

Souvenir

80th
anniversary
of the
international
cooperative
alliance



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ICA Regional Office & Education Centre for S-E Asia

80th Anniversary of the International Cooperative Alliance

SATURDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 1975

PROGRAMME

Chairman : Shri R. G. Tiwari, M.P.
President, National Cooperative Union of India

5.15 P.M. Guests Arrive
5.25 P.M. Chief Guest Arrives
5.30 P.M. Ceremonial Meeting

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National Anthem

Address of Welcome by Dr. S. K. Saxena,
Director, ICA, London.

Address by Mr. N.A. Kularajah, A.M.N., P.J.K.,
Chairman, ICA Council for South-East Asia

Address by Shri T.A. Pai,
Minister of Industry and Civil Supplies,
Government of India.

Chairman's Address

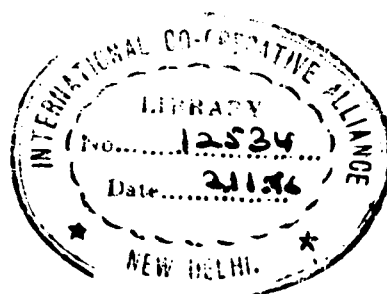
Address by the Chief Guest, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed,
President of India

Vote of Thanks by Mr. P.E. Weeraman,
ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia

6.30 P.M. National Anthem

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THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

The celebration of the eightieth anniversary of the ICA should draw the attention of cooperators to the history of their alliance for, in the words of a contemporary writer, quoted by Watkins in his monumental history of the ICA, history is "not that which was, but that which abides, and which in the past contained and announced the future" and as said by Watkins "social institutions, such as the International Cooperative Alliance, which lose sight of their past are in danger of losing control over their future."

The ICA is the world-body of the Cooperative Movement. Formed in 1895, with its headquarters in London, the ICA now has 160 affiliates representing 657,815 cooperative societies and 321,526,265 cooperators in 63 countries. Thus it is not only one of the oldest international non-governmental organisations but also the most widespread. As stated in its Rules, the ICA, "in continuation of the work of the Rochdale Pioneers and in accordance with Cooperative Principles, seeks, in complete independence and by its own methods, to substitute for the profit-making regime a cooperative system organised in the interests of the whole community and based upon mutual self-help."

Its objects are "to be the universal representative of Cooperative Organisations of all types which, in practice, observe the Cooperative Principles; to propagate Cooperative Principles and methods through out the world; to promote Cooperation in all countries; to safeguard the interests of the Cooperative Movement in all its forms; to maintain good relations between its affiliated organisations; to promote friendly and economic relations between the cooperative organisations of all types, nationally and internationally; to assist the promotion of the economic and social progress of the workers of all countries; and to work for the establishment of lasting peace and security."

The ICA seeks to attain its objects "by convening periodical International Congresses; issuing publications; promoting the teaching and study of Cooperation in all countries; carrying out research studies and inquiries on problems of vital importance to the Movement; collecting vital statistics; creating International Cooperative Auxiliary Organisations for various sectors of economic activity; collaborating with U.N. Organisations and International Non-Governmental Organisations which pursue aims of importance to Cooperation"; etc. etc.

"The ICA regards Cooperation as neutral ground on which people holding the most varied opinions

and professing the most diverse creeds may meet and act in common". It shall not associate itself with any political or religious organisation. It shall maintain in all its meetings and publications such independence as is necessary for preserving the unity of the International Cooperative Movement.

The ICA is the only international organisation entirely and exclusively dedicated to the promotion of cooperation in all parts of the world. Besides the Head Office of the ICA, which is in London, there are two regional offices, viz., the Regional Office-cum-Education Centre for South-East Asia, New Delhi, India, and the Regional Office for East and Central Africa, Moshi, Tanzania.

The Regional Office-cum-Education Centre has functioned since 1960. In these fifteen years the Regional Office has established itself as the focal point of Cooperation in South-East Asia. The Region served by the ROEC, though called "South-East Asia" for convenience, comprises fourteen countries, spreading from West Asia to the Far East, viz. Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The South-East Asian Region's need of Cooperation is greater than that of any other region by reason of its teeming millions of the really poor, whose social and economic betterment can come about only through cooperative activity.

The main tasks of the Regional Office & Education Centre are to develop the general activities of the Alliance in the Region, to act as a link between the ICA and its affiliated national movements, to represent the Alliance in its consultative relations with the regional establishments of the United Nations and other international organisations, to promote economic relations amongst member-movements, including trading across national boundaries, to organise and conduct technical assistance, to conduct courses, seminars and conferences, surveys and research, to bring out publications on cooperative and allied subjects and to support and supplement the educational activities of national cooperative movements.

The national cooperative movements of the fourteen countries served by the ROEC are closer to each other than they were ever before, as a result of the ROEC's work among them, especially through the regional meetings mentioned earlier. Similarly, each national movement is closer to the ICA than it was fifteen years ago. —P.E.W.

THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The Cooperative Movement dates back to the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society which was formed in 1844 in Rochdale, a textile town in Lancashire, England, by a group of workers to supply themselves with four essential articles of food—flour, butter, sugar and oatmeal. The constitution and practices which they adopted were born of such “practical wisdom and foresight” that the society was taken as “the pattern and exemplar for similar cooperative enterprise all over the world in the following hundred years and more” (Watkins).

A cooperative society is an association of human beings, working together for the satisfaction of their common economic needs, on the basis of self-help and profit-elimination and in accordance with the principles of voluntary and open membership, democratic administration of the affairs of the society by the members, denial of voting power or profits on the basis of share capital and allowing it only a limited interest if any, and placing the trading surplus made from members at their disposal, whilst eschewing middleman profits.

These principles have come to be known as the Cooperative Principles. They spell an economic order in which “I shall have my hand in no man’s pocket and no man shall have his hand in mine”, as said by an early cooperator, and “a juster and more humane social order” replacing “the chaos and inhumanity engendered by competitive capitalism”. Cooperation substitutes the notion of organised service in the interests of the whole community for that of struggle for profit and domination (Fauquet).

The Pioneers also adopted certain practices viz. trading only for cash i. e. no goods were given on credit; selling at market prices, observing political neutrality and educating the membership. Whilst the first three practices have since been vitiated

the last has been made a veritable principle in the recent past along with another requirement that cooperatives shall cooperate with other cooperatives to achieve “unity of action by cooperators throughout the world”, and in the spirit of the cooperators’ motto “each for all and all for each”.

At the same time that England saw the birth of consumers’ cooperation, Germany saw the development of cooperative credit societies under the leadership of Schulze-Delitzsch and Raiffeisen, and France gave the idea of workers’ productive associations.

Since then the cooperative method has been applied to almost every known form of economic enterprise and has spread to almost every corner of the globe.

Cooperation has been recognised as the best method of making political democracy meaningful by reason of the economic democracy which it brings about and the training it gives the citizen in processes of democracy and the art of self-government.

Cooperative Societies are federated into secondary and tertiary societies. By their federative structure they can ensure that the demands of the people are heard at the highest level and vice versa that policy adopted by their highest councils is implemented at the grass-roots level. Moreover, cooperatives are strongest at the very place at which any government is at its weakest viz. the village. So cooperatives are the best means of implementing development schemes which require the people’s participation for their success. And cooperatives are barometers of public opinion capable of keeping their governments continuously informed of the needs of the people and joining hands with the state to satisfy those needs as its free and willing partners in the great task of nation-building.—P.E.W.

WELCOME

by

DR. S.K. SAXENA

Director, International Cooperative Alliance, London

Your Excellency, fellow cooperators, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary celebration of the founding of the International Cooperative Alliance, I bid you all a very warm welcome in my capacity as the Director of the Alliance. May I at the same time extend to you the sincere apologies and regrets of our President, Dr. Mauritz Bonow, for his inability to be present in our midst today. His heavy and pressing engagements have not allowed him to leave his country, Sweden, but he has asked me specifically to extend greetings and welcome on his behalf. Knowing his long and close involvement in the International Cooperative Movement and especially the role he has played in the expansion of ICA's activities in South-East Asia, symbolised principally by our Regional Office here, you will understand that he wishes to be associated fully with this important occasion.

We are indeed greatly indebted to you, Your Excellency, for the honour you have done us by accepting our invitation to be the Chief Guest on this occasion. A more profound recognition of the importance and significance of the cooperative idea would be difficult to find than your presence here today. Thank you very much indeed.

From its inception in 1895, the founding fathers of the Alliance were aware that the organisation must have a policy of open membership to every known cooperative enterprise, thus keeping the door open for all genuine cooperative organisations. The composition of ICA's membership has undergone great changes over the eight decades of its existence, from a mixed membership including both individual cooperators and organisations, to its present 657,815 member-societies with over 321

million members in 63 countries, representing cooperative organisations in the agricultural, consumer, credit, fishery, housing, production and other fields. This openness of the organisation has given the Alliance the strength and the resilience to withstand from time to time strains which have in fact proved too much for other non-governmental organisations. The continuing unity of the Alliance provides at the same time a clear example of the value of cooperative principles. The two world wars inevitably reduced our activities but when hostilities terminated in 1945, ICA's general acceptability enabled us to re-activate the contacts which had been temporarily suspended.

By the early 1950s the Alliance, now established in its own headquarters and with its various auxiliary committees resuming their work internationally, recognized the changed situation and concerned itself increasingly with the rather special problems of developing countries. After considerable reflection and discussion by the Authorities of the Alliance and at the specific request of cooperative movements of South-East Asia, as expressed in the recommendations of the ICA Conference in 1958 in Kuala Lumpur, the Alliance inaugurated in 1960, on the occasion of Prime Minister Nehru's birthday, the Regional Office in New Delhi. This was made possible through substantial financial assistance from our member-organisations, more particularly the Swedish Cooperative Movement. A top level conference on Cooperative Leadership was held on the occasion and was addressed by the then Prime Minister of India. It is not the occasion to enumerate the achievements of the office since 1960. Most of you are familiar with our work. Let me, however, mention just two points briefly. The thrust of our work is on education and on those aspects which enable the movements to have a regular supply of dedicated leaders at the national

level. And secondly, keeping in mind the basic fact that people themselves know their needs, and hence the priorities, best, we formulate our programme of activities on the advice of a Regional Council consisting of leading cooperators from the Region. I would, therefore, like to pay the compliments of the Alliance to our member-organisations in the Region for their advice, support and encouragement to our work in South-East Asia. At the same time, the Authorities of the Alliance are deeply grateful to the Government of India for the various facilities they have extended to us here and without which our work would have been much less effective than it has been.

A Regional Office, although on a somewhat smaller scale, was established in Moshi, Tanzania, in 1969, with responsibilities and tasks broadly similar to the ones undertaken by the office here.

In 1963, recognizing the considerable changes which had taken place since the last enquiry in 1937, the Alliance set up a Commission to study and, if necessary, revise the cooperative principles to take into account the contemporary situation. This International Commission was ably chaired by Professor Karve and its recommendations are now accepted by cooperators all over the world as the basic Principles of Cooperation.

In 1970, on the occasion of our 75th anniversary, the International Cooperative Alliance, deeply concerned with the problem of poverty in the Third World, declared the 1970s as the Cooperative

Development Decade, as a supporting measure to the United Nations Second Development Decade, a fact which has been much appreciated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has in fact led to a series of important developments. As a result, our activities in the developing countries have increased and I am pleased to say that a recent assessment undertaken by an international team of our South-East Asian office has been positive and has provided us with the guidelines for our future work. Currently, at the direction of our Authorities, we are formulating the future work programme of the ICA which will be the main subject of discussion at ICA's Congress in Paris in 1976.

Looking back over the years, the International Cooperative Alliance, as the largest non-governmental organisation, has, in a world bedevilled by strife and serious economic disparities, demonstrated that despite differences, it is possible to work together constructively. The Alliance has never split its organisation on ideological grounds, and has given continuous guidance and hope by its advocacy of self-help as an instrument of economic and social improvement. It shall remain the continuing endeavour of the Alliance to enlarge the area of relevance of the Cooperative technique to the global problems that threaten us today.

Your Excellency, fellow cooperators, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the International Cooperative Alliance I welcome you once again to this function. □

ADDRESS

by

N.A. KULARAJAH, A.M.N., P.J.K.,
Chairman, ICA Council for South-East Asia

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency the President of India, The Honourable Minister, Dr. Saxena, Director of ICA, Mr. P. E. Weeraman, members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished guests, eminent cooperators, ladies and gentlemen,

The 80th Anniversary Celebrations of the ICA has brought about this very distinguished gathering enabling one to feel for sure that the Cooperative Movement is not only recognised but accepted by everyone from every walk of life as an economic system to be promoted and developed for the common good of mankind. None other's presence here is of greater significance or gives greater meaning and sense to what I say than that of the President of India. He represents the second largest nation in the world—a nation striving to see that all its people are able to live in fulfilment of their needs. India is a vast country. It is set on achieving the goals and aspirations of its people through the cooperative system. All its leaders have declared this. There is no doubt that their actions have also committed them to this path. We can draw inspiration from that and today I draw further inspiration from the presence of His Excellency the President and from the whole occasion to carry on my own role and responsibility in the ICA.

The occasion itself, while an occasion to celebrate the continued and successful functioning and growth of the ICA, should be taken as one to remind us of the many challenges and tasks that lie ahead for all mankind and for the ICA in particular. It should remind us that the world today in relation to human satisfactions and aspirations is no better than it was a century ago or at the time the co-operative idea sprouted. All the advancements made in the field of science, technology and

medicine have not materially improved the lives of the majority of the people. We are still plagued by poverty, starvation, destitution, human conflicts and wars ravaging what is remaining of this earth and mankind. Billions of dollars are spent on weaponry to protect man from man—clearly a testimony of the misunderstanding and distrust man has for man.

In the race to establish superiority by one nation over the other, there is total indifference to the sufferings of a large portion of the world population which are living at sustenance level or below that. The sufferings and the consequent weakness of the people may be welcomed by those who are attempting to achieve world supremacy, for people living with the problem of poverty could never pose a challenge or a threat to those who want superiority. In essence, ladies and gentlemen, the poor and the weak will always remain so if they do not work together to help themselves. That is what the cooperative system is aimed at—mutual and self-help. Considering that the current economic and social systems do not fulfil all the needs of all mankind or at least the majority of it, it is imperative that the tried and tested cooperative system should be the alternative to all these systems and be developed with greater urgency and pace. A feature to encourage and justify the totality and acceptability of the cooperative system is that it is functioning and thriving in all the different systems in practice, capitalist, socialist and communist. No other movement has created such a brotherhood among so many different races and peoples of the world as the Cooperative Movement. The ICA's triennial congresses are the living proof of the harmony of purpose and the desire to achieve economic and social progress by so many different people representing so many different

countries with so many different social, political and religious creeds. At the ICA Congresses co-operators meet to discuss how to help each other, how to enhance peace and prosperity in the world and how best mankind as a whole can survive in a world besieged by all kinds of problems, and ravaged by disease, natural disasters and other calamities. We forget our backgrounds and what we stand for. All we know is that we stand for cooperation and that we are cooperators. I am convinced that the passage of time will see cooperatives becoming more and more firmly entrenched in countries and eventually becoming the way of life. I do not see any other way of life. However, there is also the fear that man may have destroyed the world before that time and before man ever coming to realise that a system exists ideal to all. We shall have to prevent that. One of the ICA's prime tasks is to fight for peace and to vigorously put out the idea that the alternative to peace is a non-existent world. We have to raise our voices against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the urge among nations to become nuclear powers. Nuclear power accumulated in weapons serve no man—only the basic insecurity and the incapability of man to feel like a human being. We have an infinite capacity to use everything we acquire, discover or achieve in a negative manner. Why can't the ingenuity of man be used for positive purposes? The question itself sounds tragic. Nuclear power used positively can bring about untold benefits to mankind. However, we have not exploited it for that. Any benefit has been incidental and confined to a section of the world population. In time to come we will discover more things. Let us pray and hope that they are used to improve the conditions and scope of man's survival on earth.

We cooperators believe that the future of man lies in the cooperative system with its very objective approaches to problems. Its rapid development and expansion is essential to forestall a very precarious world situation that is brewing. Economies of many countries are in shambles. In turn others have been badly affected. In a development of this sort the developing countries take the heaviest toll and the clock of progress is set back by years. To top the bad situation is the constant threat of war between countries. Are we so devoid of human senses that we do not know what is good for ourselves even if we have lost that human feeling for another human being that we want him destroyed? It is against this back-

ground that the ICA works and stands as a beacon of hope for the multitude of people who want social and economic progress for themselves and for all others who believe they are humans.

The ICA has always kept abreast of the developments, problems and changes and challenges facing the world.

That is a reflection of the all-accommodating capacity of the organisation and also of the will and purpose of the cooperative system. Today it is celebrating its 80th year in service. The spread and the strength of the Cooperative Movements throughout the world indicate the achievements of the ICA. Without the ICA cooperative movements would not have had the sense of purpose and direction that is prevalent in their drive to attain social and economic justice.

Mr. Chairman, in Asia the ICA's establishment and through which it works is the Regional Office at New Delhi. The movements in Asia have accelerated their pace of development through the various types of assistance and advice of the office. The main areas in which the ICA office has asserted itself is in Education and Training Programmes—so very essential for the proper and effective growth of cooperatives. Much technical assistance has also been provided. However one of the outstanding achievements has been that cooperatives throughout Asia have come together and been able to show their solidarity, maintain and strengthen relationship, exchange and discuss information and problems and identify themselves with the hopes and objectives of the ICA.

The Cooperative Movements in Asia in particular have much more ground to cover than their counterparts in the developed countries. We have an advantage though. Most Governments in Asia are extremely keen on cooperatives and have envisaged definite roles for cooperatives in their economic development master plans. Consequently, incentives and various forms of assistance have been given. It is for the cooperatives then to make the most and gain from the support and assistance.

Currently the problems in Asia are those caused by rapid attempts to industrialise. We are facing the same problems that arose out of the industrial revolution of the 18th Century in Europe. Mass movement of people from the rural areas to urban

pockets of industrial activities are taking place. Among man's many weaknesses is the inability to learn from history and the story of today's displacement of people is an example. Cities and other industrial centres are being clogged with people giving rise to greater sufferings, poverty and exploitation. When we conceived our industrialisation programme it should have been a programme parallel to the programme to urbanise rural areas and the development of rural areas. At the same time areas for industrialisation should have been located over widespread areas to reduce concentration. Without doubt the cooperative movements in the region have a tremendous role in the situations stated. Their participation in various commercial, industrial and agricultural development is ripe with opportunities to serve and assist the people. Many movements in the region have firmly established themselves in some of these areas and achieved success. In India itself there are many examples. In Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Japan and

others too there are very illustrative examples. But we have to work hard. As long as we cooperators do not lose our objectives and forget our goals of service we can make rapid progress which would be of a permanent nature. Then we have truly served the cooperative movement and shown our true interests and purpose. But if the leaders have no conviction and work with motives not in the interests of the Movement, the cooperative structure will collapse causing people to despise and detest it. That is the real danger we face from within. Service is our theme and it is the theme that makes it so worthwhile.

Mr. Chairman, I am thankful to the opportunity given to address this distinguished gathering. I think I have spoken rather at length and I would like to conclude by hoping for greater success and development for the Cooperative Movement and for a greater future for the ICA. The past should be the inspiration for the future. □

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

by

R.G. TIWARI, M.P.

President, National Cooperative Union of India

Rashtrapatiji, Dr. Saxena, Your Excellencies, Mr. Pai, Mr. Kularajah, Mr. Weeraman, distinguished cooperators and friends,

I express my sincere gratefulness to the International Cooperative Alliance for inviting me to associate myself with today's function. This function, in my view, is highly significant for more than one reason. Firstly it is in tune with the cultural tradition of India. While, in the Western countries, it is customary to celebrate silver, golden and platinum jubilees, in our tradition it is "Vinshadi", that is, the concept of twenty year period in which, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh in succession exercise influence over the world. Hence the completion of four such vinshadies by the International Cooperative Alliance is indeed a fitting occasion for celebration.

Today's function is also significant for another reason. It provides an appropriate opportunity for paying a tribute to the International Cooperative Alliance for its outstanding performance. Here I should like to stress one particular fact. In the world, there is no dearth of international organisations. Their number is particularly large in the voluntary sectors such as trade union movement. However it is significant that, while other voluntary non-official organisations at the international level, have not been able to muster their strength under one "roof" the ICA has been singularly successful in providing a common "roof" to the cooperative movements from different countries in the world. Today cooperative organisations from 63 countries with a membership of 321 million at the primary level are affiliated to the International Cooperative Alliance. This indeed is a unique record and must be acknowledged as such.

It is also a sign of unusual vitality of the International Cooperative Alliance that, from time to time, the ICA has been able to undertake introspection and seek rejuvenation of cooperative philosophy. We in India are particularly proud of the fact that an eminent Indian Cooperator-Prof. D.G. Karve—was chosen as the Chairman of the Commission, set up by the International Cooperative Alliance, to redefine cooperative principles in the modern context.

I have been watching the progress of activities of the I.C.A. ever since I entered the cooperative movement a couple of decades ago and more so having been associated directly with the I.C.A. and its Regional Office for South-East Asia as the member of the Central Committee and the Regional Advisory Council respectively. I must say without reservations that the I.C.A. has rendered yeoman services to the cooperative movement of different countries, particularly in the developing countries. There is obviously a great need to bring about close contacts between cooperatives of different countries and provide them an opportunity for mutual exchange. The I.C.A. has been a remarkable instrument in fulfilling this particular need. It is also largely due to the efforts of the I.C.A. that the United Nations and its various specialised agencies recognised the cooperative movement as a potential instrument of accelerating socio-economic change and development in the "Third World". This acceptance and recognition, no doubt, is a great moral force in itself for the progress and growth of the movement.

It is rather difficult to make an inventory of the activities undertaken by the I.C.A., or to measure valuable contribution made by it to the

development of the movement in this part of the world, by way of studies, organising surveys, conferences, seminars, dissemination of information, experimentation and promotion of regional international cooperative institutions. Recently a study of the Indian Cooperative Laws vis-a-vis Cooperative Principles made by the I.C.A. Regional Office in pursuance of the 24th I.C.A. Congress Resolution, has been widely appreciated in India and it has drawn attention of the Government to a great extent persuading them in accepting several of its suggestions. The Government of India has issued guidelines to the State Governments to amend the respective laws for bringing about uniformity in the Cooperative legislation in the country. This is only a beginning in the direction to establish a self-managed and self-controlled cooperative movement. I understand that the Regional Office has also undertaken a study of Rules framed under the cooperative laws and that of the bye-laws of various kinds of societies in different states. These studies, will, I am sure, be of great practical value.

The Seminars and Conferences organised by the I.C.A. Regional Office are of immense value. I would particularly mention the leadership seminars. I had the opportunity to attend the Asian Top-Level Cooperative Leaders Conference, which, perhaps, was the second in series, held in Tokyo, at the fall of the last year. These seminars acquaint the leaders of the cooperative movement with the problems and orient them in developmental strategy in different countries. Orientation at the highest level is the right direction. I would, however, only make a suggestion that the I.C.A. should organise more of national seminars to have a larger effect and impact suiting each country. I must acknowledge that the I.C.A. Regional Office has been giving all assistance and participating in all conferences and seminars organised by the NCUI from time to time and I take this opportunity to express our gratitude for that.

I would also like to mention the experimental work which the I.C.A. Regional Office has undertaken in collaboration with the National Cooperative Union of India in the field of cooperative education in Indore—a district in Madhya Pradesh. I have watched the progress and the achievements of the project from close quarters and I have no doubt that it has given a new direction to our cooperative education programme. The approach demonstrated by the Indore Project

will, I hope, provide guidelines to modify the existing member education programme throughout the country. May I say that what is needed is to set up a similar demonstration project for cooperative education in the urban cooperative sector, more particularly, in the field of consumers cooperatives. I hope, the I.C.A. Regional Office will give its due consideration and favour for inclusion in its future work programme.

I.C.A. has made a definite contribution in bringing the cooperative movements of various countries closer to each other which have gone a long way in developing mutual understanding and common approach at international level to the problems facing the world. With the coming into the existence of an international cooperative trading society at Singapore, as a result of the persistent efforts of the I.C.A. Regional Office, it is expected that trade operations on cooperative to cooperative basis will grow faster in this region. Similarly, the suggestion made by the I.C.A. Regional Office to set up an Asian Cooperative Development Bank is a welcome idea. Its fruition will give a strong support to the cooperative activities in this part of the world. All this is practical manifestation of practical operation of the universally accepted principle of cooperation among cooperatives.

The achievements which I have just mentioned briefly are only starting point. The problems in the developing countries in this part of the world, as elsewhere, are vast and complex. The people are restless to get rid of the poverty. Social tensions arising due to accelerated pace of economic development are on the horizon. The support of the I.C.A. is unavoidable by way of finding out technical assistance, providing guidance and working as a link between the movements and cooperative institutions in different countries.

I would not like to take much of your time. I wish the International Cooperative Alliance to grow stronger and stronger to be able to support and assist the movements of all the countries since I have conviction that cooperation is the only instrument to lead the humanity to peace, progress and prosperity and that there can be no alternative to this.

May I convey on behalf of the 62 million cooperators of this country, on behalf of the

Governing Council of the National Cooperative Union of India and on my own personal behalf most sincere greetings and good wishes.

Before concluding, may I join Dr. Saxena in welcoming our esteemed Rashtrapatiji to this function. He has a deep faith in the philosophy

and ideals of cooperation. His presence amongst us today on this occasion is a continuing evidence of his interest in the cooperative movement. I hope and trust that the cooperative movement, within the country and at the international level, will continue to have his support and guidance. □

VOTE OF THANKS

by

P.E. WEERAMAN

ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are very grateful to Your Excellency, President of India, for deigning to accept our invitation to be our Chief Guest. Believe me, Sir, we are not only highly honoured by your gracious presence but also delighted to have you with us on this auspicious occasion as an old and sincere friend of the cooperative movement and a very special friend of the ICA Regional Office for South-East Asia.

Not long ago, as Minister of Agriculture, you were in charge of Cooperative Development as well. You were then a tower of strength to us. You gave us great encouragement especially in regard to our educational and research activities and you were also responsible for straightening out very important matters of long-term value to us. So your regime as Minister of Agriculture will be always remembered with gratitude by the ICA. Permit me to tender to you, Your Excellency, the assurance of our highest regard and our best wishes for many years of occupancy of the highest office of this ancient land.

We have the privilege of serving the Cooperative movements of fourteen countries, collectively called by us "South-East Asia" but which actually extends from Iran to Australia. We are very proud of the presence here of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners and other diplomatic representatives of these countries as well as Sweden, from where most of our funds come, and the United Kingdom and Canada.

We are very grateful to the Honourable Shri T.A. Pai, Minister for Industry and Civil Supplies (including Cooperative Development) for his

presence and kind speech this evening, the Lt. Governor of Delhi, and to the high-ranking government officials for their kind presence.

We are also very grateful to the representatives of the many U.N. Agencies, the AARRO and the ICFTU for their presence and very kind messages of greetings and good wishes.

We are especially glad of the presence of Mr. N.A. Kularajah, the leader of the Cooperative Movement of Malaysia. He is here with us today in his capacity as Chairman of the ICA Council for South-East Asia. As Chairman of our Council we have in him the representative of all the national cooperative movements we serve from the Regional Office.

We are grateful to the Presidents and other officials of the National Cooperative Union of India and the various National Cooperative Federations of India and to other cooperative leaders for attending this function. It is an expression of mutuality which is what binds cooperators to one another and is expressed in our motto, "each for all and all for each."

We are very grateful to you, other distinguished ladies and gentlemen, for gracing this occasion with your presence.

I shall not delay you by telling you of our work. I would beseech you to read the literature which we have placed in your hands today. The support and encouragement which your gracious presence has conveyed to us inspire us with feelings of re-dedication to the cause of Cooperation. Cooperation seeks to establish an economic order in which, "I shall have my hand in no man's pocket and no man shall have his hand in mine" as said by an early cooperator. And, of its social effect, the great

Rabindranath Tagore has said, "The manhood of man is at length honoured by the enunciation of this principle" and added "Cooperation is an ideal, not a mere system, . . . it leads us into no blind alley; for at every step it communes with our spirit." And so, I would add, every cooperator will have a reward which money cannot buy—a sense of spiritual happiness.

Last but not least, let me extend to you, Mr. Chairman, our heartfelt thanks for presiding over

this function so ably and so graciously and I would take this opportunity to thank the Cooperative Movement of India over which you preside for all the assistance and cooperation which the movement has extended to the ICA all these long years.

Before I conclude, I would request Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen to give us the pleasure of your company for yet a while in the Cocktail Lounge just opposite this Banquet Hall. Thank you very much. □



Late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the Regional Seminar on Cooperative Leadership in South-East Asia convened by the ICA Regional Office & Education Centre for S-E Asia to mark its establishment in New Delhi in 1960.

Dr. Mauritz Bonow, President of the ICA, seen formally opening the office building of the ICA Regional Office at 43 Friends Colony, New Delhi, in February 1968. On his right are Shri Jagjivan Ram, then Minister of Agriculture, Government of India, and Dr. S.K. Saxena. On his left is Mr. Alf Carlsson, Director, of the Swedish Cooperative Centre, Stockholm.



GREETINGS

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

**55, Lodi Estate,
New Delhi-110003.**

message

It is my ardent belief that International cooperation alone holds the key to economic and social development and human welfare in this shrinking planet of ours. For strengthening international cooperation, non-official organizations like that of ours have to play a crucial role. Cooperative movements in different parts of the world have to be linked up so that they can influence Governments and peoples alike to cooperate in bringing about a just economic world order.

The International Cooperative Alliance, with its membership of over 300 million, is already doing pioneering work in this direction. It is but appropriate that India, with the largest membership in any single country, should be the venue of your deliberations on the eightieth anniversary of the Alliance. We in the United Nations will continue to endeavour to make our full contribution to this global movement of cooperation. I wish your deliberations all success.

ROGER POLGAR

**Resident Representative of the
United Nations Development Programme in India**

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
Area Office for Bhutan, India, Republic of Maldives,
Nepal & Sri Lanka,
7, Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi-110021.

message

It is a privilege for the International Labour Office and a personal honour for me to participate in this special meeting convened to celebrate the Eightieth Anniversary of the International Cooperative Alliance. On behalf of the Director-General of the ILO and on my own behalf, I bring you cordial greetings and felicitations.

An anniversary in the life of an institution is a fitting occasion to pause for a while and analyse and evaluate successes and failures, and fortified by the experience, to plan for the future. Having been personally associated with international cooperative activities for a number of years, I can, without hesitation, say that the ICA has every reason to be legitimately satisfied and proud of the contribution it has made during its long period of existence to economic, social and cultural development and in furthering human advancement throughout the world. The emergence of the ICA's presence in this region from a timorous fledgling in 1960 to the present Regional Office-cum-Education Centre serving the cooperative movement in 14 countries bears eloquent testimony to its work.

To the ILO—an international agency dedicated to the promotion of social justice and improvement of the conditions of workers and small producers—it was but natural that promotion of the cooperative organisation should form a part of its policy almost from its inception.

At its third session in March 1920, the ILO Governing Body decided to set up a Cooperative Technical Service as part of the secretariat of the ILO. The functions of this Service were outlined by a resolution of the International Labour Conference at its Third Session in October 1921 as “.....the study of different aspects of cooperation which are connected with the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the workers”.

A resolution of the Fourth Session of the International Labour Conference in October 1922 laid down that "it should be possible for cooperative organisations to be able to give their opinion directly on all questions of labour legislation affecting them to the same degree as private enterprises" and ".....the educational and social value of their practical work qualifies them to submit on labour questions the results of their experience". Consequently the resolution recommended that qualified international cooperative organisations should be invited to nominate delegates who may take part, with consultative status, in the work of the Conference, whenever agenda includes questions of particular interest to cooperative organisations.

At an earlier date, on 14 November 1920, a letter was addressed to the governments of member states suggesting that they "might nominate as one of the technical advisers whom they are entitled to attach to their delegate, a representative of the cooperative societies." In addition, a Correspondence Committee on cooperatives was set up. These were some of the meaningful expressions of the ardent desire of the International Labour Organisation to have close and continuing linkages with the cooperative movement throughout the world.

The result of these measures was that a number of contacts and exchanges of information took place on a wide and varied basis; correspondence was initiated, visits exchanged and publications issued. These contacts and studies were concerned not only with countries which were at that time already highly industrialised but also with countries in which industry was only beginning to develop.

In the years to follow these contacts assumed increasing importance and the ILO's concern in cooperative issues began to be reflected in the conclusions and recommendations of the various ILO meetings and conferences. The adoption in 1966 of an international instrument concerning the Role of Cooperatives in the Economic and Social Development of Developing Countries was an important highlight in the ILO's formative action in this field.

Further momentum was added to the ILO's cooperative activities when the organisation embarked upon its technical cooperation programme. Within the framework of this programme, the ILO has been providing, upon request, services of experts to individual countries in the fields of cooperative education, legislation, finance and business administration. It has organised international seminars and training courses and has arranged for fellowships and grants to enable cooperative leaders and other key personnel from different countries to study and learn the working of the movement in other countries.

These technical cooperation projects or "operational activities" of the ILO have opened up new and more meaningful prospects of collaboration between the ILO and the ICA. Aside from exchange of information and continuing contacts on a bilateral basis and through the international mechanisms established for the purpose, there has been close collaboration between the two organisations in implementing specific technical cooperation projects. For example, the ILO project which, with the financial support of the Swedish International Development

Agency (SIDA), is currently assisting in the promotion of consumer cooperatives in India, is headed by a cooperator released from the ICA. Similarly, the ICA Regional Office has seconded one of its officials to work as a member of the ILO/SIDA team of experts which is collaborating with the national consumer cooperative movement in Sri Lanka. Many more examples of such practical collaboration can be cited.

Under the impact of a growing world crisis in food, energy and other scarce resources, sharpened by the galloping rise in internal prices with massive volume of unemployment, the weakest and poorest sections of the community have been the hardest hit in many developing countries, especially in the Asian region. At this critical juncture, the cooperative movement can certainly play a more dynamic and a more progressive role in the social and economic fields than ever before. Indeed, the cooperative movement holds the promise of ushering in a new and better way of life for the millions of less organised and inarticulate rural workers, artisans and other small producers who, scattered in remote or isolated areas, are so painfully suffering from poverty, unemployment, squalor and deep frustration.

It has enormous potentials in generating production and employment through mobilisation of idle or unutilised resources, in restraining inflationary pressures on the price level and in securing a better distribution of wealth and income within the national community. At the international level, too, the cooperative movement, through its network of inter-cooperative relations, can play a most significant role in achieving a more rational and equitable distribution of the world's resources between nations, including a better international division of labour—which have now become as much a social and political imperative as an economic and ecological necessity in the common interest of mankind.

These are some of the new challenges and opportunities. While intensifying its on-going activities, the ILO is exploring new ways and approaches in the cooperative field to meet these challenges. The ILO shares many of these preoccupations with the ICA. I am confident that the ILO's long association with the ICA will be further strengthened and will find even more meaningful expressions in the pursuit of these common endeavours in the years ahead.

BHIMAL GHOSH
Director

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
55, Lodi Estate,
New Delhi-110003**

message

On behalf of the Director-General of FAO and all FAO staff in India, I have pleasure in sending you my warm congratulations on the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the International Cooperative Alliance. Your organization has accomplished most valuable strides in strengthening the position of small and medium producers and cultivators and has thus importantly contributed to the betterment of the livelihood of large social sectors—aims to which our Agency, and the whole UN family, are also devoted. My best wishes go to you for a successful continuation of your activities.

**JOHN VAN DER MEULEN
Senior Agricultural Adviser/FAO
Country Representative in India.**

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION,
Office of the Chief of Mission in India,
Field Science Office for South-Asia,
40-B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110003.**

message

The International Cooperative Alliance, which is the universal representative of Cooperative Organizations of all types throughout the world, is celebrating its 80th Anniversary on 20 September 1975.

The importance of co-operation for the uplift of rural community and especially the development of weaker sections of the society bears very much significance. It is an effective instrument of economic development and social change.

UNESCO is working closely, from the beginning, with various non-governmental organizations, each one bringing together on an international level specialists from disciplines within its competence. It has always supported organizations of this kind and has extended its co-operation and assistance in carrying out the programmes and activities of International Co-operative Alliance. ICA is one of those international non-governmental organizations which is admitted to Category A (consultative and associate relations) by UNESCO, for its meritorious services in promoting cooperation in all countries and developing friendly relations among them.

As you are well aware, UNESCO'S mission is to contribute to the building of peace and security by promoting co-operation among nations through education, science and culture. It is trying to achieve its aim by encouraging international intellectual co-operation in these fields by furnishing within the fields of its competence, operational assistance, and through ethical action in favour of human rights and international understanding.

We appreciate the useful work being done by the International Co-operative Alliance through the exchange of experience between national co-operative organizations ; organization of adult education courses with the assistance of UNESCO and collaborating with UNESCO in arranging worker's study tours and longer-term exchange for cooperative workers, in addition to several other similar programmes.

On this commemorative occasion of the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the International Co-operative Alliance, I feel pleasure in extending, on behalf of UNESCO, our cordial Greetings and good wishes to your Organization and its Regional Office & Education Centre for South-East Asia, for the continued success of International Co-operative Alliance in its work and achievement of its goal.

Wishing your Celebrations every success.

V.G. PODOINITSIN
Director and Chief of Mission

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND,
South Central Asia Region, Unicef House,
11 Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003.**

message

I am deeply honoured and pleased to extend on behalf of UNICEF warm greetings to the International Cooperative Alliance on the occasion of its 80th Anniversary.

The ICA's basic philosophy of community interest, mutual self-help, non-partisanship and non-profit making is the very core of the developmental concept. It is also of special interest to UNICEF, which includes the principles of non-partisanship and non-profit making, in its Charter. While focussing on a specially vulnerable section of the community—children and their mothers—UNICEF's activities are directed toward the well being of the community at large, both directly and indirectly. For the future, children are themselves the community and in this sense the interests of children are the community's interests. It has also been a recognized principle of UNICEF to encourage use of local resources and participation rather than impose help from above and in this sense again, the ICA philosophy lies very close to UNICEF's.

These various links between the two organizations have been formalized in the special situation of ICA as a recognised non-governmental organization with consultative status to UNICEF. We are, therefore, particularly happy that we are celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the ICA this year, and hope that this occasion will activate its further progress both in terms of wider and more intensified membership, and of the type of activities that the ICA covers.

I believe that the ICA, with its more than 300 million primary level affiliates spread over 63 countries in every continent, is not only one of the oldest, but also one of the most widespread non-governmental organizations in the world. Its ability to help the cooperative movements in developing countries is extremely valuable, especially in view of its great experience and conscious efforts to train, educate and conduct research in experimental aspects. In particular, ICA and its auxiliary organizations have been notable for their efforts in the fields of trading, agricultural

production and marketing, industrial and craft, consumer, housing and labour cooperation.

Since these efforts at bettering economic activities and the education and training for them improve the condition of women as well as men, and indirectly benefit children, the courses of ICA and UNICEF are not only parallel but at times do converge. At the same time, probably there has not been a very direct convergence at efforts of the two organizations. To a large extent this may be neither possible nor necessary. However, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly comment on certain areas of cooperation, that may be explored, and which have a direct relevance for improving the conditions of children and women.

It is probably a truism to state that if rural development is to be on anything more than a pilot scale it would need better utilization of existing resources, both human and economic. Translated into specific needs, this indicates simple training and/or education and the introduction of an appropriate technology (often called village level or middle-level technology) to achieve such better utilization of material resources. From this perspective, the role of cooperatives becomes especially significant. Already cooperatives are playing an important role in rural areas in the developing world through the agro-industrial, craft, industrial, marketing, credit and labour cooperative societies. Still there is probably room for focusing on the promotion of appropriate technology by cooperatives, especially with respect to innovations leading to higher productivity, better utilization of resources and releasing of time for other purposes. There is also probably room for training and education in many areas other than those directly connected with economic activities. I have in mind women and youth clubs that do exist or can be formed in many rural areas as the vehicles for such training and development efforts. Some examples of the promotion of appropriate technology could be the development of kitchen gardens, village level agro-industry and improved household industry. The educational efforts could be directed towards literacy classes especially cast in the functional literacy mould, and related to agriculture, household industry, nutrition or mother and child care. Thirdly, children's services themselves, such as feeding of children and care of children of working mothers could be activities that are run on a cooperative basis by such clubs.

These, Mr. Chairman, are some brief thoughts that I would like to leave with this assembly on this occasion, mainly to indicate that some of these possibilities may be fruitful areas of endeavour in what probably needs to be a multi-pronged approach in cooperation in rural areas. We have heard much of integrated rural development and this again has become an accepted planning concept in many countries. It is therefore quite appropriate, I feel, that along with traditional areas of cooperation for economic development, which indeed needs to be further advanced, the ICA might like to promote other aspects of cooperation especially on the educational and small technology aspects.

An 80th Anniversary is a very important milestone in any organization. Let us, however, remember that a milestone is not the end of the road but should spur one to lay one's sights on the next milestone. I am sure that the ICA will

want to rededicate itself on this important occasion to a further record of service to the community at large and will seek fresh ways of doing so. I wish you all success in this important endeavour.

O.A. MULANOVICH
Officer-in-charge UNICEF—SCARO

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA,
World Health House, New Delhi-110001.**

message

It is my privilege to be associated with the celebrations of the 80th Anniversary of the successful functioning of the International Cooperative Alliance. The very fact that this organization has existed for over eight decades is clear proof that it has been meeting certain vital needs in national and international development by encouraging the application of cooperative principles and methods throughout the world. I heartily congratulate all the members of ICA who all these years have helped to make the work of this international non-governmental organization a positive force in the world in efforts to attain a better social order, lasting peace and security. It is noteworthy that the Alliance has served as a potent instrument in fostering friendly and economic relations among cooperative organizations of all types—nationally and internationally.

While ICA serves 63 countries, its Regional Office-cum-Education Centre caters to the national cooperative movements of 14 countries of the South-East Asian Region, in which WHO is operating. I note that this Regional Centre was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1960, and in the subsequent 15 years, the Centre has done highly commendable work by undertaking studies, arranging for the exchange of teachers, providing consultative services and conducting seminars and conferences. I am very much impressed with the effective techniques for cooperative education that have been evolved at the grassroot level through the field project. I have no doubt that the various types of services provided by the Centre will be of immense value in further strengthening cooperative movements in the Region.

The World Health Organization, and particularly the South-East Asia Regional Office, is deeply interested in providing primary health care to all sections of the people, especially those in rural areas and in slums. In some countries, projects have demonstrated the possibility of providing this type of care through the cooperative system, organized in the interests of the whole community and based on mutual self-help, active community participation and

the important area in which, it would seem, the ICA Regional Office-cum-Education Centre for South-East Asia could play a most useful role.

In conveying the warm greetings from the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, I should like to wish the International Cooperative Alliance continued success in attaining its objectives and in bringing about rapid economic and social progress in all the countries of the world with rededication to cooperative principles and practice.

V.T.H. GUNARATNE, F.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Regional Director



Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, then Minister for Agriculture, arriving at the Regional Office to inaugurate the Regional Seminar on "Personnel Management in Cooperatives" held in New Delhi in 1971.



Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, seen talking with Dr. Mauritz Bonow, President of the ICA, when she attended the Cooperation Ministers Conference held in Tokyo in April 1964.

**AFRO-ASIAN RURAL RECONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION
C-118, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110003.**

message

I deem it a great privilege to share with you this opportunity to celebrate the auspicious occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the International Cooperative Alliance. It is a matter of pride that the ICA, which was founded in 1895 in London, is now spread over in 63 countries in all the Continents of the World.

The fact that the ICA has completed 80 years of useful services to the mankind is a standing testimony of how popular it is among the community it serves. I am sure that while the ICA can proudly look back upon 80 years of useful services to the people, it will direct its efforts in the future more and more towards evolution of a strong and viable Cooperative structure for the world by providing the necessary leadership, initiative and guidance to the institutions affiliated or even remotely connected with it.

As a Cooperator, I have been associated with the ICA for over 30 years in my own country (Egypt) and in India. Through this long and continued association, I am proud to say that the ICA has been working with zeal and devotion in helping to build an efficient cooperative system throughout the world.

Men and women of small means have to be enabled to rise through their own efforts out of the present poverty and stagnation, without which there can be no peace and stability in the world. The common man today looks towards Cooperation as the only solace in delivering goods to him. Therefore, the cooperative organizations cannot afford to rest on their laurels, particularly in the present crucial stage of our developing economy, but have to prove their usefulness in the field of economic development in ever increasing measures.

I hope most of the distinguished guests here already know of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization (AARRO) which, I have the privilege to represent as its Secretary General. As the name itself depicts, it is a body work-

ing for rural reconstruction in the Afro-Asian world. Thus the AARRO has so much in common with the ICA in helping to develop the cooperative movement in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the rural community in the Afro-Asian continents. With this objective, we have jointly held study/training projects in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Japan.

The ICA, which has rendered useful and uninterrupted services for the cause of Cooperation and for the establishment of lasting peace and security in the world throughout these years, under its able and dedicated leadership, I am sure, will accept the challenge of the time and fulfil its responsibilities in the matter of providing the much needed relief to the common man through establishment of an efficient co-operative system.

On behalf of the AARRO and on behalf of my colleagues at the Secretariat and on my own behalf, I extend to the International Cooperative Alliance, its Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia at New Delhi as also its affiliated Cooperative Organizations all over the world, my sincere greetings and best wishes on this auspicious occasion.

I confidently hope and earnestly pray that the ICA will grow from strength to strength and continue its useful service, particularly to the agriculturist and to all those other economically weaker sections of the community in the years to come.

S. M. OSMAN
Acting Secretary-General

**ICFTU ASIAN REGIONAL OFFICE
P-20, Green Park Extension,
New Delhi-110016**

message

I have great pleasure in conveying our felicitations and greetings to the International Cooperative Alliance on the occasion of its 80th anniversary.

The ICA has a proud record of achievement and we are happy to see that the cooperation and collaboration between the ICA and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has been growing over the years. This is as it should be. The two movements have been closely linked from their inception and have shared many common ideals and aspirations.

We recall with considerable satisfaction and appreciation the call given by the 25th Congress of your organisation to the leading authorities of the ICA "to manifest the spirit of collaboration and mutual help with trade union organisations and their central authorities, to widen and consolidate friendly and business relations with them on national, regional and international levels, and to use all ways and means to create an atmosphere of mutual trust between cooperatives and trade unions..." We fully reciprocate the above feelings. Indeed, the ICFTU on its part has expressed similar sentiments in a number of its publications and conference papers. I would particularly like to mention the specific reference that was made in the conclusions of the World Economic Conference which the ICFTU arranged in 1971. It is well known that at the 50th session of the ILO held in June 1966 when the role of cooperatives in the economic and social development of the developing countries was being considered, the ICFTU gave its fullest support.

The role which the cooperative movement has played in the past in the industrial countries of the west is well-known. We in the trade union movement are conscious of the increasingly important role which it still has to play in the developing countries of the world.

We rejoice that in the recent past cooperation and collaboration between the cooperative and trade union movement in Asian countries is developing. In

a number of Asian countries either the trade unions are undertaking significant cooperative activities, or are starting joint ventures with the cooperative movement. In this connection, I would particularly like to mention the project of Workers' Bank of our affiliate, the Malaysian Trades Union Congress, and the highly successful cooperative activities—like the INCOME (insurance cooperative), COMFORT (transport cooperative). WELCOME (consumer cooperative)—of our affiliate, the Singapore National Trades Union Congress. We have no doubt that more of such ventures will be promoted.

Before I conclude, I would like to stress particularly the extremely important role which the cooperative movement can play in building up strong, democratic and self-reliant organisations of the rural poor. We are happy that in a significant project that we have started in Ghazipur (India), the ICA is one of the co-sponsors. We hope that in the field of employment creation through trade unions, which the Asian Regional Organisation is entering into, we will also have similar cooperation from the ICA.

I am convinced that in constructive cooperation and collaboration between the two movements, lie the key to success and strength of both the movements and I have no doubt that we can look forward to it in ever increasing measure in the future.

V.S. MATHUR
ICFTU Asian Regional Secretary

**THE COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OF THE USA,
AIFACS Building, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001.**

message

I am pleased and honoured to be able to bring fraternal greetings and heartiest congratulations which I now extend on behalf of President Stanley Dreyer, the CLUSA Board of Directors, and all Cooperative League personnel everywhere. President Dreyer is honoured by his membership in the ICA Executive Committee and very proud that CLUSA has been a member of ICA since 1921.

It is very fitting that the ICA 80th Anniversary celebration for South-East Asia be held in New Delhi for a number of reasons :

1. Because it is the site of the first regional office which, in turn, is a model worthy of replication in other regions.
2. It acknowledges initiatives by the Swedish Cooperative Movement and Dr. M. Bonow, ICA's retiring President, to organize and support an Education Centre which was the forerunner of the Regional Office.
3. The fact that the Director of ICA in London, our speaker today, Dr. Saxena, was formerly Director of the ICA Regional Office and his devotion to duty and outstanding performance as Director of that office, as well as that of his successor and present Director, Mr. Weeraman, have resulted in significant contributions to the cooperative movement in Asia.
4. The celebration is held in a country whose cooperative movement shows significant progress and whose participation in ICA through the National Cooperative Union of India and collaboration between NCUI and ICA on regional activities has been outstanding.

It is also fitting and proper on the 80th Anniversary year that ICA is developing a forward-looking, long range paper to be considered at the 1976 ICA

Congress in Paris. While this anniversary acknowledges achievements and contributions of the past, we should also look to the future. It is that future that we cooperators can change and address ourselves to for the progress of the world co-operative movement.

It is my privilege to be associated with the distinguished Director Weeraman and his competent staff's activities. Like my predecessors, Messrs. Maddock and Felder, I find this to be a beneficial relationship, as well as most cordial and pleasant, so it is with great pride that I am able to add my own personal congratulations to those I extended on behalf of CLUSA.

M. REX WINGARD
Representative in India

THE COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA
36, Northbourne Avenue,
Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601
Australia.

message

The Council, members and all associated with the Cooperative Federation of Australia send greetings and sincerest good wishes for celebrations being held in New Delhi in connection with the 80th Anniversary of the International Cooperative Alliance. Economies and social systems may have become more sophisticated since the days when the need for a World Body of Cooperation was first realised, but the need is as important today, if not more so, than it was eighty years ago.

Evidence of the forward thinking of leaders of the World Cooperative Movement is available in plenty in the existence of the Regional Office in South-East Asia. Australia is particularly pleased to have been associated with the original exploratory discussions into the establishment of this de-centralisation programme in the late 1950's.

Fellow Cooperators in Australia send sincerest good wishes for the continued, successful development and spread of the International Cooperative Alliance and its activities for the benefit of the World Community.

M.J. LANE
President

BANGLADESH JATIYA SAMABAYA UNION
9, D, Motijheel Commercial Area,
Dacca-2
Bangladesh

message

It is an inexpressible pleasure indeed to learn that the International Co-operative Alliance is going to celebrate its 80th anniversary on 20th September, 1975. In this auspicious occasion we respectfully remember the unparalleled sympathy and co-operation that Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union has received from your noble organisation since liberation of our country.

In this happy occasion, please allow me to recollect the great role that the ICA has played in developing the spirit of co-operation, formulating the principles and showing new directions of the Movement for the Member-Nations for the last 80 years. We also fervently feel that in the coming years this great organisation will bring about a re-orientation in her approach towards co-operation and thus will infuse a new life-force to the Movement.

We are best aware of the fact that we the developing nations of the third world are passing through the cross-road of the economic depression, fuel and energy crisis, instability in the international monetary situation, fluctuation of the international market condition, all paved the road to a deep-rooted crisis in the economic development of the newly emerging countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Bangladesh, being the newly independent country of the same group and having deprived of the opportunity to develop her economy and to upgrade the living standard of her vast population for long is now striving hard to overcome the multiple crisis of national and international. Just at this critical juncture of the world economy, when in fact, the entire world is facing crisis, the ICA—the banner holder of world Co-operative Movement, is celebrating its 80th anniversary in the capital of the biggest country of the third world. We sincerely expect that the celebration will certainly throw a ray of hope to the comity of nations to come out of darkness that has fallen upon human race, as we know, that the history of world Co-operative Movement shows that Co-operation creates a miracle in crisis.

It is our earnest desire and sincere expectation that the Celebration will be a grand success.

With fraternal Co-operative Greetings to you, all the organisers and participants.

M. RAUSHAN ALI, M.P.

Chairman

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING
FEDERATION OF INDIA LIMITED**
Sapna Building, 54, East of Kailash,
New Delhi-110024.

message /

The International Cooperative Alliance embodies in itself the basic human aspiration of creating an environment which is free from all types of discrimination and exploitation. The association of cooperative movements in 63 countries of the world professing diverse ideologies, covering a membership of 321 million cooperators which is increasing year after year, under the seven colour flag of the ICA, bears ample testimony to the many faceted creative role the ICA has been playing during these eighty years.

Advances in technology and civilization do render the tasks of ICA more complex. On the occasion of celebrations of the 80th Anniversary of the Alliance, we as cooperators, resolve to translate the basic objectives of ICA into reality.

TAPESHWAR SINGH
Chairman

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COOPERATIVE SUGAR
FACTORIES LIMITED
L-8, South Extension Part-II, New Delhi-110049.**

message

I am very glad to know that the Regional Office & Education Centre for South-East Asia of the ICA will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the International Cooperative Alliance at New Delhi on September 20, 1975. During these 80 fruitful years, the ICA has recorded a steady progress in bringing the cooperative movement in the various countries, as a truly international movement for the benefit of the mankind, not only of the developed countries but also of the developing countries. The 80th Anniversary of the ICA has a special significance in the fact that it is being held in the middle of the 70s which has been designated as the Cooperative Development Decade, to mark the world cooperative movement's contribution to the United Nations' Second Development Decade. It is indeed gratifying to know that work initiated under this programme has aroused considerable interest and enthusiasm among the cooperative movements and Governments of the various countries as well as at the United Nations. We in India are proud of the fact that the ICA Regional Office & Education Centre for South-East Asia is located in India at New Delhi and also of the fact that Mr. P. E. Weeraman as its Regional Director has been doing yeoman service through its many activities to help cooperative movement in this region which is considered to be one of the most important areas of the third world.

On behalf of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Limited and on my own behalf, I send our warm cooperative greetings on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the ICA and wish it continued progress in its various activities to help bring cooperative movement on a global plane.

R. L. SHUKLA
President

**NATIONAL COOPERATIVE LAND
DEVELOPMENT BANKS FEDERATION,
Shivshakti, 2nd floor, B.G. Kher Road, Worli, Bombay-400-018**

message

I am happy to learn that the ICA is soon completing its 80 years of useful service and celebrating the 80th anniversary. Cooperative movement has made tremendous progress in the world and they cover a wide range of economic activities. The ICA has done a commendable work in furthering the cause of cooperation and ensuring the growth of the cooperative movement through various forums. It has also been made possible through the medium of the ICA to exchange the knowledge and experience gained by the cooperatives at the International level. Cooperatives all over the world are one today in the matter of service to the people in various spheres of economic activities and the ICA has a challenging role to play to bring the cooperatives and cooperators together and help them in solving their problems.

I wish the 80th Anniversary celebrations all success and the ICA continued progress in its service to the cooperatives all over the world.

B.S. VISHWANATHAN
Chairman

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
C-56, South Extension (Part-II), New Delhi-110049.

message

The National Cooperative Development Corporation which is actively engaged in the development of agricultural cooperatives in India, offers its warm felicitations to the International Cooperative Alliance on its 80th Anniversary. The ICA has rendered valuable services to the cooperative movements of various countries and have brought them into close contact with one another. The growing consciousness of oneness among the cooperative movements of the countries of South-East Asia has been particularly the outcome of the role of ICA in this region. The ICA would no doubt strengthen this collaboration to further promote friendly and economic relations between cooperatives of all these countries, in accordance with one of its aims of achieving unity of action by cooperators throughout the world.

K.S. BAWA
Managing Director

**VAIKUNTH MEHTA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT,
R.B.I. Building, Ganeshkhind Road,
Poona-411016.**

message

The International Cooperative Alliance is celebrating its 80th anniversary with a glorious record of cooperation and international understanding for socio-economic betterment, which many other global international organisations may envy and aspire to.

Pinning our faith to the motto of growth with justice, we in India and our cooperatives particularly do realise the great significance of our efforts towards perfecting and spreading our cooperatives in the service of the last man. Such united effort and counsel together and the goods offices of ICA can alone promote cooperative action and educational programmes and enable us to achieve the goal of a harmonious, prosperous and progressive one world. On this precious occasion, I, on my own behalf and on behalf of Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management, Poona, offer hearty and sincere congratulations to the ICA and wish it a still brighter future.

**A.U. SHAIKH
Director**

**SEPAH CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE,
Avenue Amirabad Shomali, Iran Novin Corner
Teheran-
Iran**

message

We send our heartiest greetings to the International Cooperative Alliance on the occasion of its 80th anniversary and congratulate the ICA for its 80 years of struggle and endeavour in the layout and rehabilitation of the world cooperative order and the coordination of the scattered efforts of cooperatives.

It is a very important and big job to gather 321,526,265 members in 657, 815 cooperative units from 63 countries under its umbrella which has resulted from the efforts of the people and organisations who are members of the ICA. This success gives us glad tidings that in the near future this economic phenomenon and democratic method will further be extended in the world.

In our country Iran, “cooperation” is considered as a suitable means to reach the highest goals in the economic developments. We have a solid belief in “cooperation” because of its economic value and human virtue.

All kinds of steps have been taken to help the rapid increase in the completion of the cooperative movement in different social sectors. Of course, the cooperatives of Iran are not the oldest members of the ICA, but we think it is one of the most able and effective members of the ICA.

Extension of cooperative movement in our country is a pride for those who laid the foundation and arranged the national cooperative movement in Iran.

“Cooperation” took a complete change for the Iran urban society when His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah Arya Mehr issued the Royal Farman on 13th May 1967, which decreed “According to this Farman, we ordain that laws should be made in order that the people throughout the country understand better the principles of “cooperation” taking into consideration the social conditions in Iran. An organisation should be set up to bring about progress and help the activities of cooperatives—mobilize human resources and give necessary

assistance and co-ordinate the affairs of the cooperative societies-arrange the cooperative order in different fields of economy and the centralization of the work of the societies and unions”.

With the issue of this Farman, the government brought about the extension of cooperative education—mobilizing human resources and guidance to cooperative societies. Cooperative education began on a national level and laid the ground work for the establishment and extension of different cooperative societies. Also cooperative research and educational institute was established in the Teheran University.

At present, 16,856 cooperative societies with 3,381,129 members and a capital of Rials 9,194,593,221 are active in different fields. If we consider in average the members of a family as 5 persons, more than 16 million people avail themselves of this service. It will be observed that within a very short time from the start of the Iran cooperative movement, we have attained good progress.

Iran cooperative movement does not only pay attention to the development of national “cooperation” but its final goal is to link its national struggle with that of the world. It is for this reason that we deeply respect the efforts and activities of the ICA and hope it will achieve more success.

In conclusion, whilst congratulating the ICA on its 80th anniversary, we hope that the ICA will gain further success for its members and we wish to add that all the cooperative societies are eagerly looking to this organisation for its advancement.

J. SASSANI

**President of the Union of
Consumer Cooperatives in Iran
and Managing Director of
Sepah Consumers Cooperative.**

THE CENTRAL UNION OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES
8-3-1 Chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo,
Japan

message

On the occasion of 80th Anniversary Celebration of the ICA, the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives sends its cordial greetings on behalf of the Japanese agricultural cooperative movement.

The International Cooperative Alliance has exerted itself since its establishment to safeguard the cooperative principles, even during the first and second world wars and laid down the firm foundation for the international cooperative solidarity. We pay a high tribute to the International Cooperative Alliance for such a significant contribution to the world-wide development of cooperation. It should also be highly valued that the International Cooperative Alliance has made a large contribution to the unity and promotion of cooperative movements in developing countries, particularly in South-East Asian Region after the second world war through its Regional Office and Education Centre.

We have to realize, however, that a lot of efforts are yet to be made in this Region for cooperative development. The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives will continue to collaborate with the International Cooperative Alliance in its development activities, considering the Cooperative Development Decade designated by the International Cooperative Alliance.

We wish the organization and works of the International Cooperative Alliance will be further strengthened and expanded so that it may be really world-wide representative body of cooperative movement.

SHOJI MATSUMURA
Managing Director

JAPANESE CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVE UNION
Seikyo-Kaikan, 1-13, 4 Chome, Sendagaya,
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo,
Japan.

message

“On occasion of ceremony celebrating 80 years anniversary of ICA I send cordial greetings of congratulation on behalf of Japanese Consumers Cooperators. We sincerely respect ICA for its great achievements in developing International Cooperative Movements as well as establishing world peace by preserving its unity since its foundation in 1895. We renew our determination to make strenuous efforts to promote further cooperative movement in world and South-East Asia under leadership of ICA”.

SADAO NAKABAYASHI
President



Mr. Asao Miyawaki, President of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan, delivering the presidential address at the Asian Top Level Cooperative Leaders Conference held in Tokyo in October 1973.

Mr. P.E. Weeraman, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia, speaking at the Asian Top Level Cooperative Leaders Conference. Dr. S.K. Saxena, Director, ICA, is seen sitting on his right.





Mr. N.A. Kularajah, Chairman of the ICA Council for South-East Asia, seen addressing the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations of the Regional Office held in New Delhi in February 1971.

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE FEDERATION,
1st Street, Chungjong-Ro, Sudaemoon-ku, Seoul,
Republic of Korea.**

message

On behalf of the two million Korean agricultural cooperative members, I honourably extend a sincere congratulation to ICA on its 80th Anniversary.

ICA deserves our deepest gratitudes for its vital contribution to cooperative movement in Korea as well as in the other member countries. The same appreciation is to Dr. S.K. Saxena, the Director of the Alliance, Mr. P.E. Weeraman, Regional Director, and all other staffs for their devoted efforts.

Through its activities such as international cooperative movement, economic and technical cooperation, educational activities and research and publication, ICA laid down a solid foundation on which we can largely depend on our cooperative movement.

It is not exaggerating for me to say that ICA proved itself as the most successful institution in getting the people of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds interested, motivated, and organized under the symbol of cooperativism. Consequently, there can be no doubt that the cooperators all over the world have been more firmly united into one organization for a single goal, that is, social as well as economic better-off of themselves.

I would like to draw all member's attention to the fact that the anniversary is taking place at the threshold of a new era, when threat of hunger and energy crisis haunts the vast majority of both developing and industrialized countries. In this light, it is natural that the World Food Conference in Rome dealt with the exceedingly important subject, "Priorities for Agricultural and Rural Development" and invited attentions of governments "to promote the development of cooperative organisations" for generating greater self-reliance, self-sufficiency and motivation". The objectives of the resolution exactly coincide with the goals of the cooperative movements.

In this context, the burden of ICA has become heavier than ever before. ICA is, therefore, called on to consolidate the willingness of the member cooperatives to join in concerted efforts to overcome the challenge before us.

I am confident, however, that ICA under the excellent leadership is ably fulfilling the task it has been given. I am also happy to confirm that we are determined to contribute our share of responsibility in every means.

ICA be encouraged and may God's bless be with her.

YOUN KWAN KIM
President

THE COOPERATIVE UNION OF MALAYSIA LIMITED
Peti Surat 685, Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia.

message

It is with very profound feelings that I send this message of greetings on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary celebrations of the ICA from the Co-operative Union of Malaysia Limited.

For us in Malaysia the occasion is a further reminder that the common man's social and economic instrument has a long history and has passed through many phases of development. It is a reminder that though it has achieved much there is still a great deal to be done to reach a level of satisfaction particularly in this part of the region.

One of the most inspiring and very creditable facets of the Co-operative Movement's passage through time is the fact that it has not changed its character in any way. The original concept and idealism still remains in the form created reflecting the fact that it is a time tested idea which is truly acceptable to all mankind.

The ICA represents the Cooperative Movement and its own survival again epitomises the basic strength and popularity of the Cooperative Movement. It must be added quickly that the ICA has not just survived but grown from strength to strength to reach a very influential and effective position in the world today. For all these we should congratulate and praise the sincere and ardent-cooperators who throughout the years have formed the backbone of the ICA and given it direction and leadership under demanding circumstances.

On the 80th Anniversary of the ICA, we are proud to be associated with the ICA. We would like to reaffirm our faith in it and express our gratitude and thanks for the various assistance and services given to us through the Regional Office in New Delhi. The ICA among its many achievements can be proud that it has created a bond of relationship among the various movements of the countries and we in Malaysia appreciate the sense of belonging that we feel with the rest of the World Movement.

On behalf of the Co-operative Union of Malaysia Limited, I wish continued success and prosperity to the Co-operative Movements of the World and greater strength and growth for the ICA itself in its continuous efforts to create a just and equal human society projecting human dignity and individuality and living in peace with itself.

N. A. KULARAJAH
President



A Session of the 23 ICA Congress held in Vienna in 1966.



A section of the delegates at the ICA Congress held in Vienna

DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVES
His Majesty's Government,
Krishna Kunja, Kalika Sthan, Dilli Bazar,
Kathmandu,
Nepal.

message

Besides undertaking numerous activities relating to the overall promotion of Cooperation, the International Cooperative Alliance provides a good liaison between the Cooperative Movements and other international agencies on the one hand and among the Cooperatives of various countries on the other. Although our National Cooperative Federation is still due to be organised so as to formally acquire membership of the ICA, the Cooperative Movement in Nepal is so thankful for the facilities obtained through the ICA Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia.

The Cooperators of this country join hands with us in extending hearty congratulations and warm greetings on this happy occasion of the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the International Cooperative Alliance. We all pray for such auspicious opportunities of observing anniversaries to come time and again and wish full success to this world-body in attaining its noble objects.

PRADYUMNA LAL
Registrar

WEST PAKISTAN COOPERATIVE UNION
11 Masson Road, P.O. Box 905, Lahore-1,
Pakistan.

message

On behalf of the West Pakistan Co-operative Union, which represents 1.7 million Cooperators of Pakistan, I have great pleasure to send greetings and all good wishes to the I.C.A. Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia on the occasion of the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the I.C.A.

Ever since its inception in London in 1895, the I.C.A. is doing extremely valuable work in propagating co-operative principles and methods and promoting friendly and economic relations among co-operative organisations of all types nationally and internationally. It convenes international Congresses, Conferences and Seminars ; furthers the teaching and study of cooperation, makes available research data and issues useful co-operative publications.

The membership of the I.C.A. is spread over all the continents and it has the honour to enjoy category "A" consultative status in the United Nations, its Economic and Social Council and other specialised agencies. I heartily congratulate the I.C.A. for playing a great role in helping the co-operative movement emerge as a World Movement.

The Co-operative Movement originated in Pakistan in 1904 and the West Pakistan Co-operative Union was organised in 1918. It has a federal status and its membership comprises of co-operative institutions to which about 30,000 cooperatives, having a working capital of Rs. 1346 millions, are affiliated. The Union is a member of the I.C.A. for the last 47 years and closely collaborates with the I.C.A. and its Regional Office for South-East Asia, in holding Regional and National Conferences, Seminars and Workshops etc.

The West Pakistan Co-operative Union is proud of its most cordial rela-

tions with the I.C.A. and assures it of its continued support in further accelerating the tempo of growth of the Co-operative Movement.

I wish the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the I.C.A. on the 20th September, 1975, all success.

ABDUL LATIF MIRZA
President

**GRAINS MARKETING COOPERATIVE
OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.
107-D, Arellano Street, Caloocan City,
Philippines D-739.**

message

On the occasion of its 80th Anniversary on September 20, 1975, we send hearty congratulations from all members of the GRAINS MARKETING COOPERATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. The 80 years of its existence of ICA has indeed showered if not flooded the Filipino heart with enormous enthusiasm in the cooperative movement and that the impact of its sincere concern to the Filipino people has given towering inspirations to all of those who venture to live in the cooperative way.

All my members therefore join me in wishing the ICA a continued success in binding the cooperative world with beautiful garlands of brotherhood and lasting dedications. May the rest of the globe continue to derive guidance and support from the ICA and that its sublime objectives in giving service to the people be upheld and emulated by all its members far and wide.

**DOMINGO C. TUTAAN
Brig. Gen. AFP (Retd.)
Manager**

**THE SINGAPORE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE
UNION LIMITED
Post Box 366, Singapore.**

message

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Singapore National Co-operative Union and the Co-operative Movement in Singapore, to forward you a message of our heartiest congratulations and our warmest Co-operative greetings on the auspicious occasion of the 80th Anniversary Celebrations of the I. C. A.

The Cooperative Movement in Singapore is the smallest movement to be served by our I. C. A. Regional Office for South-East Asia, as it consists of only 80 Cooperative Societies with a membership of 74,000.

Cooperation was introduced into Singapore in 1925 and Cooperators in Singapore have just celebrated the Golden Jubilee of their Movement. We have every justification to be happy with the fact that in 1958 we took the right step forward to become affiliated to the I. C. A.

It is true the bulk of the Singapore Movement still consists of thrift and loan societies, but we have certainly entered into a challenging and exciting phase in the development of the Movement, with the thrift and loan Societies gradually extending into multi-purpose activities. The Trade Unions have since 1970 launched into Co-operative ventures to strengthen their economic base. A new Livestock and Agricultural Cooperative Society has been established, and the recently established International Cooperative Trading Organisation has commenced trading operations. Even a first school Co-operative has been formed, and above all, the Government is initiating a series of measures to strengthen the Movement, which includes the revision of the Cooperative Societies Act, and the re-organisation of the Co-operative Registry into a Cooperative Development Department.

There is no doubt the Movement has greatly benefited from its affiliation with the I. C. A. It may be stated that the progress and advancement of the Movement has been due, in no small measure, to the advice, guidance and the various services rendered by the I. C. A. Regional Office since 1960.

At any rate, the Movement in Singapore, must raise a new generation of Cooperators to succeed the present, for its greatest achievements still lie in the future. The scope of the development is such that there is an urgent need for young leaders. New blood has to be found for obvious reasons. We must begin to nurture a new breed of young, dedicated cooperators, well-trained and well-equipped, to carry us through the 1970s, into the 1980s, and in this connection, we certainly need the continued assistance and services of the I. C. A.

On this 80th Anniversary of the I.C.A., let me, on behalf of the Movement in Singapore, extend to you our best wishes for the occasion. May the mutual bond which has united us all in the great Co-operative family of the I.C.A. grow from strength to strength in our combined efforts for the future success of the World Cooperative Movement.

MAK KAM HENG
Chairman

**NATIONAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL
OF SRI LANKA,
455, Galle Road,
Colombo-3.
Sri Lanka.**

message

I am much pleased to send my greetings to the ICA on the occasion of its 80th Anniversary. Today, we face a very different world from that in which the ICA was born some 80 years ago. Through all the changes and turmoil of those 80 years we can see the enduring wisdom and permanent value of the first decisions which the leaders of the World Cooperation then made. Those 80 years have seen not only two cataclysmic world wars but also the ideological schism which began in October 1917 to divide the world politically into two opposing camps.

In the later years we have witnessed two other vital transformations in the world. First the people of the developing world have in large measure achieved their political freedom and are now marching forward with a determination to reach a state of economic and social freedom. Secondly, there has been the technological revolution. It can hardly be summed up in a sentence but it is worth recalling that those who started the ICA had not seen an aeroplane and whereas to them radio and television were dreams of the future, atomic energy was probably not even that.

International Cooperative Alliance during the tumultuous period of human development is probably unique among international institutions in not only serving those fundamental changes but in growing from strength to strength. This achievement has been due not only to the wisdom of the founders and the subsequent leaders but also undoubtedly to the enduring value of our Cooperative principles themselves. When the ICA began and indeed for the first half century of its history—it was very much an European organization, but the last quarter has brought to its fraternity great numbers of Cooperators from the Americas, from Asia, from the Pacific and from Africa. ICA today—I think we can say this with pride—is truly an international body.

The essence of development is the permanence of early decisions made by its predecessors, and yet that permanence has been possible only because of the flexibility and adaptability which characterised the subsequent work. ICA's constitution has stood the test of time. Its auxiliary Committees have increased in number and in range in recent times but they have a long history, going back to the early twenties when the International Cooperative Wholesale Committee was originally formed.

We can furthermore take pride in the formulation by the ICA of the principles of true Cooperation. Already at the Basle Congress in 1921 the Constituent elements of the Cooperative form of enterprise—based on the Rochdale principles were elucidated. These make a clear distinction between the private, capitalistic, the public and the Cooperative forms of enterprise and outlined the common and similar features which characterise the various types of genuine cooperative undertakings.

In the "thirties" and later in the "sixties" these very principles have been codified so skilfully that on the basis of them an enormous complex of true Cooperative activities has come to be included within the ICA. Without undue conflicts these principles have enabled the ICA to embrace people throughout the world with vastly different cultures, ideologies and stages of development. Few other groupings of human beings can claim as much.

From the vast complex of the activities of the ICA, I would like to mention of two sign posts. First, there are auxiliaries and working parties, now covering wholesaling, retailing, banking, insurance, housing, worker's productives, women's activities, agriculture and fisheries, consumer affairs, librarians and the press. Through them the ICA brings together Cooperators with the know-how in this wide range of human activities. We are looking forward to their growing strength in the days to come.

The second sign post is development, by which I mean development in the sense of eradicating world poverty. Through the recent expansions of the ICA in terms of geographic spread throughout the world, it is beginning to devote increasing attention and resources to finance ways in which Cooperators can help meet this, the greatest challenge of our age.

This is not the place for me to describe at any length the unique and far reaching contributions made by ICA for the development of world Cooperation. But I would like to place on record our deepest appreciation for all the help given by the ICA and its Regional Office in New Delhi. One is tempted in this short note to list the names of those to whom we owe so much, but they are many and very difficult to choose. We have all been very well served by many outstanding Cooperators who held the presidential chair including the present Chairman, Dr. M. Bonow. We should also acknowledge the enormous contribution to the work of the Alliance which has been made throughout the years by the staff of the London Secretariat and more recently by the Regional Offices, headed by their Directors. We recall with great satisfaction the high qualities of leadership from which the Cooperative Movement has profited in the persons of Henry May, Miss Polley, W. P. Watkins and Gemmill Alexander, not to forget our present

Director Dr. Suren Saxena. We also recall with gratitude, the services rendered to our movement by the staff of the ICA Regional Office, New Delhi. Special mention should be made of Mr. P. E. Weeraman, Mr. J. M. Rana, Mr. M. V. Madane, Dr. Dharm Vir and Mr. Lionel Gunawardana.

We look back then on 80 historic years for Cooperatives, but we look forward to even greater future tasks. We face a world whose problems and whose conflicts seem unending and not at all easy to solve. We cooperators believe that guiding the principles which we claim to be ours is the fundamental aim of contributing to fostering amicable human relations for which the whole world yearns.

Let us therefore, on this historic occasion, resolve to ensure that the world knows and uses to the fullest the great and unique asset which our Cooperative form of enterprise represents, to strengthen further the world Cooperative Movement and its cohesion and to promote a world application of the Cooperative principles. Those are the urgent tasks before us today and in the years to come.

G. S. DAYANANDA
President



3371 (100) (263)
ICA

THE COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OF THAILAND
4, Pichai Road, Dusit, Bangkok,
Thailand.



message

We, the Cooperative League of Thailand, as one of your affiliated members, would like to take this opportunity to express our best wishes on your success for the last 80 years. We understand that during this long period the ICA should have faced so many problems and obstacles. But you can overcome all the things in performing your tasks. In some cases the ICA may not be able to serve all the needs of the members, but we think you had tried your best. As cooperators, we should try to cooperate with one another in order to attain our common goals. For the Cooperative League of Thailand in particular, we will act as your good member, if there is anything that we might help or cooperate with you, it would be a great pleasure to do whatever you want provided that the thing must not be beyond our power and capacity.

Last but not least, we would like to pray for the success and prosperity of the ICA so that it might serve the needs of its members for ever.

PRADIT MACHIMA
Director

Some ICA Publications

- Indian Cooperative Laws vis-a-vis Cooperative Principles. Rs. 40.00.
A Handbook of Communication and the Cooperative Teacher. Rs. 20.00
Report of the Asian Top-Level Cooperative Leaders' Conference
October 1973. Tokyo. Rs. 40.00
Professor D.G. Karve Commemoration Volume. Rs. 50.00
A Study of Personnel Management in Selected
Coop. Super Markets in India. Rs. 12.00.
A Model Cooperative Societies Law. Rs. 3.00.
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Education for Agricultural Cooperatives in South-East Asia. Rs. 3.00
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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

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