



Berlin, 23 March 2001

Members in attendance : Jürgen Kocka, President, Pierre Ducrey, Treasurer, Jean-Claude Robert, Secretary General

The *Bureau restreint* met on Friday, 23 March 2001 at Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), to review ICHS operations and activities, between regular Bureau meetings of Oslo (August 2000) and Princeton (August 2001).

Agenda:

1. ICHS operations
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Relations between ICHS and Unesco
4. Action plan for the Bureau, 2001-2005
5. Congress of 2005
6. Other matters

1) ICHS operations

The American Historical Association has invited the Bureau to hold its meeting of 2001 in Princeton and organization is progressing. The meeting will be held on two days (Saturday and Sunday) and in addition to current affairs, a short session of presentations by young American scholars will take place. For the General assembly of 2002, the Royal Dutch Historical Association has extended a formal invitation to ICHS. The tentative dates would be September 1st to 3rd.

National Committees and International Affiliated Organisations. Historians from South Africa inquired about the possible revival of the South African National Committee; the Secretary General encouraged them and will try to help as much as possible. The international Commission of Historical Demography has accepted to change its status from an Internal Commission to an International Affiliated Organisation, in compliance with the decision of the General Assembly of Prague.

Internal Commissions. The Secretary General presents a request from a group of historians to establish an Internal Commission to be called Commission internationale pour l'histoire des voyages et du tourisme / International Commission for the History of Travel and Tourism. This is a spin-off of a session during the Oslo Congress and the members of its Bureau provisoire are from a range of different countries. The *Bureau restreint* is in favour of establishing this IC for a period of five years, after which it should transform itself into an IAO (2007). The formal proposal will be made at the regular meeting in Princeton.

2) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gives an overview of the financial situation of ICHS for 2000. The deficit for that year has been substantially reduced in comparison with 1999. However, arrears in annual membership dues cause a cash flow problem and in 2000, seven National Committees and four International Affiliated Organisations have not paid.

The Treasurer brings up the fact that a better balanced international representation on the Bureau will result in increased travel expenses, essentially for the annual Bureau meetings. At its Princeton meeting, the Bureau will have to address this question, but the



Bureau restreint suggests that one annual meeting could be dispensed with, for instance the one following the inter-Congress General Assembly and preceding by two years the Congress (2003).

3) Relations between ICHS and Unesco

Following the report prepared by Professor Jerzy Kloczowski on the joint ICHS-Unesco Committee in October 2000, the Secretary General indicated our interest and wrote to him again in January to enquire about future developments. In March, Unesco reiterated its continuing interest but, due to a financial reorganisation, the decision on the continuation of this committee was postponed.

The biennial meeting of ICPHS (International Council for philosophy and Humanistic Studies) took place in Buenos Aires in October 2000 and the Secretary General represented ICHS at the meeting. The situation of ICPHS has greatly improved and the General Assembly discussed the future policies of the organisation. Aside from publishing *Diogène*, which it intends to continue, the organisation wishes to extend its membership to the rest of the world, especially outside Europe and North America, just as ICHS is trying to do. There will be some real possibilities of collaboration in that direction. On the other hand, ICPHS brings some contributions to ICHS. Some of our member organisations benefit from a publication subsidy and our quinquennial congress receives a small grant from ICPHS to help bring some colleagues from the Third world.

4) Action plan for the Bureau, 2001-2005

The *Bureau restreint* agrees on the necessity to extend ICHS membership by all means. The Congress of 2005 could be useful for that, and so would the joint ICHS-Unesco committee. Accordingly, the program of the Congress will need our special attention.

Three actions are singled out. First we need to increase participation to ICHS activities, especially the Congress. Second, we need to identify regions where ICHS is under-represented and to propose solutions. Third, we need to build synergy with our International Affiliated Organisations and our Internal Commissions to develop and further the internationalisation of the historian's craft.

As a first step in that direction, the President will prepare a mission statement for ICHS which could be used systematically to make our organisation better known and invigorate our own constituent organisations.

5) Congress of 2005

The first call for themes was made in January 2001 to all National Committees, IAO and IC, setting a deadline of September 30 to send proposals to the Secretary General. Already a certain number have replied. All proposals will have to be finalised for January 2002 at the latest. In March-April a subcommittee of the Bureau will have to work out a final proposal to be presented to the Bureau and the General Asssembly of September 2002. The Bureau will have to designate members for this subcommittee during its Princeton meeting.

6) Other matters

The International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography has formally requested that ICHS take the lead to revive the project of an English translation of Karl



Dietrich Erdman's book, *Die Oekumene der Historiker*, published in 1987, an history of ICHS up to 1985 [See Prof. I Veit-Brause review in *History and Theory*, XXIX, 3 (1990) : 358-375]. Following a discussion, the *Bureau restreint* agrees to give one last try. Jürgen Kocka will contact publishers and colleagues on that matter.