



Oslo, 10 August 2000

The second ICHS General Assembly, held in Auditorium 2, Building B of the new University of Oslo, was chaired by Prof. Ivan Berend, on Thursday, 10 August 2000 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Attendance:

* **Bureau members:** Ivan T. Berend President; Natalie Zemon Davis, Alexander Tchoubarian, vice-presidents; François Bédarida Secretary General; Pierre Ducrey Treasurer; Jürgen Kocka, Hiroyuki Ninomiya, Eva Österberg, Jean-Claude Robert, Romila Thapar, Rosario Villari, Assessor Members; and also Even Lange, President of the Organising Committee of the 19th International Congress of Historical Sciences. (Apologies: Theo Barker and Ernesto de La Torre Villar, Counsellors).

* representatives of the following National Committees, Affiliated International Organisations and Internal Commissions:

National Committees	Delegates	Deputy Delegates
1 - Albania	Absent	
2 - Germany	Andreas Kunz	
3 - Argentina	Absent	
4 - Australia	Jill Roe	Margaret Mc Donough- Glenn
5 - Austria	Erwin Schmidl	
6 - Belgium	A. Verhulst	
7 - Belarus	Absent	
8 - Brazil	A. Luis Cervo	
9 - Bulgaria	Milem Semkov	
10 - Canada	Greg Kealey	
11 - Chile	Absent	
12 - China	Chongji, Jin	
13 - Cyprus	Absent	
14 - Korea (Séoul)	Yongdeok Kim	
15 - Korea (Pyongyang)	Absent	
16 - Croatia	Absent	
17 - Denmark	Karsten Fledelius	
18 - Spain	Manuel Espadas Burgos	
19 - United States	Anita Jones	
20 - Finland	Matti Klinge	
21 - France	Jean-Pierre Martin	
22 - Great Britain	Kathleen Burk	Michael Biddiss



23 - Greece	Basilique Papoulia	
24 - Guinea	Absent	
25 - Hungary	György Szekely	
26 - India	Romila Thapar	
27 - Ireland	Keith Jeffery	
28 - Iceland	Loftur Guttormsson	A. Agnarsdottir
29 - Israel	Michael Heyd	
30 - Italy	Franco Bolgiani	Edoardo Tortarolo
31 - Japan	Yuzo Itagaki	Masao Nishikawa
32 - Latvia	Evalds Mugurevitsch	
33 - Lithuania	Egidijus Aleksanravicius	
34 - Luxembourg	Paul Spang	
35 - Morocco	A. Kaddouri	
36 - Mexico	Absent	
37 - Mongolia	Absent	
38 - Norway	Francis Sejersted	Nils Ivar Agøy
39 - Netherlands	Hans Blom	Antoon De Baets
40 - Peru	Absent	
41 - Poland	Henryk Samsonowicz	
42 - Portugal	Absent	
43 - Romania	Dan Berindei	Constantin Buse
44 - Russia	Sergei L. Tikhvinski	
45 - Slovakia (Republic of)	Dusan Kovac	
46 - Slovenia	Absent	
47 - South Africa (Republic of)	Elize Van Eeden	
48 - Sweden	Rolf Torstendhal	
49 - Switzerland	Antoine Fleury	
50 - Czech Republic	Vilèm Precan	
51 - Tunisia	Absent	
52 - Turkey	Bahaeddin Yediyildiz	
53 - Ukraine	Iaroslav Isaievich	
54 - Uruguay	Absent	
55 - Vatican (Holy See)	Walter Brandmüller	
56 - Venezuela	Absent	
57 - Viet-nam	Absent	

**Affiliated International
Organisations**1 - International Association
for the study of Southeast
Europe2 - International Association of
Contemporary History of**Delegates**

Razvan Theodorescu

Jacques Bariéty

Deputy Delegates



Europe

3 - International Association of History of Law and Institutions	Laurent Waelkens	Robert Feenstra
4 - International Association of Economic History	Absent	
5 - International Committee for the History of the Second World War	Absent	
6 - Comity Internal d'Histoire de la 2e Guerre mondiale	Henry Rousso	
7 - International Commission for the History of Historiography	Georg Iggers	
8 - International Comm. on the History of Social Movements and Structures	Jürgen Kocka	
9 - International Comm. on Comparative Ecclesiastic History	Brenda Bolton	
10 - International Commission on Maritime History	Absent	
11 - International Comm. on Comparative Military History	P. Kamphuis	
12 - Commission on the History of International Relations	Brunello Vigezzi	
13 - International Commission on the History of the French Revolution	Michel Vovelle	
14 - International Numismatic Comm.	Absent	
15 - International Commission of Slavic Studies	Edward Thaden	
16 - International Comm. on the History of State Assemblies	John Rogister	
17 - International Comm. on the History of Universities	H. Robinson-Hammerstein	H. de Ridder-Symoens
18 - International Comm. on the History of Cities	Absent	
19 - International Fed. of Societies and Institutes for Renaissance Studies	Absent	
20 - International Fed. for Research on the History of Women	Nancy A. Hewitt	
21 - Instituto Panamericano de Geografia e Historia	Francisco Henriquez Solano	
22 - Intern. Association of Histor. Soc. for the Study of Jewish History	Michael Meyer	
23 - Intern. Standing Conference for the History of Education	Jeroen Dekker	
24 - Society for the Study of Crusades and the Latin East	Absente	
25 - International Society for the Didactics of History	Karl Pellens	
26 - International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport	Absente	
27 - Union of Arab Historians	Absent	
28 - Unione internaz. degli	Absent	



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Internal Commissions	Delegates	Deputy Delegates
1 - Association against the Manipulation of History (MURS)	Absent	
2 - African Historians Association	Absent	
3 - International Committee on Latin Paleography (CIPL)	Absent	
4 - International Com. for Historical Metrology (CIMH)	Jean-Claude Hocquet	
5 - International Commission on Historical Demography	Absent	
6 - International Commission on Diplomacy	Absent	
7 - International Commission on the History of the Russian Revolution	Absent	
8 - International Association for Media and History (IAMHIST)	Absent	
9 - International Commission for Historical Journals	Absent	
10 - MAJESTAS (Study of Sovereignty)	Absent	
11 - Peace History Society	Absent	
12 - Study Group on the History of the Cold War	Alexander Tchoubarian	

Agenda

1. Approval of the Secretary General's Activities Report.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Report.
3. Vote on the venue for the 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences in 2005.
4. Discussion on the 1995-2000 quinquennium and the future.
5. Election of the 2000-2005 Bureau.
6. Other matters.

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Pres. Ivan Berend opened the meeting by making a few remarks and then called for the vote on the first two items of the Agenda.

1. – Approval of the Secretary General's Activities Report

The Secretary General's Activities Report was unanimously approved.

2. – Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Report



The members of the General Assembly took note of, but had no questions about the financial documents that the Treasurer presented on behalf of the Bureau. Pres. Berend gave the floor to the auditors who had been appointed at the preceding Assembly, Prof. Kathleen Burk and Prof. Gregory Kealey, who read their report (text appended).

The members of the General Assembly unanimously approved the report and released the Bureau's responsibility for financial management of years 1997, 1998 and 1999.

In answer to a delegate's question on ways to encourage certain National Committees to reorganise themselves and, in particular, pay their annual membership dues regularly, the Treasurer said that as an international overall organisation, ICHS could not intervene in the internal affairs of the National Committees which should ensure their management efficiency themselves.

3. – Vote on the venue of the 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences in 2005.

A brief discussion was held prior to voting on the candidacy presented by Australia. The Assembly unanimously voted in favour of Sydney. The delegates from Australia were very pleased with this decision and thanked the members of the General Assembly.

4. – Discussion on the 1995-2000 quinquennium and the future

Pres. Ivan Berend gave the floor to the audience and reminded them that the General Assembly provided an especially favourable opportunity for ICHS members to express themselves and convey their views.

Several delegates criticised the procedure for electing members to the Bureau. The proposals from the Nominating Committee are presented so late that the General Assembly members do not have time for careful thought and therefore cannot vote on them with full knowledge of the facts.

Prof. Rolf Torstendahl (Sweden) suggested that in the future the Nominating Committee's list of proposals should be circulated one month in advance.

Pres. Berend took note of the suggestion and added that it would be up to the new Bureau to deal with the problem. François Bédarida pointed out the need to respect the ICHS Constitution, in particular Art. 5 on procedures to be followed by the Nominating Committee.

Prof. Vigezzi said he hoped that the member organisations would be consulted more often and that their suggestions would be taken into account. Furthermore, he regretted that the papers of the international commissions had not been published in the proceedings.

François Bédarida said that none of them had sent in their papers early enough. Even Lange, also on this issue, said that any papers that reached the Norwegian Organising Committee before 1 October 2000 would be included in the CD-ROM that is going to be produced.



Concerning the Sydney Congress, Prof. Keith Jeffery (Ireland) suggested that the Bureau launch an appeal for funds to be used as grants to facilitate the participation of young historians and specialists from the less endowed countries. The Treasurer took note of this suggestion and thanked Prof. Jeffery.

5. – Election of the 2000-2005 Bureau

Natalie Davis, the First Vice President, recalled that the Nominating Committee's proposals for the 2000-2005 Bureau had already been presented at the first General Assembly on 6 August.

- **President:** Jürgen **Kocka** (Germany)
- **First Vice President:** Eva **Österberg** (Sweden)
- **Second Vice President:** Romila **Thapar** (India)
- **Secretary general:** Jean-Claude **Robert** (Canada)
- **Treasurer:** Pierre **Ducrey** (Switzerland)
- **Assessor Members:** Gregory **Bongard-Levin** (Russia)
Catherine **Coquery-Vidrovitch** (France)
Michael **Heyd** (Israel)
William Chester **Jordan** (United States)
Koichi **Kabayama** (Japan)
José-Luis **Peset** (Spain)
- **Counsellors:** Ivan **Berend** (Hungary/United States)

In the ensuing discussion, Prof. Berindei (Romania) regretted that a long tradition was coming to an end, the tradition that since the beginning of ICHS the post of Secretary General of the International Committee of Historical Sciences had devolved to a French historian. He appreciated that the next candidate for the post of Secretary General was a French-speaking Canadian but feared that the use of the French language, with time, would become thinner and thinner. He also pleaded in favour of German, Spanish and Russian.

Natalie Davis expressed satisfaction with the excellent transition to be expected thanks to the candidacy of Jean-Claude Robert.

A "raised hands" vote was then held.

There were 57 votes (40 from the National Committees and 17 from the Affiliated International Organisations):

- "for" 52
- "against" 0
- "abstentions" 5



After thanking the General Assembly for this large majority, the outgoing president, Ivan Berend, gave the floor to the new Bureau.

Pres. Jürgen Kocka, in turn, thanked the Assembly for the confidence it had just expressed in the new team, which will do its best and continue to work with due scientific rigour. The new Secretary General, Jean-Claude Robert, took the floor and energetically asserted that he would ensure that the French language was not played down in the General Assemblies nor in ICHS' work.

6. – Other matters

— Georg Iggers read a statement concerning the director of the Munich Institut für Zeitgeschichte.

— Renate Bridenthal and Jürgen Kocka presented a draft "resolution" that they would like the General Assembly to adopt as a press release expressing the concern and disapproval of the International Committee of Historical Sciences "about right-wing extremist manifestations and assaults in Germany and other parts of Europe" and condemning "these signs of barbarism", and the serious threat that racism and xenophobia represent "for a democratic and civil society in general and for the work of socially responsible historians in particular".

This press release was co-signed by a handful of members of the General Assembly and gave rise to very abundant discussion. After the authors of the motion explained their arguments, many speakers put forth a different opinion.

François Bédarida said that although, personally, he agreed with the principles set out in the motion, it was not up to ICHS to intervene all the time in the affairs of the world: why not talk about Chechnya or Rwanda or Srebrenica? It is the mission of ICHS to defend and protect persecuted, censured and threatened historians, in the name of freedom of research and freedom to publish (as it did shortly ago at the request of the historians of the Academy of Science of Slovakia), but ICHS cannot and should not replace organisations such as Amnesty International whose vocation is to intervene in such cases. This involves a problem of principle that commits ICHS and its future. Each person, of course, is free to act individually when faced with such unacceptable situations but ICHS, as an institution, is not the right place for this sort of action.

Pres. Berend and Natalie Davis full agreed with the Secretary General. Others, including Prof. John Rogister, also said much the same. After further arguments were brought out, in particular by Prof. Jürgen Kocka and Prof. Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, the text was put to the vote: 35 against, 10 for and 7 abstentions. The motion, thus, was rejected.

— Prof. Brandmüller (Holy See) then took the floor to read a motion-petition against the decline of the classical languages.

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Before the Assembly ended, the new president, Jürgen Kocka, expressed his warmest appreciation to the six outgoing Bureau members: Rosario Villari, Hiroyuki Ninomiya, Alexandre Tchoubarian, Natalie Davis, Ivan Berend, and especially François Bédarida who can never be sufficiently praised for the talent, energy and time that he devoted for the last ten years to the weighty often ingratiating task of Secretary General.