

FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS

(FAFICS)

Nineteenth Session of the Council of the Federation

(London, 14, 15 and 18 June 1990)

RECORD OF DECISIONS

1. The Nineteenth Session of the Council of FAFICS was held on Thursday, Friday and Monday, 14, 15 and 18 June 1990 at the ILO London Office, Vincent Square, London.

PARTICIPATION

2. The following Member Associations of FAFICS were represented:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| AAFI/AFICS, Geneva | Mr. R. Munteanu |
| AFICS, New York | Mrs. M. Bruce Mrs. P. Tsien |
| BAFUNCS, London | Mr. J. Cullen Mr. H. Hopker Mr. D. Miller |
| CAF/UNESCO, Paris | Mr. T. Ilosvay Mr. W. Zyss |
| FFOA, Rome | Mr. C. Buonaccorsi |
| NAFICS, Copenhagen | Miss I. Poulsen |

3. Mr. Aamir Ali (Chairman of the Council of FAFICS) and Miss A. Butler (Executive Secretary of FAFICS) were present in their official capacity.

4. Dr. Henry Seligman (Group of retired IAEA, UNIDO and UN Staff in Austria, Vienna) and Mr. M. Sud (Chairman of the Pension Committee of the United Nations Pensioners' Association (UNPA), New Delhi) attended on the morning of Thursday, 14 June, invited by the Council to take part in a general discussion on item 5, Relations with Member Associations, and item 6, FAFICS' activities as an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC.

5. Mr. Richard Symonds, member of BAFUNCS and Director of the UK United Nations Career Records Project, attended on Friday, 15 June, to talk about the project.

MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF UN JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND

6. Mr. Ray Gieri, Secretary of the UNJSPF, and his staff were invited to meet with the Council on Monday, 18 June, to have a full discussion on issues before the Board, particularly on the issues of inequalities in benefits paid and of obligations towards divorced spouses.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA(Agenda item 2)

7. The draft agenda was adopted without change (cf. Appendix I).

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN(Agenda item 3)

8. The Chairman felt that this session of the Council should discuss very fully the future role of FAFICS, its activities as an NGO, its relations with member and non-member associations of former international civil servants.

8.1 In recent months he had had occasion to meet the executive committees of NAFICS in Copenhagen, FFOA in Rome, BAFUNCS in Bournemouth, and of course of AAFI/AFICS in Geneva. The questions had also been discussed with the Annual Assemblies of BAFUNCS and AAFI/AFICS; the latter Assembly had adopted a resolution on the subject.

8.2 There was an obvious desire to widen the scope of FAFICS and to go beyond pensions and health insurance matters.

8.3 There were also questions relating to relations with Member Associations and with groups which were not members of the Federation. The present session should discuss all aspects of these questions.

REPORTS OF APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES OF FAFICS(Agenda items 3(1) and 3(2))Item 3(1): Meetings of the UNJSPB and related bodies

9. The Council took note of the information concerning the meetings attended and reports circulated. The Chairman thanked the representatives, referring in particular to the work involved in participating in such meetings and the preparation of reports on them.

Item 3(2): Other meetings

10. The FAFICS representative to the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGO) reported that the major concern of the Board of CONGO had, as in past meetings, been the question of the status of NGOs, particularly their general desire to have direct access to the UN General Assembly, and not to have to operate through ECOSOC.

PENSION QUESTIONS(Agenda item 4: documents D.5; D.6; D.8; D.9/Annex 1; D.11; D.12 and CRP 4)Item 4(1): items on agenda of 40th Session of UNJSPB

11. The Council noted with appreciation the note (D.12) prepared by Mr. Grabe on the items of interest to FAFICS on the Pension Board agenda, who was unfortunately unable to be present at the Council session. It agreed in general with the comments submitted. It emphasised that its representatives to the Board should be guided by the very full discussion that had taken place on sub-items (2), (3) and (4) (see below).

Item 4(2): Financial obligations to divorced spouses

12. It was recalled that the document FAFICS submitted to the Pension Board in 1989 (JSPB/38/R.30) was still before the Board. It was agreed to maintain the proposal contained in that document, without prejudice to other proposals that might be put forward, such as those contained in the paper prepared by AAFI/AFICS for the present session of the Council (document D.5). Document JSPB/40/R.20 on this subject, presented by the Secretary of the UNJSPF to the present session of the Board, was also discussed and it was agreed that the idea contained therein, which would enable the Secretary to effect ex gratia payments in hardship cases, might be pursued if the original FAFICS proposals to the Board did not meet its approval.

Item 4(3): Inequalities in benefits paid

13. CAF/UNESCO introduced document D.8, and AAFI/AFICS informed the Council of the resolution on this subject adopted by its Annual General Meeting in May 1990. It was agreed that the FAFICS representatives at the Pension Board should recall the importance and urgency of finding an equitable solution to the problems set out in these papers.

14. AAFI/AFICS introduced document D.12 dealing with some group problems under the double-track system. It was agreed that these issues should be discussed first at the meeting with the Secretary of the Fund and subsequently submitted to the Board, if appropriate.

Item 4(5): Delays in transmission of files to UNJSPF

15. In the light of reports on discussions held both in New York and in Geneva, the Council noted that no further action needed to be taken.

Item 4(6): Role of FAFICS in appeal cases before the Standing Committee

16. CAF/UNESCO introduced document D.6. AFICS/New York pointed out that FAFICS had already had occasion to intervene in the Standing Committee with respect to specific appeal cases, with some success; FAFICS should, however, confine its interventions to issues of principle and cases of direct interest to pensioners. This was agreed.

Item 4(7): Questions raised by Associations

17. The Chairman informed the Council that, in placing this item on the agenda, he had had in mind requests received from AFICS/Mexico (cf. CRP.2), UNPA in Delhi and the Group of retired IAEA, UNIDO and UN staff in Austria (CRP.4). These questions were taken up informally with the Secretary of the Fund.

RELATIONS WITH MEMBER ASSOCIATIONSFAFICS ACTIVITIES AS AN NGO(Agenda items 5 and 6: documents D.9/Annex 3; D.10 and Appendix III)

18. In opening a general discussion on these two items the Chairman welcomed the presence of Dr. Seligman (Vienna) and Dr. Sud (New Delhi). Their views would undoubtedly be helpful in determining the development of FAFICS' future policy, especially its relations with groups that were not members of the Federation.

1) cf. Appendix II.

Essentially there were two major issues: (1) the Federation's relations with Member Associations and with non-member groups of former international civil servants, and (2) the substantive issues, other than pensions and health insurance, that FAFICS should be concerned with in its NGO capacity and otherwise.

19. A wide-ranging discussion, during which invited representatives from New Delhi and Vienna took part, covered most of the sub-items under items 5 and 6 but concentrated on item 5(2) on relations with informal groups, and item 6(3) on the feasibility of FAFICS and its Member Associations engaging in activities other than merely health coverage and the protection of pensions.

20. Subsequently, the Council took the following decisions.

Item 5(1): Extracts from Bulletins

20.1 It was agreed that it is essential that bulletins of Member Associations be distributed to all the associations in the Federation, and that the distribution by FAFICS of extracts from Members' bulletins might prove useful in certain circumstances but was not essential.

Item 5(2): Relations with informal groups

20.2 The views expressed in both the first general discussion on this item and during the second half of the discussion, showed unanimous agreement that FAFICS had a responsibility for informing all UN pensioners about decisions of direct interest to them and for maintaining links among Member Associations. The Council emphasised that since FAFICS did represent all pensioners before the UNJSPB, it was up to the Federation to obtain the views of all pensioners in order to transmit them to the Board, not just the views of the 9,000 or so members who were currently linked with the Federation through its Member Associations. It was also pointed out that the mere transmission of FAFICS reports was not enough to maintain effective contacts. There was also a need to carry on a systematic campaign, through correspondence, to strengthen recognition of the need for co-operation among former international civil servants and to encourage the establishment of groups with the ultimate aim of their joining the Federation.

20.3 In consequence it was finally agreed that FAFICS reports that are sent out to Member Associations should be sent also to such informal groups of former international civil servants, non-members of the Federation.

Item 5(3): Special session of the Council

20.4 The response from the "smaller" Member Associations had been limited and did not warrant organising a special session separate from the meeting of the Pension Board. However, for the Council's regular session in 1992 a special effort should be made to encourage the participation of smaller associations.

Item 5(4): FAFICS pamphlet

20.5 The pamphlet was an essential publicity medium for the Federation and also for recruitment to the various Member Associations. It must be issued as soon as possible. The opportunity of having the pamphlet distributed by the Pension Fund secretariat to all pensioners should not be missed, as it was the best way of reaching all possible future members. It was agreed that at least the introductory page should be printed in English and French and, if possible, in Spanish.

Item 5(5): Common list of members (CRP. 3)

20.6 A proposal for the establishment of a common list of members of AAFI/AFICS Geneva and AFICS New York had been received by the former association from one of its members. It was agreed that such a list might be useful if it could be extended to cover all Member Associations and be kept constantly up to date. However, it was also pointed out that such a project would be a major undertaking for which no Association, nor FAFICS itself, had either funds or staff.

FAFICS ACTIVITIES AS AN NGO

21. The Council noted that during the introductory discussion on item 6 several Member Associations had expressed their views on the future role of their own associations and of FAFICS. They had stressed that FAFICS activities should go beyond pensions, health insurance and questions of ageing, which had previously been selected as prime objects of the Federation, and deal more vigorously with substantive issues of wider concern. The Council endorsed these views. The 20,000 or so former officials of the UN system represented a pool of competence and experience; moreover, they were imbued with an international outlook and a sense of responsibility for serving causes they had worked for during their careers.

22. The Council therefore decided that the Federation and its Member Associations should take every opportunity of:

- promoting the work of the UN system, encouraging their constituent members to join other organisations that support the work of the UN system;
- making the work of the UN system better known;
- supporting appropriate projects in developing countries;
- supporting programmes such as those of human rights, the environment, sustainable development, equality of opportunity and treatment for women;
- initiating programmes for voluntary contributions to UNDP-sponsored projects or similar programmes.

Items 6(1) and 6(3)

23. The Council noted that these sub-items had been largely dealt with in the general discussion on item 6 as a whole (cf. paras 21 and 22 above).

Item 6(2): Problems of ageing

24. The Council agreed that this subject should continue to be a permanent item on the agenda of future sessions of the Council, and requested Member Associations to keep the Federation informed about activities in this area.

Item 6(4): World Conference on Human Rights

25. The Council agreed that FAFICS should respond in the affirmative to the letter addressed by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights to the Federation, in its capacity of a Non-Governmental Organisation in consultative status with ECOSOC, requesting its views on the desirability of convening a World Conference on Human Rights in implementation of General Assembly Resolution 44/156 (cf. Appendix IV).

AFTER-SERVICE HEALTH INSURANCE(Agenda item 7; documents D.7; D.9/Annex 2)

26. AAFI/AFICS introduced document D.7. The Council noted with interest the work done by the AAFI/AFICS Commission on Health Care but pointed out that the information related only to the Geneva-based Organisations. FFOA, in particular, while expressing congratulations for the work done, regretted that, in view of the new rules being applied by FAO to its retirees, it had not been invited to participate in the preparation of the document. It was agreed that the Europe-based associations, (including BAFUNCS) would consult among themselves on this issue with a view to arranging a meeting of a joint working party, as originally requested by FFOA and now offered to be organised by AAFI/AFICS, Geneva.

UN CAREER RECORDS PROJECTS(Agenda item 8)

27. Mr. Richard Symonds (BAFUNCS) informed the Council about the project and distributed a paper on it (cf. Annex 5), asking for its co-operation in informing him about U.K. former UN staff members whose career records could enhance the value of its archives. The Council took note of the project and agreed to give it publicity in the various bulletins of the Member Associations.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS OTHER THAN HEALTH INSURANCE(Agenda item 9)

28. The Chairman reminded members that this was a permanent item on the agenda, included to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views. AFICS/New York reported on the "Meeting on Issues on Ageing" which had been organised by the Association in 1989. It had been well attended and highly successful. A new session was being planned for September 1990, to which had been invited a specialist in gerontology and an expert in financial and legal questions. Their main concern was protecting one's own quality of life to the end, and the care of their elderly members through day care centres, "foster" care, volunteers to visit those in hospitals, etc. BAFUNCS gave information about the social welfare activities through the Association's Committee on Ageing and its Benevolent Fund, and the work being done by "Age Concern England". CAF/UNESCO informed about their Solidarity Fund, and the action taken to arrange visits to colleagues in homes or hospitals. FFOA was also doing a great deal along the same lines. In addition they were organising cultural outings which were proving increasingly popular.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS(Agenda item 10; documents D.2; D.3 and D.4)

29. The Council took note of the Auditors' Report (D.3) and approved the accounts for 1989 (D. 2).

30. The Council approved the draft budget for 1989, taking note that it represented an excess of expenditure over income of \$4,190. This deficit could be met from the Reserve Fund.

31. Some discussion ensued on the advisability of raising the scale of contributions from Member Associations, to avoid enlarging the excess of expenditure over income. It was agreed that the scale of contributions (\$0.50 per member), which had not been changed since the setting up of the Federation, should remain unchanged for the current year but that Members attending the 1991 annual Council session should be advised that in view of rising costs, they would be asked to consider an increase in the rate of contribution to \$0.75 per member.

32. It was further agreed that the cost of the pamphlet (estimated at \$3,000) should not be met out of the regular budget.

APPOINTMENT OF FAFICS REPRESENTATIVES

(Agenda item 11)

33. The Council appointed the following persons to represent FAFICS:

(1) 40th Session of the UNJSPB:

Representatives:

Mr. AAMIR ALI (FAFICS)
Mrs. P. TSIEN (AFICS, New York)

Alternates:

Mr. A. H. HOPKER (BAFUNCS, London)
Mr. W. ZYSS (CAF/UNESCO, Paris)

(2) UNJSPB Standing Committee:

Mr. AAMIR ALI (FAFICS)
Mrs. P. TSIEN (AFICS, New York)

(3) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

On the expectation that the next meeting of the ICSC would be held in Geneva, the following members were appointed:

Mr. AAMIR ALI
Mr. R. MUNTEANU.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE 20th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda item 12)

34. It was agreed that the next regular session of the Council of FAFICS would be held in 1991, prior to the next regular session of the UNJSPB and at the duty station where that session was to be held.

35. AFICS/New York pointed out that there was again a possibility of a special session of the UNJSPB being held in 1991 in addition to the regular session. It was agreed that in that event the appointment of FAFICS' Representatives would be delegated to the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairmen. It would not be necessary to convene a session of the Council for that purpose.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(Agenda item 13)

36. The Council unanimously re-elected the present officers of the Council, namely:

Chairman:

Mr. AAMIR ALI (AAFI/AFICS, Geneva)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. C. BUONACCORSI (FFOA, Rome)
Mr. A. CHAKOUR (CAF/UNESCO, Paris)
Mr. S. GRABE (AAFI/AFICS, Paris)
Mrs. P. TSIEN (AFICS, New York)

Executive Secretary:

Miss A. BUTLER (AAFI/AFICS, Geneva)

Treasurer:

Miss E. VANBRAECKEN (AAFI/AFICS, Geneva).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(Agenda item 14)

37. On the proposal of AFICS/New York the Council unanimously expressed its warm thanks to Dudley Miller (BAFUNCS) for the arrangements made for holding the Nineteenth Session of the Council of FAFICS in London, and to the British Association of Former United Nations Civil Servants for the hospitality extended to the participants attending the session.

38. There being no further business before the meeting, the Chairman declared closed the Nineteenth Session of the Council of FAFICS.

Council 19/1990/D. 1(Rev.2)

FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
Nineteenth Session of the Council, London, 14, 15 and 18 June 1990

DRAFT AGENDA

| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Relevant paper or comment</u> |
|---|--|
| 1. Adoption of the Agenda | D.1 (Rev.2) |
| 2. Report of the Chairman | |
| 3. Reports of the appointed representatives of FAFICS to various bodies and meetings | |
| (1) <u>Meetings of the UNJSPB</u> and other UN bodies since the 17th Session of the Council (New York, July 1989) | |
| — 38th Session of the UNJSPB (July 1989) | Distributed on 10.08.90 |
| — 39th (Soecial) Session of the UNJSPB (Rome, 1990) | } 24.04.90 |
| — 170th meeting of the Standing Committee (Rome, 1990) | } |
| — 30th Session of the ICSC (New York, July/Aug. 1989) | 25.11.89 |
| — 31st Session of the ICSC (New York, March 1990) | 12.06.90 |
| — 46th Session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, February 1990) | FAFICS statement distributed at 18th Council |
| (2) <u>Other meetings</u> | |
| — Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGO) (New York, May 1990) | |
| 4. Pension Questions | |
| (1) Items on the agenda of the 40th Session of UNJSPB | D.11 |
| (2) Financial obligations to divorced spouses | D. 5 |
| (3) Inequalities in benefits paid | D. 8/D. 9 Annex 1 |
| (4) Improvements in benefits to surviving spouses and orphans | D. 12 |
| (5) Delays in transmission of files to UNJSPF | |
| (6) Role of FAFICS in Appeal Cases before the Standing Committee | D. 6 |
| (7) Questions raised by Associations | |

5. Relations with Member Associations: exchange of information
 - (1) Extracts from Bulletins
 - (2) Relations with informal groups
 - (3) Special session of the Council
 - (4) FAFICS pamphlet
 - (5) Common list of members of AFICS/New York and AAFI/AFICS, Geneva

 6. FAFICS' activities as an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC D. 10
 - (1) Independence and security of international officials D. 9/Annex 3
 - (2) Problems of Ageing (including FICSA report)
 - (3) Other areas of activity
 - (4) World Conference on Human Rights

 7. After-Service Health Insurance D. 7; D. 9/Annex 2

 8. UN Career Records Project

 9. Social questions other than health insurance: Exchange of views

 10. Administrative and Financial Questions
 - (1) Approval of accounts for 1989 D. 2
 - (2) Auditors' report D. 3
 - (3) Approval of the budget for 1990 D. 4
 - (4) Scale of contributions for Member Associations

 11. Appointment of FAFICS representatives to the UNJSPB, the Standing Committee, and the ICSC

 12. Date and place of the 20th Session of the Council

 13. Election of Officers

 14. Any other business
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UNITED NATIONS PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

(UNPA) D-17, KAILASH COLONY
NEW DELHI, India

110048

Mr President, Ladies & gentlemen,

I thank you, on behalf of our President and all Members of United Nations Pensioners' Association in New Delhi, for inviting us to be present at this important meeting. It gives me great pleasure in conveying to you all greetings from our President and all members of our Association.

I would like to be brief so that your valuable time is not wasted. The main points which I would like to place before you are:

1. Two Track Adjustment System

The details on this point - mainly the difficulties facing some of our members who opted for the Local Track - have been conveyed by our President to Mr Raymond Gieri in a letter dated 15 May 1990. A copy of the letter is enclosed and a copy has also been sent to Mr Amir Ali. (may read some points)

2. Restoration of the Computed Portion of Pensions

Since there has been substantial and steady increase in the life expectancy of individuals all over the world and also that the Cost of Living has been and continues to go up and up, it is time to think in terms of restoration of the commuted portion of UN pensions in the evenings of our lives when financial aid is not only useful but is very important in order to maintain the standard of living to which we have been used. Efforts should therefore be made to let it remain unaltered i.e., save it from deterioration. A reasonable period for such a point should not be more than 10 years; say any period from 10 to 15 years would be advisable. We admit that the periodic increase - based on CPI increase - is made in pensions. However, this is and cannot be considered enough as it is given only on the REDUCED PENSIONS i.e., full pension minus the commuted amount.

It has been admitted by the Highest Court of our country i.e., India that keeping in mind the "Years of Purchase" the commuted amount of pension is ordinarily recovered by the employer in about 13 years or so.

Here we would like to mention that the salaries of present employees have gone much higher during the last five years (in the case of general service salary scales in India, there has been an increase of over 87% - in the mid-point which was Rs.60,736.- per annum in 1984 has risen to over Rs.113,000.- on 1 June 1989. Those of us who retired on lower salaries (with lower pensionable remuneration) suffer most. Therefore, it may amount to a case of social injustice.

3. Tax Concession

Much has been read and heard about this point in various documents and/or discussions, at the FICSA or other Associations. No doubt some countries are allowing tax concessions to UN retirees residing in those countries due to various reasons. But, Sir, in India, this is not the case. There is no such thing as 'tax concession'. It is in fact an exemption obtained on the basis of legal and judicial decisions, under existing income-tax laws.

Earlier when this speaker retired, I had to pay income-tax for about five years. Some of our members who retired earlier paid for a longer period. It is mainly with this objective in view that we formed our Association in Delhi in 1979 and a similar one was formed in Bangalore in the Karnataka State of our country. Some of us are members of that Association also. The legal battle went upto the level of High Courts and final decision was given in our favour. So it may be seen that it is not a concession but it is an exemption obtained by our Associations after lengthy and expensive legal battle.

If any other Association of UN retirees may want our help, our President may be pleased to help by providing copies of the final decision or in some other manner.

4. Social Security, Homes for the Aged or Other Facilities for persons over 65/70 years

Facilities like concessional air, rail or road travel or subsidized housing are, perhaps, available in some of the developed countries. In India which is a developing country, there is no such thing as social security for UN retirees. Our government perhaps cannot afford it.

It may, therefore, be noted that tax exemption obtained by us hardly compensates for the social welfare facilities available to senior citizens and elderly persons in the developed countries.

I thank you all, Sir, for allowing me to speak at this meeting.



M.L. Sud
Convenor
Pension Committee, UNPA

UNITED NATIONS PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

(UNPA)

D/17-a Kailash colony
New Delhi 110 048

15 May 1990

Dear Mr. Gieri

At the Annual General Body Meeting of our Association held on 9 February 1990, the hardship suffered by some of the retirees because of the application of 'two-track adjustment system' came up for discussion; the Association was asked to take this up with UNJSPB thru your good offices and seek redress. The main points brought out were: -

1. When asked to fill in the form "declaration of the country of residence", the retirees were never told that it was optional. They considered it a necessary formality and completed it without realizing that this would automatically push them into "two-track adjustment system" from which they will have no option to get out.

2. No adequate briefing was provided to the retirees about the intricacies of the 'two-track adjustment system', particularly about the 120% CAP.


3. The clear briefing now available to the retirees as well as clear indications provided in a) explanatory booklet issued in June 1989 - JSPE/G.14; and b) information note on declaration of country of residence - Doc. No. 88 - 16629, were not forthcoming for the early retirees.

4. Without casting adverse reflection on the individuals concerned, it can be emphasized that even the briefing officers in the member organizations did not themselves know of the precise implications of the changes being introduced in the Pension Fund.

An objective view of the situation will convince you that the early retirees deserve another opportunity to decide whether they would like to opt out of the 'two-track adjustment system'. You are therefore requested to take this matter up vigorously with the Board. We thank you for your help in this matter and would be pleased to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

With regards,

Yours sincerely


H.R. Kakar
President

Mr. Raymond Gieri
Secretary
UN Jt Staff Pension Fund
United Nations NY 10017

Signed by B.R. Bajaj, Secretary on behalf of the President.

UNITED NATIONS PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION
(UNPA)

B.R. BAJAJ
Secretary

D/17-a Kailash Colony
New Delhi, 110 048

20 April 1990

Dear Mr. Aamir Ali,

Thank you for sharing with us a copy of your circular of 6 March addressed to all members of FAFICS. At the outset, it is stated that Dr. P.M. Kaul had resigned last year from the Presidentship of UNPA on account of his ill health. Mr. H.R. Kakar (WHO) is our new President.

In regard to the queries posed in your circular, it is stated that we neither received the report of the FAFICS Council meeting in Rome on 19/20 February nor the statement referred to in your circular; nevertheless, we do want to convey that, in principle, we support FAFICS activities.

We take note that the next session of the Council is due to be held in London on 14, 15 and 18 June. As expressed before, during your visits to New Delhi, UNPA is not in a position to be represented at the FAFICS Council meetings because of the cost involved. However, in case any of our Exe Committee member happens to be passing thru London around that time then we will inform you in advance. In any case, we would like to be kept informed of the developments. On our part, we will send you copies of our news bulletins and other reports which may please be passed on to those concerned.

For the present we send herewith a copy of our Annual Report for the year 1989. During our last Annual General Body Meeting there was discussion on the problems faced by the rupee-track pensioners and the restoration of full pension after 10-15 years of commuted pension. The relevant passage is marked in the attached report. Members requested us to take up the matter with FAFICS and the UNJSPF. We would appreciate your views.

Thanking you for your cooperation.

With regards,

Yours sincerely



B.R. Bajaj
Secretary

Mr. Aamir Ali,
Chairman
FAFICS
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 RÉF. N°: G/SO 211 (5)
 (à rappeler dans la réponse)

Palais des Nations
 CH-1211 GENÈVE 10

30 April 1990

Dear Ms. Butler,

I am writing to you about the World Conference on Human Rights envisaged by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

As you may know, the General Assembly, at its 44th session, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1990 resolution 44/156 entitled "World Conference on Human Rights". The text of the resolution is attached hereto for easy reference.

By operative paragraph one of the aforementioned resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to seek the views of Governments, Specialized Agencies, Non-governmental Organizations and United Nations bodies concerned with human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights"; and by operative paragraph 2 of this resolution it requested him "to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a report on this question".

The General Assembly decided to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its forty-fifth session.

In this connection, it is to be recalled that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-sixth session, adopted on 7 March 1990 decision 1990/110 in which it stated "that it would be desirable to convene a World Conference on Human Rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights".

I should be grateful if the views of your Organization in pursuance of operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 44/156 could be communicated to me by 15 July 1990 so that they could be reflected in the report which the Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly under operative paragraph 2 of the same resolution.

Thanking you for your kind co-operation and looking forward to receiving your reply, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Jan Martenson
 Under-Secretary-General
 for Human Rights

Ms. Angela Butler
 Secretary-General
 Federation of Associations of Former
 International Civil Servants
 Palais des Nations
 1211 Genève 10

Text of General Assembly Resolution 44/156

World Conference on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Noting the progress made by the United Nations over the past twenty years towards achieving its goal of promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Noting also that there are still areas in which further progress could be made towards this goal,

Considering that, in view of the progress made and the new challenges that lie ahead, it would be appropriate to conduct a review of what has been accomplished through the human rights programme and what remains to be done,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and United Nations bodies concerned with human rights regarding the desirability of convening a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights;
2. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a report on this question;
3. Decides to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its forty-fifth session.