



MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

**International Council
Luxembourg, 17-18 June 1993**

Minutes

Participants :

MSF-BELGIUM

Jean-Pierre Luxen

MSF-FRANCE

Rony Brauman
Bernard Pécoul

MSF-GREECE

Sotiris Papaspyropoulos

MSF-The NETHERLANDS

Dick Van Geldere
Jacques de Milliano

MSF-LUXEMBOURG

Carlo Faber
Béchara Ziadé

MSF-SPAIN

Bernardo Fernandez

MSF-SWITZERLAND

Doris Schopper
Benoit Tullen

MSF-Liaison Office Geneva

Robert Müller

MSF-International Office

Alain Destexhe

1. Discussion with operations directors

Collaboration between operations directors does not seem to be running smoothly. The purpose of their quarterly meeting is not well defined (discussion on issues or on missions, exchange of information, role of the chairman, etc.?) and the results are poor. Nevertheless they agree that collaboration is really improving both on the field and the desk level.

The role of the chairman of the operations directors (the section holding the presidency) should be maintained.

2. Fund-raising to European large companies

The study made by the international office will be presented to the marketing directors of all sections. It then will be discussed by the International Council if necessary.

3. UN liaison officer

MSF will have a liaison officer to the UN in New York: Catherine Harper. She has a long experience in working with the UN in the EEC delegation. This volunteer position will be tried for a one year period. Catherine will report to Alain Destexhe and will work under the daily supervision of Chantal Firino Martell

4. Trainee at the international office

Eric Stobbaerts (3 years MSF, presently studying for an MBA in Geneva) will carry out a summer traineeship for the International Council. He will visit the sections and will make a comparative study (quantitative and qualitative) on the functioning of the different headquarters (gathering indicators and interviews with the heads of the different departments).

He will try to define what MSF members expect from international projects in the framework agreed by the International Council, which means that MSF is an international movement which operates according to a decentralised model.

5. Approval of the accounts of MSF-International.

The accounts are unanimously approved by the International Council .

6. Logo

The International Council will wait for the proposal of the communications departments in September. The new logo should be approved by the International Council first and afterwards by every board.

7. Vienna conference on Human Rights

Robert Muller and Françoise Saulnier will represent MSF at the conference.

8. Next presidency of the International Council

MSF-Holland will take over the presidency as of August 1st.

9. Nanssen Medal

MSF has been chosen for the Nanssen medal. This medal is awarding organisations working with refugees.

10. Refugees

Discussion on the mandate of the UNHCR.

There is a feeling that the mandate of the UNHCR is weakened by its involvement in large scale humanitarian operations such as in Yugoslavia. Some organisations would like to extend the mandate of the UNHCR to internally displaced people. Several members of the International Council think this can not be done without further weakening the mandate of the UNHCR. MSF should do everything within its means to defend the UNHCR mandate as stipulated in the 1951 Convention.

This topic will further be discussed during the next International Council in the presence of M. Franco, director of protection at the UNHCR.

11. Discussion of the main MSF figures for 1992 and MSF's independence

Presentation of the 1992 accounts and 1993 perspectives.

MSF-F : 65% private funds, 35% institutional funds in 92. EC funding was reduced to 17%.
Priority: managing MSF's growth, emergencies and "new fields" of action for MSF.

MSF-E : 50% private funds, 50% institutional funds in 92. Forecasts a 100% increase of the budget in 93.

MSF-Gr : Increase of the number of donors.

MSF-CH : 60% private funds, 40% institutional funds, expects to grow fast in 93 and will extend to German-speaking Switzerland.

MSF-LX : 10% institutional funds, 90% private funds. 10% of the population of tiny Luxembourg gives money to MSF.

MSF-B : Fall in expenditure in 92 over 91.
Priority : emergencies and new projects (diversification). Rise in 93 budget, but with much of expenditures carried over from 92.

MSF-NL : Priority to instable situations.
Objective: to be even more present in acute crises and 50/50% private and institutional funds.

Overall, EC funding dropped considerably in 92 : 29%.

Conclusions of the discussion :

- The notion of MSF's independence is reaffirmed, particularly as regards the EEC (objective : 25% max.). This is increasingly important given the current context. Financial independence is an integral element of MSF's independence. For ethical reasons, it is important that all sections adopt a common approach on this issue, even if there may be national differences, especially in relation to the potential of private funding.
- For ethical reasons, it is important that none of the sections has excessively large budget surpluses (income over expenditure).

12. Somalia

Last week 2 missiles were fired at the AICF house where the MSF team was located. 1 Somali was killed and 8 injured. The Digfer Hospital was also targeted.

Those incidents are extremely serious in regard to humanitarian law. The International Council decides that MSF should protest vigorously.

The following steps are discussed :

1. legal action before the UN,
2. approaching governments and the UN,
3. taking stand on the fundamental issues in the media whenever possible.

The following International Council will be held in Paris on 16 & 17 September 1993.

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