

Minutes from the UIS Bureau Sessions (1993-1996)

The 4th regular session of the UIS Bureau Salida, Colorado (USA) August 6, 1996

The 4th regular session of the Bureau of the International Union of Speleology was held in Salida, Colorado, USA on August 6, 1996 on the occasion of the National Speleological Society Convention 1996. The UIS Bureau members acknowledge the help of the NSS and the National Speleological Foundation.

Present: Paolo Forti, Petar Beron, Pavel Bosák, Andy Eavis, Urs Widmer, Zhang Shouyue
Substitute: Jeane Gurnee (for David Luckins)

The session started by the control of the agenda from Breitenbach 1995. The Agreement with the International Geographical Union was prepared and delivered to the IGU. The detailed information concerning the UIS for the IGU General Assembly 1996 was sent by the Secretary General to prof. Messerli. The UIS Statut (Constitution) was changed and improved. All changes agreed by the last UIS Bureau Session were incorporated to the proposal of the improved UIS Statut. All changes were discussed with Dr. Friedrich Oedl, the President of the Advisory Committee. Dr. Oedl made some juridical improvements of the Bureau proposals. Finally, the Statut will be translated to a majority of UIS official languages. Stone Forest (China) for the UNESCO World Heritage List - Dr. J.M. James prepared supporting letter which was sent by the Secretary General to the respective UNESCO Commission. Nevertheless, the proposal of China was rejected by the UNESCO Commission for some procedural problems.

The preparation of the 12th International Congress of Speleology 1997. The Second Congress Circular was distributed by organisers. All information concerning the Congress is available on Internet Web page. Reduced ticket fee for railway to La Chaux-de-Fonds from each entry point to Switzerland will be available for 50 CHF. Low price of the Congress fee valid up to March 31, 1997 (advance payment) will maybe maintained even for late payment during registration for participant from countries in which the problem with advanced sending of money can represent serious problems (e.g. some of post-communistic countries, developing countries, etc.). Information on UIS Inaugural Awards to be published in the 3rd Circular.

The European Regional Conference on Speleology. If the 13th International Congress of Speleology will be held overseas, the 3rd European Regional Conference on Speleology will be organised. The Speleological Federation of European Community will take care on the organisation of this event and it will prepare the proposal of such event. The Conference is proposed to be held inbetween International Congresses of Speleology, most probably in 1999, as for 1998 the Conference on Expedition is scheduled in England.

The Stable address of the UIS. The question to establish the stable address of the UIS is highly actual. The UIS Bureau should obtain information on possibilities in individual countries (i.e. to obtain information on the bureaucratic procedure concerning non-profit organisations, their statutes, payment of taxes, etc.).

The UIS Internal Reglement. The UIS Internal Reglement has been valid since 5th International Congress of Speleology, Stuttgart 1969. Concerning the prepared change of the UIS Statut (Constitution), the actualisation of the Reglement seems to be highly actual. The proposal of changes will be prepared before the 1997 Congress.

The UIS finances. The UIS account in USD: 8,354.20 USD (state on August 1, 1996), which represents increase in 2,651.41 USD since October 3, 1995. Cash in CZK: 20,411.80 CZK (state on August 1, 1996). Bank book in Vienna: 65,000 ATS. It could be stated that the payment discipline of member countries has improved and low costs of the UIS expenses has been maintained.

The UIS Bulletin. In 1997 the UIS Bulletin will be published in two volumes, i.e. Vol. 42, No. 1, and Vol. 43, No. 2. The No. 2 (Vol. 43) will appear before the Congress and will contain: information on the activity of UIS Commissions, Working Groups and Committees for 1993-1997 and detailed version of agenda for the UIS Assembly General 1997.

Departments and Commissions. Cave Rescue Commission. It would be useful to prepare clear regulations for expeditions to sites without cave or civil rescue organization. The UIS Commission should discuss on eventual establishment of the International Cave Rescue Organization. Problems of insurance. *Commission of World Karst Atlas* will be proposed for the cancelation to the UIS General Assembly 1997 owing to long-lasting inactivity and the lack of the communication with the UIS Bureau. *Departments* - during the Assembly General 1997, departments should be joined together, to have not more than 2-3 departments. The management of departments should be presented by the UIS Secretary Adjoint, if specialist is not available on this position, the manager of the departement should be selected from persons with capability and will to do this job.

The information brochure. Dr. Klimchouk prepared the draft of the basic text which was handed to UIS Bureau through Jeanne Gurnee. Presented text will be shortened and information which will change have to be ommited. The brochure (folder) should contain the stable UIS address(?), therefore it was proposed to wait with the print until this problems is not solved. Dr. Bosák prepared review material on the UIS (history, evolutionn of Commissions, Departments, Congresses, etc.), this material was sent to Prof. Trimmel for proofs (and we are waiting Hubert!).

The Code of Ethics. Prof. Forti obtained the "General environmental responsibility for expeditions" from Great Britain. It was decided that this material has to be studied by the UIS Bureau Members in detail. And sections

from this material fitting to our own Code of Ethics or to complete our text which will be utilized. (Note: those interested in the whole text, please, contact the Secretary General).

The candidate for the next Congress. The UIS Bureau obtained proposal of Brazil to organise the 13th International Congress of Speleology in 2001 as a joint event with the Brazilian National Congress of Speleology and the 4th Congress of the Speleological Federation of Latinoamerican and Carribean Countries (FEALC).

The retirement of the UIS officials. Present UIS President - Prof. Paolo FORTI, Bologna, Italy - definitely informed that in La Chaux-de-Fonds he will not present his candidature for the next four year Presidential position (1997 to 2001).

Dr. Friedrich OEDL, Salzburg, Austria, who represented the Committee for a very long time informed, that after the 12th International Congress of Spelology he will not be able to serve as the President of the Advisory Committee. Nevertheless, there appeared the problem of the constitution of the new Advisory Committee which represents an important body within the UIS structure. The UIS Bureau welcome all proposals for the new personnel of the Committee as well as the nominations for the Committee President. He should be lawyer preferably.

Dr. William HALLIDAY, Nashville, TN, U.S.A., the President of the UIS Commission on Vulcanospeleology, announced that owing to his age and health he will retire from the Presidential position at the 12th International Congress of Speleology, but he cannot serve after February 1998. Needs for new President: while academic status is helpful, administrative skills are much more important in this position, and a funding source.

