

Minutes

Regular sessions of the Bureau of the International Speleological Union

La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland

First session

August 9, 1997

3.30-5.30 pm

Present: Paolo Forti (President), Julia Mary James, José Ayrton Labegalini (Vice-Presidents), Petar Beron, Stephen A. Craven, Andy Eavis, Aleksander Klimchouk, José Palacios Vargas, Urs Widmer, Zhang Shouyue (Secretaries Adjoint), Pavel Bosák (Secretary General)

Past-Presidents: Arigo A. Cigna, Adolfo Eraso Romero, Derek Ford

1. *Opening of the Session* and confirmation of the Agenda.

2. *Control of Minutes from 1996*

- information brochure (task from 1994) - there are not delivered corrections from Hubert Trimmel. Broad and rough text was presented in the printed version by Aleksander Klimchouk in Salida. Task remains to the new UIS Bureau

- the Agreement with the IGU - the agreement was approved in 1996 by the General Assembly of the International Geographical Union, at the Congress in the Hague (Netherlands)

- the UIS Constitution (Statute) - improvement. The changes made by the Advisory Committee (dr. Oedl) were finally translated to French thanks to the activity of Urs Widmer

- Stone Forest (China) to the UNESCO World Heritage List - the text of Julia M. James was sent by the Secretary General to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. According to the information of Mr. van Drooste (Germany), the proposal was rejected owing to some formal and procedural reasons. We were informed, that during the 30th International Geological Congress in Beijing, the new juridically pure proposal was presented.

- 12th International Congress of Speleology 1997 is a reality.

- European Regional Conference on Speleology will be organized if the 13th International Congress of Speleology will be held overseas of Europe. The conference will be organized by the European Community Speleological Federation. It is strongly supported by the FSCE, that Portugal as the candidate country for the 13th International Congress of Speleology in 2001 will be served as hosting country of the 2005 Congress and it will not organize the 1999 European Conference on Speleology

- stable address: there is offered an opportunity to have the stable address in the Swiss Institute of Speleology which is now under preparation (Urs Widmer reported)

- the UIS Internal Reglement. The new version was not prepared. Rest for the new Bureau

- finances: the UIS account in USD: 13 046.13 (state on August 6, 1996), which represents increase in 4,691.93 USD since August 1, 1996

- cash in CZK: rest of 327.80 CZK (state on August 6, 1997)

- bank book in Vienna: 69,000 ATS and 9,943.54 ATS cash in Hubert Trimmel

- it could be stated that the payment discipline of member countries has improved again and low costs of the UIS expenses has been maintained

- the UIS Bulletin: in 1997 the UIS Bulletin was published in two volumes, i.e. Vol. 42, No. 1 (February), and Vol. 43, No. 2 (July). The last volume was delivered to the International Congress of Speleology in about 1,500 copies by the Secretary General

- information brochure - the state of the art since Salida has been unchanged, there are missing some proofs from H. Trimmel, a task for the new UIS Bureau

- List of Honours - it was recommended from many reasons to freeze the idea for some time

- proposal of improvement of the UIS Bibliography system will be discussed during this Congress

3. Preparation of the agenda of the Assembly General

The membership states which will be excluded from the UIS for not payment of the annual contribution will not be automatically renewed after the payment. If such countries want to renew their membership in the UIS they will have to apply their request to the nearest Assembly General of the UIS conformably with the valid UIS Constitution.

Using the paragraph A of additions to the UIS Statutes, the UIS Bureau decided to definitively exclude following states from the UIS membership list owing to long lasting inactivity and financial debts, not paying annual contribution since 1984 and not replying the correspondence: Columbia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ireland, Peru and Tunisia.

Other countries with substantial debt in annual payments, but with interest to continue their activity within the UIS and without the possibility to pay their debts now, the UIS Bureau decided to wait to the future evolution of relations of such countries with the UIS. This is the example of Algeria, which representant contacted the UIS Secretary General just before the Bureau session, Namibia, where only one caver exists. The Algerian debts were not canceled owing to the fact that several international expeditions were organized by Algerians taking money for that in last years. It was decided to remit 400 USD debt of Namibia and to ask it to fulfill its duties since 1997 including.

There were obtained several demands to remit or shorten the annual contributions. Bulgaria defined well its economic state, which has been lasting several past years asking to decrease the contributions from the category A (300 USD) to category C (50 USD) starting in 1996. The UIS Bureau agreed and since 1996, the annual contributions of Bulgaria are 50 USD. The Lithuania asked to remit the annual contributions totally for the period of at least 1994-1997. As the Lithuania has (1) comparable economic conditions with other states in the central and eastern European region, as well as with countries of the developing World, and (2) enough amount of cavers, the demand of the remission was rejected. Lithuania has to cover its duties since it was accepted as the UIS member-country in 1993 in Beijing.

In the case of member-countries with financial debts in which the speleological structures renewed, the financial debts coming from the time before the establishment of the new structure are remitted, they have to cover they duties since the establishment of new national caving structure because the new federation cannot take responsibility for past duties arisen in an other structure (Puerto Rico)

The UIS Bureau was informed by the UIS Secretary General, that some member-countries with some or even substantial debts promised to cover their debts completely (Bolivia, Costarica) or partially (Israel, Portugal).

For the total long-lasting inactivity of some Commissions which were not delivered any documents concerning their activity as well as their final report for period of 1993, the UIS Bureau decided to propose to the second session of the UIS Assembly General to cancel following commissions: Commission on the History of Speleology, Commission on Atlas of Karst Regions. It was recommended to join all commissions within the department of education to one UIS Commission on Education and to cancel the Department of Education. Adolfo Eraso proposed to cancel of to frozen the Working Group GTICEK (Experimental Catchment Areas) instead of some goals achieved (published books), as the main aim of the Group has not been achieved - the establishment of joint group of the UIS, the AIH and the IGU.

August 11, 1997

0.15-2.30 pm

Present: Paolo Forti (President), Julia Mary James, Jose Ayrton Labegalini (Vice-Presidents), Petar Beron, Stephen A. Craven, Andy Eavis, Aleksander Klimchouk, José Palacios Vargas, Urs Widmer, Zhang Shouyue (Secretaries Adjoint), Pavel Bosák (Secretary General)

Past-Presidents: Arigo A. Cigna, Adolfo Eraso Romero

Invited Guest: Claude Mouret

The only point of the agenda for this day was the discussion of the presentation of both proposed changes of the UIS Constitution, presented by Claude Mouret (proposal of the French Speleological Federation) and by the UIS Bureau to the first session of the Assembly General on August 10, 1997.

It was stated that both proposals are very close or identical in their sense, containing the same ideas, except of the presented form (more paragraphs in the French proposal, simple form of the UIS Bureau proposal). There were two basic differences. French proposal differs in the understanding and definition of the power of the UIS Bureau proposing to introduce the guide-lines for the UIS Bureau activity in next period (of four years) proposed and approved by the UIS Assembly General. French proposal also introduced regulation of internal rules for the UIS Working Groups and Commissions and Committees directly into the Constitution.

After the broad and detailed discussion, both parties accepted the compromise:

- in the second session of the UIS Assembly General on August 17, 1997 only the improved version prepared by the UIS Bureau will be presented

- in the second session of the UIS Assembly General, there will be presented the new UIS Commission on the UIS Constitution which will prepare: (1) the version of the UIS Constitution taking into the account all possible eventualities, the statements of the present UIS Bureau and the statement of the FFS and other positions. The aim is to prepare material which will be valid without changes next 20 to 30 years after its approval in 2001, (2) translation of the new UIS Constitution into all UIS languages (French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian). The English version of such UIS Constitution will be the basic document (instead of the French version according to the valid UIS Constitution)

- together with the new UIS Constitution, the new version of Internal Reglement of the UIS will be prepared to be conform in all points with the new Constitution. Also this document will be in English as a basic UIS document (instead of the French version today).

The UIS Bureau decided more, that all member-countries which applied for the organization of the next International Speleological Congress must obtain equal space for the detailed presentation of their sites and scheduled programs.

Third session

August 15, 1997

0.15-1.30 pm

Present: Paolo Forti (President), Julia Mary James, Jose Ayrton Labegalini (Vice-Presidents), Petar Beron, Andy Eavis, Aleksander Klimchouk, Urs Widmer, Zhang Shouyue (Secretaries Adjoint), Pavel Bosák (Secretary General)

Past-Presidents: Arigo A. Cigna

Invited Guest: Friedrich Oedl

1. The UIS President informed on information of some of the UIS Commissions and Working Group chairpersons, that they cannot meet UIS Bureau, and that there is mistake not organizing the session with all such persons. The UIS Bureau decided to meet them on next day, nevertheless each of involved persons could visit the UIS Bureau as door were open nearly the whole time.

2. Code of Ethics - there was delivered attachment to the code made by Bruno Delprat. The UIS Bureau checked and this material and made corrections. The UIS Secretary General will make available copies for the national delegates at the 2nd session of the Assembly General. The material was checked by the Advisory Committee with the statement that according to its meaning the material is not necessary, but can be accepted by the Assembly General.

3. Nomination and Election Commission - prof. Trimmel, elected member, resigned for the membership as candidates for Vice-Presidents were published in the Congress newsletter without permission of the Commission.

A.A. Cigna, the member of the Commission stated, that candidates were published, but they are not accepted for elections. Published candidates do not represent official statement, but only expression of possible candidates.

J.M. James stated that to print candidates only in Saturday newsletter was too late.

P. Bosák stated that if one delegated wish to be presented in newsletter, also all other must have this possibility.

J.M. James will formulate excuse letter to H. Trimmel which will be written by P. Forti and he will deliver the letter to H. Trimmel.

4. World Day of Speleology on August 14, 1997. After the discussion, the UIS Bureau accepted the proposal and it will be included into the agenda of the 2nd session of the Assembly General.

5. European Regional Conference on Speleology - the UIS Bureau obtained a letter from Portugal, that they withdraw their proposal for Congress in 2001 if they will organize the Regional Conference in 2000. The Bureau cannot ensure this term as the Assembly of the Speleological Federation of the European Union will be held only on Saturday. The representative, A. Eavis informed that the European Conference wants to be organized by Austrians and that the date 2000 is not good, as the proper date is only 1999.

The UIS Bureau was informed on conditions within the Portugese caving community where there exists two subjects, i.e. Portugese Speleological Society (S.P.E.) ad Portugese Speleological Federation (F.P.E.), the first one founded in 1948, the second one was founded some years ago. All duties of Portugese speleologists to UIS were managed and covered by the S.P.E., traditionally. The Bureau obtained a letter from Pedro Marote, Vice-President of the S.P.E. and a fax of José Antonio Crispin, President of the S.P.E.

6. A. Eavis, the member of audit commission, informed preliminarily on the state of the UIS finances and proposed some solutions.

7. The presence of the UIS Bureau member in next Congress. It was discussed, that on past Congresses congress organizers covered to the UIS Bureau members the full membership (Congress fee and Proceedings, banquets and other official events during Congress), on most of them also simple accomodation was covered. This was not concerning the President of the UIS Commissions, Working Groups and Committees.

After representatives of both Australia and Brazil informed on their possibilities. Congress fee will be covered fully, except of pre- and post-Congress excursions. According to financial possibilities of organizers, they will add something to accomodation. J. M. James informed, that they will try to cover the stay of the UIS Secretary General in a maximum extent and that the Congress fee will be about 200 USD.

8. Decision on the presentations of the Congress country - coin decided that Australia will has its presentation as the first.

9. Information on application for membership, no country applied.

10. J.M. James informed on the state of the UIS Inaugural Prizes, all prizes are in a good health, except some problems in book section.

11. Advisory Committee - it was presented the idea how to proceed - one UIS Bureau member will be the president, and the Bureau will try to find lawyers in English, Spanish and German. The committee cannot be a single men performance.

Fourth session

August 16, 1997

1.30-2.10 pm

Present: Paolo Forti (President), Julia Mary James, José Ayrton Labegalini (Vice-Presidents), Stephen A. Craven, Andy Eavis, Aleksander Klimchouk, (Secretaries Adjoint), Pavel Bosák (Secretary General)

Past-Presidents: Arigo A. Cigna, Derek C. Ford, Hubert Trimmel

1. Report of the Commission of Elections - the resignation of Prof. Trimmel was solved by the excuse letter delivered by Julia James. H. Trimmel stated that all proposed candidates for different positions were accepted and can be elected (J.M. James, Australia, for the President, P. Beron, Bulgaria, A. Eavis, Great Britain, A. Klimchouk, Ukraine, A. Labegalini, Brazil, and C. Mouret, France, for Vice-Presidents, P. Bosák, Czech Republic, for the UIS Secretary General, and 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, for UIS Secretaries Adjoint.
2. Two member-countries covered necessary debts and can be registered for next Assembly General - i.e. Albania and Ireland.
3. The Advisory Committee presented its statement for the Assembly General, only UIS Bureau proposal of UIS Statute improvements will be dealt. All motions are recommended to be approved.
4. State of accounts: about 2,650 USD and 1,400 CHF were collected by the Secretary General as annual contributions, H. Trimmel payed the whole cash of 9,943.54 ATS to the UIS cash.
5. The new Advisory Committee was accepted by the UIS Bureau according to the proposal of Arrigo A. Cigna. The Committee will be composed of (in alphabetic order): A.A. Cigna, A. Eavis, A. Mangin, F. Oedl and F. Urbani.
6. It was recommended to protect the UIS logo as registered mark. First, it will be registered in the Czech Republic by the Secretary General.
7. It was decided, that the height of the annual contributions of the affiliated institution will be decided by the new UIS Bureau.
8. Armenia applied to be the member-country. Owing to late acceptance, it was decided, that Armenia will be accepted for voting only at the end of the second session of the Assembly General not to complicate the whole program.

La Chaux-de-Fonds, Prague

August 9-16, 1997

August 26, 1997

Reported by

Dr. Pavel Bosák

UIS Secretary General