

Minutes from the UIS Bureau Sessions (1993-1996)

The 2nd regular session of the UIS Bureau Jedovnice (Czech Republic) November 22-27, 1994

The 2nd regular session of the Bureau of the International Speleological Union was held in Jedovnice, Czech Republic, on November 22 to 27, 1994 on the occasion of the 1st National Speleological Congress of the Czech Speleological Society. The stay of the Bureau was fully sponsored by the Cement Bohemia Praha a.s. (Heidelberger Zement Gruppe AG) and the Velkolom Čertovy schody Tmaň a.s.

Present: Paolo Forti, José Ayrton Labegalini, Petar Beron, Andy Eavis, Alexander Klimčuk, José G. Palacios Vargas, Urs Widmer, Hubert Trimmel, Pavel Bosák

The main session was held on November 23 and 24, 1994 with consultations on November 22 to 27, 1994.

The UIS Bureau members discussed the problem of the UIS, its presence in the speleological world, future and ideas. The broad discussion led to the definition of several priorities and to understanding how to prepare information on the UIS: to prepare the philosophy what is the UIS, to find some grant money, to prepare information brochure and 1 sheet information. The content of information brochure was decided to be as follows: main mailing address, short history, main field of the interest (art. 1 of the Statut), UIS structure, main goals and objectives for near future, relation between normal caver, national organisation and UIS, sportive /scientific problem, all UIS supported publications (BBS, Int.J.Speleo., Int.Cave Diving), UIS Documentation centres (Bernasconi, Bologna, Vienna), congresses and proceedings, commission and their activities with, addresses, coordination of research in karstology and links with major world scientific organizations (IAH, IGU, IGCP...), water resources, computer - electronic systems. Brochure to be prepared in main UIS languages.

The next point covered the function of the UIS internal structures (bureau, commissions, departments). It was decided to distribute the internal responsibility within the Bureau Members (regional responsibility, the print of materials - brochures, booklets, etc. and 12th UIS Congress). The UIS Departments were established far in the past. To make situation and communication between the Bureau and Commissions easier it was decided to prepare so-called "supercommissions" or renew departments. Chiefs of supercommissions (Departments) should be Adjoint Secretaries of the Bureau. On the UIS Congress 1997, each of the Commissions have to present its activities and plans, like before the Beijing Congress, to make clear if the Commission/Working Group is active or not.

Next and very important point of the agenda was the question of the communication with national delegates, national federations, clubs and the problem of the representation of member country within the UIS. It was decided to compile the list of national speleological societies, federations or associations and other structures within the UIS member countries and in other states. The following *resolution* was adopted: if there are more than 1 national federation (society, association) in the UIS member country, they should come to the mutual agreement and to inform the UIS Bureau. If the agreement is not achieved, the membership of such country will be frozen until the agreement is finished. The best solution of such problem is to vote the national delegate from one federation and his substitute from the other one (examples of states with more than 2 "national" federations are rare)

Finances, financial models, annual member country contributions and payment conditions represented the next agenda point. The UIS has two account - the Vienna account is 62,924.35 ATS (about 5,500 USD) and the Prague account is 2,456.63 USD and 15,199.90 CZK (about 550 USD). The Vienna account is frozen and represents the "golden reserve" of the UIS. There are some incomes to the Vienna account as some member countries did not realized the change of the Secretary General and they are sending their payments to this account. The Vienna account should be open for several next years for above mentioned eventuality. It was decided to find Secretary Adjoint - manager - who will take care on financial policy of the UIS, i.e. who will look for grant or sponsor money and who will manage investments. According to the uniform opinion, if such manager is absent, no grant or sponsor money will appear. If necessary, the UIS Statut have to be changed. The discussion on the height of the annual contributions of individual states showed the big disproportions in payments. Some small states or states with small amount of speleologists are paying contributions of Category A and some big states are paying only contributions in Category C. It was adopted the *resolution* - countries obtaining money from cavers for caving and expeditions have to pay the contribution of A Category (300 USD per annum). There are several countries not covering their annual contribution for a long time (*Algeria, Bolivia, Tunisia, Morocco, Namibia, Ireland, Israel, Denmark, Malaysia, several Central and Southamerican countries*).

It was decided to establish the list of honour of the UIS. The list will include only names of persons who contributed substantially to the *international* cooperation in karst and speleology and who worked for the UIS. The Past-Presidents and the Honourable Presidents are automatically included in the list. National delegates are invited to propose persons fulfilling above mentioned criteria and to send the proposal with short CV to the Secretary General.

Concerning the regulations of speleological activities abroad - ethic codex it was stated the ethic codex - should be prepared only in the form of the general instructions as each state has its own legislation, regulations and instructions, task of next meeting. It was adopted that all persons/expeditions are obliged to send materials published on the results of the investigation into the country where the investigations were carried out. The strong criticism appeared on states where the payment for caving or expeditions is included in regulations (Albania, China, Russia were especially mentioned).

The UIS Bulletin, content and distribution. The UIS Bulletin will be published annually by the Secretary General in one number in English with headlines of important contributions in several languages. The UIS Bulletin can be translated by national organisations for publication in local and national media. The basic information on the UIS will be prepared in the camera ready form to be published in national/international bulletins, journals and other media. The UIS Bulletin will be distributed also by electronic media and networks - Peter Matthews, President of the UIS Informatics Commission will be the responsible person.

Point concerning the translation of the UIS Statut and other basic documents into all UIS languages - the UIS Statut exists now in French, Russian and German. The Russian version was found by Trimmel in archives and the German version was prepared by U. Widmer. U. Widmer, on the basis of the German translation, prepared the changes and improvements of the Statut in German. Changes were accepted and will be prepared for the Assembly General 1997

The discussion on general directions and recommendations for organizers of the international congresses of speleology - it was stressed that there is existing the motion of the General Assembly of the 8th International Congress of Speleology from Bowling Green, USA, held on July 22, 1981 that **the payment from events (Congresses, Symposia, Conferences, Workshops, Meetings, Field Excursions etc.) under the name of the UIS and/or using the UIS logo was set at 5% of the event registration fee, with a minimum of 3 USD per each registered (paying) participant.**

There were also discussed the ideas for future agendas and assemblies general, e.g. (1) improvements of the Statut - implementation of the possibility of Regional Federations to exist as the unit of the UIS (e.g. already existing Speleological Federation of the European Union, FEALC, or in preparation Speleological Federation of Balkan States, etc.) with the aim to help the UIS with regional questions, (2) individual membership - in general it was agreed (but not unanimously), that some kind of passive membership should exist, (3) problem of voting procedure - one member country one vote, no proportionality according to annual contributions, (4) problem of annual contributions - the height cannot be stated by some regulation. The number of organized speleologists can be one of viewpoints for recommendation of contributions, (5) search for financial supports - for sponsors - after the solution of the Manager, the special account should be established, rules should be stated and special committee should be elected (1 Bureau Member will be delegated into the Grant/Sponsor Commission).

Some new commissions/working groups were created. It was stated, that Commissions established should be time-limited in their life, i.e. they are not established forever, and that new Commission will be created only to solve well - defined problem or project. It was stated that the Publication Manager for the UIS publications should be found. It was stated that the UIS is gradually losing its scientific value. The giant UIS Commission on Physico-Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst should be divided. Hydrogeology and hydrology should be separated. The UIS Bureau strongly supports the creation of the new *Working Group - Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis*. The new Working Group is settled up. The UIS Bureau will present the change into the Commission in the next Assembly General. A. Klimčuk proposed to construct the network of servers within the INTERNET (see the contents of the Bulletin) and to prepare the list of computer addresses. The problem should be discussed with P. Matthews, Informatics Commission. The UIS Bureau hardly supports the idea and activity.

The final point covered various topics, e.g. the information on the cooperation of the Speleological Federation of the European Union and the UIS. The agreement should be prepared, and the initiative of the International Geographic Union which asked the UIS for the official collaboration. The agreement should be prepared.