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NEXT YEAR -- LONDON!

The Fellowship has selected the site for the 1986 World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous to be in London, England. The excitement of this announcement has not yet reached a level of calm discussion. We are all still talking of the importance of having a world convention outside of the U.S. It is just one of a growing number of indications that ours is indeed a worldwide Fellowship.

The Convention in Washington D.C. was excellent, and all who worked on it are to be commended. The workshops were well chosen, the speakers were clear and inspiring, with an N.A. message of recovery coming through solidly each time someone took the podium. Those in attendance carried themselves like the "responsible members of society" that we are striving to become (partly because the waiters took away the napkins). It was really a treat.

All weekend in D.C. there was strong evidence of the European and Australian Fellowships, as the discussions were sprinkled with the various accents. One meeting on Friday night was devoted entirely to hearing from members from around the world. At the bid meeting, the spirit of worldwide unity, in the form of support for the London bid, was thick in the air, and London got the bid. It was truly a symbol of the changing times in N.A.

The London convention will however, present a few new challenges that previous conventions have not presented. This all comes during the transition of World Conventions from independent handling, to being more directly related to the World Service Conference of the Fellowship. This has added a few ingredients that will take our understanding and unity.

At a meeting between the London Bid Committee and the WSC Convention Committee immediately after the Banquet in Washington D.C., the foundation for cooperation was firmly established. The Conference Convention Committee will assist the

London Committee with some of the duties associated with the conventions. One of those important shared activities will be the handling of the registrations for WCNA-16. Reservations made to attend WCNA-16, if they are being made from members of the U.S. Fellowship or paid by check drawn on a U.S. bank, will be made through the WSC Convention Committee at the WSO.

This course was selected as a means of avoiding a substantial financial loss that would be encountered if the registrations were made directly with the London Committee. For each check that the London Committee deposits in their checking account that is drawn on a U.S. bank, their bank will charge a processing fee of about ten U.S. dollars.* All of these international checks require special processing, and all banks charge these additional fees.

Consequently, the WSC Convention Committee will accept and process registrations made in the U.S. This will be managed through an account recently opened by the WSC Convention Committee at the bank used by the WSO in Van Nuys. The World Service Conference at the April 1985 meeting adopted a motion assigning the WSO responsibility for being the treasurer for the Convention Committee, so the WSO staff will receive, record, and deposit funds for registrations. A monthly report on registrations will be made by the World Service Office for the WSC Convention Committee and the London WCNA-16 Committee. This report will include a computer print-out of all registration information and financial data. Funds will be transmitted to the London committee from this account when requested by the London committee through single checks, and therefore realize a considerable savings.

*This is the same experience the WSO has with orders received from outside the U.S. when paid for on checks drawn against banks outside the U.S.

