



Międzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie
im. Janusza Korczaka

Janusz Korczak
International Society



14.3.2007

To all the members of the Korczak Associations,

In continuation of my previous letter, I would like to report on my trip to Warsaw and my meetings there.

I spent 7 days in Warsaw, during which I met with members of the International Association: the outgoing chairman, Prof. Kuberski, and Mr. Wajcek, the Secretary, who actually finished with his position two years ago, but in actual fact has not been replaced by anyone. They both gave me a report on how the Association has been working in recent years. I also met with the Association's accountant, who gave me a report on the Association's financial situation. As of now, most of the money in the Association's accounts comes from the Geneva Foundation, and it is earmarked for completing the publication of all Korczak's writings.

I met with Prof. Fronczek – the APS Rector of the university where the Janusz Korczak Chair in Social Pedagogy is located. With him I was able to work out ways in which the IKA and the university can work together. We decided that the administrative center of the IKA would be located in the academy, and we would also receive office services and a secretary at their expense. We also decided that the address of the International Association would be that of the Korczak Chair. We are presently working on formulating the agreement on this matter.

I also met with the Israeli ambassador to Poland, whom I consulted on a number of topics, among them:

1. Ways and possible sources for raising funds for the Association's activities
2. The legal status of the orphanage on Krochmalna St.

Another thing that I did was examine the Association's Articles of Association. I had two long work meetings on this matter with the Polish representatives in the IKA. We went over the Articles, made changes in them, taking into consideration proposals made by our members in Holland, France and Switzerland, which were brought up at the last meeting.

The amended Articles were sent to attorneys for examination, in order to ascertain that the amendments do not violate any laws. After this they will be translated into English and sent to you for comments and criticisms.

In the meantime, in order to promote the organization of the Association, I ask each and every one of you to send me a reply (by mail or e-mail) to the following by May 1, 2007:

1. A short profile of your association, when it was founded, who initiated it, the number of members, the name of the chairperson, the mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number (s), past activities and plans for 2007
2. Does your association have a legal status in your country? If yes, when was it registered?
3. Do you want to confirm your continued participation as members of the IKA?

I would like to remind you of a number of anticipated events during this year, as I heard about them:

1. In April – an International Conference in Kazan, Russia
2. In September (the exact date is not yet known) – a ceremony at Treblinka to mark the 65th anniversary of the murder of Korczak, Stefa and the children
3. In honor of the 25th anniversary of the Netherlands Korczak Association – the Janusz Korczak International Youth Meeting 2007 – from September 22-28, 2007
4. The German Association will mark the 30th anniversary of its founding in October.
5. The General Assembly of the IKA to vote on the Articles of Association and to elect institutions will take place in the framework of one of the events. The German Association has invited us. We will need to see if we can manage to organize it by then.
6. A meeting of the Geneva Foundation

I am presently trying to synchronize all the events so that most of us can take an active part in them.

I am beginning to receive news of initiatives for 2008. The first (and closest to home) is the Israeli Korczak Association, which is planning an International Conference for the fall of 2008. There are many reasons for this conference: the 30th anniversary of the IKA, the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel – and the 130th anniversary of Korczak's birth.

I would appreciate if you could already send me news of international initiatives that you are planning for 2008, so that we can coordinate matters in advance.

Sincerely,
Batia Gilad
Chair, the International Janusz Korczak Association

Address:
Batia Gilad
The Ghetto Fighters' Museum
M. P. Western Galilee 25220
Israel

e-mail: bgilad@gfh.org.il