



Oslo, 5 August 2000

The Bureau held its last meeting in the 1995-2000 quinquennium at the Grand Hotel, from 4 to 6:45 p.m., the evening before the opening of the 19th International Congress on Historical Sciences.

Members in attendance: Ivan T. Berend, President; Natalie Zemon Davis and Alexander Tchoubarian, Vice Presidents; François Bédarida, Secretary General; Pierre Ducrey, Treasurer; Jürgen Kocka, Hiroyuki Ninomiya, Jean-Claude Robert, Romila Thapar, and Rosario Villari, Assessor Members.

Other attendees: Even Lange, President of the Norwegian Organizing Committee and Thomas Evenson, Head of the Organizing Committee's Secretariat.

Regrets: Eva Österberg, Assessor Member, Theo C. Barker and Ernesto de la Torre Villar, Counsellors.

Agenda:

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the Moscow Bureau meeting (August 1999) and of the of the Lausanne *Bureau restreint* (April 2000)
2. Report on the decisions and proposals of the Nominating Committee
3. Summary of the Secretary General's Activities Report to be presented to the ICHS General Assembly on Sunday, 6 August 2000
4. Treasurer's Financial Report to be presented to the ICHS General Assembly on Sunday, 6 August 2000
 - Position as at 31 December 1997/1998/1999 - Update on outstanding membership due
 - The Web site
5. Latest information on the schedule for the 19th ICHS Congress
 - Opening session, closing session, theme sessions, round-table sessions - Relations with the media, book exhibit, etc. - Workshops on East-Central Europe and on Black Africa
6. Consideration of agenda items for the General Assembly (6-10 August 2000):
 - Vote on the composition of the Bureau 2000-2005 - Admission of new members - Venue for the Congress in 2005
7. Miscellaneous



The President, Ivan Berend, opened the meeting by welcoming all the participants and then gave the floor to François Bédarida.

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the Moscow Bureau meeting (August 1999) and of the Lausanne *Bureau restreint* meeting (April 2000)

After brief discussion, the minutes of the Moscow and the Lausanne meetings were adopted.

2. Nominating Committee

François Bédarida recalled that at its meeting in Moscow on 30 August 1999, the Nominating Committee only managed to draw up a partial list of proposals for the 2000-2005 Bureau. Therefore mail contacts were needed to complete the list, which explains the numerous lengthy correspondence with the Nominating Committee. By March 2000 the list of Bureau members for the next five years was complete and ready for the General Assembly to vote on. François Bédarida read the list. The outgoing Bureau unanimously adopted the proposals from the Nominating Committee. The curriculum vitae of the six new members to be elected to the Bureau are available to all delegates from ICHS member organisations who wish to look at them between the two General Assembly meetings.

3. Secretary General's Report

Preliminary to the Congress, François Bédarida wrote a long activities report which has been distributed to the Bureau members and will be appended to the minutes of the 6 August General Assembly meeting. He therefore decided to present a summary that focused on how ICHS was doing and, more specifically, on the following points.

— Bulletin d'information. As usual, the Secretary General would like to receive the Bureau's opinion on the last issue, a double edition (no. 25-26) for 1999 and 2000 that was published in the spring. He felt that a paper copy of the publication should stay on and be available in the future but that the number to be sent to the national committees and the affiliated international organisations should be reduced from 10 to 5 because of the price and because of doubts concerning onward distribution within these bodies.

— Four applications for membership were submitted for General Assembly approval. There were two applying as national committees from South America (Chile and Peru), one as an Affiliated International Organisation (the International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport) and one as an Internal Commission, headed by Prof. Alexandre Tchoubarian, that will be studying "the cold war" (for a limited period of time).

— Internal Commissions:

. Three of them have completed their dossier for a change of status, viz. International Commission on the History of the French Revolution, the International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE) and the Society for the Study of Crusades and the Latin East.

. In compliance with a decision taken by the Bureau in Moscow, two Commissions, that have not given any sign of life for many years, were removed from the ICHS registers,



viz. the International Commission for the Conservation and Publication of Contemporary Sources and the International Commission for the Application of Quantitative Methods in History (INTERQUANT).

. Negotiations are still underway with the International Association for Media and History (IAMHIST), the International Commission on Historical Demography, the International Commission on the History of the Russian Revolution and the Peace History Society.

. Then there are three Commissions whose membership, because of the nature of the commissions, is small which means that they have very limited resources, viz. the International Commission for Latin Paleography, the International Commission for Historical Metrology, and the International Commission on Diplomacy.

— **ICHS/UNESCO Cooperation**

Two activities should be highlighted:

1. The International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (ICPHS): its activities and authority have been fully reinstated. ICPHS will be holding its 25th General Assembly in Buenos Aires from 25 September to 2 October 2000. The new ICHS Secretary General will represent ICHS.

2. Only the first two of the three fields of study selected by the joint ICHS/UNESCO committee, established in 1996-97, have been carried out. The proceedings of the Lublin conference on Borders and changes in 'national territories' throughout history in East-central Europe, under the supervision of Jerzy Kloczowski, were published in the spring of 2000. Another regional meeting, this time on the history of Black Africa, with many African historians participating, was held in Bamako, Mali, in March 1999, on the theme, History and Perception of Borders in Black Africa from the Middle Ages to the Present, under the supervision of Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch. The Proceedings are currently being prepared. The third regional study, which focused on Latin America, has not been carried out. The East-central Europe and the Black Africa seminars will be discussed at a half-day workshop during the Congress.

It will devolve to the new Bureau to define and possibly further develop this type of cooperation with UNESCO in the future.

— Last, François Bédarida asks Pierre Ducrey to speak on the logo and the ICHS Web site, whose preparation he had in charge.

Pierre Ducrey gave explanations concerning the new ICHS logo, that had been selected by the *Bureau restreint* in April 2000. It will be printed on all the letterheads and on the cover of the next issue of the ICHS Bulletin d'information. The Web site has been on line since 5 July 2000 at the following address:

< <http://www.cish.org> >

Members with an e-mail address are requested to give it to the Treasurer who will put it on the Web site and to establish a link between their site (if they have one) and the ICHS site.

In ending, François Bédarida spoke highly of the unwavering, excellent cooperation with the Norwegian Organizing Committee, in particular the Committee chairman, Prof. Even



Lange, in preparing for the 19th Congress of the International Committee for Historical Sciences, and expressed his heartfelt gratitude.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Bureau then listened to Prof. Pierre Ducrey's presentation of the Financial Report covering 1997, 1998 and 1999, that he intended to submit, for approval by vote, to the ICHS General Assembly.

He explained certain points. The level of membership arrears is still one of the Treasurer's major problems. Some national committees are liable to be excluded, e.g. Andorra (which has not given any sign of life since 1986), also Portugal (no news since 1991) and Lithuania.

The Treasurer pointed out how expensive it was to produce and, even more so, distribute the Bulletin d'information. He supported the Secretary General's suggestion to send a smaller number of copies to the National Committees and the Affiliated International Organisations.

The Bureau unanimously approved the Financial Report which the Treasurer presented and will submit to the General Assembly.

Ensuant to the Treasurer's Financial Report, the Bureau decided to delete Andorra from the ICHS registers.

5. Final touches to the organisation of the 19th Congress (Oslo)

Prof. Even Lange presented an update on Congress facts and figures: 2,000 registered participants, of which 1,800 come from 67 different countries and 72 have received grants. Further, 48 publishers are participating in the exhibit that will be held on the University campus during the Congress. A musical programme will be available for the participants, on campus, when work sessions are not in progress.

The opening session, which will be held in the Oslo Concert Hall, will end with a *vin d'honneur*. The welcome speech will be given by Mrs. Kirsti Kolle Grøndahl, President of the Storting [Norwegian Parliament]. Then speeches will be given by Mr. Per-Simonsen, Mayor of Oslo, Mr. Kaare Norum, Chancellor of the University of Oslo, and Mrs. Ellen Schruppf, President of the Norwegian Historical Society. A short opening speech will be given by the ICHS Secretary General, followed by a panel discussion headed by Pres. Berend. The panel will be composed of the following four historians: Ivan Berend, Roger Chartier, Romila Thapar, and Hans Ulrich Wehler.

The closing session will be held in the Aula of the old university. After brief speeches by the outgoing President (Ivan Berend), the incoming President (Jürgen Kocka) and the new Secretary General (Jean-Claude Robert), a round-table discussion will be held on "Historical Perspectives for the Next Century". The panel will be composed of Eric Hobsbawm, Hayden White, Francis Sejersted, Juan Linz and Kathleen Burk, with Geir Lundenstad as Moderator.

6. Consideration of items of the Agenda for the General Assembly meetings (6-10 August)



The vote on the admission of new members is scheduled to be held during the first General Assembly (6 August) so that the new members will be eligible to vote at the 10 August General Assembly.

The Nominating Committee's proposal for new Bureau members will be presented to the first General Assembly on 6 August by Natalie Davis, the outgoing Vice President.

Further, for the 20th Congress, in 2005, there was only one firm offer: the Australian National Committee suggested that the Congress be held in Sydney.

These two highly important questions will be voted on during the second General Assembly on 10 August 2000.

Since there were no miscellaneous items, the president, Ivan Berend, ended the meeting by expressing the Bureau's warmest appreciation to François Bédarida, the outgoing Secretary General, for his enormous and so precious contribution.