

Criminal Investigations of Executive Council Actions

On March 6, 2007, the Canton Solothurn police and the Solothurn district attorney conducted a search in the Goetheanum. The cause was a criminal charge members of the General Anthroposophical Society had made against the Council. At issue are the costs of the lawsuits of 2003 and 2005, entered into because the Council was dissolving the General Anthroposophical Society by fusing it with a different society of the Council's own construction which lacked any legal or historical basis. The Council burdened the General Anthroposophical Society with the resulting heavy legal expenses of over 800,000 franks, even though the Society was not the defendant or the object of the conflict. The Council justified this action by means of their own re-interpretation of the court judgment.

According to the judgment issued by the High Court of Solothurn in January 12, 2005, the "General Anthroposophical Society (Christmas Conference)" or GAS(CC)/AAG(WT), the Council's name for the society they tried to create, is responsible for all the legal costs. But this artificial society, the reactivation of which the Council attempted in 2002, was declared **nonexistent** in the same judgment, so the judgment goes on to make Virginia Sease, Heinz Zimmermann, Paul Mackay, Bodo von Plato, Sergej Prokofieff, and Cornelius Pietzner jointly responsible for these costs, since **they** were the ones who attempted to found this artificial society. The important point here is that **these six individuals as the sole founders of the GAS(CC)/AAG(WT), but not as the council of the GAS** are **personally** responsible for these costs. The GAS has nothing to do with these lawsuits since it was neither one of the players in it nor an object of contention.

Even though the judgment was so clear on this point, the Council paid the sum with GAS funds, justifying this step with statements which are demonstrably false. In the process, the Council made use of the two similar names ("General Anthroposophical Society" and "General Anthroposophical Society (Christmas Conference)") to confuse members and cause them to forget the true identity of their decades-old GAS.

Numerous members wrote letters of inquiry about this matter to the Council. Many of these were not answered at all, and when Council members did answer them, they merely repeated the private Council interpretation of the judgments. The Council refused to discuss the subject, and in the *Nachrichtenblatt*, too, it was always presented in a misleading fashion. When a motion on this subject was submitted for the 2006 General Members' Meeting, the Council at first refused to accept it, then, when threatened with a lawsuit, said the motion would be heard after all, only to present a countermotion against hearing it at the meeting, so that it never was heard, which meant the subject could not be addressed at the members' meeting, either.

After exhausting every possibility of settling this matter within the Society, members saw no recourse except to go to court in order to assure that the Society would receive its 800,000 franks back.

The members did not undertake this step lightly, but out of deep concern over the current state of affairs within the Society, which seemed troubling enough to justify such a drastic measure. They hope that as the GAS receives restitution, the Society might also pause and reevaluate its affairs and the conditions within it.

The Editor