



Laszlo Nagy (1921 - 2009)

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Dr. Laszlo Nagy of Geneva, Switzerland became Secretary-General of the World Scout Organization May 1, 1968. Mr. Nagy was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1921, and it was while growing up there that he discovered Scouting and went on to become Assistant Scoutmaster. One of the highlights of his Scouting experience was to attend the 4th World Scout Jamboree held in Gödöllő, Hungary in 1933. Nearly 26,000 Scouts attended that event.

Dr. Nagy received a Masters in sociology and law, and a PhD in political science. He was also a graduate of the Business Administration School of Geneva. He studied many years under the direction of Professor Piaget, the world famous child psychologist. Subsequently he became the Director of Study and Head of the Department of Research and Documentation at the world famous Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

Dr. Nagy was also a reputed journalist and author. He was Foreign Editor of the "Gazette de Lausanne", Switzerland. Internationally he was recognised as an authority on the problems of Eastern European countries and of Africa South of the Sahara. The books he has authored include: "Imre Nagy", "Katanga", "Lenin" and "History of People's Democracies".

His next major contact with Scouting came when the Ford Foundation sponsored a study of World Scouting and appointed the Graduate Institute of International Studies, for the project. Mr. Nagy undertook the actual study during 1965-67 and published the "Report on World Scouting" in June 1967.

In the course of the study, much data was compiled for the first time about worldwide Scouting, with many international trips made and countless interviews held. In the report, Mr. Nagy analysed and defined both the problems and strengths of World Scouting.

The 1967 World Scout Conference accepted the Nagy Report with its many recommendations for the improvement of World Scouting and its reorganisation. The Conference also directed the move of the Bureau from Ottawa, Canada to Geneva, effective 1 May 1968.

Dr. Nagy was married to the former Monique Cuendet, Genevoise artist, and they have two sons, Antoine (born in 1958), Laurent (born in 1960) and a daughter Anns Valerie (born in 1962).

It was with deep sorrow that we recorded the death of Dr. Laszlo Nagy on Friday 18 December in Geneva. He played a vital role in reforming World Scouting and his memory will remain with us for a long time.