



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

NATIONAL OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS / 109 SECOND ST., N.E. / WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 / (202) 544-337
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MINUTES OF THE SRILA PRABHUPADA DISCIPLE MEETING

HELD AT NEW VRINDABAN ON SEPT. 16-20, 1985

Chairman - Bahudak das
Secretary - Krishna Gopal das
Sargent at Arms - His Holiness Trivikrama Swami

Attendance: Aside from the residents of New Vrindaban approximately 300 devotees attended the week long meeting. The following areas of the world were represented, however this is only a partial list:

U.S.A.: 143 (NY=25, PA=9, CA=39, DC=6, MI=13, GA=3, TX=9, NC=1, MD=6, CONN=2, MISS=3, IL=3, OH=2, MASS=4, VA=1, WV=3, WASH=1, HAW=2, FL=4, CO=1, NJ=1, WISC=1, TN=3, LO=1)

INDIA: 15 (AHMEDABAD=1, BANGALADESH=1, BOMBAY=3, CALCUTTA=4, MAYAPUR=1, NEW DELHI=2, ORISSA=1, VRINDABAN=2)

CANADA: 12
CENTRAL AMERICA: 1
COLUMBIA: 1
BRAZIL: 2
BOLIVIA: 1
PERU: 1
PORTUGAL: 1
SPAIN: 8
ENGLAND: 10
SWEDEN: 4
FRANCE: 11
SWITZERLAND: 1
IRELAND: 1
PUERTO RICO: 1

ITALY: 1
W. GERMANY: 1
JAPAN: 1
HONG KONG: 2
PHILLIPINES: 2
ISREAL: 1
IRAN: 1
AUSTRALIA: 17
S. AFRICA: 2
NETHERLANDS: 1
GUYANA: 1
AFRICA: 2
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: 1
ECUADOR: 1

GRAND TOTAL= 247

This meeting and its purpose was duely called by the GBC Chairman resulting from the North American GBC meeting held on Aug 18-19th, 1985.

Aside from the GBC resolutions poised at the meeting the following resolutions were passed by the general body of Prabhupada disciples.

I. FORMAT FOR THE MEETING

The following are items of procedure that have been voted on and passed by the Srila Prabhupada disciple meeting on Monday, September 16, 1985.

1. Method of presentations should be oral.
2. Attendance - Persons who have been initiated by Srila Prabhupada can attend the entire meetings.
3. All Srila Prabhupada's disciples can preach.
4. All Srila Prabhupada's disciples can take part in the straw votes and in special meetings like the GBC, Temple President, Sannyasis meetings then only those persons who are of the category of the meeting structure can vote.
5. The speaking time be limited to 5 minutes per person on a topic.
6. Balavantha Prabhu will chair the meeting. *
7. The Chairman will control the topic of discussion with the help of an elected Sargent at Arms.
8. That the topic of the guru and disciplic succession in ISKCON, until resolved, be the only topic for discussion in our meeting, and that the meeting continue as long as needed to reach a satisfying consensus among the devotees present.

These procedural arrangements were sent to the GBC Body and were approved by the GBC Body.

* Chair was given over to Bahudak das while the GBC met privately.

II. PROPOSAL PASSED

We request the GBC to consider the following items of concern and, during its meetings here, to resolve what to do about them:

1. How to improve the effectiveness of the privilege committee in investigating and responding to managerial or spiritual inconsistencies in ISKCON. We request some non GBC members be added to the committee. Straw vote passed.
2. How to accomodate Hari Vilas Prabhu and Vegavan Prabhu, and the devotees working with them, in their desires to preach in France and Scandinavia respectively. Straw vote passed.
3. How to accomodate Prthu Prabhu in his desire to preach in Germany and German speaking countries. Straw vote passed.
4. What is the GBC body to do to improve the GBC management situation of large zones, especially those not geographically contiguous. For Mayapur.

III. PROPOSAL

Whereas, Srila Prabhupada, our Divine Spiritual Master and Founder Acarya of ISKCON, built a house in which the whole world can live, and presently managerial problems exist within our society as a result of the ZONAL ACARYA SYSTEM, with renewed faith in the Governing Body Commission we submit these problems to the Body to solve by the 500th Anniversary of Shri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. We realize these problems require adding new men to the GBC Body and may include removing existing members to help in managing the geographical preaching boundries. It may also require creating GBC members who have no geographical preaching field, but may oversee, on behalf of Srila Prabhupada, a particular Ministry.

The following is a list of problem areas that we feel should be dealt with immediately:

1. The effectiveness of the privilege committee in investigating and responding to a mangerial, spiritual, or philosophical inconsistencies in ISKCON. Should some non-GBC member be added to the committee?
2. The state of affairs in France with regard to the temple debts in Paris and the acceptance of Hari Vilas' preaching effort in that country.
3. Arranging a preaching field in Germany for Prthu Das and a preaching field for Vegavan in Scandinavia with a view toward cooperative preaching with the GBC in charge.
4. The situation that exist within some zones like Srila Ramesvara's and Srila Gopal Krsna's, in which they are not geographically contiguous or there may be a lack of genuine cooperative managerial reciprocation.
5. The management of Bhavananda's zone.

IV. PROPOSAL

That the voting structure of the GBC on ALL issues be changed from a 2/3 majority vote to a simple majority vote.

V. PROPOSAL

Taking into consideration the most auspicious 500th Anniversary of Shri Caitanya Mahaprabhu we feel that the following steps should be taken now so that ISKCON can be viewed as a honest representation of Vaishnava behavior to the members of the Vaishnava community and Society at large.

RESOLVE THAT:

1. The main priority of the managing authority of ISKCON, the GBC, is to finish the construction of Srila Prabhupada's Samadhi.

2. In the mood of Vaishnavas, the members of this combined body of Srila Prabhupada's disciples comprised of GBC members, Regional Secretaries, Temple Presidents, Sannyasis and others, officially apologize to all the devotees who have left Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON due to the misapplied structural framework that has now been rectified by the GBC Body.

VI. PROPOSAL

If a proposal sent to the GBC Body by the International Temple Presidents and Sannyasis body is rejected by the GBC, and that proposal, revoted at the Temple Presidents and Sannyasis meeting, receives a 3/4 majority vote, then the GBC must reconsider that proposal and can accept it by a simple majority vote.

VII. PROPOSAL

The body of senior Srila Prabhupada disciples wish to make it known to the GBC Body that they greatly appreciate the enlightened attitude that the GBC body has taken in recognizing the serious concerns of the senior disciples, and also the positive steps they have taken to alleviate their anxieties and to place our society on a spiritually secure footing by which we can all go forward in our preaching work with confidence. In particular this body welcomes the GBC's understanding that the position of zonal acarya is erroneous and a cause of divisions within our society and should be repudiated forthwith. This body also welcomes the progressive position of the GBC concerning the criteria required to enable Srila Prabhupada's disciples to take up his order and legacy to carry on his mission by taking disciples. We are also grateful that certain measures have been taken that will go some way toward rectifying the anomalies alluded to above and that have been recognized by the overwhelming majority of this body. We pledge our support and willingness to cooperate with the GBC to further their work in dealing conclusively with the legitimate concerns of the senior disciples. However, we, as a body, feel that an element of intransigence remains within the GBC that is manifest by their neglect in dealing with Srila Prabhupada's orders regarding the purity of the GBC body. Such neglect indicates partiality on the part of the GBC body, establishes a dangerous precedent that could have serious ramifications for a society and contributes to a possibly dangerous loss of faith on the part of the senior devotees in the body that governs our society.

This body also feels that a full realization of the problems associated with the fallacious acarya concept has not fully matured within the hearts of the GBC members and this is manifest by their reluctance to take all the measures necessary to practically dismantle the zonal, acarya system.

We strongly urge the GBC to follow the spirit of the proposals of this body and to build on the foundation of Krishna Conscious intent that has been established at their present meeting.

NOTE FOR CLARIFICATION

Because of the unique structure of the meeting, procedure was established under the supervision of the GBC Chairman and approved by the GBC Body. It was understood that because of the serious issues discussed devotees would take the time to educate themselves prior to the meeting or during the week long meeting.

It was encouraging to note that since devotees were duly informed both by phone calls and by the letter dated August 26, 1985 many came from as far away as India and Japan with prepared papers concerning the issues discussed. It was also good to see that devotees took the opportunity to consult with their GBC representative to discuss the varying views and concerns aired at the meeting.

It was also decided an ongoing Prabhupada Disciple Association should be formed that would create a journal to provide a forum for philosophical discussions for the unity and betterment of Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON. More information on the Association will be forthcoming.

Finally, a point should be made regarding the "influence" of Shridhar Maharaj on this meeting. It is interesting to note that the main problems that have caused so much disturbance to the assembly of Vaishnavas were appropriately presented by Srila Acaryapada in his paper. The original conception of these problems were introduced to the GBC by Shridhar Maharaj and were adopted by them. Therefore, it seems rather ludicrous to assume that a movement to counteract that influence would be influenced by Shridhar Maharaj.

Bear in mind that the purpose of this meeting was to create an open atmosphere of unity and cooperation among all devotees.