



MO Report 2004 WFM Netherlands

The World Federalists of the Netherlands inaugurated the year 2004 with a New Year's reception. Monica Bouwman held a talk on the significance of Dag Hammarskjöld as Secretary General of the United Nations. Monica studied the life of this great Swedish Citizen, who died in a plane crash in Zambia in 1961. Hammarskjöld kept a diary "Vägmärken" (Markings), which emanates the mystical outlook on life held by this stress proof politician. In 1953 he succeeded Trygve Lie as Secretary General of the UN. At that time, there were conflicts in Korea, the Middle East, Hungary, Lebanon, Laos, and Congo.

In the March and May meetings, various aspects of globalization were discussed under the theme of "International service- a freedom and a duty". The speakers were WFBN member Leonard Kater, co-founder of the "Environmental Meeting-place for Movements and Associations" (EMMA), and Maria Kooijman of the United Network of Young Peace Builders (UNOY).

WFBN has writers' talents among its ranks as well. "Every human being is unique and special" according to 83 year old world federalist Vic Roothaan, whose new book appeared under the title "Bouwen aan de Wereldsamenleving." ("Building a global community- a topical and challenging adventure.")

Evert Huisman, also a WFBN member, after writing "Van Geweld Bevrijd" (Freed from Violence), has now published his second book: "Naar een cultuur van vrede en geweldloosheid" (towards a culture of peace and non-violence). According to Huisman, the central issue should not be striving towards security, but striving towards the improvement of democracy.

René Wadlow and Edo Terpstra presented their report on an encounter in December in Geneva between the Israeli Yossi Beilin and the Palestinian Yasser Arafat, who proclaimed that it is high time for Israel to make peace with its neighbors. According to Beilin and Arafat, Sharon and Arafat should be replaced by younger people in order to find new ways for peaceful co-existence.

Johan Westra represents the WFBN with development NGO Novib, (the Dutch equivalent of Oxfam), and he reports on the efforts of his organization towards realization of more just economic relations within our world.

The WFBN newsletter regularly pays attention to developments within the European Union. The Esperantist, professor Mark van Oostendorp interviewed Neil Kinnock about the practical aspects of communication that Euro-parliamentarians are faced with, as they speak about twenty languages between them.

"Één Wereld"

The WFBN newsletter recently has undergone several changes. It has gotten a new name, a new look (more "professional") and several changes in the content. The autumn issue- the "special Council Edition" is multilingual, with articles in English, French, and Esperanto. We hope to start a new style, more accessible and easier to make, without the necessity to translate everything into Dutch. The newsletter is being distributed to members of Parliament, universities, like-minded NGOs, and from March 2003 until March 2004 it has also been distributed to all 1250 public libraries in the Netherlands. Interested persons could get one year's free subscription, followed by a letter offering membership. Similar campaigns have led to 50 new members.