

Report of the Secretary General AMI  
Given at the General Assembly in MARIASTEIN / SWITZERLAND  
on 03. September 2007

Excellencies, Generals, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Friends of AMI, Sisters and  
Brothers in Jesus Christ!

**Grüezi mitenand in der wunderschönen Schweiz!**

Let me introduce myself first, my name is Lieutenant Colonel Michael JEDLIČKA from Austria, I am the Secretary General of the Apostolate Militaire International and would like to warmly welcome you here to the Kurshaus Kreuz in Mariastein.

As our president has mentioned already, we can say that the year 2007 was full of efforts to enhance our worldwide network of the Lay Apostolate of Catholic Soldiers. As the AMI- Secretary General my prime responsibility is the matter of organisation. This function and the representation of my country Austria is a pleasure and honour for me. Therefore, please allow me to thank my assistants, without whom I would not have been able to execute my office. First, I would like to thank my dear wife Katja.

Katja, I thank you for your understanding and your constant endeavour to help me, whenever I need you. I am very happy that you could come with me to the annual AMI-congress this year for the first time.

And of course, special thanks to my assistants at the secretariat, Staff Sergeant Markus STROMBERGER and Warrant Officer Leopold GANSTER.

In particular, I would like to thank our hosts here. After we had received a definitive positive reply last autumn about Switzerland being the host of our conference this year a very constructive and fruitful cooperation between you and me has developed subsequently. Our special gratitude has to go to Mr. Peter HÄNGGI who is the initiator and pioneer of the project "AMI-Conference-Switzerland". At the same moment we also need to honour Mr. Urs AEBI, chief of the Swiss Army's Religious Ministerial Office who was in charge for the preparations and set the groundwork for the outline of our conference.

Last but not least I thank Senior Chief Chaplain Daniel BACHMANN for a splendid preparation of the Liturgy.

As Col KLOSS has stated already, it is a particular interest of mine to re-engage formerly active AMI-members and associated countries: Unfortunately we had to face a few disappointments in that regard. Many of my attempts to get in contact with formerly active members and associated countries were unsuccessful and remained without reply. This experience is a setback, of course, and I have to admit that I had a hard time to overcome my frustration sometimes.

Therefore, it is a special pleasure and appreciation that we were able to establish a fresh link with the Philippines and Spain eventually. More than that, we have the great opportunity to welcome and meet the delegation of Spain. This is very important

because both of these countries have contributed so much to AMI already in the past. Welcome home to our organisation! I am looking forward to having you as active partners once again for a common prosperous future of our efforts and ideals. Unfortunately the Philippines could not join our conference this year because of political troubles in their country. They asked me to express their best regards to all of you

Once again I would like to repeat the plea of our president to the delegates for helping to establish old but also new contacts. To support these goals I'd like to ask the attending priests in particular since your international relations can contribute tremendously. As a first step I'll disseminate a list of those countries without any liaison. All addresses and references you may consider useful will update or complement our contact register then.

This leads me to the topic of finances since most of the member-states without contact also have not forwarded their membership dues. According to the statutes of AMI this would be reason to suspend them as members. However, we want to avoid this for the time being and seek an acceptable solution for both sides provided we can communicate with these members.

I am also positive about agreeing on a financial arrangement and mutual AMI regulation as Col KLOSS has addressed this already in his speech. Our proposal as a baseline can be found as attachment in the welcome papers.

In addition there is the information about the revised draft AMI-statutes as they were agreed upon at the last year's meeting in NAIROBI and have been acknowledged by the Vatican meanwhile. In order to finalize the statutes until the end of the conference I may encourage the English native speakers in the audience in particular to feel free to correct the draft text if there are any semantic faults of the English language.

I am sure that this conference represents an important step in the history of AMI. Breeching decisions affecting our future as catholic soldiers and Christians have to be made consensually. Therefore I am very glad and grateful for the splendid preparation by and cooperation with our friends in Switzerland providing the foundation for a successful conference. It is a pleasure to welcome Professor RIES who is an expert with international reputation and will provide us with a speech. Other interesting lectures will be given by Brigadier EDLINGER from Austria and Mr. Tony HILL, director of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service in Geneva.

Another important step was initiated last year in Kenya which is the establishment of a permanent working group. That group continues throughout the year with all necessary issues until the upcoming Annual General Assembly, where it should report about it. Our comrades from the Netherlands have agreed to be ready to take over the responsibility as upcoming hosts for the Working Group. I'd like to thank LtCol Gerard DYKERS for his industrious efforts as head of this permanent working group, which is not an easy task.

As you might remember delegates of the following countries were assigned to this Working Group:

- a. AUSTRIA
- b. BELGIUM
- c. KENYA
- d. NETHERLANDS
- e. PORTUGAL
- f. SLOVENIA

It will be tasked with following topic:

“The Christian soldier confronting the challenges of intercultural conflict”.

- Examination of conflicts AMI-member-countries are involved
- Roots of the conflict
- Cultural background
- Role of religions and churches
- Goals and *end state* (?) guidelines for the Christian Soldier

Members of the Delegation for this Working Group should have been nominated until 20th December 2006 to the Secretary General.

Nevertheless, with many E-mails and telephone calls, it took until June 2007 to get the names of the delegations. It is the merits of LtCol Gerard DYKERS of the Netherlands alone that a common contribution could be achieved. Unfortunately, since that work has been so time-consuming there was no opportunity this year anymore to organize a first meeting. That brings me to our request to take your commitments to the permanent working group seriously and timely. The working group cannot function without your readiness to invest some time and keep in touch with LtCol Gerard DYKERS constantly and to participate in the meetings. Travel costs are covered by AMI as you know.

Finally let me bring forward a special point once again:

For the first time in the history of AMI an Annual General Assembly was conducted in an African country. We deeply thank our Kenyan hosts for their hospitality and their excellent organization of our conference. I am sure that I can speak in the name of all participants of our Annual General Assembly, so I want to stress that we were deeply impressed and excited about the warm welcome, the inimitable hospitality and organization and also the wonderful arrangement of the supporting programme of this conference!

May such a good AMI conference in Africa be repeated often again!

God bless you all.

**Michael JEDLIČKA**

**Lieutenant Colonel**

**AMI Secretary General**

**Members of the AMI without any liaison**

Celam  
Colombia  
Croatia  
France  
Ghana  
Italy

**Associated Members of the AMI without any liaison**

Argentina  
Canada  
Chile  
Congo Brazzaville  
Czech Republic  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
Estonia  
Hungary  
Indonesia  
Latvia  
Norway  
Peru  
Poland  
Romania  
South Africa  
South Korea  
Sweden  
Ukraine