

Minutes

from the UIS General Assembly

First session

August 10, 1997

La Chaux-de-Fonds, Theatre

9.05 am - 0.10 pm

the assembly General was opened by the welcome speech of Mr. Bernard Dudan, the President of the Organizing Committee of the 12th International Congress of Speleology who stated that 1,500 registered participant is present at the moment. He declared the 12th International Congress of Speleology as opened.

The General Assembly was introduced by the speech of Mr. Paolo Forti, the UIS President, who summarized achievements and failures of the UIS Bureau in time between the 11th and 12th International Congresses of Speleology, i.e. for the period of August 1993 to July 1997. He declared the Assembly General as opened.

In the moment of the opening, totally 27 member-countries (from 60) were registered (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Libanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, South African Republic, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, Venezuela).

The Assembly General approved the minutes of the last Assemblies General from Beijing 1993 by 26 votes for and 1 vote against.

The Secretary General of the UIS presented his report. After the Commission, Working Group and Committee representatives presented reports and information of the activity. Pavel Bosák presented the Commission on paleokarst and speleochronology, Adolfo Eraso presented the Commission of caves in glaciers and on karst of polar regions, Adolfo Eraso presented the Working Group GTICEK and proposed to close the activity of the Working Group, Jan Paul van der Pas presented the Commission on volcanic caves, Roman Hapka informed on Commission on archaeological studies in caves, Hubert Trimmel referred on Commission on Speleotherapy, Jan van der Pas shortly spoke on Commission on artificial cavities, Aleksander Klimchouk presented Working Group: Hydrogeology of karst and speleogenesis, Hubert Trimmel informed on the Commission for atlas of karst regions, Peter Matthews presented the Informatics Commission, Hubert Trimmel shortly reviewed activity of the Commission on history of speleology, David McClurg informed on activity of the Commission of material and techniques, Peri Frantz and Natalya Jablokova referred on Working Group: Education of speleology in schools. Friedrich Oedl explained activity of the Advisory Committee.

After the short break coming after the presentations of the UIS Secretary General and UIS Commission, Working Groups and Committees, representatives of 33 member-countries were registered (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Libanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South African Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela).

The Assembly General elected two auditors. Jan Tulis of Slovakia was elected by 31 votes. Andrew Eavis of Great Britain was elected by 32 votes (detailed results of voting and elections are summarized down in Tables 1 to 3).

The Assembly General elected the Commission for the elections of the new UIS Bureau composed of Hubert Trimmel of Austria (33 votes), Arrigo Cigna of Italy (33 votes), Nick White (32 votes).

Several materials were presented to the Assembly General. Pavel Bosák presented the UIS Bureau proposal of improvement of the UIS Constitution (Statute) and explained why it is useful to adopt it. Claude Mouret presented the proposal of change of the UIS Constitution prepared by the French Speleological Federation. Stephen Craven introduced the proposal of the Code of Ethics prepared by the UIS Bureau. Paolo Forti presented the Agreement with the International Geographical Union, which was approved by the Assembly General of the IGU in August 1996 in the Hague. Inaugural UIS Prizes were presented by Mrs. Julia M. James.

Last point of the first session was the presentation of candidatures for the next Congress by representatives of Brazil, Australia and Portugal which officially applied for the organization of that event.

Second session

August 17, 1997

La Chaux-de-Fonds, Salle de la Verna

10.20 am - 2.00 pm

In the moment of the opening, totally 42 member states were registered (Argentina, Australie, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costarica, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Libanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, South African Republic, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweeden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela), one state (Croatia) deposited its written statement by the Secretary General.

The second session opened the UIS Secretary General by the information concerning three sessions of the UIS Bureau within the Congress and he presented some additional information, e.g. that the membership in the UIS was canceled to following member-countries: Columbia, Danemark, Dominican Republic, Tunisia and Perú (using the paragraph A of additions to the UIS Statutes).

The program continued by the informations of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups and by the approval of reports, plans and chair persons by voting.

- Commission on Paleokarst and Speleochronology (Lauritzen, Norway)
- Commission of protection (Bartolenz, Belgium)
- Commission on Physico-Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst (Shopov, Bulgaria)
- Commission on caves in glaciers and on karst of plair regions (Eraso, Spain)
- Working Group GTICEK the activity was frozen
- Commission on volcanic caves (Halliday, USA)
- Commission on archeology and paleontology of caves (Hubbart, USA, Hapka, Switzerland)
- Permanent Commission of Speleotherapy (Dluholucký, Slovakia, information by Trimmel, Austria), the commission was transfered to permanent commission
- Commission of Artificial Cavities (Orbons, the Netherlands, information by van der Pas, the Netherlands)
- Working Group: Hydrothermal Karst (Dublyanski, Russia)
- Commission on Hydrogeology of Karst and Speleogenesis (Klimchouk, Ukraine), the working group was transfered to the commission
- Commission on Bibliography (no President, information by Bosák, Czech Republic)
- Commission on Greatest Caves (information by C. Chabert, France)
- Commission on the Atlas of Karst Regions (Pfeffer, FRG, information by Bosák, Czech Republic)
- Commission on History of Speleology (Mais, Austria)
- Commission on Cave Rescue (Slagmolen, Belgium)
- Commission on Material and Techniques (McClurg, USA)
- Cave Diving Commission (Bolanz, Italy)
- Commission on Speleological Education (Meyssonier, France)

- Working Group: Children and Caving (Sangster, USA, Yablokova, Ukraine, informed by Frantz, USA)

Two new UIS commissions were introduced and approved:

- Commission on Cave Mineralogy (Hill, USA)

- Commission "Pseudokarst" (Eszterház, Hungary, reported by Tulucan, Romania)

At the end of the voting procedure it can be stated that all UIS Commissions and Working Groups, and their chair persons were approved as all obtained absolute majority of votes. The UIS Commission on Protection, Exploration and Tourism and the UIS Commission on Show Caves were joint together. The Commission on Speleotherapy was upgraded to the UIS Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy, the UIS Working Group: Hydrogeology of Karst and Speleogenesis was upgraded to the UIS Commission on Hydrogeology of Karst and Speleogenesis. The activity of the UIS Working Group GTICEK was frozen on the demand of the Working Group President (A. Eraso, Spain) up to time of solution of contacts and cooperation with IGU and AIH. Two new UIS Commissions were set up: the UIS Commission on Cave Mineralogy and the UIS Commission of "Pseudokarst".

The Advisory Committee presented its statement concerning the proposals presented at the first session. F. Oedl (Austria) reported:

"Der Statut-Vorschlag wurde vom Büro in Breitenbach (Oktober 1995) beschlossen. Es wurde von Bosak und Widmer mit mir am 7.VI. 96 genau überprüft und in La Chaux de Fonds im Sinne des Statuts (art. VI alt) erörtert.

Der Entwurf enthält im wesentlichen:

- 1) *Ergänzungen auf Grund General Versammlungs-Beschlüsse,*
- 2) *Ergänzungen der Kommissionen durch "Groupes de Travail" und "institutions adhérents",*
- 3) *einige Ergänzungen der Aufgaben des Büros.*

Die Veröffentlichung des Entwurfes führte zu einer Stellungnahme (Frankreich) mit bedeutenden Textänderungen. Die interessanten Vorschläge bedürfen einer internationaler Erörterung.

Empfehlung and General-Versammlung. Auf Beschluss des Statuts ohne Änderung in Sinne des Vorschlages des Büros." Friedrich Oedl, Chaux-de-Fonds, 15.8. 1997.

The Committee advised that also other motions and proposal are recommended to be accepted without changes.

The General Assembly voted after for three proposals:

- improvements in the UIS Constitution (Statut) (40 votes),
- UIS Code of Ethics (with added para. 4) (42 votes),
- the Agreement with International Geographical Union (41 votes).

At the end of the voting procedure it was stated that all three documents were accepted by the General Assembly as all documents obtained absolute majority of votes.

Two budget auditors (J. Tulis, Slovakia, and A. Eavis, Great Britain) reported on the result of the audit report:

*Report by the elected Auditors on the UIS accounts
for the period summer 1993 - summer 1997*

Auditors: Jan Tulis (Slovakia), Andy Eavis (Gt. Britain)

The accounts up to summer 1993 were scrutinised by Stephen Craven at Beijing congress. He had formally approved the accounts but made several observations. These included:

- *The accounts appear correct but some papers were missing;*

- He suggested simplifying the bank accounts;
- He noted there were high bank charges, particularly with reference to changing subscriptions from one currency to another;
- Deposited money was earning low rates of interest;
- He suggested a post of Treasurer separate from the Secretary General.

We reviewed the accounts and had a number of observations including things similar to those noted by Stephen Craven.

The Belgian account was closed almost immediately after the Beijing congress and USD 940 was transferred to a deposit account in Prague. We have checked the records of this Belgian accounts and although four pieces of paper are missing it appears that everything is in order. It is recommended that future auditors do not need to consider the Belgian accounts. Pavel Bosak spent a considerable amount of time with Cammille Ek and we are confident that every thing was in order.

There still exists a bank account in Vienna which is administered by Hubert Trimmel. From the information we have viewed and discussions with Hubert, it would appear that everything in this account is in order.

The final account is in Prague and consists of a dollar deposit account and a working Czech Crown account. The information from these was scrutinised and appears to be correct.

It is the Auditors' opinion that the current UIS accounts are all in order. They have a number of suggestions:

- 1 The bank accounts are further simplified, probably into one dollar account held in a western bank and a working account in the country of the General Secretary;
- 2 The dollar account could be administered by a person other than General Secretary;
- 3 Investment opportunities should be investigated to safely improve income from accumulated funds.
4. Changes should be approved by the UIS Bureau meeting.

Finally, it should be noted an incredible amount of hard work has been done by Pavel Bosák, the General Secretary, and the Auditors would like to express their thanks and admiration and to compliment him on the quality of his information.

Jan Tulis

Andy Eavis

17 August, 1997

Approving voting resulted as follows: 42 votes for acceptance.

At the end of voting procedure it could be stated that the audit report was accepted as it obtained absolute majority of votes approving properly evidenced financing of the UIS.

The elections of the New UIS Bureau. There were the only candidate for the position of the UIS President (Mrs. J.M. James, Australia), five nominations for the UIS Vice-Presidents (P. Beron, Bulgaria, A. Eavis, Great Britain, A. Klimchouk, Ukraine, A. Labegalini, Brazil, and C. Mouret, France), the only nomination to the UIS Secretary General (P. Bosák, Czech Republic), and ten nominations for UIS Secretaries Adjoint (S. Craven, South African Republic, G. Huppert, USA, A. Klimchouk, Ukraine, R. Ko, Indonesia, A. Labegalini, Brazil, C. Mouret, France, Song lin hua, China, F. Urbani, Venezuela, A. Vale, Puerto Rico, and U. Widmer, Switzerland).

The UIS President - Mrs. Julia Mary James of Australia - was elected in the first round obtaining 40 votes with 2 abstentions. The UIS Vice-Presidents were elected in two

rounds. The Senior Vice-President - Andrew Eavis of Great Britain - was elected in the first round by 27 votes, representing necessary absolute majority. Claude Mouret of France was elected UIS Vice-President in the second round obtaining relative majority of 18 votes from 41 valid and one invalid votes collected. The UIS Secretary General - Pavel Bosák of Czech Republic - was elected in the first round obtaining 39 votes, i.e. absolute majority of votes. The UIS Secretaries Adjoint were elected in the first round, all obtaining necessary absolute majority of votes: Stehan Craven of South African Republic (27 votes), George Huppert of USA (30 votes), Aleksander Klimchouk of Ukraine (32 votes), R. K.-T. Ko of Indonesia (23 votes), Ayrton Labegalini of Brazil (34 votes), Franco Urbani of Venezuela (29 votes), Abel Vale of Puerto Rico (26 votes), and Urs Widmer of Switzerland (27 votes).

During the elections, two statements were presented by the UIS Past-President - Arrigo A. Cigna (Italy). The first concerned by the fact that in the opening ceremony of the first session of the Assembly General it was stated that only Hubert Trimmel (Austria) is the only present person who attended all International Congresses of Speleology. The other person is present here, i.e. Mrs. Anne Petrochilou from Greece. Mrs. Petrochilou was welcomed by intensive clashes. The second statement concerned the memory of Salvatore Dell'oca of Italy who died.

Elections of the country organizing the 13th International Congress of Speleology 2001.

Portugal canceled its candidature. Delegates voted by 23 votes of 43 for Brazil, Australia obtained 20 votes.

The Statement of the new UIS President was presented by Julia Mary James and its speech was translated to French and Spanish. Mrs. James proposed to elect Paolo Forti, UIS Past-President as the UIS Honorary President which motion was accepted by 39 votes.

As the UIS Bureau obtained late demand of Armenia to become the UIS member-country. The General Assembly voted for the membership as follows: 38 votes for. The Armenia was accepted as the member-country.

The World Day of Speleology. The August 14 was proposed to be the World Day of Speleology on the memory of Martin Loubens who died on August 14, 1952 exploring Gouffre de La Pierre Saint-Martin (France). A discussion appeared:

K. MacGregor (Canada) asked if we want to celebrate the accident.

C. Mouret (France) then proposed to celebrate the birthday of Martell (nevertheless nobody new the proper date).

The voting procedure rejected the proposal of C. Mouret obtaining only 17 votes for, but 9 against and 9 abstentions. Then the voting rejected the idea of the World Day of Speleology in the original proposal by 2 votes for, 21 votes against with 13 abstentions.

Thanks of Brazilian community presented on the Congress for elections of BRAZIL 2001 for the next Congress.

The UIS President - Mrs. Julia Mary James - in a short conclusive speech declared the Assembly General as closed at about 2 pm.

Table 1

Results of voting and elections

First session of the Assembly General, August 10, 1997

		+	-	abst.	inv.	approved
<i>Minutes 1993</i>		26	1	0	0	yes
<i>Auditors</i>						
Jan Tulis		31	1	1	0	yes
Andrew Eavis	32	0	1	0	yes	
<i>Commission for Elections</i>						
Hubert Trimmel		33	0	0	0	yes
Arrigo A. Cigna	33	0	0	0	yes	
Nick White		32	0	1	0	yes

Table 2

Results of voting

Second session of the Assembly General, August 17, 1997

	+	-	abst.	inv.	approved
<i>Approval of Commissions</i>					
<i>and Working Groups</i>					
Paleokarst and Speleochr.	42	0	0	0	yes
Protection	39	0	0	0	yes
Physico-Chemistry	40	0	0	0	yes
Caves in glaciers	40	0	0	0	yes
Volcanic caves	42	0	0	0	yes
Archeology of caves	41	0	0	0	yes
Speleotherapy	41	0	0	0	yes
Artificial Cavities	37	1	3	0	yes
Hydrothermal Karst	40	0	0	0	yes
Hydrogeology and Speleogen	41	0	0	0	yes
Bibliography	39	0	2	0	yes
Greatest Caves	38	0	1	0	yes
Karst Atlas	40	0	0	0	yes
History of Speleology	41	0	0	0	yes
Cave Rescue	41	0	0	0	yes
Material-Techniques	42	0	0	0	yes
Cave Diving	42	0	0	0	yes
Education	42	0	0	0	yes
Children and Caving	42	0	0	0	yes
Cave Mineralogy	42	0	0	0	yes
"Pseudokarst"	42	0	0	0	yes
<i>UIS Constitution</i>	40	0	2	0	yes
<i>UIS Code of Ethics</i>	42	0	0	0	yes
<i>Agreement with the IGU</i>	41	0	0	0	yes
<i>Audit</i>	42	0	0	0	yes
<i>New membership</i>					
Armenia	38	0	0	0	yes
<i>World Day of Speleology</i>					
Martel birthday	17	9	9	0	no
14 August	2	21	13	0	no

Table 3

Results of elections

Second session of the Assembly General, August 17, 1997

		+	-	abst.	inv.	approved
<u>UIS Bureau elections</u>						
<i>President</i>						
Julia M. James		40	0	2	0	yes
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>						
Andrew Eavis	27	-	-	-	yes	
Petar Beron		9	-	-	-	no
Aleksander Klimchouk		4	-	-	-	no
Ayrton Labegalini		10	-	-	-	no
Claude Mouret		18	-	-	-	yes
<i>Secretary General</i>						
Pavel Bosák	39	0	2	1	yes	
<i>Secretaries Adjoint</i>						
Stephen Craven		27	-	-	-	yes
George Huppert		30	-	-	-	yes
Aleksander Klimchouk		32	-	-	-	yes
R.Ko		23	-	-	-	yes
Ayrton Labegalini		34	-	-	-	yes
Song Lin Hua	21	-	-	-	no	
Franco Urbani	29	-	-	-	yes	
Abel Vale		26	-	-	-	yes
Urs Widmer	27	-	-	-	yes	
<i>Honorary President</i>						
Paolo Forti		39	0	0	0	yes
<u>Congress host country</u>						
Australia		20	-	-	-	no
Brazil		23	-	-	-	yes

La Chaux-de-Fonds, Prague
August 10, 17 and 26, 1997

Reported by
Dr. Pavel Bosák
UIS Secretary General

The New UIS Bureau:

Honorary Presidents

Paolo FORTI (Italy)

Hubert TRIMMEL (Austria)

President

Mrs. Julia Mary JAMES (Australia)

Vice-Presidents

Andrew EAVIS (Great Britain)

Claude MOURET (France)

Secretary General

Pavel BOSÁK (Czech Republic)

Secretaries Adjoint

Stephen A. CRAVEN (South-Africa)

George HUPPERT (USA)

Aleksander KLIMCHOUK (Ukraine)

R.T.K. KO (Indonesia)

Jose Ayrton LABEGALINI (Brazil)

Franco URBANI (Venezuela)

Abel VALE (Puerto Rico)

Urs WIDMER (Switzerland)

UIS Past-Presidents

Arrigo A. CIGNA (Italy)

Adolfo ERASO ROMERO (Spain)

Derek C. FORD (Canada)