

LtCol Michael JEDLIČKA  
AMI Secretary General  
Am Sportplatz 22, A-2191 SCHRICK  
AUSTRIA

Tel. 0043 / 676 / 756 / 4132  
Fax 00 43 / 2574 / 28480  
E-mail: [ami.jedlicka@aon.at](mailto:ami.jedlicka@aon.at) or  
[secretarygeneral@ami-international.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@ami-international.org)

To the  
Catholic Military Bishops

To the Members and Friends  
of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI)

Your Eminence, Your Excellency, Most Reverend Military Bishop,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Members and Friends of AMI,

this year's General Assembly and Conference of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) was held in Mariastein, Switzerland, from 01 to 07 September 2007.

For documentation of this Annual General Assembly all topics, presentations and results of all working groups and also a collection of photos will be attached on this DVD.

**Best wishes - Yours in our Lord sincerely**

***Michael JEDLIČKA***

Lieutenant Colonel  
AMI Secretary General

**Apostolate Militaire International (AMI)**  
**Summary of the „General Assembly and Conference 2007 in Mariastein,**  
**Switzerland, 01 to 07 September 2007“**

For the first time in the history of AMI an Annual General Assembly was conducted in Switzerland. We kindly thank our Swiss hosts for their shown exemplary hospitality and their excellent organization of our conference.

After we had received a definitive positive reply last autumn about Switzerland being the host of our conference in 2007, a very constructive and fruitful cooperation between our host and the secretary general 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 the realisation of this conference and who set the groundwork for the outline of our conference. He and his team have done an excellent job.

Especially I want to thank **Senior Chief Chaplain Daniel BACHMANN** for a splendid preparation of the Liturgy and for his special support of the organisation of this conference.

**Swiss Brigadier Dominique ANDREY**, the Assistant Chief of Staff Personnel Armed Forces deserves our special gratitude. He established the preconditions to conduct our Annual General Assembly in Switzerland with a well organised performance.

As I did in the summary of our last year’s conference in Kenya, I am sure that I can speak in the name of all participants of our Annual General Assembly. I want to point out that we were deeply impressed and excited about the warm welcome, the special hospitality and organization and also the wonderful arrangement of the supporting programme of this conference.

For documentation of this Annual General Assembly all topics, presentations and results of all working groups and also a collection of photos will be attached on this DVD.

**For the summary of contents subsequent information has to be mentioned:**

The Annual General Assembly 2007 was highlighted with  
**“Strengthening Christian Values within Armed Forces Worldwide”**

1. Based on the following presentations, which were well prepared and carried out with enormous engagement by Professor Dr. Markus RIES from Switzerland and Brigadier Mag. Karl EDLINGER from Austria:

- **Ecumenical experiences in Switzerland**
- **Can international humanitarian law substitute Christian values?**

Separate working groups were implemented to discuss the subtopic about humanitarian law and Christian values and about the proposal of the new AMI-folder. The results are available.

2. It was unanimously agreed to continue the work of the **“Permanent Working Group”** throughout the year with all necessary issues until the upcoming Annual General Assembly where it should report about it.

This Working Group will be chaired by LtCol (R) Gerard DYKERS from the Netherlands and assisted by our ecclesiastical assistant bishop's curate Monsignore Dr. Werner FREISTETTER and 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 religious and churches
- Goals and end state  
→ guidelines for the Christian Soldier

It is the merits of LtCol (R) Gerard DYKERS from the Netherlands that a common contribution could be achieved and presented during this year's General Assembly. Unfortunately in 2007, before our annual conference, there was no opportunity to organize a first meeting of the members of our permanent working group. 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 (R) Gerard DYKERS constantly and to participate in the meetings. Travel costs are covered by AMI as you know.

As a result of our permanent working group the timetable for the period until the conference in 2008 will be attached on this DVD.

3. AMI Secretary General has presented all planned changes of the Statutes which were unanimously agreed by all eligible to vote delegates.
4. AMI Secretary General has presented all details about the financial order of the AMI which were unanimously agreed by all eligible to vote delegates.
5. The Financial report 2006 could not be presented because of the absence of our financial assistant WOI GANSTER from AUSTRIA, who was on mission at the Austrian boarder. The Financial report 2006/2007 will be presented during the Annual General Assembly in 2008.
6. After long discussions about the proposal of the new AMI-folder it was unanimously agreed to establish a **“Project-Team”** which starts to work with the ideas to create a new AMI-folder, a flyer and a comprehensive internet performance. This **“Project-Team”** will be chaired by Nelleke SWINKELS from the Netherlands and continues throughout the year with all necessary issues until the upcoming Annual General Assembly where it should report about it.

The following delgates were assigned to be integrated within the **“Project-Team”**:

- Captain Annie WALSCHARTS (Belgium)
  - Major Andreas PREUSS (Germany)
  - Major Ambrose SIGUNA (Kenya)
7. According to a suggestion from Nigeria every country had the opportunity to present the specific situation of the Lay Apostolate and of the Military Chaplaincy at least by a 10 minute lasting contribution.
  8. According to a suggestion from Kenya it was commonly agreed that in some cases (this includes for example the African countries) invitations for the next conference should be sent first to the official addresses of the armed forces of each member country and of the associated countries. Therefore the team of the AMI secretary general needs these addresses as soon as possible. Please send your answers per e-mail to the Secretary General until

**10. January 2008.**

No answer until the above mentioned date means that your country or other countries you know need special invitation letters for the official addresses of the armed forces.

9. Colonel (GS) KLOSS informed about the new AMI-homepage. You are able to visit this homepage by using these addresses:
  - [ami-international.org](http://ami-international.org)
  - [apostolatmilitaireinternational.com](http://apostolatmilitaireinternational.com)

Additional there are two new e-mail addresses for the AMI-President and the AMI-Secretary General:

- [president@ami-international.org](mailto:president@ami-international.org)
- [secretarygeneral@ami-international.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@ami-international.org)

because we want to link the AMI-homepage with the homepage of your national organisation, we need the adress of your homepage. Please sent this adress to the above mentioned address: [president@ami-international.org](mailto:president@ami-international.org). Please send to the same address all the ideas you have to improve our homepage and inform us as well about mistakes you recognize.

10. After the report of Mr. Tony HILL from the “UN/Non Governmental Liaison Service” in Geneva and the constructive discussion about Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). LTC JEDLIČKA informed comprehensively about pros and cons of such a status for AMI. A final referendum about AMI’s possible status as NGO took place which was unanimously agreed by 5 of all eligible to vote delegates. 2 delegates abstained from voting.
11. Because of the end of the election period of the AMI Presidency and the AMI Secretary General in December 2008 we kindly ask all member countries, who are interested in the function of the AMI Secretary General or the AMI Presidency, to nominate a team for the elections in 2008.

Please give us your election proposals until

**10. January 2007.**

12. For 2008 Nigeria has offered to be the host country the AMI-members during the Annual General Assembly. Unfortunately, nobody of our friends from Nigeria joined our conference in Mariastein. So we didn’t know anything about the preparations for the conference in 2008.

We are thankful, that the Netherlands offered to be the host of our conference in 2008.

All AMI member countries have recommended that the AMI executive committee should decide about the venue of the Annual General Assembly 2008 until

**01. November 2007**

after a consultation with our friends from Nigeria and from the Netherlands. This consultation was already held and we decided that the 2008 conference will take

place in the Netherlands. Nigeria has the opportunity to present its concept during the 2008 conference, so we can decide about a conference in Nigeria in 2009.

The main topic will stay the same. Colonel ANAMI from Kenya informed the delegates about his suggestion turning around the conference to include spiritual nourishment and evangelism. AMI President Colonel (GS) KLOSS invited him to present his ideas within the Annual General Assembly 2008. This idea will be included in the timetable of the conference. The delegates agreed concurring to give more time in the schedule for the presentations of the delegations concerning the conference theme and to invest more time for discussions about the results of the working groups.

Other topics for our conference in 2008 should be nominated until to the Secretary General:

**10. January 2007.**

Finally I am happy to inform you that the next AMI-general assembly will be organised by our friends from the Netherlands in **September 2008**. Details about the location and the exact time period of this conference will be distributed as soon as possible or you will find them on our homepage.

**Best wishes - Yours in our Lord sincerely**

***Michael JEDLIČKA***

Lieutenant Colonel  
AMI Secretary General