

# FELLOWSHIP DAY MESSAGE

2006

During this year, I have participated in several meetings including the Forum of Grossarl in Austria, the sub-regional gathering of West Europe in Clervaux, in Luxembourg, and the International Jamboree of the Catholic Scout Association of Portugal, in Sao Jacinto.

Our scout and guide laws state that : “a Scout/Guide is a friend to all and a brother/sister to every other Scout/Guide”. During those different meetings, I could really acknowledge that, paraphrasing what the late President Houphouët-Boigny wrote about Peace, Friendship is not a word, it is a behaviour. What a joy it was to meet all together for moments of real fellowship!

We owe all this to our founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and his wife Lady Olave; so it is with eternal gratitude that we'll celebrate, during the coming year, the Centenary of the first camp for boys which B-P organised. When he organised this first camp, could B-P ever have thought that, 100 years later, young people would still be Scouting, but adapting to the world as it is at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Could he imagine that those who participated in scout and guide activities when they were young, would meet again, years, or even decades, later in their own National Scout and Guide Fellowships or Guilds, which make up our International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF)?

The spirit of the fire that B-P lit 100 years ago is still alive. To celebrate this Flame and its Spirit, ISGF have agreement with the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) to launch this symbolic project: lighting a Flame at the Founder's grave and bringing it to the Centenary Jamboree in UK.

May this coming year of the Centenary of Scouting represent for scouts and guides of all generations a year of real friendship, a year to begin a new Scouting Century during which Peace might reign in the world.

Having been reminded of our scout and guide laws, let us each continue, to be a friend to all mankind.

Martine Lévy

ISGF World Committee Chairman

Dear friends, [These few lines have been written in July 2006.](#)

## Educate youth for Peace

Believe in Scouting and Guiding and make a difference

« It is easier to make war than peace” wrote Georges Clemenceau, French politician, in 1919.

I have just returned from a fortnight's stay in the Ivory Coast where the fear of war has not disappeared. I am back from the African continent where wars follow coups, where genocides, which are not always referred to as such, are common. Africa is a continent where people want only to live in peace; the wars bring only destitution and hunger to the civil populations. I am back home after two weeks abroad and as I write these lines the war in the Middle East is still going on.

The first words from UNESCO, following the Second World War were:

“The Governments of the States party to this Constitution, on behalf of their peoples declare:

\* *That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be raised;*

\* *That ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause, throughout the history of mankind, of that suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war...”*

Why make these declarations if nothing can be done? Why is the United Nations Organisation powerless in the face of the madness and hate of some men? Why are the voices of the winners of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education not heard? Why do the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize have no means to dissuade?

What is the use of being at the mid-term of the “United Nations Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World”? This is a nice name, but these children are the first victims of those terrible conflicts. Why are we unable to give them the security and happiness of living in peace?

In 1981, the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) was recognised worldwide as the first winner of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education for its important contribution to the education of young people, in a spirit of harmony, aid, peace, friendship and fraternity beyond all boundaries.

WOSM and its sister, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), are granted General Consultative Status by the United Nations. What is this Consultative Status for if they are not listened to after they have been working for worldwide Peace for 100 years? after they have been educating children for 100 years?

In 1907 the founder of Scouting, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, wrote: “*the scout is a friend to all and a brother to all other scouts, no matter to which country, social class or faith the others belong*”.

Why have these Laszlo Nagy's “250 millions of Scouts” (1984), who were trained in Scouting and Guiding, not had their voices heard? Why is it that countless scouts and guides fell on all the fields of honour of the world? Why is it necessary that scouts die, as in Lebanon, working with the Red Cross? Why is it necessary that scouts from Israel die?

In 150 countries of the world 35 million scouts and guides who “promote friendship among men” have an important role to play, more so now than ever before. Do they know, as their centenaries of 2007 and 2010 approach, how to show that, with no fear of distraction, they are still very strong and have a bright future in front of them, even if they are sometimes called militarists or old-fashioned. Listen to them!

Will our Adult Scout and Guide members of ISGF be able to join the young Scouts and Guides in their fight for PEACE?

Believe in our Scouting and in our Guiding.

Martine Levy, ISGF World Committee Chairman