

**GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY WORLD COUNCIL  
JAPAN  
21/26 AUGUST 1984**

Minutes of the meeting of the 11th meeting of the World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society held at Tokyo, Kyosato and Kyoto, Japan from 21 to 26 August 1984.

**Theme: "Together in Christ, Sharing Love and Peace"**

**Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Opening Service of the 11<sup>th</sup> World Council was held at St Andrew's Pro-Cathedral Church, Tokyo at 10.00am on Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup> 1984. The celebrant was the Rt Revd J M Watanabe, Primate of Nippon Sei ko kai, assisted by the Revd M H G Mayes, the Revd B J Imai, The Revd J N Sato and the Revd B Y Maeda. The Rt Revd J J Yamada, Bishop of Tokyo Diocese, and the Rt Revd R S Majiwara, Bishop of Yokohama Dioceses were also in the chancel.

The sermon was delivered by the Rt Revd J N Iida, Bishop of Kyushu. Through his experiences of the Hiroshima bombing, he stressed our Christian duty and efforts to build world peace.

Lunch was held at St Andrew's Hall. Chairman of Tokyo Diocesan Church Women welcomed the delegates and observers to World Council.

The participants then went to Kiyosato KEEP, in the mountains north west of Tokyo, by bus. The staff of KEEP provided a dinner party in the evening and greeted us with heartfelt welcome. Miss M Hara, Vice-President of Japan, introduced those who had previously held the office of World Chairman, Mrs Emiko Tsuji, Mrs Floris Bain, and Mrs Elizabeth Mayes and the delegates of the fourteen countries present. The day finished with Compline, which took the form of a short documentary movie about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima followed by a talk and prayer by the Revd S H Sekimoto.

NB – KEEP: Kiyosato Educational Experiment Project, established by Dr Paul Rusch, an American missionary teacher in the 1930's.

Each morning at Kiyosato KEEP except Friday August 24<sup>th</sup> began with a Meditation led by the Rt Revd J M Watanabe, Bishop of Hokaido and Primate of Japan. During these meditations, Bishop Watanabe shared his wartime and post-wartime experiences in a frank and edifying way. This meditation was followed by a service of Holy Communion, and then breakfast in the Dining Hall.

**Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**SESSION 1**

**Present:** All participants

**1) Call to order (Chairman)**

**2) Chairman's Message**

The Chairman welcomed all the participants and requested everyone to work together under His guidance to dedicate the whole Council to the future development of Girls' Friendly Society worldwide.

**3) Introduction of Staff**

The Chairman, Mrs Umeyo Iwai, introduced the council staff.

<b>Chairman</b>	Mrs Umeyo Iwai, Japan
Vice-Chairman	Mrs Beth Mayes, Ireland
Secretary	Mrs Mari Yamamoto, Japan
	Mrs Asako Chibana, Japan
Assistant Secretaries	Mrs Michiko Ito, Japan

Miss Roslyn Williams, Japan  
World Treasurer Miss Mineko Hara, Japan  
Assistant Treasurer Mrs Atsuko Murayama, Japan

The Chairman then requested the Secretary to introduce the Delegates.

<b>Australia:</b>	Mrs Evelyn Beckenham, Miss Deidree Nixon
<b>England:</b>	Mrs Jean Riggs, Miss Stephanie Green
<b>Guyana:</b>	Miss I Chase
<b>Ireland:</b>	Mrs Mary Hinchliff, Miss Patricia Mathews
<b>Japan</b>	Miss Mineko Hara, Miss Michiko Naide
<b>Korea:</b>	Mrs Helen Seung Ah Park, Mrs Ruth Yang Soon Choi
<b>Lesotho</b>	Miss E Maleku
<b>New Zealand</b>	Mrs Jill Baker
<b>Philippines:</b>	Mrs Adeline D Lubguban, Miss Esperanza L Beleo
<b>Sierra Leone:</b>	Miss Alice-Maude Newstead, Miss Deidre Taylor
<b>Sri Lanka:</b>	Miss Anne Rita Perera Kalpage
<b>Transkei:</b>	Mrs Koleka Guma
<b>USA:</b>	Mrs Martha Killefer, Miss Kathryn Brady
<b>Wales:</b>	Mrs Dilys Fowler, Miss Kim Gilbert

**4) Minutes of last World Council**

These had already been circulated. There was an amendment to be made re the Treasurer's Report, on page two of the Minutes. The sentence beginning "Following the 1975-78 World Council period there remained \$389.04, and this was handed over to Ireland at the beginning of the present three-year period" was a mistake. It referred to the previous World Council. The Vice-Chairman asked for permission to delete that sentence, which was granted. There were no further amendments, so the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

**5) Treasurer's Report, Ireland (1978-1981)**

This was read out and explained by Miss Olive Ross, the former World Treasurer. It was accepted by the delegates.

**6) World Chairman's Report (1981-1984)**

This was read out by Mrs Umeyo Iwai (Japan), the current World Chairman.

To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of; to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen (Ephesians 3:20.21)

To me, the period of the past three years, 1981-1984, is the most substantial one I have ever had. GFS has occupied so much my mind that, according to my sister, I have scarcely uttered a word without referring to the World Council recently. As you see, we have had to overcome many difficulties so far. We feel it is by your prayerful support that we have the greatest day with you all at this moment. We thank you very much. Here let me make a brief report about what we have done over these years.

1 After we returned home from the Irish Council, we immediately began to discuss how to raise the necessary funds. We made the plan of 3-year length and put it into practice in the end of 1981. It was also vital to start and grow up the movement within the National GFS towards the success of the Council in 1984. We also tried to

find opportunities to have the people of our Church know what we are doing for the Council.

- 2 On the other hand, we have made efforts to keep the correspondence between the member countries by exchanging letters and circulating World Newsletters and the orders of the World Prayer Day Service. Here, I apologise for not answering well the queries or the requests in the right time. Possibly I have made you nervous for waiting the answer in vain. Thank you for your generosity and warm thoughts upon us.
- 3 To promote our World Project, the Chicken Rearing of Transkei GFS, has been another matter of our serious concern. WE thank you, Mrs Elizabeth Nixon, England and Mrs Beth Mayes, our Vice-Chairman, for giving us timely and helpful suggestions. Japan is a partner with Transkei, but we were lacking the firsthand knowledge of our neighbours. Then the two of our executive members, Miss M Hara and Mrs A Murayama offered to visit Transkei and Lesotho during their summer vacation, 1982. I requested Mrs Nixon to send somebody to work together with them in Transkei. Miss Pamela Palmer kindly offered to come, but this was not realised because her relative's illness. They met Mrs N Lochwe, the former GRS Organiser, leaders, members, and many of the people of St John's Diocese, Umtata. They could visit Bp and Mrs Godfrey and talked with them about the Project, too. They also visited Miss Elizabeth Moleko and Bishop's wife in Maseru, Lesotho. Their experiences have benefited us a great deal. The following year, 1983, we were informed that Bp Godfrey had an idea to introduce a new scheme with the help of the ACAT (The African Cooperative Action Trust). Almost the same time Mrs Lockwe had to resign for the personal cause. We were discouraged and worried. I requested the Bishop to appoint a new organiser as soon as possible to proceed the Project forward. In February 1984, finally received a most welcome letter from Miss Kolika Guma, in which she introduced herself, saying "After four years, the Lord has called me back to do ministry of working amongst the girls again". Bop Godfrey wrote to me with his approval of her attendance at the Council as delegate and reporter of the Project. We thanked God.
- 4 The choice of the theme for the Council was another problem, because the theme should involve the program itself, what program should we share with the worldwide friends except for the sessions proper to the Council? It took us a half year before we chose the following two subjects: "Christianity and the Japanese Culture" and "What we can do for peace". The former will show you why and how Christianity introduced in Japan was oppressed by the feudal governments and that it has been forced to modify itself under the influences of traditional religions, Shintoism, and Buddhism. The letter would make us aware of the fatal damage caused by nuclear weapons which will affect generation to generation. To keep the earth as it is, how should we live and what could we do as peacemakers? We are responsible for younger generations. Thus, we chose the theme: "Together in Christ. – sharing love and peace". WE humbly wish these programs might be worth receiving your candid opinions.
- 5 I deeply appreciate your kind offer to help us in some of our programs.
  - a. Australia would prepare for lots of fun at campfire on the 23<sup>rd</sup> evening.
  - b. Ireland would do workshops on the 24<sup>th</sup> morning.
  - c. USA would produce the evening of farewell Kiyosato.
- 6 We also thank you for your cooperation in sending us suggestions to Agenda and Project. Some of them may call for hot discussion among the delegates. Regarding a next host country, the Australian offer should be meaningful and appreciated to enable smaller countries to host the Council in 1987. I also appreciate Wales's offer

to host it by themselves. I pray that these will be fruitful decisions made for the future growth of the Girls' Friendly Society as well as for the Glory of God. May God bless and help us, and His will be done through the Council in Japan.

7) **Treasurer's Report (Japan) 1981-84**

As the current Treasurer, Miss Mineko Hara, was also the Senior Delegate for Japan, the Report was read out by the Assistant Treasurer, Mrs Atsuko Murayama. It was an interim report, a final report will be given at the next Council. The currency used was yen. Regarding contributions to the World Fun, which are voluntary, only the names of the contributing countries were mentioned, not the amounts of their contribution. Only the total was given.

Sierra Leone had sent money without specifying its purpose, so that contribution did not appear on the report.

Sri Lanka had contributed money for the World Project, but the report was compiled before the money arrived.

Wales moved *"That this report be accepted"*.

This motion was seconded by Australian and CARRIED.

8) **Greetings to Council**

Greetings were received from: Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother; Archbishop of Canterbury; Archbishop Grindrod, Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia; Bishop Allin, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of USA; Bishop Kim of Seoul, Chairman of the Anglican Church Korea; Bishop Mokuku of Lesotho; Archbishop Penman of Melbourne; Archbishop Robinson of Sydney; Bishop Rusach of Los Angeles; Bishop Coburn of Massachusetts; Bishop Ogilby of Pennsylvania; The Revd and Mrs W J D Stockdale, Australia's Chaplain, Diocese of Ballarat, Australia; Mrs K Bright-Parker OBE, World Chairman 1957-1959; Frank and Jean Cheshire, World Chairman 1969-1972; Mrs Gladys Beams, Chairman of Ballarat Diocese; Ms Gwen Hilton, Victoria, Australia; Miss Irma A Norris, St Vincent; Mrs Mary Marshall, Barbados; GFS President of Sierra Leone; GFS of Gippsland, Australia; GFS of St Philip's, Mt Waverley, Melbourne; GFS President of Sri Lanka; Sister Michaela (Mrs M Davis) England; Mrs J R Berry and Scottish GFS; Ms Eva Wright; All GFS Victoria, Australia; GFS Western Australia; GFS Barbados; GFS Guyana; GFS Ireland; GFS Korea; GFS New Zealand; GFS Philippines; GFS Wales, GFS of St Mary de Lode and St Nicholas, Gloucester, England.

The Chairman expressed gratitude for all these warm, loving, impressive greetings and asked the Delegates to take back to their own countries the Councils' gratitude.

9) **Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman informed the Council that apologies had been received from Barbados and Scotland. No news from Liberia since the time of registration. Nothing from Gambia since the last World Council. So far Newfoundland letters sent there had been returned. The Council was then informed that there is no GFS in Newfoundland.

10) **Report on World Transkei Project (1981-1984)**

This was given by the Transkei Delegate, Miss Koleka Guma. She commented on the report she had submitted, of which the Delegates had copies. The report was illustrated by slides of Transkei.

The Chairman said that there would be half an hour for questions and answers about this project before the reading of the national reports.

This concluded the morning session.

### 1) **Questions and Answers about the Transkei Project**

Miss Guma told the Council that she wished to move the project from the city of Umtata, where the Government will not allow any more poultry centres, to Butterworth, about 129 kilometres away and in a rural area. She wished to build a poultry farming centre at Butterworth, including a hatchery. This would avoid the problem of obtaining day-old chicks from the Republic of South Africa. The chicks currently take three days in transit, so by the time they arrive they are no longer one day old, and some of them are dead. Miss Guma asked the World Council to direct her to move the project.

This request of Mrs Guma's gave rise to considerable discussion since the delegates were not sure whether such a direction from the Council was either necessary or proper. Mrs Guma felt that as GFS England contributed towards her salary, she should refer everything she did back to GFS for approval. (She and other delegates had experienced that when organisations in other countries sent money, they generally wanted a minute account of how it was being spent) GFS England disclaimed any right to direct Mrs Guma's work. GFS England contributed money to Mrs Guma's dioceses, which has chosen to use that money for Mrs Guma's salary (The project is under the diocese).

The Vice Chairman felt that it was not for the GFS to tell the dioceses to move the project. If the Bishop wanted to do so, he could consult the World Chairman about it. Australia asked whether moving the project would also mean moving the first order of chickens. The answer was no, since these chickens had already gone out to the parishes.

Australia asked whether there was enough money in the World Project Fund to subsidise the buildings Mrs Guma wanted to construct in Butterworth. After some discussion, completed by the recent depreciation of the rand vis-à-vis the US \$ it seemed that the \$US8500 raised would cover a building with simple equipment.

NB The heading "Building Materials" in the budget received by the delegates was the amount loaned to the parishes to build chicken runs. It has nothing to do with the building Mrs Guma wished to construct in Butterworth.

Australia then moved

*"That a sub-committee be formed to look into the situation".*

This was seconded by Lesotho, voted on and passed.

CARRIED.

The Chairman asked one delegate each from Australia, England, the Philippines, Japan and Transkei to form the sub-committee. The Question-and-Answer session was then closed, and the Council moved on to the National Activities Reports.

### 2) **National Activities Reports**

These were presented in alphabetical order of countries. The Reports from England the United States were illustrated with slides, as was the Report from Korea. Each country showed us its unique features of their activities so that we could learn something new and be encouraged by one another.

The Chairman thanked all the member countries very much for their reports and their hard work. She said that each country was working very hard to meet the needs of a changing society and that GFS worldwide hoped to continue to do so, serving God and society.

The day ended with Compline, led by Father Sekimoto.

### **Thursday August 23**

This was "Enjoy Kiyosato Day" Participants could enjoy a bus tour of the vicinity, hiking, walking, riding or just loafing and resting. A picnic lunch was provided. Everyone seemed to enjoy their chosen activities very much.

After the coffee and tea break at 3pm, National Displays were presented in St Andrew's Hall. Photographs, posters, and handmade crafts etc., were displayed on the walls of the corridors and the hall.

The evening meal took the form of an outdoor barbeque, with both Western and Japanese style food available. This was followed by a Camp Fire, organised by GFS Australia. Again, a great time was had by all, with country dancing and traditional Australian songs, on the agenda.

The evening closed with Compline, in the form of a prayer led by Bishop Waternabe.

### **Friday August 24**

The day began with Morning Prayer which took the form of short Scripture readings followed by a pause during which anyone was free to speak or pray, if so inclined.

### **Session Three**

Breakfast was followed by a business session for the delegates and workshops organised by GFS Ireland for the other participants.

### **Workshops**

Ireland GFS had prepared three different workshops. Drama (Good Samaritan in pantomime), Physical Activities (dances and games) and Craft (soft toys and math-box cottages). These were given at the same time in different rooms so that each participant might take one after another during the allotted time. Japanese GFS also contributed in craft through origami and calligraphy. Many thanks to the Irish leaders!

### **Business Sessions:**

Present: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Delegates, Staff.

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting with prayer in Japanese and in English, followed by national GFS Prayers spoken out loud together.

The Chairman then began the business of the meeting.

#### **1) Report from the Sub-committee about the Transkei Project.**

This report was read by the Vice-Chairman. The Sub-committee recommended that Mrs Guma put her building plan into action so that the project might be completed and become self-supporting. There is sufficient money in the World Project Fund to complete this project.  
\New Zealand moved

*"That the Sub-Committee's recommendation be endorsed by the World Council."*

The Philippines seconded the motion which was passed. CARRIED.

#### **2) World Council Agenda Suggestions**

##### **(a) Suggestion No 1 – Ireland**

"Instead of the World Chairman having to administer a World Project during her busy three years of office, would it not be more practical for her to look after the World Project in the following three years, when she would have come to know the worldwide GFS Presidents and countries, but would be free of World Council business?"

There was some discussion about the practical outworking of this suggestion. It was felt that the idea was good, but that the current World Chairman, Mrs Iwai, having already prepared a World Council and administered the Transkei Project during her term as World Chairman (1981-1984), should not have to administer another World Project. GFS England offered to administer the next World Project in her stead should the suggestion be passed.

GFS Ireland then offered to reword the suggestion, thus:

*“That the World Chairman looks after the World Council and the Vice Chairman looks after the World Project (except during the 1984-1987 period)”*

NB The World Chairman automatically becomes Vice-Chairman for the three years period following her three years as World Chairman.

The USA moved

*“That this suggestion be passed.”*

The motion was seconded by Wales and passed. CARRIED.

**(b) Suggestion No 2 Ireland.**

“Due to rising costs, we must face the possibility that it may not be possible to continue holding a World Council every three years. Instead, would it be possible for the World Chairman to travel, using the World Fund Money? This would mean that those countries who cannot afford to send delegates to the World Council could be much more in touch with Worldwide GFS through the Chairman.”

There was much discussion about this. Many delegates felt that it was very important that GFS leaders worldwide should meet together in one place every three years. The idea of the World Chairman travelling instead of holding a World Council was rejected.

The priority for the World Fund was seen to be enabling delegates from as many countries as possible to come together for the World Council every three years.

However, between Councils, if there was enough money in the World Fund, to allow it, the World Chairman might visit just one or two countries who couldn't afford to send delegates to the Council.

This would necessitate increased contributions from member countries to the World Fund. The Delegates were asked to take this idea back to their own countries and discuss the feasibility of raising more money for the World Fund. They should then report their countries' feelings back to the World Chairman.

**(c) Suggestion No 3 – Lesotho**

“Involvement in and the promotion of activities which further ecumenism and organic unity of the Church.”

There was much discussion about this. It was felt that it was a good principle. For example, it would be good for GFS to work together with other Christian organisations, Anglican or otherwise, to accomplish certain things. However, the situation and the opportunities for doing this vary greatly from country to country.

Finally, the Chairman requested the delegates to take this suggestion back to their own countries, discuss it and, if possible, act on it there. Perhaps member countries could exchange leaders or materials with other denominations or organisations. If good results come of their efforts, member countries should exchange news of what they are doing in this respect through the World Newsletter (There was no formal motion)

NB During this discussion, the Philippine delegates appealed for ideas on reactivating GFS in their country. In answer to this, the Korean delegates shared their own experiences and the benefit they had received from the help and support of their link countries. It became clear that the link between GFS member countries is vitally important and that all of us can and must help one another.

**(d) Suggestion No 4, Japan**

“Should the theme of each World Council be reflected to some extent in the GFS activities in each member country until the following council theme is chosen?”

The delegate from Japan stated that as the council theme “Together in Christ, Sharing Love and Peace” had begun only at the council itself, GFS Japan would like to continue with it, at least for a year. Some other countries answered that they had begun to use the theme before the Council. England stated that all the participants had been so deeply impressed with the theme through the council program that it would be with

them for the rest of their lives and inevitably be continued. GFS Japan was satisfied with this. No formal motion was passed.

This concluded the Agenda Suggestions.

### 3) **Suggestions for the next GFS World Project**

#### (a) **Project Suggestion No 1 – from Lesotho**

“Would it be possible to establish a GFS Coordinating Office in Africa? What would be the best location? What problems would need to be overcome? What would be the best way of accomplishing this?”

The reason for this suggestion was that although Africa has so many countries with Anglican Church, only four or five of these are GFS member countries. If Africa has a GFS Continental Office, the office can contact the Anglican Church in various countries to get GFS well known. Perhaps African GFS member countries could even have continental meetings and form projects to make themselves more self-sufficient.

During discussion, it became clear that Lesotho meant to appoint a person rather than build an office. Her work would be carried out mainly by correspondence, with an Annual General meeting in each Anglican Province. Thus, people in other dioceses could be contacted the delegate from Lesotho had received letters asking her to help people in other provinces, but this was difficult when there was no GFS in their country. However, if April had a GFS Coordinator, she could go out of her way to explain GFS to them. The Delegate from Transkei said that a GFS African Coordinator could do good work in the Republic of South Africa, too. Such activity would give the lie to expatriates’ opinion that GFS is a dying society.

#### (b) **Project Suggestion No 2 from Ireland.**

“The Leprosy Mission run the Jesus Clinic at Dugu \*Gargu) in South Korea and they would be very grateful if GFS worldwide would take over part of the cost of running it”. This is a new Leprosy Mission Medical Complex and includes consistent spiritual outreach.

National Christians serve 20 inpatients, 1,557 outpatients and operate 10 clinics. (The Leprosy Mission prides itself on being an ecumenical organisation)

Since the suggestion was first made that GFS should slot in with other organisations to carry out certain projects, GFS Ireland had written to various societies. The Leprosy Mission suggested that GFS do something specific, such as building a new room or contributing necessary equipment to the operating room.

However, Korea pointed out that the Jesus Clinic was already receiving financial help from the Catholic Church in Korea, and so did not need help from GFS. Moreover, the Anglican Church in Korea is also running a leprosy clinic. It would seem strange for GFS, an Anglican Society, to help the Leprosy Mission clinic and not the Anglican-run clinic, especially since the Leprosy Mission clinic is already receiving help from another source. The nature of GFS’s possible contribution to the Jesus Clinic (building, equipment, etc) would be decided when and if this Project suggestion was adopted by the World Council.

#### (c) **Project Suggestion No 3 – from England.**

“To strengthen and help revive GFS in the Caribbean area, in particular in the islands of St Vincent and Granada. GFS work in Jamaica is now carried out under other names (as it is in Lesotho), but useful work could be carried out there too”/

The project suggestion was prompted by the success of the project in West Africa. What is wanted in many countries is expertise, and this Project suggestion aimed to provide that. At present, GFS is not strong in the Caribbean. This project suggestion would enable all GFS member countries to unite in giving, none being recipients. However, GFS England would not object to carrying out this suggestion in another part of the world, if the Council so wished.

Consultations with the Anglican Church in the Caribbean had not gone too far, in order to avoid raising false hopes. However, it seemed that this project would be acceptable to the dioceses concerned. No specific individual had been found as yet to undertake the work, but England felt that a trained teacher would be idea.

The meeting then moved to a vote by secret ballot to choose the next World Project. There were 14 countries represented, each having one vote. The results were as follows:

Project Suggestion No 1 from Lesotho	1
Project Suggestion No 2 from Ireland	1
Project Suggestion No 3 from England	12

So, project Suggestion No 3 from England became the GFS World Project for 1984-1989: To strengthen and help revive GFS in the Caribbean area”.

#### 4) **Host Country for next World Country (1987)**

GFS Australia had offered to assist financially any small country that might wish to host the next Council. If no offers were forthcoming, Australia would offer to host the Council itself. Offers had been received from Wales (June 10, 1984), Sierra Leone (June 12<sup>th</sup>), Guyana (July 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Lesotho (August 5<sup>th</sup>). The last three would gratefully accept Australia’s offer of assistance.

The Chairman informed the Council that Guyana’s offer had been withdrawn and that Lesotho, not being a regular GFS member country, was not eligible to host the Council. However, if Lesotho became a regular member country, there would be no objection to its hosting the Council.

Sierra Leone enquired how much help Australia would be able to provide. The answer was a minimum of \$AUD4000 plus any additional amounts that could be raised.

Since the offer from Wales had been received first, the Chairman invited Wales to speak. The Senior Delegate from Wales gave an effective “advertisement” for Wales as the next host country, with help from England (GFS Wales and GFS England work very closely together).

Sierra Leone then stated its willingness to host the next World Council. However, the delegate gave the meeting to understand Sierra Leone would really prefer to let Wales host the 1987 Council. This would give the Sierra Leone GFS President who was unable to come to Japan for the 1984 Council, a chance to attend a World Council in another country before hosting one in her own country, hopefully in 1990.

The USA then moved

*That the Council accept Wales’s kind offer to host the 1987 World Council”.*

This was seconded by Australia and passed CARRIED.

The World Chairman and Vice-Chairman then expressed the hope that the 1990 World Council could take place in Sierra Leone, with Australia’s assurance of financial support. Mrs Dilys Fowler, the Senior Delegate from Wales, expressed pride and delight that Wales had been chosen to host the next World Council.

This concluded the business session. However, GFS England proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Iwai and the Japanese staff from the delegates only. This was given in the form of a standing ovation.

After this, the other participants, having thoroughly enjoyed the workshops organised by GFS Ireland, joined the delegates and were informed of the outcome of the business session, viz

- (1) Transkei Project. The sub-committee had recommended that Mrs Guma put her building plan into action so that the Project might become self-supporting. This was endorsed by the Council.
- (2) Of the four Agenda suggestions, only No 1 had been formally passed, namely that in future the World Project would be administered by the World Vice-chairman, not the World Chairman. The World Chairman's responsibility would be the World Council. However, since Mrs Iwai had administered both the World Council and the Transkei Project during her three years as World Chairman, GFS England had offered to administer the next World Project (1984-1987). The other agenda suggestions were to be taken back to the member countries and discussed there.
- (3) The next World Project (1984-1987) would be to strengthen and revive GFS in the Caribbean area. Each delegation had received details of the proposed scheme.
- (4) The next World Council (1987) would be held in Wales. The following World Council (1990) would hopefully be in Sierra Leone, with financial assistance from Australia.

The Chairman then read out greetings received from GFS Barbados. Mrs Dilys Fowler, the Wales Senior Delegate, then proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Iwai, the World Chairman and Mrs Mayes, the Vice-Chairman, from all participants.

Finally, the decisions made by the Council were explained in Japanese for the benefit of the Japanese participants.

This concluded the business part of the World Council.

The afternoon began with Lecture No 2 – What Can we do for Peace delivered by Mrs Ayako Sukiya, Chairman of Tokyo YWCA and former Chairman of YWCA in Japan. Her talk was illustrated with pictures of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She said Peace is not something that already exists but something we have to create by our efforts in Jesus taught us. At present the nuclear weapons have proliferated too much for men to control. She appealed to us to have exact knowledge about nuclear weapons and to find the way towards peace, not by means of fighting but by Christian love.

### **Evening Eucharist (Dedication of Selves)**

Dinner Party (Sayonara Kiyosato)

Everybody enjoyed Christian fellowship as well as appreciating the wonderful hospitality of KEEP. Mrs Opanoto, President of NSKK Church women sent greetings to us all. She had been with us since the Opening Service in Tokyo. She was greatly touched by our sincere commitment to the ministry to girls and found it important to work together with us.

### **Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>**

The Closing Service of the 11<sup>th</sup> World Council, including the commissioning of the new World Chairman, Mrs Dilys Fowler was held at St Agnes's Pro Cathedral of Kyoto Dioceses at 10.30am. The Celebrant was the Rt Revd S J Yagi of Kyoto Diocese, assisted by the Revd M H G Mayes, the Revd S H Sekimoto, The Rev J N Sato, the Rev J Y Bunya, and the Rev Y Sako. The Rt Revd C I Kokawada, Bishop of Osaka Diocese and the Rt Revd J N Iida were also in the chancel. The Commissioning only was celebrated by the Rt Revd J M Watanabe, Primate of Japan, who gave us the sermon, saying that to live by the theme of the Council – Together in Christ – sharing love and peace – is in other words to practise the GFS motto "Bear One Another's burdens" in our lives. There may be certain burdens we have to bear by ourselves. Those are the burdens that our Lord Jesus only would be willing to share with us if we would ask him to. Wherever we may live separately from one another, let's be steady in belief in Jesus Christ, working together for the glory of His Kingdom on this earth. Mrs Iwai, the passing chairman, dismissed the Council right after the final blessing when everyone spontaneously joined hands and burst out singing "WE Shall Overcome" in the hope of meeting again.

The World Council ended with a Farewell Luncheon at Palace side Hotel.

Mrs D Fowler, the new chairman, extended a cordial invitation to us all to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> Council – 1987 – in Wales. Mrs Iwai expressed her hearty gratitude to everyone for their support during the past three years of her office and their cooperation in the World Council. In particular she appreciated the spiritual guidance of the clergymen, especially of Bishop Watanabe, the busiest person of NSKK.

Sign (Dilys Flower, 27.7.1987)

Because of the language difficulty on Japanese side, we owed a great deal to the generosity of the overseas participants. These must have been some sorts of inconveniences they had to bear in their daily life. Honestly, I, as Chairman, could not have got through the Business Session without the most adequate and timely help of Mrs Beth Mayes, Vice-Chairman, and the warmest concern of the overseas delegates. Finally, I would like to say many thanks to the fellow leaders who had worked so hard to carry out the council.

Anna Umeyo Iwai.

