:15 A.M.

CHAIRMAN: W. R. Beach
Jean Zurcher announced the order of proceedings.

W. R. BEACH: The success of this meeting is going to depend on several things. First, that we pay close attention. Second, that we keep the noise level low. Third, that those who are translating translate well, and that we proceed with deliberate speed.

We welcome you to this second business meeting of the 52nd session of the General Conference. It is evident that growth is the pattern of the church. We saw it yesterday evening in the multitude of languages. We no longer use only one language. We do not belong to one nation of people. Therefore we must be tolerant and have patience as we operate a world church.

The proliferation of nations around the world is a challenge to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, since its operation is worldwide. I think our organization, our culture, our thinking are well adapted to this great world in which we are living. According to our theology of nations and of governments, we hold that government is an ordinance of God. We respect government. We obey government within the procedures outlined by Scripture. Because of this the Sev-

enth-day Adventist Church can transcend all national differences and produce one great new humanity.

We have a number of items on the agenda. The first is one which gives great pleasure. It is to present to you several union organizations that wish to be received into the worldwide sisterhood of unions represented at this General Conference session. A. E. Gibb, under secretary, will present this item.

A. E. GIBB: The General Conference Constitution, Article 3, Section 1-a, states: "The membership of the General Conference shall consist of such union conferences and union missions either in organized division sections or without divisional affiliation as have been, or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote of the General Conference in session."

Three new union organizations have requested membership. These requests have had careful study at the union, division, and General Conference levels. There is also one union mission that is requesting a change of status from union mission to union conference. I will mention first the three new unions: The Zambia Union in the Trans-Africa Division, the Southern European Union Mission in the Euro-Africa Division, and the



General Conference officers B. E. Seton, C. D. Henri, M. E. Kemmerer, W. J. Hackett, and W. R. Beach exchange pleasantries during a break in the home and overseas officers meetings preceding the session.

Mozambique Union Mission in the Euro-Africa Division. Changing status from a union mission to a union conference is the Antillian Union in the Inter-American Division. I move that we accept the three new unions and recognize the change of status of the one. [The motion was carried.]

W. R. BEACH: We welcome these unions and we place upon them the same mantle of responsibility that reposes upon all members of the General Conference sisterhood of unions.

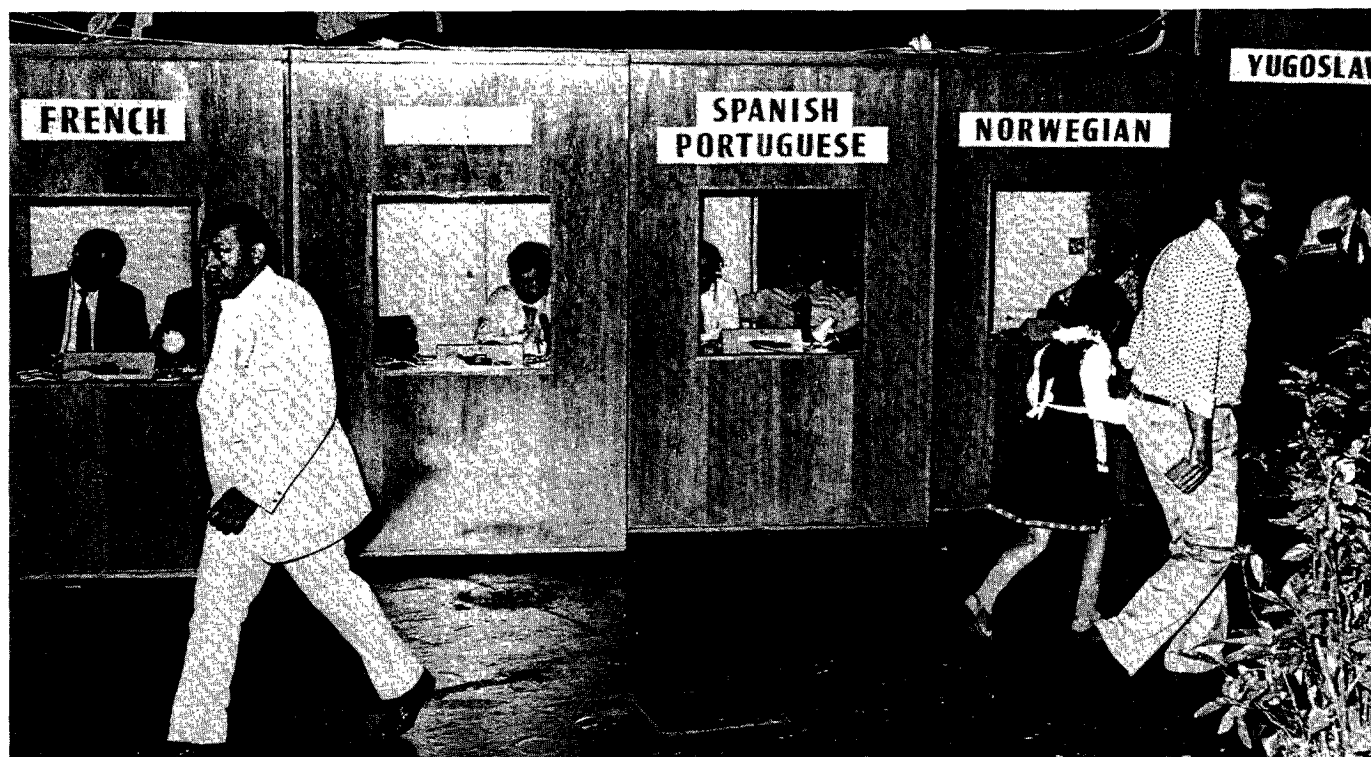
We now continue our official reports. We heard the report of the president of the General Conference last evening. This morning we will listen to C. O. Franz, secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

C. O. FRANZ: Thank you, Elder Beach. [The secretary's report,

appearing on pages 4-6 of this Bulletin, was presented at this time.]

W. R. BEACH: Thank you, Elder Franz, for this inspiring survey. Elder Franz served long in North America and in Inter-America before coming to the General Conference as associate secretary. He is now secretary of the General Conference and is a man knowledgeable in our church. We are inspired to know that more and more workers are going to everywhere from everywhere. That is the way it should be in a world church.

Another tried and trusted officer of the General Conference is the treasurer, Kenneth H. Emmerson, who has served in Inter-America, South America, and North America. With him as undertreasurer is another great worker for the cause, M. E. Kemmerer, who served long in India. Brother Emmerson will



At the side of an aisle just to the left of the stage, facing it, are booths for translators. Delegates listen on transistor receivers.

bring us the treasurer's report. [The treasurer's report will appear in Bulletin 3.]

Elder Emmerson also introduced Elder Kemmerer, who presented the financial statement for the quinquennium, copies of which were distributed to the delegates. [This report will appear in a later bulletin.] His report was illustrated with slides.

R. M. DAVIDSON presented the auditor's statement. [Accepted]

W. R. BEACH: We will take up two or three items quickly. First, several greetings. Brother Gibb.

A. E. GIBB: [Elder Gibb read greetings from several organizations and individuals. The session voted to record these and authorized the secretary to respond.]

W. R. BEACH: Brother D. W. Hunter will bring to us reports from the committee on additional delegates and committee personnel assignments. [The reports were accepted and appear elsewhere in this Bulletin.]

BENEDICTION: Pastor Rakotavao, president of the South Malagasy Mission.

W. R. BEACH, *Chairman*

A. E. GIBB, *Secretary*

D. H. BAASCH, *Recording Secretary*

Third Business Meeting

July 11, 1975, 4:30 P.M.

CHAIRMAN: W. J. Hackett.

PRAYER: T. A. Adeniji, president, West Nigerian Mission, in the Yoruba language.

W. J. HACKETT: I am glad to welcome you to this session. We will proceed with our business.

D. W. HUNTER: There is an additional regular delegate to be seated from the North American Division and the Columbia Union. [The motion was made and carried.]

W. J. HACKETT: The first item on our agenda is the statistical report by Jesse O. Gibson, statistical secretary of the General Conference. [The statistical report will appear in Bulletin No. 9.]

W. J. HACKETT: I am wondering if there are any comments the delegates would like to make. We have microphones. The procedure is to stand and be recognized by the chair. The chairman will call the number of the microphone near you and you can go to that microphone to be heard. If there is no comment, we will proceed to our next item of business. We are glad to have W. A. Fagal, the speaker of the Faith for Today program, who is well-known around the world. [Elder Fagal's report will appear in a later Bulletin.]

W. J. HACKETT: Thank you, Brother Fagal. How many of you have seen Faith for Today on television? Let's see your hands. Look at that, Brother Fagal, there are hands from all over the world! We appreciate the soul winning of this great organization.

The next item is a report from what I suppose is our largest institution, Loma Linda University on the west coast of North America. Neal C. Wilson chairs the board at Loma Linda University and is with us on the platform. I am going to ask him to introduce the president of that institution.

N. C. WILSON: I feel honored to be connected with Loma Linda University. We have many problems but also have many wonderful opportunities in that institution. I am pleased to introduce to you the president of Loma Linda University, who is really one of your own from here in Europe, Dr. V. N. Olsen. [V. N. Olsen made his report, which will appear in a later Bulletin.]

W. J. HACKETT: Dr. Olsen, would you call the names of those who are here from Loma Linda University, and ask them to stand? [Dr. Olsen presented the Loma Linda University faculty and staff members who were on the platform.]

W. J. HACKETT: Thank you, Dr. Olsen. We appreciate the work of Loma Linda University.

Now I would like to call on Elder Wilson for an item from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

N. C. WILSON: Thank you, Brother Chairman. We now have a partial report from our committee on constitution and bylaws. Let me explain its purpose.

The demands on, and the responsibilities of, the president of our General Conference are very heavy. For this reason we have felt it necessary to propose an amendment that will bring the wording of the section concerning vice-presidents into harmony with wording used in connection with the secretariat and the treasury of the General Conference. The work has grown enormously in the past few years. Some General Conference institutions are highly complex, and demand and deserve more and more time of the leadership. Also, the world needs are growing constantly. This proposal will give

Continued on page 16

Additional Appointments to Standing Committees

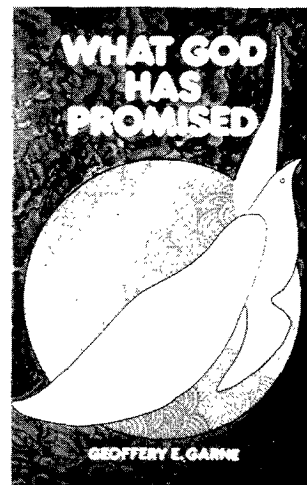
Plans

Alva Appel, Michael Kulakoff, C. M. Laue, A. R. Norcliffe, R. H. Roderick, C. E. Schmidt, R. Unnersten

Constitution and By laws

G. O. Bruce, L. L. Butler, B. H. Stickler

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more flexibility in the deployment of persons who can assist the president in meeting these needs. The secretary of our committee, Elder Gibb, will read the proposal.

A. E. GIBB: This is a partial report from the constitution and bylaws committee and is a recommendation to amend Article 3, Section 1, of the Bylaws: You have this recommendation before you:

Recommended, To amend Article 3, Section 1, of the Bylaws to read as follows:

Sec. 1. General vice-presidents shall be elected to assist the president with the general administrative work of the General Conference. One additional vice-president shall be elected for each division of the General Conference.



Otto Ubersax, Austrian Union president, welcomed delegates from many lands to his country the opening night of the session.

I move this, Brother Chairman. [The motion was carried.]

W. J. HACKETT: Now we have on the platform Elder Sandefur, chairman of the session nominating committee. We will ask him to bring us a report at this time.

CREE SANDEFUR: Your nominating committee has been very busy. We have been in session for about six or seven hours and have done considerably more work than we will be reporting at this point. You have selected an excellent nominating committee. The spirit of unity and oneness has permeated our sessions thus far. We have dealt with certain delicate issues and problems and I want to assure you that your committee is giving careful, deliberate study and thought to the needs of the church body. We have a partial report we would like to render at this time. It comes after much careful thought as to the past, the present, and the future. We have a recommendation regarding the presidency of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. We will ask Herbert Fletcher, secretary of the committee, to bring this report.

HERBERT FLETCHER: Brother Chairman, I wish at this time to present for the position of

president the name of R. H. Pierson. I move the adoption of this recommendation.

W. J. HACKETT: Is there a second to this report? All in favor please stand. [The delegation stood in acceptance of the report.] It is obvious that we do not need to call for an opposing vote. Elder Pierson, will you and Mrs. Pierson come up here to the platform? We want to look at you again and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you. The delegates here are standing to signify their approval of the report of this committee. Those of us who have worked closely with Elder Pierson through the years have learned to love, appreciate, and respect him. [Applause.] It has been requested that we have no clapping, but in situations such as this it is difficult to refrain. Brother Pierson, perhaps you would like to say a word to us.

R. H. PIERSON: Brother Chairman, it was not difficult for me last evening to get up here to present my report. With the Lord's help it is not difficult for me to preach a sermon, but I confess that it is difficult to respond to this nomination this afternoon. I thought that perhaps after nine years the delegates might feel that a change would be good, and I made this feeling known to the nominating committee. Please be seated [delegation were standing]. I have one or two more things I would like to say.

I want to thank you for your confidence. During the past nine years Mrs. Pierson and I have done our best to serve the church that we love. There have been problems but with the help of the Lord and the excellent cooperation of the brethren we have moved ahead. No doubt we have made mistakes. Today we want to pledge our best in the days ahead. We need the ablest leaders this church possesses to carry on the work. I have greatly appreciated the efficient team in the General Conference. As we face the future, we are going to need the help of every leader in this church—not only every worker, but every member. We need your prayers, your moral support, your active support. With God's help, we will do our best to justify your confidence in us.

W. J. HACKETT: I am sure that we will all be praying for Elder Pierson. How many will? [Many hands were raised.] Elder Pierson, you have the prayers of this congregation and the thousands of our people around the world.

CREE SANDEFUR: Mr. Chairman and delegates, the nominating committee has a further partial report. We have a recommendation for secretary of the General Conference. It will be brought to you by Elder Fletcher.

HERBERT FLETCHER: Brother Chairman, the nominating committee presents the name of C. O. Franz. I move the adoption of this report.

W. J. HACKETT: Thank you. You have heard the recommenda-

tion. All in favor of the motion to re-elect Brother Franz as secretary of the General Conference, please say Aye. Opposed, No. It is unanimous. Brother and Sister Franz, will you join us here? We have all appreciated Brother Franz and his work in the secretariat. Brother Franz, God bless you as you undertake your work for another term.

C. O. FRANZ: Brother Chairman, what I shall say will be short. I have a dear friend here in this auditorium. I sat on a bench outside the Stadthalle two or three days ago, talking with him. In our conversation he repeated one sentence of four words several times. He said, "I am a soldier." He meant that as a good soldier he was willing to go anywhere that the Lord and the brethren directed and to attempt any kind of work that they asked him to do. That is the way I feel, and I believe that my wife joins me in that feeling as we respond to this invitation to continue as secretary of the General Conference. If you had asked us to do something else, we still would have been happy. We thank you for your confidence and for the privilege of working for the Lord and for the church in these thrilling days.

CREE SANDEFUR: To complete this portion of the team, the nominating committee has a further report. Money is important, and if you doubt it, try doing without your paycheck this month! We have a nomination for treasurer of the General Conference.

HERBERT FLETCHER: Brother Chairman, the nominating committee presents the name of K. H. Emerson. I move its adoption.

W. J. HACKETT: Thank you. Is there a second? It has been moved and seconded that we ask Brother Emerson to continue as treasurer. Are you ready to vote? All in favor say Aye. Opposed, No. It is unanimous. Brother and Sister Emerson, are you here? Please come up and join us. Brother Emerson, may God bless you. In behalf of this delegation I welcome you to this post for another term.

K. H. EMMERSON: My mind goes back about 36 years to the time I finished college. At that time I had the opportunity of working either in the church or outside the church. My wife and I decided to work in the church. We dedicated our lives for service wherever the Lord might call us. Once again we are happy to accept your invitation and shall do the best we can. This afternoon, I pledge myself once more to give of my abilities and energies, in co-operation with Elders Pierson and Franz to help finish the work of the gospel quickly.

W. J. HACKETT: Thank you, Brother Emerson. We greatly appreciate that.

[Meeting adjourned to the call of the chair.]

W. H. HACKETT, *Chairman*
D. W. HUNTER, *Secretary*
D. H. BAASCH, *Recording Secretary*

Foundations Give \$1.3 Million to Adventist Hospital

Two Fort Worth, Texas, foundations recently announced gifts of \$800,000 and \$500,000, respectively, to the Huguley Memorial Health Center, now being built 11 miles south of the city's center. The grants encourage business and civic leaders to believe that the \$3¼ million voluntary support being sought will be successful.

These large gifts represent a challenge to Seventh-day Adventists fully to take advantage of the opportunities for ministering to the needs of the whole man in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolis of 2½ million residents.

K. H. EMMERSON

News Notes

Died: Ronald A. Bettie, physician of Hackettstown, New Jersey, on July 8, of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was founder of Parkview Memorial Hospital in Brunswick, Maine. □ Melvin K. Eckenroth, chairman of the department of religion of Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland, of a heart attack, July 12.

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