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March 31, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: CAN Affiliates and Subscribers to CAN NEWS

FROM: Ronald N. Loomis
President

SUBJECT: Update from the National Board of Directors

INTRODUCTION

This communication is intended to provide information to affiliates and individual subscribers to the CAN News on behalf of the 1988-89 national Board of Directors. We want to report on national activities since our election at the 1988 National Conference in October, and on decisions made during our November and January meetings. We invite your comments and observations in response, which may be sent to me or any other Board Member through the National Office.

NATIONAL OFFICE

Activity at the national office in Chicago continues to increase. Telephone calls have increased 244%! Incoming mail has increased 55% and out going mail has increased 72%. As a result of the increasing demand for services from the general public, affiliates, media, law enforcement, attorneys, clinicians, educators, and others, and in view of our successful fund raising efforts last year, the Board has decided to implement the following actions to improve National Office services:

- granted salary and wage increases to all staff, which had been deferred
- added one half-time clerical person last fall and one full-time clerical person this spring
- added an additional telephone line and associated equipment
- purchased additional computer hardware, thanks to a grant of \$ 10,000 from a private foundation
- moved to larger and more suitable offices
- began installing a computerized data base management system for all national office functions

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Cult Awareness Network
(Formerly Citizens Freedom Foundation) is
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Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter continues to be a timely and valuable resource for our varied and diverse subscribers, thanks to excellent editing by Cynthia Kisser. A contribution of \$ 2,000 from Charles Brienig, has enabled us to send the CAN NEWS to 80 members of congress! Others of you can arrange to have the newsletter sent to a congressman in your area at the rate of \$ 15 each. We have re-established a national Newsletter Committee, chaired by Patricia Ryan, to continue to monitor and improve the Newsletter. Please send your comments and suggestions directly to her.

JONESTOWN COMMEMORATION

The tenth anniversary of the Jonestown tragedy was recognized in many and various ways around the world. We are grateful to the Washington D. C. Affiliate, for organizing the national observance at the Jefferson Memorial, and to the Northern California Affiliate for organizing a memorial service at the former Peoples' Temple site near San Francisco, which was attended by many persons who lost family members in Jonestown. During the weeks leading up to the anniversary, members of the CAN National Board and CAN Affiliates spoke at many conferences and public gatherings and on countless radio and television programs. They also provided information for numerous newspaper and magazine articles. On behalf of the Board, I want to express our sincere appreciation to all of you, for your contributions towards CAN'S central purpose of "educating the general public regarding the dangers of destructive cults," through Jonestown commemoration activities. We are especially grateful to Patricia Ryan and Cynthia Kisser, who contributed a tremendous amount of time making radio and television appearances, and granting numerous media interviews. 3

CONFERENCES

The 1988 National Conference in Portland, Oregon was very successful, although attendance was down slightly due to the location in the Northwest, which is a considerable distance from the majority of CAN subscribers. The conference contributed \$12,000 to CAN National, thanks to the excellent management of the CAN Portland Affiliate, particularly Anne and Adrian Greek. Thanks!!

Planning is well underway for the 1989 National Conference in the New York City area next October 27-29, 1989. You will be receiving descriptive material in a few months.

CAN National is also assisting with two regional conferences this spring, in Madison, Wisconsin and in Dallas, Texas, both on April 28-29.

We would welcome invitations from affiliates to serve as hosts for future CAN National or Regional Conferences. We try to move the conferences to various parts of the country. We urge your affiliate, perhaps working with other affiliates in your area, to consider hosting a CAN Conference. (Three affiliates combined to host both the Pittsburgh and New York National Conferences.) You would receive lots of assistance and support from the Board and from the National Office. Please contact Carol Giambalvo, who is Chair of the Conference Committee, if you are interested.

INTERNATIONAL CULT EDUCATION PROGRAM (ICEP)

The ICEP Program, which we have undertaken jointly with the American Family Foundation (AFF), continues to expand as the focus of our educational thrust. ICEP Executive Director Marcia Rudin and I have made presentations at several conferences and professional meetings sponsored by Higher Education Professional Associations whose members on college and university campuses can utilize ICEP materials and resources to present cult awareness educational programs for their students. The response has been extremely positive, and the ICEP membership is growing. ICEP also co-sponsored a conference on March 9, for clinicians, counselors, clergy, and others concerned about the cult phenomenon in Providence, Rhode Island, together with the CAN Rhode Island affiliate and AFF.

RITUALISTIC ABUSE AND SATANISM

A special task force appointed by the Board, chaired by Bette Naysmith of Chicago, is continuing to study the problem of ritualistic abuse and satanism. They have been asked to recommend the most appropriate role for CAN and its affiliates in responding to this growing problem. The task force has assembled an impressive array of resource materials and information, to assist persons who are dealing with satanic activities. In areas where there is evidence of teenage experimentation, we are encouraging the formation of community-wide task forces, including representatives from all agencies likely to have an interest in youth, to develop preventive education programs and strategies, and to support interventions where necessary.

PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS

We are experiencing considerable interest in the cult phenomenon from psychiatric hospitals all over the country. In recent months, CAN National Board Members and Affiliates have co-sponsored conferences or made major presentations at psychiatric hospitals in Denver, Colorado; Providence, Rhode Island; New York City; and Dallas, Texas. CAN Dallas has made presentations to 10 hospitals in their area! We urge others of you to explore possible interest from psychiatric hospitals in your area. Eventually, this may represent another alternative for assisting exiting cult members. For information, contact Nelda Neale, Chair of the CAN National Committee on Psychiatric Hospitals.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A summary financial report for 1988 is enclosed for your information. Treasurer Virginia Hulet continues to do a remarkable job of overseeing CAN's financial operations. During her three year term, she has systematized and computerized all financial procedures through the transition to the new national office location and has established superb financial reporting systems. At the end of her term in November, we will be transferring routine financial transactions back to the National Office. Virginia, we cannot possibly thank you enough for all that you have done for CAN and for the many ways in which you have contributed to the enhanced professionalization of our organization!