



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631-4178 • 312-380-2964
Resource Information Service • 800-638-3522

Commission for
Communication

September 10, 1990

TO MIAMI / MEXICO JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE ATTENDEES:

Dear Friends:

The International Dialogue on Communication, entitled "Toward Global Community and Understanding" (Sept. 21-28) will soon begin! This letter will help you plan your trip and we hope will make your arrival in Miami or Mexico City as smooth as possible.

For those coming to Miami: Upon your arrival in Miami, please take the shuttle to the Ramada Hotel at Miami International Airport. You may call for the hotel shuttle using the special phones located in the baggage claim area of the airport. In case you should have any difficulty, the phone number of the hotel is 305/871-1700. The hotel, as its name indicates, is very close to the airport.

Our program in Miami begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m.

When we depart from Miami, we will coordinate our arrival and transportation in Mexico City.

For those joining us in Mexico City: Staff of the Lutheran Center will meet your flight. If they are not in the gate area when you arrive, please wait in the gate area. Should you have any concerns or problems, the telephone number of the Lutheran Center is 548-73-52.

Our program opens in Mexico City at 5:00 p.m. Please note by the agenda that there will be worship for those who wish to participate, at 3:30 p.m.

Money: You will be able to exchange money or traveler's checks through the office at the Lutheran Center on Monday. The exchange rate varies daily.

Weather: Mexico City is at an altitude of 7,460 feet. The days are warm and evenings cool year round.

Dress: Dress for this event will be casual. It is not necessary for the men to bring a suit for everyday wear, but you may wish to bring a suit or jacket for our possible visit to the Mexican presidential quarters, and for dining out during the free evening. Women generally wear skirts, but formal dresses or suits are not necessary either for this event or for evenings out. Please bring a sweater, jacket or shawl. Don't forget your comfortable walking shoes! They will be necessary for our field trips and for your free afternoon and evening. They are certainly appropriate for the entire event. The rainy season will be over, so rainwear is not necessary. You may wish to bring a collapsible bag or backpack for your purchases.

Current: Electrical current is the same as in the USA.

Laundry: There are laundromat services close by the Center, so you can pack light!

We look forward to seeing you in Miami and Mexico City! In case you should have other questions before your departure, you may contact my assistant, Christine Kubera, or myself by phone (312/380-2950) or fax (312/380-1465).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol B. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Carol Becker Smith
Executive Director

CBS/ck



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Commission for
Communication

Letter to Participants and Observers from the North INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON COMMUNICATION

September 21-28, 1990 (Miami/Mexico)

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to send you these preliminary materials for the dialogue "Toward Global Community and Understanding: An International Dialogue on Communication."

You will find in this packet an updated agenda, a biographical list of participants and observers from the North, a list of participants and observers from the South, and some background reading and listening.

As you can all well imagine, there was much more we might have sent you in the way of reading materials. We decided, however, in the interest of economy to provide other reading at the event itself. Therefore, if you should have materials you would like to share with others, please let us know.

I trust that you have all had an opportunity to make your travel plans by now. If you are an observer and have not sent us the travel return form, please do so. We will know of participant plans through our booking agent at Menno.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Miami and Mexico City.

Sincerely,

Carol B. Smith

Carol Becker Smith
Executive Director

CBS/ck
Encls.

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON COMMUNICATION
September 21-28, 1990
Miami, FL/Mexico City

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Participants

Dudley Althaus, Mexico City:

Pamela Caadwal-Ilott:

President, Center for Intercultural Communications,
Canyon, Lake, TX
Experience as Vice President for Cultural and Religious
Broadcasts, CBS Television, speaks French

Katie Davis:

Reporter for National Public Radio, Mexico City.
Ten years experience with NPR, speaks Spanish and
Portuguese

Kevin Evans:

Principal news anchor, CBC Evening News, Vancouver, BC.
15 years experience in broadcast journalism throughout Canada.
Speaks English

Miguel - Angel Granadas-Chapa

Director, MIRA
Mexico City
Speaks Spanish

Barry Levine:

Professor of Sociology and Anthropology.
Editor and co-founder of Caribbean Review (quarterly magazine)
Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at University of Puerto Rico
from 1965-72.
Speaks English, Spanish, some French.

Carol Mahnke:

News Bureau Director, Concordia College, Moorehead, MN.
17 years experience as a Reporter/copy editor with the
Fargo, ND "The Forum" newspaper, circ 60,000, speaks
some Spanish and French.

Peter Martin:

Editor in Chief, South-North News Service, Hanover, NH.
Experience as Senior Editor, Time Magazine and
Assistant Managing Editor, Money Magazine, speaks
French

Carlos Monsivais: Mexico City:

Charles Reeves:

Anchor, CBS News Radio Network, New York City
Broadcast Journalist for 35 years, 30 with CBS, speaks
American English

Carmen Rodriguez:

Editor "Voces Luteranas", spanish supplement to "The
Lutheran" Magazine, Meriden CT.
Currently a special education teacher in New Britain,
CT, speaks Spanish and English

Guillermo Salas:

General Manager, Nucleo Radio Mil, Mexico City
Experience in Business, Government and Broadcasting,
speaks Spanish, French and English

John Santos:

Research Fellow, Gannett Center for Media Studies,
Columbia University, New York.
Experience as producer with CBS TV and San Antonio
Express News, speaks Spanish

Herbert Schiller:

Professor Emeritus of Communication, University of
California, San Diego.
University Professor since 1950, speaks some French

Regina Sherard:

Associate Professor, Emerson College, Communications
Studies, Boston, MA
Experience in Journalism, marketing research,
advertising and communications education, speaks French

Frank Wright:

Associate Editor/Foreign Correspondent, Star Tribune,
Minneapolis, MN
Experience as local and State Government, and Political
Reporter, including Washington Bureau Chief, speaks
American English

Carlos Verdecia:

Editor and member, editorial board of El Nuevo Herald (The Miami
Herald), Miami, FL.
Experience in government as Cuban vice-minister of foreign trade and
commercial attache, Japan.
Speaks Spanish

Observers:

Ferdy Baglo:

Editor, Canada Lutheran, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Experience in Commercial Broadcasting in Canada and
Tanzania, East Africa; Speaks English

Eileen Bishop:

David Bramley:

Editor-in-Chief, Lutheran World Information, Geneva, Switzerland
Experience as an Information Officer and Magazine
Editor, speaks English and German

David Briddell:

Director, Intermedia, National Council of Churches of Christ
Director of Audio Visual Resources, Board of Global Ministries,
United Methodist Church
Former Member of World Assn. of Christian Communicators, Central
Committee
Speaks some Spanish

Andrea Cano:

Communication Director - World Council of Churches/US office, NY.
Extensive experience in print media, and in broadcast news.
Speaks English, Spanish, some French, Russian.

Stacy Kitahata:

Associate Director for Global Education, Division for Global Mission, ELCA.
Member, board of Intermedia, National Council of the Churches of Christ, NY.
Experience in broadcast media.
Speaks English

Charles Lutz:

Editor, Metro Lutheran, Minneapolis, MN
Experience as writer and Editor of Religious
publications, executive in national church offices,
Speaks English

Rebeka Martensen:

Graduating B.A. student in French/Journalism -- University of Wisconsin,
Madison.
Experience writing, editing, layout of student newspaper. Photojournalism
experience.
Speaks English and French

David Nelson:

Scholarship Program Director for Brazil and Europe -- Division for Global Mission, ELCA.

American Lutheran Church Pastor and Missionary in Brazil, Area Secretary for Brazil and Middle East.

Speaks English, German, Spanish, Portuguese

Thomas Roberts:

News Editor, Religious News Service, New York City

Experience in general reporting, Editorial page editor,

Speaks English

Steering Committee:

The Rev. Conrad Braaten:

Specialist for urban transcultural development -- Division for Congregational Life, ELCA, and Director, Lutheran Center for Multicultural Mission and Education (ELCA) -- Miami, FL.

Experience in mission development and crosscultural ministry.

Experience as Pastor, Affirmation Lutheran Church, Boca Raton, FL

Speaks English and some Spanish.

Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom:

Bishop of the ELCA

Former Bishop in the Lutheran Church in America, Minnesota Synod

North American Host on behalf of the ELCA

Susan V. Greeley:

Public Media Producer, ELCA

Experience as producer/Anchor/Reporter for KELO-TV, Sioux Falls, SD

Anchor for KXRB radio, Sioux Falls, SD

Radio drama writer for CIESPAL in Quito, Ecuador

Taught high school Spanish; taught Latin American literature at Augustana College

Speaks English and Spanish

Carolyn J. Lewis:

Director, News and Information, ELCA

News editor of The Lutheran magazine

Experience as newspaper reporter in Somerset, PA, and Savannah, GA

Speaks English

Biographies - Page 5
International Dialogue on Communication
September 21-28, 1990

James Peterson:

Director of The Lutheran Center, Mexico City
Staff representative, Division for Global Mission, ELCA
Speaks Spanish, English

Glady Peterson (Ms.):

Director of The Lutheran Center, Mexico City
Staff representative, Division for Global Mission, ELCA
Speaks Spanish, English

The Rev. Charles Ruehle:

Co-pastor, Reformation Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI
Board President, Independent Lutheran Press
Communications consultant, independent film producer
Support staff to the dialogue
Speaks English

The Rev. James Siefkes:

Director, Mission Discovery Program -- Division for Outreach, ELCA.
Experience with grass roots organizing, network newsletters.
Program administration experience in stewardship, congregational social concerns.
Speaks English, some Spanish.

Carol Becker Smith:

Executive Director, Commission for Communication, ELCA
North American convenor for the dialogue
15 years' experience as communication consultant, media relations professional
Speaks English

Paul Whiting:

Communication Director, Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA
Community programmer, Complete channel TV, Madison, WI
Communications consultant
Support staff to the dialogue
Speaks French, English

TOWARD GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND UNDERSTANDING AN INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON COMMUNICATION

**Miami and Mexico City
September 21-28, 1990**

Through this dialogue, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil will bring professional communicators from North, Central and South America together to focus on common concerns. The church's role is to create an open and accepting atmosphere, and to learn and observe the process of information flow across international borders.

The six-day event will include formal presentations and dialogue combined with immersion experiences in the Mexico City area. This unique process utilizes the insights of participants, observers and the people of Mexico to engage in a constructive interchange between persons of divergent views.

The dialogue will consist of a relatively small gathering of approximately 30 to 35 participants with an additional 30 persons who act as official observers. Participants invited will include media professionals: journalists, editors, and publisher/owners in both the secular and the religious arenas.

This dialogue marks the third in a series held at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City. The first, "Justification and Justice: A Meeting of Lutheran Theologians of the Americas" met from December 7-14, 1985. A part of that dialogue's concluding documents state:

The discussions were intense, at times difficult, and the range of questions was broad. . . . Are the poor and oppressed the special friends of God who teach the church to hear the word of God in the Bible? . . . Although the differences in interpretation were remarkable, the participants were able to learn from one another, to value the variety of contributions, and to discover common commitment to the cause of justice.

The second event, a "Dialogue on Investment in North and Latin America in Light of the International Debt Crisis" met February 26 - March 1, 1987. It drew participants from the World Bank, grassroots development organizations, international government and industry, and the church. Bishop David Preus summarized his reflections on the dialogue by saying:

"The mix of people at the conference was superb. the issues were set before us with clarity. The differing viewpoints were obvious. The difficulty of seeking micro-solutions was a constant source of concern for the ordinary folk who were present with their ordinary, everyday problems of food, shelter and a job.

We did more than talk with each other. We visited barrios which housed in shacks many of the millions who left the countryside in hope of a job in the city. . . . A half day at a new, impressive Chrysler plant gave us opportunity to see a state-of-the-art assembly line run entirely by Mexicans. . . . Everybody has an idea about what causes the big debt and what needs doing to get past it.

The goals of the communication dialogue are as follows:

1. Raise mutual awareness of possibilities and constraints of communication in both hemispheres.
2. Discuss the struggles journalists face in reporting the news with integrity.
3. Share world views and explore how these affect our work as communicators. What is the news? What are the goals (of the media) in telling the news? Who is served? Who benefits.
4. Examine the relationship among communicators, publishers, and owners of media in societies in which we try to communicate.
5. To articulate common commitments involved in moving towards communications for global understanding and community.
6. Explore the impact communications on society.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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Commission for
Communication

August 20, 1990

Miguel-Angel Granadas-Chapa
Director, MIRA
Cuauhtemoc Ave. 16, Penthouse 502
Colonia Doctores
Mexico City 006720

Dear Mr. Granadas-Chapa:

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the planning team for the **International Dialogue on Communication**, I want to express thanks for your willingness to be a participant in the Mexico City dialogue September 23-28.

This letter serves both as a confirmation of your commitment and an update on some aspects of the event.

First, enclosed is an agenda. The Miami portion of the event, scheduled for September 21 and 22 and requested specifically by the South American participants, will give us a North American grounding for the dialogue. If your schedule permits, we encourage you to participate, at no additional expense for your lodging and meals. Though flight costs would be yours to cover, we have found in checking with our travel agent that most airlines offer excellent rates and schedules for stops in Miami, en route to Mexico City.

We would also ask that you fill out the enclosed **BIOGRAPHICAL FORM** and return it to us by **SEPTEMBER 1**. While your professional vita will be helpful, we would prefer having this uniform information on all participants and observers. It will help us compile an annotated list of all participants and observers, which is enclosed.

If you are attending the Miami portion, please plan to arrive September 21 by 4:00 p.m., so that you will have time to check in to the Ramada Hotel at the Miami International Airport and refresh yourself before the 6:30 dinner, which starts the event. You will then want to plan to travel to Mexico City on Sunday, September 23, arriving there by noon. We will provide transportation information to both ground destinations, if you will tell us of your arrival time on the enclosed sheet.

I look forward to meeting you all in September, and on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I welcome you to the International Dialogue on Communication.

Sincerely,

Carol Becker Smith
Executive Director

CBS/ck
Encl.

Response Form

NAME: MIGUEL-ANGEL GRANADAS-CHAPA
last _____ first _____ title _____

WORK ADDRESS:

street _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

phone _____ fax _____

HOME ADDRESS:

street _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

phone _____ fax _____

COMMUNICATION AND VOCATIONAL INFORMATION:

present position: _____

other communication experience: _____

other career experience: _____

publications and awards: _____

languages: _____

TRAVEL INFORMATION:

Departure airport: _____

Return airport: _____

Special travel needs: _____

____ YES, I can attend the September 21-22 Miami pre-dialogue event.

Please return to: Carol Becker Smith, ELCA Commission for Communication
8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631 (1-800-NET-ELCA)

/p

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON COMMUNICATION

September 21-28, 1990

PARTICIPANTS FROM THE SOUTH

Marcos Antonio Baggio
News editor of Radio Gaucha
Porto Alegre, BRAZIL

Juan Pablo Cardenas
Journalist from CHILE

Jose Antonio Vieira de Cunha
Secretary of Social Communications
Rio Grande do Sol, BRAZIL

Jose Pedro Suarez Martins
Ecumenical Journalist
Sao Paulo, BRAZIL

Robert Giusti
Journalist in Caracas
VENEZUELA

Haroldo Mura Hayggert
Director/new editor, Industria & Comercio
Curitiba, BRAZIL

Thelma King
Journalist
PANAMA

Tania Halena Krutschka
Press Office of the
VIII LWF Assembly
Florianopolis, BRAZIL

Norma Elena Morandini
Journalist
Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

Gene Palumbo
Journalist
EL SALVADOR

Renato Pereira
Journalist
BRAZIL

Flavio Tavares
Journalist
ARGENTINA

Vitor Westhelle
Journalist
Sao Paulo, BRAZIL

Elio Ervino Winter
Owner 2 Radio Stations
BRAZIL

STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) AND OBSERVERS (O) FROM THE SOUTH

The Rev. Dr. Gottfried Brakemeier (SC)
President
Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession
in Brazil

Carlos Kunde (O)
Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI)
ECUADOR

Victor Mata, Editor (O)
El Salvador

The Rev. Silvio Schneider (SC)
Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession
in Brazil

The Rev. Ernesto Weigandt (O)
Lutheran Mission in Panama
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

7/31/90

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

TOWARD GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND UNDERSTANDING: AN INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON COMMUNICATION

Miami and Mexico City
September 21-28, 1990

Day 1: Friday, September 21

- 6:30 pm Dinner
- 7:30 pm Introduction to Miami portion, Conrad Braaten
- 8:00 pm Video: Whose World View?
- 8:30 pm Keynote: Barry Levine, Publisher and Editor of
the Caribbean Review
- 9:10 pm Questions, follow-up

Day 2: Saturday, September 22

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:30 am Tour of regional media
- 10:30 am Presentation, response and dialogue arranged with
editorial and other media staff.

Focus on the question, "How is front page/headline news selected
and shaped by the media you represent?"

- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Program at a local community center

Focus on the question, "Who receives and is impacted by the
news from a community and grassroots
perspective?"

- + Presentation and dialogue with representatives from
the Caribbean, Cuban, Haitian, African-American and
Nicaraguan communities.
- + The Institutional presentors from the morning would
be invited to be present in the afternoon, and the
grassroots presentors from the afternoon would be
invited to be present in the morning.

6:30 pm Dinner at the hotel

7:30 Response by a "reflector" to the experiences of
the day, followed by dialogue. Conclusion by 8:30 p.m.

Focus on wrap-up, identifying issues that have emerged for
continuing dialogue.

Day 3: Sunday, September 23

6:30 am Breakfast

8:00 am Depart for airport

9:30 am Depart for Mexico City

1:00 pm Arrive in Mexico City

2:00 pm Ground transportation to the Lutheran Center

3:00 pm Register and relax at Center, snacks available

5:00 pm Opening Session

- + Welcome by Chilstrom and Brakemeier
- + Overview/Review of Mexico portion by Smith & Schneider
- + Keynote address: Carlos Monsivais
- + Introductions
- + Discussion
- + Orientation to the Lutheran Center

8:30 pm Dinner

Day 4: Monday, September 24

7:00 am Morning Prayers

7:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:30 am Sharing Viewpoints #1

+ Presentations on the topic, "Explore the impact of communications on society."

- + Presentors
 - South: Jose Vieira de Cunha
 - North: Regina Sherard
- + Discussion

Coffee and rolls

11:00 am Departure in vans for visits:

- + Governmental and Business Leaders

2:00 pm Lunch

3:00 pm Visit various communities, i.e.:

- a. San Pedro Martir
- b. NETZA project
- c. Guerrio and Buenos Aries
- d. Tlalpizahuach (AMEXTRA projects)

5:30 pm Return to Center

6:30 pm Coffee and small group discussion based on visits
(questions posed by Schiller and Westhelle)

8:30 pm Dinner

Day 5: Tuesday, September 25

7:00 am Morning Prayers

7:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:30 am Sharing viewpoints #2

+ Presentations on the topic, "Discuss the struggles
journalists face in reporting the news with integrity."

+ Presentors

South: Norma Morandini

North: Frank Wright

+ Discussion

11:30 am Presentation from representatives of refugee communities

1:30 pm Box lunch and departure in vans to the Museum of Anthropology

5:30 pm Return to Center

6:30 pm Coffee and small group discussion based on visits

8:30 pm Dinner

Day 6: Wednesday, September 26

7:00 am Morning Prayers

7:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:30 am Sharing viewpoints #3

+ Presentations on the topic, "Share world views and
explore how these affect our work as communicators."
(What is news? What are the goals of the media in
telling the news? Who is served? Who benefits?)

+ Presentors

South: Marcos Antonio Baggio

North: Peter Bird Martin

+ Discussion

11:15 am Sharing viewpoints #4

+ Presentations on the topic, "Examine the relationships among communicators, publishers, and owners of media in societies in which we try to communicate."

+ Presentors (4 member panel)

South: Roberto Giusti, Haroldo Hayggert

North: Pamela Ilott, Carol Mahnke

1:30 pm Lunch and Free Time

6:30 pm Coffee and small group discussion

8:30 pm Dinner

Day 7: Thursday, September 27

7:00 am Morning Prayers

7:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:30 am Visit to communications facilities, i.e., Televisa and the University Communication Department.

12:30 pm Return to Center

1:30 pm Workgroups on the topic, "Articulate common commitments involved in moving toward communication for global understanding and community."

+ Reflections by Herbert Schiller and Victor Westhelle

+ Small groups reflection/feedback

4:00 pm Words to the church from participants

8:30 pm Fiesta

Day 8: Friday, September 28

7:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:30 am Worship and Eucharist opportunity

10:00 am Departures to airport



The Lutheran Center in Mexico

apartado postal 20-416
mexico, d.f.
01000 MEXICO

1 August 1990

Licenciado Miguel-Angel Granados Chapa
Director General
MIRA
Cuauhtémoc 16-502
Col. Doctores
Mexico 06720

Dear Mr. Granados Chapa:

I am writing to express our profound appreciation for your willingness to participate in the conference - **Toward Global Community and Understanding - an International Dialogue on Communications.**

This Dialogue is the third in a series held here in Mexico City which we trust have contributed to the *building of bridges of understanding* between individuals, groups and perhaps even our nations.

Working with me here in Mexico City in the preparations for this event are **DR. VICTOR URQUIDI** and **DR JOSE ALCANTARA** (Professor, Ibero-Americana University) in addition to Staff persons in Brazil and in the United States of America.

We believe it would be beneficial for the Participants in Mexico to meet together to review the objectives stated for this Dialogue and the other features being planned for this event.

We would be most pleased therefore, if you would join us for Comida and conversation on Wednesday, 15 August, 1990, in the Restaurant **La Cava** on Insurgentes Sur at 1400 hours.

I would appreciate very much being informed if this time and place are agreeable with you. My office telephone number is 548-73-52.

I am looking forward with much pleasure to meeting you.

I have received a copy of your new publication **MIRA** and wish you well in this endeavor and look forward to future issues.

Most sincerely,

James E. Peterson
Staff Representative in Mexico
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The Lutheran Center in Mexico

apartado postal 20-416
mexico, d.f.
01000 MEXICO

"COMMUNICATION...TOWARD GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNITY"

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE - AMONG PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS FROM
"SOUTH" AND "NORTH"

Hosted by The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and held at the
Lutheran Center in Mexico City, , 1989.

(PROJECTED DATES: ^{23 SEPT 28} ~~26 NOVEMBER~~ - ~~6 DECEMBER~~ or 4 - 13 DECEMBER, 1989)

(DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION...5 DECEMBER, 1988, MIAMI SPRINGS)

BACKGROUND

This Dialogue continues an effort begun by The American Lutheran Church,
(an antecedent Church Body now part of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America) many years ago.

Through hosting such events this Church seeks to reach outside its
traditional sphere of activities for several reasons:

...to familiarize itself with important issues of high ethical
character where it may not possess expertise;

...to seek knowledge and make what contribution it can in a positive
way in arenas local and global where what happens profoundly affects the
lives of human beings;

...to encourage constructive exchange among those professionally or
occupationally engaged in the focus discipline in order that the life of
the human family and the global community might be enhanced;

...to specifically encourage and facilitate a larger measure of
understanding among persons, whose life context is often strongly
contrasting, who seek common solutions to the difficult and complex
problems of life on this planet.

...

*Sponsoring Units: Division for Global Mission, Commission for
Communication, Commission for Church in Society, Division for Outreach

calle de la otra banda 54-a/telephone 548-73-52

This Dialogue had its inception in numerous conversations over the past three years.

These conversations, among many individuals and groups, had the common thread of recognizing the essential need for a global perspective on issues confronting the human family. Identified as well was the dimension of "South/North" as well as "East/West" in seeking solutions to complex issues and the enhancement of the quality of life for persons throughout the world.

Recognized as well was the essential role played by "communications" in resolving difficulties and misunderstandings, in reaching adequate decisions interpersonally and internationally, and in determining courses of action to fulfill human aspirations in ways just, peaceful and in which human dignity is achieved for all.

Dr. Mark Thomsen, in the opening session of the Second Dialogue held in Mexico City in March of 1987, brought into focus insight into some of the dynamics of these Dialogues as well as the bias of this Church.

He observed that it was faith that motivated the goals and plans for such events...and he described this faith as rooted in a conviction that God is intimately and passionately wrapped up in the lives of people, especially persons who live out their lives in the midst of pain and suffering. That same faith believes that God cares for all people, especially the poor, the exiles, the oppressed, the voiceless and marginated, and because God cares so should we all care about one another and about human dignity for all people.

A basic assumption undergirding these Dialogues is that persons from all walks of life need to seek with humility and respect what others may have to teach them...to see the world as others see it, to be graced by the world as others experience it, and to be enriched and encouraged by the sharing of perceptions, insights, experiences, expertise.

THE PROCESS

*(Lifted from the Findings of the Second Dialogue, THANKS JIM S.)]

It is not difficult to plan a conference to enable unlimited input to be "put on the table," and to set the scene for the transmission of data.

When we speak of "the process" in the context of this (Dialogue) we refer to all aspects of the event in a more wholistic sense. Significant is not only what is scheduled on an agenda, but what transpires as the agenda is carried out. This is reflected not only in the ordering of the agenda and its contents, the speakers and what they have to say, who is invited, etc., but also in the detail of planning for the informal times and what may ordinarily be considered "housekeeping matters." Such details have to do with what people have to eat, housing arrangements, seating arrangements, introductions of one another (by whom/of whom) and possible

fatigue and comfort factors. What is essential is more than an exchange of words. Such Dialogues are also impacted by shared experiences as well, i.e., experience and exchange at the conference table, but also time at meals, on the buses, in small vans, at opportunities for worship, in small groups, at fiestas, etc.

PARTICIPANTS

The mix of participants is important and basic to the dynamics sought. We seek as a broad perspective as possible on the focus of the Dialogue. When institutionally employed persons go about their business, it is usually with people "of their own kind." In most societies there is often little mix among the races, classes, nationalities, languages, sexes. In this case included must be representatives from the several strata in the world of communications...as well as from the "consuming" public.

THE AGENDA

Care needs to be given to provide a balance in viewpoints that reflect contrasting or at least different approaches to the subject by virtue of culture, class, and official or grass roots orientation of the participants.

Viewpoints and perspectives on the subject from the several sources of information dissemination are needed. The Media...print, radio, television (local, network, international) and from the publishers/owners of these sources. Governmental outlets (?) and other agencies.

Furthermore...these Dialogues seek to provide an immediate, shared human context to the event. Therefore, off site visits to a variety of locations are included - facilities for the dissemination of information, and the locations in which persons live whose lives are impacted by the adequacy or inadequacy of such information services.

The assumption is held that an informed human family is essential toward the achievement of the necessary and desired human condition throughout the world.