

MEETING OF THE BUREAU AT BLANKO-CESKOVICE (CZECHO-SLOVAKIA)

September 16th, 1990

A meeting of the Bureau of the UIS has been organized during an event concerning the applied karstology in the Moravian Karst on September 16, 1990.

Minutes of the most important points discussed on this occasion are given here, based of the report by the General Secretary, Camille Ek.

Concerning the next international congress in China, the Bureau has received the confirmation by a letter from Mr. Zhang Shouyue that "the preparing group for the Organizing Committee of the 11th International Congress of Speleology had been founded". The past-president of the UIS, Mr. Derek Ford, has asked the Chinese organizers of this next Congress to pay attention firstly to the date of the international Conference on Geomorphology (to held in Canada in the same year) and secondly to the possibility of cave excursions without high costs. The second point invite to locate the Congress in a karst area - for example Guilin - and not in the Capital Beijing. This wish has been expressed also by other members of the Bureau. As the teaching term of the American Universities begins in September (immediately after the Conference of Geomorphology) it is suggested that the Congress in China beheld during the first half of August. Information received by Mr. Ek indicate that the Chinese colleagues have envisaged the second half of September 1993 as the Congress date. The contacts concerning the preparation of the next Congress will be continued by the General Secretary; definitively instructions will be published in the UIS-Bulletin as soon as possible.

Concerning the cave protection, the Bureau of the UIS decided to support Prof. Juberthie (France), put in charge by the European Council to collect cave protection laws all over the world. The National Speleological Society supports a proposal to help protect the worlds most valuable caves by establishing "World Speleological Reserves" and a Commission to establish criteria for conferring this status. Christian Lascu (Bucharest) is supported by the Bureau in this idea and is encouraged to initiate the task. The Bureau will also support him in many urgent cases in Rumania.

P. Forti proposes to patronize a book on gypsum karsts of the world now in preparation. The Bureau will recommend the General Assembly to accept.

The General Secretary reports that he has been three times in Paris last year to try to establish co-operation with Unesco. It seems that our best chances are in the scope of water. This is way C. Ek proposes to emphasize this scope at the European Regional Conference and to ask for numerous contributions devoted to "Karst and Water Supply" or simply to "Karst Water Supply", paying a particular attention to large Springs.

H. Trimmel reports that a convention in Monterrey (Mexico) to held in Monterrey (Mexico) in autumn 1990 had taken the name of "11 Congreso Mundial de Espeleologia". Letters by him and by F. Urbani, Secretary General of the FEALC, have helped this name to be changed to "Second International Congress of Speleology in Monterrey" (the first one has been organized in 1950). In the aim to eliminate mistakes, the President of the UIS will participate on this event.

A letter from A. Slagmolen requesting more reaction by the Bureau to the activity of the Commissions is acknowledged. He would like a two-year evaluation of these commissions to check and to investigate their work. However, this is considered to be inadequate for the Bureau because the evaluation is being done by the General Assembly of our Union.

The meeting of the Bureau was also dedicated to the discussion of other points; the cooperation with other international organizations working on problems of karst hydrology, karst morphology and applied karstology will be one of the most important activities in the next years.

The next meetings of the Bureau will be held in autumn 1991 in Città di Castelo in Italy, and in summer 1992 during the European Regional Conference of Speleology in Helecline, Belgium. The national delegates and the chairmans of the Commissions are invited to propose problems or to present ideas concerning the working field of the Bureau for this meetings and to write to the General Secretary.