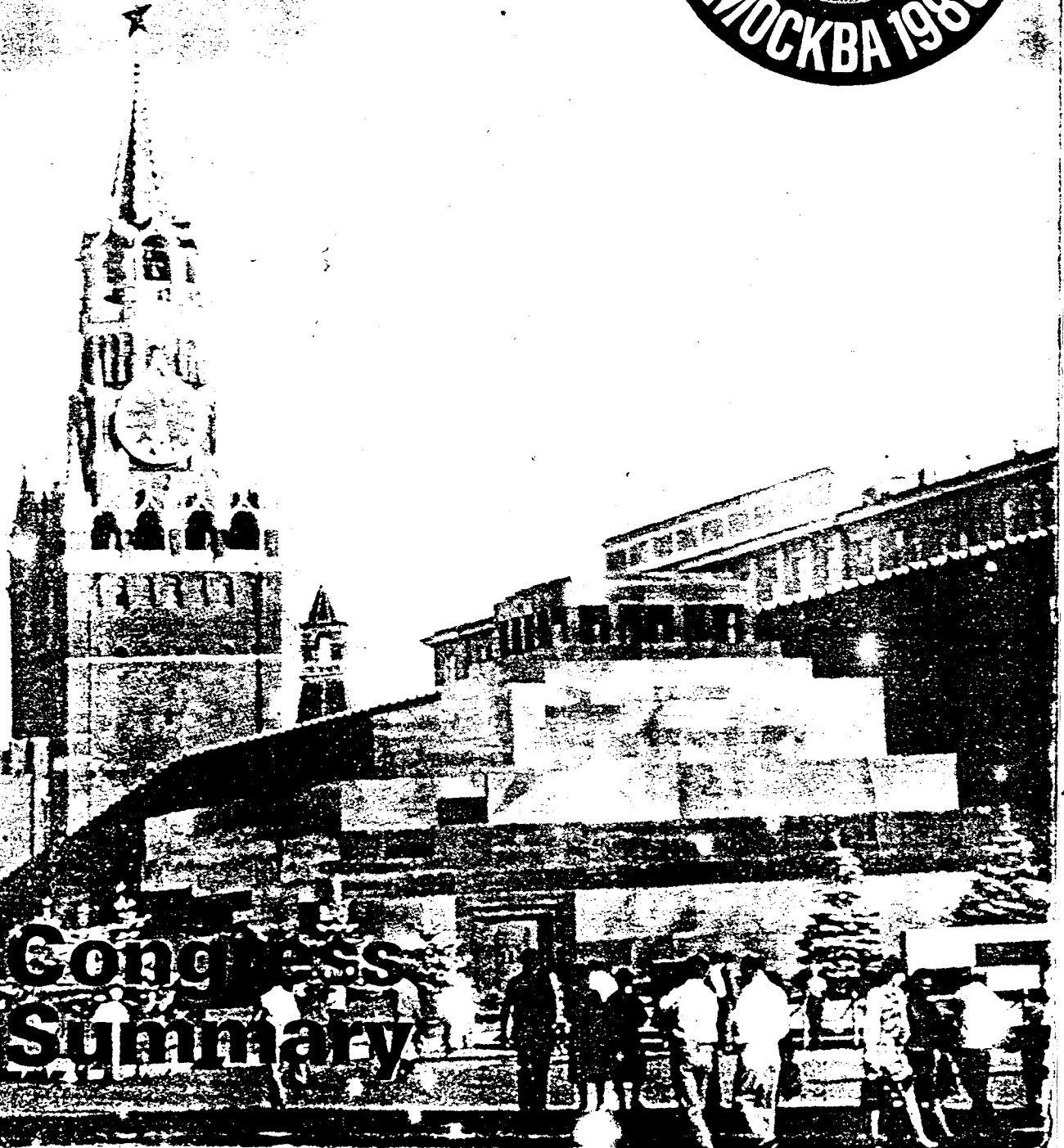
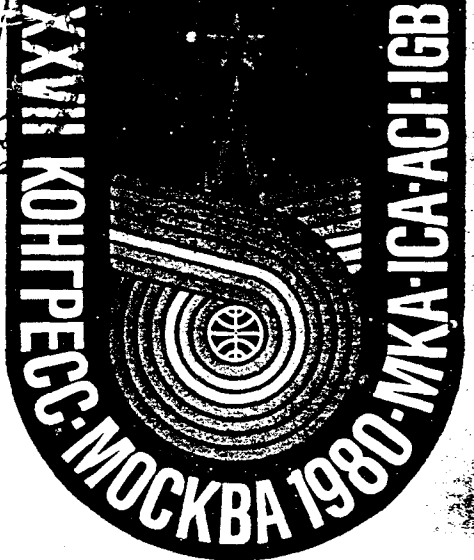


ICA

International Co-operative Alliance
XXVII Congress Moscow
13-16 October 1980

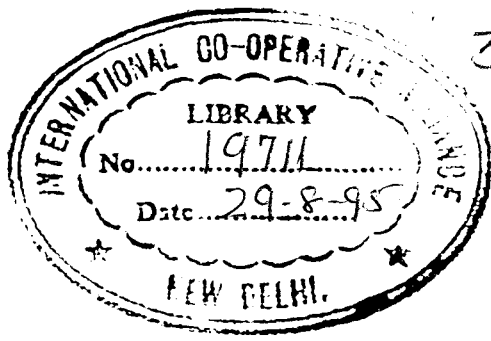


Congress Summary

International Co-operative Alliance

11 Upper Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9PA, U.K.

**Twenty-Seventh Congress
Moscow (USSR)
13th October — 16 October 1980
Congress Summary**



334 (100) (063.)

The 27th ICA Congress Summary is an edited and shortened report of the major debates of the ICA Congress held in Moscow in 1980. This Congress Summary replaces, for reasons of economy, the usual full Report and does not contain a full list of speakers, the main paper or a verbatim record of the debates.

Copies of the main theme—*Co-operatives in the Year 2000* presented by the late Dr A. F. Laidlaw are available direct from ICA Publications.

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in membership of the ICA)*

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Committees of the ICA

President: R. Kerinec

Director: S. K. Saxena

Vice-Presidents: P. Soiland, A. P. Klimov (deceased 1979), A. A. Smirnov (from Sept. 1979)

Members of the Executive:

G. M. Anderson (USA), Y. Daneau (Canada), S. Fujita (Japan), N. Hämäläinen (Finland), J. Kaminski (Poland), R. Kerinec (France), R. Kohler (Switzerland), V. Magnani (Italy), J. J. Musundi (Kenya), O. Paulig (Federal Republic of Germany), A. E. Rauter (Austria), A. A. Smirnov (USSR) (from September 1979), P. Soiland (Norway), N. Thedin (Sweden), H. W. Whitehead (UK)

Members of the Central Committee:

Argentina	E. F. Camuna, L. A. Carello, D. Cracogna, A. Monin, L. Schujman, A. Vainstok
Australia	I. H. Hunter
Austria	F. Haberl, H. Kleiss, A. E. Rauter, H. Zeithofer
Bangladesh	Ali Hossain
Belgium.....	M. Barchy, M. Becquevort, A. Devogel, J. Forest, K. Janssen, H. Lemaire, R. Ramaekers
Botswana	No representative
Bulgaria	Mrs V. Gueorguieva, I. Pramov, S. Sulemesov
Canada	W. G. Barker, Y. Daneau, L.-G. Gervais, K. E. Harding, M. J. Legère, D. Lockwood, J.-M. Ouellet, R. P. Lecon, Mrs P. Prowse, B. Thordarson
Chile	M. L. Amunategui
Colombia	F. L. Jimenez
Cyprus	R. Clerides, M. Eshref
Czechoslovakia	B. Biroš, P. Kalis, R. Leska, M. Marik, R. Novak, P. Tonhauzer, F. Vychodil
Denmark	G. S. Andersen, P. N. Andersen, G. Christensen, E. Hansen, G.-B. Hansen, P. E. Jakobsen, H. H. Nielsen, J. M. Thygesen
Egypt.....	K. H. A. Kheir
Fiji	L. Qarase
Finland	N. Hämäläinen, P. V. Heinrichs, L. Kivi, V. Luukka, E. Pesonen, E. Ranne, E. Salovaara, E. Särkkä, K. Sauvala, J. Syrjänen
France	A. Antoni, Th. Braun, R. Bricout, R. Darnault, R. Deroubaix, R. Kerinec, J. Lacroix, J. Leclercq, J. Moreau, R. Rimbault, J. Regimbeau
The Gambia	A. M. K. Bojang
German Democratic Republic	G. Beyer, H. Fahrenkrog, M. Fruhner, J. Künzel, H. Putzier, R. Rath, H. Schmidt, W. Seibt, G. Theile, W. Wolf
Federal Republic of Germany	W. Ambrosius, E. Betzler, A. Bussmann, W. Croll, D. Hoffman, R. Hollmann, B. Otto, O. Paulig, W. Schulz, H.-J. Wick
Ghana	O. B. Amponsem III, J. M. Appiah
Greece	E. Chronopoulos, N. Kolymvas
Haiti	F. Denis
Hungary	B. Czibalmos, Mrs J. Nagy, J. Pal, L. Rev, I. Rosta, I. Szabo, I. Szlamenicky, A. Varadi

Iceland	E. Einarsson
India	B. K. Bhatt, E. C. Nair, T. Singh, R. G. Tiwari, B. S. Vishwanathan
Indonesia	No representative
Iran	G. Arami, H. Motameni
Iraq	A. Al-Rahmani, K. Abed-Aljabar Shredia
Irish Republic	B. O'Cearbhaill
Israel	M. Bancover, J. Kaspi, A. Kritschmann, I. Landesman, B. Weissman
Italy	R. Ascari-Raccagni, E. Badioli, W. Briganti, R. Costanzo, U. Dragone, V. Magnani, L. Malfettani, O. Prandini, I. Santoro, L. Visani
Ivory Coast	N. Oka
Jamaica	J. Kirlew
Japan	S. Eto, S. Fujita, S. Ishikawa, M. Kita, M. Kunii, O. Morimoto, S. Nakabayashi, J. Nasu, Y. Ogushi, K. Oikawa
Jordan	H. S. Nabulsi
Kenya	J. J. Musundi
Korea	B. C. Choi, J. M. Hong, D. H. Joh, D. Y. Rhee
Malaysia	A. S. Ananthan, U. A. Aziz, A. R. Haran, N. A. Kularajah, R. Mathimugan, K. R. Somasundram
Mauritius	P. Mauremootoo
Morocco	M. Nouri
The Netherlands	No representative
Nigeria	Chief J. E. Babatola, H. N. Osakwe
Norway	J. Benum, E. Gjeldokk, R. Løcken, K. Moe, Miss L. Ovesen, O. R. Sandberg, P. Søiland, J. M. Sørgaard
Pakistan	I. U. H. Piracha
Peru	A. G. Lopez, J. N. Vento
The Philippines	B. P. Faustino, A. Kilayko, E. T. Malinis
Poland	K. Boczar, T. Janczyk, T. Kalinski, J. Kaminski, S. Kociolek, S. Kukuryka, Mrs J. Lokkaj, A. Pasko, J. Sobieszczanski, G. Sztwiertnia
Portugal	F. Ferreira da Costa
Puerto Rico	A. L. Reyes
Romania	G. Cazan, I. Chirilescu, I. Cotot, B. Cseresnyes, C. Dascalescu, G. Rosu, I. Smedescu
Singapore	No representative
Somalia	W. A. Ali
Sri Lanka	No representative
Sweden	H. Alsen, O. Andersson, K. Back, H. Dahlberg, R. Hultberg, G. Kuylenstjerna, S. Kypengren, L. Marcus, K. E. Persson, N. Thedin
Switzerland	W. Bleile, E. Haari, W. Kellerhals, R. Kohler, R. Leuenberger, H. R. Müller, H. Thuli
Tanzania	D. M. Machelmba
Thailand	S. Cholpraserd
Turkey	A. Altun, M. H. Ilbas, S. Kärä
Uganda	No representative
United Kingdom	Mrs G. Bunn, C. McKone, G. B. Miller, J. Peck, J. H. Perrow, Sir A. Sugden, T. E. Turvey, H. W. Whitehead, D. L. Wilkinson
Uruguay	S. Irureta

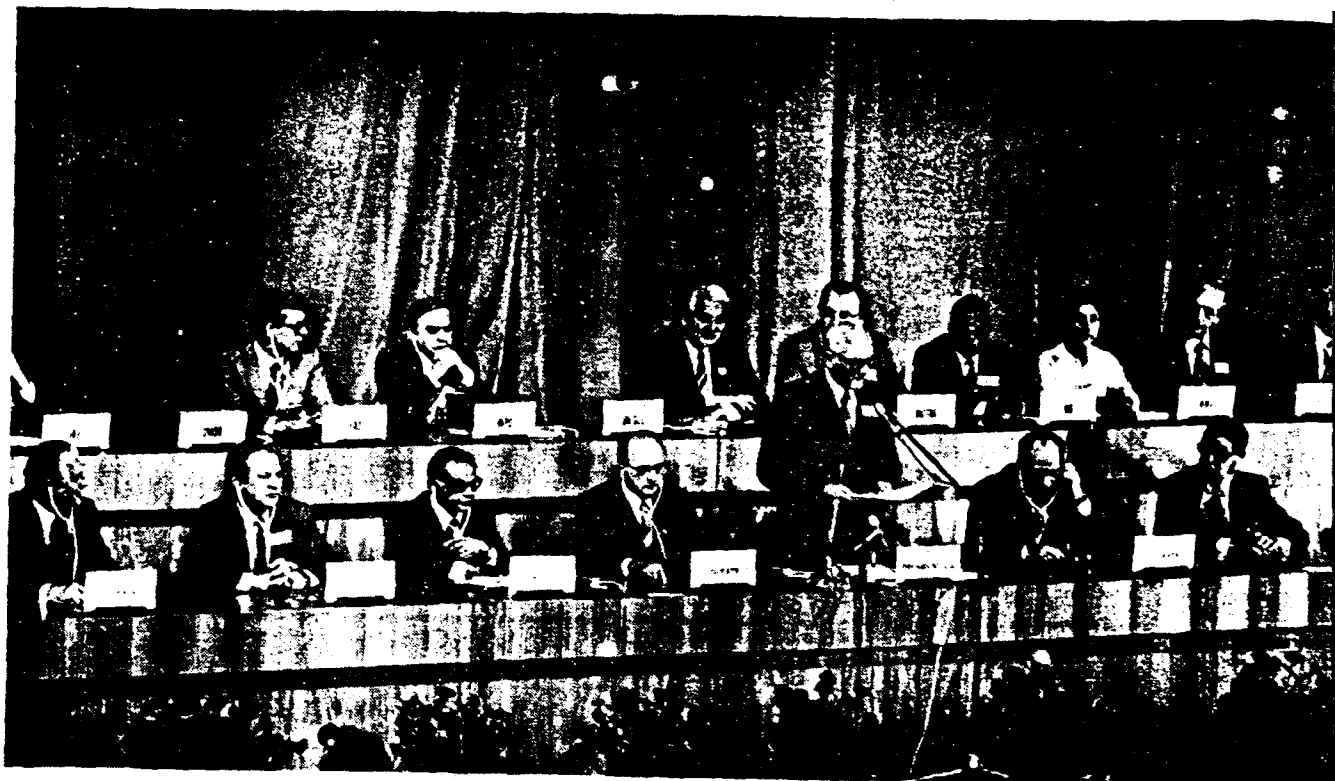
USA	G. M. Anderson, R. Beasley, Mrs B. Deverick, R. Eller, D. Jeffers, G. Lachapelle, F. L. Lair, R. Morrow, S. Sampson, H. Sigelbaum
USSR	M. M. Denisov, M. D. Hasanov, A. Jankauskas, F. D. Kolesnik, A. I. Krashennikov, Mrs S. Petruschchenkova, A. A. Smirnov, H. Supotnitski, K. Terech
Yugoslavia.....	S. Milenkovic
Zambia	No representative

International:

- A. A. Issa, International Cooperative Petroleum Association
- W. McCann, International Cooperative Petroleum Association
- R. Volkers, Nordisk Andelsförbund
- M. R. Domper, Organisation of the Cooperatives of America
- D. Grethe, International Cooperative Bank
- K. E. Vogelsang, International Cooperative Bank
- W. J. Campbell, International Cooperative Housing Development Association
- J. C. Basanes, SIDEFCOOP
- A. A. Bailey, World Council of Credit Unions
- I. D. Alphonse, World Council of Credit Unions
- Mrs U. Jonsdotter, ICA Women's Auxiliary Committee

Past Congresses

1. London	1895	14. London	1934
2. Paris	1896	15. Paris	1937
3. Delft	1897	16. Zurich	1946
4. Paris	1900	17. Prague	1948
5. Manchester	1902	18. Copenhagen	1951
6. Budapest	1904	19. Paris	1954
7. Cremona	1907	20. Stockholm	1957
8. Hamburg	1910	21. Lausanne	1960
9. Glasgow	1913	22. Bournemouth	1963
10. Basle	1921	23. Vienna	1966
11. Ghent	1924	24. Hamburg	1969
12. Stockholm	1927	25. Warsaw	1972
13. Vienna	1930	26. Paris	1976



The Opening Session

XXVIIth Congress in Brief*

The XXVIIth Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance was held at the Cosmos Hotel, Moscow (USSR) from 13 to 16 October 1980, under the Chairmanship of its President, Mr Roger KERINEC. It was attended by 584 registered official voting delegates from 113 member organisations drawn from 52 countries, as well as 11 representatives from international governmental and non-governmental organisations and 512 officially registered visitors.

Monday, 13th October

Morning Session

OPENING OF CONGRESS

Mr Roger KERINEC, President of the Alliance, extended a sincere welcome to all delegates, observers and guests. He particularly welcomed the presence, as official observers, of representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Labour Office (ILO), the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the EEC General Committee for Agricultural Co-operation (COGECA), the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives (COPAC), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the International Raiffeisen Union, the Latin American Technical Institute for Co-operative Integration (LATICI), the World Federation of Trade Unions and the World Peace Council.

He also welcomed the numerous members of co-operative movements not as yet affiliated to the ICA, from Mexico, Mongolia, Spain and Vietnam, as well as the many observers from Centrosoyus.

Welcome on behalf of the USSR Government

A message from Mr Leonid BREZHNEV, President of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the USSR, was read by Mr P. STRAUTMANIS, Vice-President of the Presidium, as follows:

“To the participants of the 27th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance: I wholeheartedly greet the delegates and guests to the 27th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance who have assembled in Moscow to discuss the vital problems of the development of the co-operative movement and co-operation.

“The co-operative movement in our country has achieved great successes. Guided by the teaching of V. I. Lenin, the founder of the Soviet State, the Communist Party, the Soviet Government and all the people render the co-operatives all-round support and assistance in promoting the development and consolidation of their social and economic activities. The co-operatives

*The full Report of the Congress will be published early in 1982.

are an integral part of the economic and political system of Soviet society which provides all necessary conditions for the harmonious development of the individual and for raising the welfare of the people.

“At the present time, the International Co-operative Movement, with a membership of hundreds of millions, constitutes an influential public and socio-economic force. It makes a significant contribution to the struggle for democratisation of international relations and for eliminating political and economic inequality between nations.

“Today, when the reactionary forces of imperialism are striving to turn mankind back to the time of the ‘cold war’, stepping up war psychosis and escalating the arms race, it is imperative to make the efforts of all peace-loving forces, including the International Co-operative Movement, more active in the struggle to preserve and consolidate peace, curb the arms race and achieve disarmament. Co-operatives are able to do a great deal to carry out this important and urgent task.

“I wish the participants in the Congress fruitful work and new successes in pursuing the objectives of the International Co-operative Alliance, which are to serve the cause of raising the economic, social and cultural well-being of the working people of all countries, developing friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance among them in the name of social progress, democracy and peace.

LEONID BREZHNEV”

Welcome on behalf of the Moscow City Soviet

Mr A. Y. BIRYUKOV, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council of the Moscow City Soviet of People's Deputies, welcomed the participants and guests of the Congress, saying that the ICA was one of the larger mass organisations concerned with major social and economic problems. The Council knew what immense efforts the members of ICA in all areas of the world made to achieve greater social justice, greater wellbeing and better cultural and educational opportunities for working people; they were convinced that the 27th Congress would serve to promote further international collaboration between co-operators and would make a fitting contribution to the cause of peace and the development of understanding between peoples.

He hoped participants would take the opportunity to visit their beautiful city, with its theatres, exhibitions and museums, and wholeheartedly wished them a successful and fruitful Congress; he assured them that the Muscovites would do their best to create the necessary conditions to make everyone's stay in Moscow memorable and joyful.

Welcome on behalf of the Co-operative Movement of the USSR

Mr A. A. SMIRNOV, Vice-President of ICA and President of Centrosoyuz, welcomed the 27th Congress on behalf of the 60 million co-operators in the USSR. He said:

“The International Co-operative Movement is one of the biggest mass movements in the world. Co-operative

organisations participate in building a new society in the socialist countries, actively struggle for the interests of the working people in the capitalist countries, and take part in the construction of a new life in the countries which have freed themselves from colonial and semi-colonial dependence.

“Great organisational work aimed at closing the ranks of the world co-operative movement is done by the International Co-operative Alliance which unites hundreds of millions of co-operators in all the continents of the world. The activity of the Alliance has intensified in the past few years. Its work in giving assistance to co-operators of the developing countries has been expanded, the Alliance’s role in developing co-operative education, collaboration among co-operatives and international co-operative trade has become stronger. The Alliance actively involves women and youth in the co-operative movement, pays great attention to the problems of co-operative democracy, and co-ordinates the activities of co-operative movements, directed at defending co-operatives against the onslaught of the capitalist monopolies.

“The Alliance actively protects the working people, takes part in the various activities of the United Nations Organisation and its Specialised Agencies, and supports the moves made by the democratic and peace-loving forces.

“A Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance is a major event in the lives of co-operators throughout the world. It sums up the results of the joint work of the member organisations of the Alliance, which is aimed at improving the living and cultural stand-

ards of their members. At the same time, each ICA Congress makes a positive contribution to the expansion and strengthening of international collaboration within the co-operative movement.

“The agenda of this Congress includes major questions which are of great importance for the International Co-operative Movement. But there is every reason to assert that the co-operative movement will be stronger if its activity proceeds with the support of the State, under conditions of an ever wider collaboration of the co-operators of the whole world, collaboration which is directed at raising the well-being of co-operators and at safeguarding peace, against the threat of war, and in accordance with the ideals, aims, tasks and principles of the International Co-operative Movement.

“As Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CC CPSU and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has already noted in his message of greeting, great attention is paid to the questions of development and improvement of the work of consumer co-operatives in the Soviet Union. The Soviet State renders the co-operatives all-round assistance and the necessary material and moral aid, and helps them to accomplish the socio-economic tasks which face them. All these tasks are exceedingly important and responsible. The list includes the development and strengthening of economic links between town and country, the improvement of services for the population, contributing to a further rise in the material well-being and improvement of the cultural and living conditions of the working

people, and drawing the masses into public self-government.

"It was with great satisfaction that Soviet co-operators welcomed the decision to hold the 27th ICA Congress in our country. We view this not only as an opportunity to familiarise the representatives of the international co-operative public with the activities of the Soviet consumer co-operatives, but also as a chance to promote collaboration and to share experience of the development of the co-operative movement in the interests of all the countries and peoples whose representatives have come here to participate in the Congress.

"We would like also to express gratitude to Mr Roger Kerinec, President of the International Co-operative Alliance, to the members of the ICA Executive, and to all those who to a greater or smaller degree helped to prepare the Congress, and to note with satisfaction the broad representative character of the ICA Congress in Moscow. This will doubtless facilitate a wider exchange of views and experience at the Congress sittings and will make its work more successful and fruitful.

"In conclusion, allow me to express the hope that the extensive constructive programme worked out by the 27th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance will promote the unity of the International Co-operative Movement and further growth in the collaboration of co-operators in their struggle for raising the well-being and cultural standards of the working people who participate in the co-operative movement.

"I wish the participants in the Congress successful and fruitful work."

The President's Inaugural Address

Mr R. KERINEC said the decision to hold the 27th Congress in Moscow had been taken four years ago in Paris, when they accepted the invitation from Centrosoyus. Despite the crisis in international affairs, they had held to their decision because they were not a government organisation, and at a time when decisions taken by governments tended to create tension and endanger peace, it was perhaps good that the representatives of a popular movement such as the ICA should express their will and determination to continue to work together.

Congress would be considering the role that co-operatives could play in the year 2000. While governments were faced with the major responsibility for making social and political decisions to enable billions of people to live in peace and security, the representatives of the many millions of co-operators throughout the world also had an important role, that of making ordinary people understand the importance of the issues confronting both governments and the International Co-operative Movement. ICA had unique experience in international affairs; it was concerned with some of the most important areas of life: production and distribution of food, housing, consumer co-operation, and the circulation of money. They should also not forget what the Secretary-General of the United Nations had called the "great importance of economic co-operation".

In a world torn by ideological clashes, threatened with pollution and depletion of natural resources, faced by growing disparities between the rich and the poor and the violation of human rights, it was essential that the International Co-operative Movement should give an

example of friendship and mutual assistance between East and West, North and South. The exchange of trade and experience between co-operatives in all sectors could make a great contribution to this end, and governments must be urged to undertake the necessary reforms, for example in agrarian policy and taxation, to enable co-operatives to play a greater role.

It was also important that co-operatives should be truly independent and popular movements; only in this way could the entire experience of the people and the technology worked out by the masses of peasants, farmers and industrial workers be made use of, and genuine development take place.

Did the ICA have effective ways and means of meeting the challenges facing it at the present moment? He was afraid not. Those who established the ICA were pioneers with great vision; their spirit must be maintained, but it was equally necessary to examine present structures and methods of operation in order to increase effectiveness. A way must be found of co-ordinating more closely the work of the various administrative bodies, auxiliary committees, regional offices, international co-operative federations, within the ICA structure, to allow for better communication between them and with the centre, and to make ICA more effective. Only if this were done would its membership increase and its prestige grow among governments and inter-governmental organisations. Let the Moscow Congress be an outstanding demonstration of the fact that the ICA was capable of giving hope to the nations, and inspire confidence that it would be able to join more effectively in the creation of a New International Order.

The President expressed the Alliance's thanks to the Ministers and representatives of the public who had attended the opening of the Congress.

Obituaries

The President closed by mentioning the names of some of the co-operators who had passed away since the previous Congress: Ernest Clarke (UK), Maurits Doms (Belgium), Harald Håkansson (Sweden), Reidar Haugen (Norway), Anton Kimml (Austria), Alexander Petrovic Klimov (USSR), Leopold Kovalcik (Czechoslovakia), Professor Paul Lambert (Belgium), B. D. Mishra (India), Asao Miyawaki (Japan), Robert Alexander Palmer (Lord Rusholme) (UK), Mrs G. E. Stanford (ICA Secretariat), S. Sultanov (USSR) and Tom Weir (UK), all of whom had been listed in the Report. To these he would like to add the name of Glenn Anderson, of the Co-operative League of the USA and a member of ICA Executive Committee, who had died suddenly a few months ago.

He said the contribution of all these co-operators to the work of the Alliance had been very great, and for this they and others like them should be remembered at Congress.

(A few minutes' silence was observed.)

Congress Committee

Congress approved the appointment of the following as members of the Congress Committee, in addition to the President and two Vice-Presidents: Dr L. A. Carello (Argentina), Dr H. Fahrenkrog (GDR), Mrs U. Jonsdotter (Sweden), Mrs J. Lokkaj (Poland), Mr B. S. Vishwanathan (India), Mr L. Wilkinson (UK).

Tellers

Congress approved the appointments of the following as Tellers: Mr. W. Briganti (Italy), Mr W. Kellerhals (Switzerland), Mr V. Kondratov

(USSR), Mr J. J. Musundi (Kenya), Mr N. T. F. Nagaratne (Sri Lanka), Mr I. Pramov (Bulgaria), Dr A. L. Reyes (Puerto Rico), Mr B. Thordarson (Canada).

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

In presenting the Report of the Central Committee on the Work of the ICA during the period 1976-1980, the Director, Dr S. K. SAXENA, expressed his sincere thanks to all colleagues in London, New Delhi and Moshi who had made this work possible, often under difficult and uncertain conditions.

He then went through the Report in detail. He referred first to the follow-up action which had been taken on the various Resolutions adopted at the 1976 Congress in Paris. In this connection he mentioned particularly the Resolution on Collaboration between Co-operatives to be moved at the present Congress, the draft Code of Co-operative Advertising Practice issued by the Press Working Party and the recent formation of a Press Working Party for the S.E. Asia Region, the President's address to the UN General Assembly's Special Session on Disarmament and ICA's participation—thanks to Centrosoyus—in the very recent NGO's meeting on Disarmament in Geneva. The Consumers Committee had followed up the resolution on Standards for Non-Food Products; the Housing Committee, among other activities, had been pressing for higher priority on housing in the affairs of the EEC; the resolutions on Women and the Co-operative Movement, and Tourism, had been followed up by the Committee and Working Party concerned, the latter

having adopted a Charter on Co-operative Tourism.

Lack of finance had unfortunately prevented the full implementation of the Long-term Programme of Work laid down at the Paris Congress, although a number of ICA's activities during the period had been directly relevant to this Programme. Since 1976 nineteen organisations had been admitted to membership of the Alliance, and ICA therefore had an excellent coverage in various parts of the world.

The Report described the work carried out by the Central and Executive Committees and the Secretariat during the period, and the setting up of a special working group to look into the composition of the Executive Committee, the position of Regional Councils within the ICA structure, and the role of the Auxiliary Committees and their relationship with each other and with the Secretariat.

The setting up of a Regional Office for West Africa had been endorsed at the previous day's Central Committee meeting, as funds were now available from Norway, the Swedish Co-operative Centre, the UN Development Programme and CIDA; a number of members were contributing to a light administrative budget, and there would therefore be no charge to the central budget.

The Director again reminded delegates of the very serious financial situ-

ation which had made work in the Secretariat extremely difficult. ICA had suffered badly in 1980 from exchange fluctuations, and if delegates wanted the ICA to survive and work actively rather than merely exist as a passive organisation, it would be necessary to evolve a system whereby the ICA did not lose, whatever happened to exchange rates.

Turning to the work of the Auxiliary Committees and Working Parties, the Director mentioned particularly the "Buy a Bucket of Water" campaign launched by the Women's Committee, the International Trade Conferences organised by the Agricultural Committee. The activities of the various Committees were detailed in the Report, and these now included the Fisheries Committee which had received committee status in 1977. Another body working very closely with the ICA was the International Co-operative Housing Development Association (ICHDA), whose activities were also described in the Report. He listed the publications issued since the previous Congress, in particular the additions to the "Studies and Reports" series.

Relations with the United Nations and other non-governmental organisations continued to be good. The Alliance had participated in the FAO World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), and a team consisting of several ICA member organisations had discussed with the FAO, earlier in 1980, the role of co-operatives in encouraging local participation in development, which had emerged as the main focus of the recommendations of the World Conference. He particularly wished to express the ICA's appreciation of the support given by local organis-

ations in enabling ICA to be represented with the United Nations and its Agencies in New York, Geneva, Rome and Paris. The Director had himself had the opportunity of calling on the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and the Chief of the Transnational Co-operation Unit, to make them aware of the co-operative point of view. Through its member organisations, ICA had been represented in a large number of meetings in various parts of the world.

Debate on the Report of Central Committee

Speakers on the **Introduction** all approved the Report of Central Committee as a true and accurate account of the activities of the ICA over the past four years since the previous Congress. Speakers also took the opportunity of thanking Centrosoyus for the excellent working conditions provided for the Congress, a sentiment expressed by many speakers throughout the Congress.

Speaking on behalf of his country's three co-operative organisations, Mr G. ROSU (Romania) stressed the importance which they attached to their membership of the ICA and their desire to contribute fully to the continuous strengthening of unity and collaboration within its framework. As founder members they had always supported the actions and objectives of the ICA programme, and had worked to promote co-operative ideas and principles and increase the ICA's role and prestige internationally.

The Romanian Movement supported the measures taken by the ICA Execu-

tive for improving work efficiency, for husbanding financial resources and assisting co-operative movements in the less developed regions of the world. It also stressed the importance of increasing the membership, which would strengthen ICA in quality as well as quantity and enable it to become more representative of the whole co-operative world. He outlined the Romanian Movement's own international relations work, and acknowledged the appreciation expressed in the Report, of CENTROCOOP's work in translating and printing the French edition of the *Review of International Co-operation*.

He assured the Congress that the Romanian Movement subscribed to the important objectives mentioned in the Central Committee's Report, and supported the measures and projects planned for the future, thus contributing to the unity and internal cohesion of the organisation.

Mr. J. KAMINSKI (Poland) said the purpose of the Congress was to discuss changes in the structure of ICA's work. Speaking on behalf of the Polish Co-operative Movement, he said that the Alliance must have the structure and personnel necessary to assure continuing relations between the co-operative movements of many countries with different social and economic systems. The Polish co-operatives greatly appreciated the activities of the Housing, Agricultural and other Auxiliary Committees.

The Report of the Central Committee testified to the fact that the ICA was keenly aware of the importance of participation in international activities, and this was shown by the report of the ICA President to the recent Emergency Ses-

sion of the UN Assembly. Its increasing co-operation with the FAO, UNCTAD and other organisations within the UN would doubtless yield fruitful results in the future.

While the future of the ICA was the subject of their discussions, their past experience must be used to help them meet the needs of an evolving world. The task of the International Co-operative Movement was to contribute to improvements in all fields of human endeavour, through education for co-operation. He expressed the conviction of the Polish Co-operative Movement that the International Co-operative Alliance would have a successful future.

✓ Mr B. S. VISHWANATHAN (India) said the Report was a record of definite achievement, but also of some uncertainties. The Alliance had made a valuable contribution towards strengthening the co-operative movements all over the world, particularly in the developing countries. In this connection he wished to mention specifically the establishment of the new Regional Office in West Africa, and the "Buy a Bucket of Water" campaign which had shown that the Co-operative Movement could successfully mobilise international efforts to assist the developing countries to solve their massive problems.

Mr Vishwanathan mentioned the increasing role which co-operatives were called upon to play in the developing countries, the need for greater efficiency and for more effective collaboration between the movements of developed and developing countries to speed up the process of development.

He expressed concern over the note of uncertainty in the Report about ICA's

future: a strong ICA was more than ever needed; a weakening of the ICA would demoralise the entire co-operative movement and it must not become a merely notional and skeletal organisation. Congress's decision on this point would affect the future, not only of the ICA but of the entire movement. With a sense of hope and optimism he endorsed the Report of the Central Committee.

Mr N. I. SUPOTNITSKY (USSR) said that the Report indicated that the Alliance had unflinchingly pursued its aim of contributing to the establishment of lasting peace and security in the world; he gave details of the various steps it had taken towards this end, and the ways in which it had endeavoured to preserve its unity.

Soviet co-operators were well informed on the activities of the Alliance, and supported its efforts directed towards the consolidation of the international co-operative movement, towards collaboration between co-operatives at all levels, and strengthening co-operative movements throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries.

Mr J. MARIK (Czechoslovakia) said the Report accurately reflected the problems of the ICA and the whole situation of the world co-operative movement. It was right that the Congress participants who faced these problems should also be able to express their attitude towards them. The most important problem which touched them all was world peace, but others were concerned with protecting the environment and the struggle against hunger and disease. The Co-operative Movement had always taken a strong stand on all these matters

and must continue to do so, maintaining its defence of international solidarity and equal rights for all people all over the world. ICA should increase its involvement in the economic and social sphere, and Mr Marik suggested that education should be social as well as vocational, since social progress was not only the basic tradition of Co-operation but was also a guarantee for its future existence and development.

He closed by thanking the various bodies within the Alliance, and its staff, for all the work carried out during the past four years, and especially for the assistance rendered to young co-operative organisations in developing countries. Through their initiatives and realistic actions, through their conviction in the usefulness of the ICA's work, they had laid the foundations for further progress.

Mr I. PRAMOV (Bulgaria) said that it was hardly possible to reflect the vast and diversified activities of the ICA within the confines of the Report, but it did show the viability and the great opportunities for further growth of the International Co-operative Movement.

The Central Co-operative Union of Bulgaria had played its part in carrying out the spirit of the Resolutions passed at the ICA 26th Congress, in keeping with the traditions of the Bulgarian co-operatives. One such activity had been the 1977 seminar held jointly with the Agricultural Committee, on the role of agricultural co-operatives in the development of agriculture and the solution of rural problems, which had been attended by representatives from twelve developing countries. They would be organising further seminars of this type.

Collaboration between the ICA and

international organisations in the training of personnel from developing countries was also very important, and his Movement attached great significance to the strengthening of ties with the United Nations, the FAO and other international bodies.

Mr Pramov emphasised the great importance of collaboration between co-operatives, especially economic and trade collaboration, and the support given by the ICA Committees and personnel for all initiatives along these lines was greatly appreciated. But such collaboration could only take place under peaceful conditions, and for this reason Bulgarian co-operators would spare no effort to strengthen peace throughout the world and extend the activities of the ICA.

Mr W. WOLF (German Democratic Republic) said much had been done in the four years since the last Congress, especially in the matter of collaboration between the ICA and other international agencies, and in providing support for co-operative activities in developing countries. Co-operators in his country followed closely the work of the ICA, and were confident that the activities of the next few days and in the 80s would enable the Movement to consolidate and extend what had already been achieved. He wished success to the delegates and observers from developing countries, and pledged the support of the ICA in their work.

Delegates had assembled in Moscow from all parts of the world to express and exchange views on the role of the co-operative movement: it was essential to strive for continuing dialogue and to oppose confrontation and conflict. He

hoped it would be a fruitful Congress.

Speaking on the **Work Programme** (1.3) Mr N. THEDIN (Sweden) said that Dr Saxena, in his very fascinating report, had referred to the severe cuts in personnel and to the almost impossible conditions under which the staff had been asked to work. This was well illustrated by the fate of the Work Programme presented to the Paris Congress in 1976, following Mr Klimov's proposal at the Warsaw Congress in 1972. The Programme had been carefully worked out, it would cost £255,000 for the four years, and after a long and constructive debate the Programme was adopted by Congress. Now the Report of the Central Committee stated (1.3) that the Programme had not been fully implemented because of lack of resources, although the ideas of the Work Programme had been reflected in the ICA's general activities; however, during a period of financial losses and cuts in personnel, these also had been limited, especially as no additional resources had been placed at the disposal of the Director. As Mr Thedin said:

"We asked him to till a new field but we did not give him a plough and a horse, still less a tractor. We did not even give him a spade. We simply asked him to dig with his bare hands."

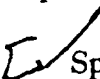
The serious deterioration in the ICA's finances had not been foreseen, and without finances no work programme is realistic. However, the work done in order to prepare the Programme was not without value, as it demonstrated what the ICA might achieve, given the financial resources approved by the Paris Congress. It must presumably now be accepted that it was impossible to imple-

ment the Programme, but he would like to emphasise that Dr Saxena had done wonderful work; it was difficult to work under conditions of financial strain, and Dr Saxena had done the very best possible in the circumstances. The Work Programme belonged to the past, but he believed they had learned something for the future from it, and from that point of view it had been of value.

The PRESIDENT said he associated himself with what Mr Thedin had said. Congress then adjourned for lunch.

Afternoon Session

The Discussion on the Report of Central Committee continued with reports of follow-up action on the **Resolutions** passed at the 1976 Congress.

 Speaking on **Peace**, Mr S. NAKABAYASHI (Japan) referred first to the Director's International Co-operative Day appeal to ICA's 350 million members throughout the world to intensify their efforts to establish world peace, and his reminder that the world has more explosive power than food and invests 2,500 times more in the machinery of war than in the machinery of Peace. Mr Nakabayashi went on to describe the proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the world, in spite of the UN declaration that the 1970s should be the Decade for Disarmament, and the imminent threat of nuclear war.

He then touched briefly on the 1980 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs held that year in Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, attended by 105 representatives from 25 countries and 12 international organisations, including many prominent scientists and fighters for peace. The

Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union had been playing a leading role in the Japanese Movement against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs since 1977, and he himself had had the honour of presenting the keynote speech at the World Conference on behalf of the organisers.

Mr Nakabayashi described the terrible effects of the first two atomic bombs in the history of mankind which still afflicted more than 370 000 *hibakusha* (atomic bomb sufferers). The Japanese sincerely hoped that they might be the last victims of such inhumanity. But it was said that nuclear weapons deployed in the world had a million times more power than that of Hiroshima and their testing had produced new sufferers in many parts of the world. There would be a second UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1982 and he urged all co-operative organisations affiliated to the ICA to make representations to their governments to ensure the success of this Special Session and improve the prospects of world peace.]

Mr Nakabayashi was followed by two observers Mr J. NEMOUDRY (World Federation of Trade Unions) and Mr B. PETRUS (World Peace Council).

Mr J. NEMOUDRY stressed the contribution of the ICA to the preservation and consolidation of peace. He said the WFTU had always been deeply involved in improving the socio-economic conditions of the working people in the world and supported the collective action of the developing countries in their struggle against the multinationals. He outlined briefly some of the other aims pursued by the WFTU, including its work for the establishment

of a more just International Economic Order and for more respect for the rights of working people. The WFTU sought to strengthen its links with the UN specialised agencies to achieve this end, and co-operated with the ICA so that they could synchronise their efforts in their common cause.

Mr B. PETRUS conveyed the greetings of the World Peace national committees of 135 countries. He was glad to renew, on behalf of the World Peace Council, the pledge of continuing and strengthening collaboration between the WPC and the Alliance: both were working for the defence of international peace, security, human dignity and survival itself. In the present worsening state of relations and the proliferation of nuclear weapons, he referred to the importance of the previous month's assembly in Sofia of the World Parliament of Peoples for Peace attended by 2,260 participants. He quoted extracts from the appeal issued from that assembly, and called on co-operators to act without delay, for themselves, their homes, their co-operatives, their children, for the survival of the present generation and the generations to come, before it was too late, before the first bomb dropped. Mr Petrus said that his organisation was aware that declarations at meetings were not enough and could be forgotten when participants arrived back home, and mentioned some of the follow-up action they hoped to take. He thanked the President for the opportunity to address the Congress, and again emphasised the importance of collaboration between their two organisations in their various fields of mutual interest at various levels, bilaterally, in the NGO movement and

within the UN system. He wished delegates a successful Congress.

Mr J. LACROIX (France) wished to point out that since the Paris Congress, the zones of peace and freedom had been greatly reduced throughout the world. Perhaps ICA could have done more, but the conditions which determine peace or war are mainly outside the control of ordinary people, and how should the ICA and other NGOs be expected to succeed where the United Nations have failed?

He touched on the question that new members to the ICA should not be admitted unless their statutes conformed to the Principles of the ICA; however statutes were subject to national legislations, and did not necessarily provide a reliable criterion of whether an organisation was or was not truly co-operative. He suggested that the ICA Executive Committee might consider setting up a committee composed of leading co-operative lawyers, who would be given the task of systematically examining co-operative legislation and its development, in order to assess the level of correspondence to ICA Principles, similar to the earlier ICA Commission on Co-operative Principles. The findings of such a committee would have great importance for co-operative legislators, especially as the committee would be able to liaise with the International Labour Organisation which has accumulated a lot of data on this subject.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr Lacroix and assured him that his proposal would be noted.

Mr T. MIYAZAKI (Japan) said that the Report of Central Committee de-

✓ voted much space to **Collaboration between Co-operatives (2.2)**, following the adoption of the Resolution at the Paris Congress. Such collaboration was essential to enable co-operatives to confront competition from the private sector, and would also bring benefit to co-operators in many countries. His own organisation, the National Federation of Farmers' Co-operatives (Zen-noh), did not confine its collaboration to the field of trade, but had also been promoting exchanges of experience and information for the development of co-operatives throughout the world.

Zen-noh's activities included the marketing of all farm produce delivered by members, and the supply of all goods needed by them on their farms and in daily life. Their international activities included: the Japan/Thai agreement mentioned in the Report; exchanges with Centrosoyus; relations with grain co-operatives, with French dairy co-operatives, and with the Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives of neighbouring China—on all of which he gave details. Out of these experiences Zen-noh had drawn some practical principles for the promotion and development of international collaboration between co-operatives, which might be obvious but Mr Miyazaki hoped they would lead to better understanding:

1. Mutual trust must be established as otherwise collaboration could not develop.
2. Mutual benefit must be ensured.
3. Collaboration must take place on equal bilateral terms with both sides willing to assume responsibility.
4. It was important to try to ensure

a continuing relationship in which there was firm determination to overcome any possible obstacles.

✓ Mr Miyazaki closed by expressing his sincere hope for the further development of international collaboration between co-operatives during the period to the next Congress.]

Mr A. E. REZZONICO (Argentina) said that the importance of making known the details of collaboration between co-operatives had been repeatedly stressed, and he thought the experience of the credit movement in his country would be useful to delegates in terms of their own national experiences.

In 1972, the Argentine credit co-operatives were in a state of crisis owing to the political situation; then the position improved through widespread financial reforms in the country, although co-operative rights were reduced. Now, as he had reported at the 4th International Conference on Co-operative Thrift and Credit held in Brazil in 1977, thanks to the collaboration of all sectors of the Argentine Co-operative Movement as well as of the international movement, they had been able to improve the situation and develop a co-operative banking system which was of crucial importance to the country's co-operative movement.

He gave details of the problems faced by the new banking system, and the means used to overcome them, and referred to Mr Lacroix's recommendation that a commission should be set up to monitor co-operative legislation. His Movement strongly supported the idea: they felt it was important that governments should create more favourable conditions for the activities of credit co-

operatives, in line with UN decisions.

His movement believed that international collaboration could be improved: they themselves needed closer co-operation with the co-operative organisations of other countries; they needed their support, and sometimes they needed finance from abroad to enable them to expand their activities. In transmitting the warm greetings of the Argentine co-operatives, Mr Rezzonico appealed to delegates to display more solidarity not only with the Latin American co-operatives but with other bodies working for the establishment of an ICA office in Latin America.

Mr A. MONIN (Argentina) also spoke about the difficulties of the co-operative movement in Argentina. Federations played a major part in their co-operative activities and had strongly supported the UN Year of Co-operation in 1975. He gave details of the co-operative credit movement in his country, and the contribution it was making to further social progress. He expressed the hope that the National Bank would sooner or later abrogate the legislation which still restricted its development.

In conclusion Mr Monin commented on the solidarity between delegates which characterised the Congresses of the Alliance, a solidarity based on the concern of all co-operative workers for the progress of the whole movement. He said their primary concern was to consolidate peace throughout the world.

Mr E. COETTE (France) said his organisation, the National Federation of Consumer Co-operatives (NFCC) had always sought for collaboration between co-operatives in the international ex-

change of products; they were now importing products from Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Africa, Israel, India and Japan. He hoped that collaboration between co-operatives within the Alliance would increase, in accordance with the desire expressed fourteen years ago at the Vienna Congress in 1966. In fact this was essential if they were to resist the threat of the multinationals.

INTERCOOP and other bodies had achieved great results, but greater organisation was needed to make co-operatives more competitive, and also to increase co-operative production to meet co-operative demand. Exchange of experience was also important, in order to use resources to greatest effect. In spite of scarce resources, the Alliance had striven to strengthen collaboration between individual movements; its voice had been heard in all countries, but it must become a still more effective vehicle for exchanges, so that more assistance could be given to those countries which consider co-operation to be the only way of solving their internal problems. Co-operators of all countries must unite, and they will then represent a powerful economic force capable of creating a new economic order in which there will be no place for greed, or for waste and misapplication of resources.

✓ Mr. N. T. F. NAGARATNE (Sri Lanka) referred to the vital role played by the ICA Regional Offices in helping to identify areas of need, and in establishing the necessary contacts for the implementation of development programmes. He hoped that the financial constraints mentioned by the Director would not affect this role.

He described the programmes then

being carried out in Sri Lanka, the teacher training project aimed at improving managerial skills, a Regional pilot project carried out with the collaboration of the Regional Office and the Swedish co-operative movement, and the consumer education project for women funded by the consumer guilds in Sweden, the Swedish Co-operative Centre and SIDA; the latter had been successful to the extent that during recent elections 120 women had contested places on branch committees and administrative boards, of whom over 100 had gained places on the branch committees, and two on boards of directors. The concept of the food pyramid introduced from Sweden had been most effective in communicating with the rural women, to made them more diet- and health-conscious.

Mr. Nagaratne also thanked the National Co-operative Union of India and the Japanese co-operative movement for their help and support, and the ICA for its assistance in providing drinking water through the 'Buy a Bucket of Water' campaign.]

Speaking on **Finance (7.)**, Mr. A. HOSSAIN (Bangladesh) said that the seven million co-operators in his country regarded the ICA as a bond of unity and a source of inspiration to continue with the struggle for economic improvements and social justice. It was essential to free the ICA from its present financial constraints, and he suggested that all national movements should use the annual International Co-operative Day to launch national savings campaigns and contribute 50% of such savings to ICA funds as a token of faith in the ideals of co-operation.

Mr. D. L. WILKINSON (UK) referred to Mr. Hedley Whitehead's remarks at the 1976 Congress (Paris) on the constraints imposed on the work of the ICA by lack of funds, and to the subsequent setting up of the Ad Hoc Committee on Finance (FABUSCOM), as described in paras. 7.6 and 7.7 of the Report under discussion. Forecasts made during the present session did not make pleasant hearing, and cuts in staff with consequent reductions in services appeared inevitable. It seemed clear that member organisations did not contribute sufficient money to the ICA to sustain the operations which they expected it to fulfil on their behalf. The list of contributions made by member organisations indicated that some movements were not paying as much as they should, or as much as their business operations showed they could afford. Membership of the ICA carried responsibilities, and one of those responsibilities was to contribute in such a manner as to enable the organisation to fulfil its tasks. He hoped that delegates, on their return home, would ensure that their organisations gave the matter the attention it deserved.

He closed by referring to the considerable sums contributed to the ICA by the movement in the United Kingdom, as well as its support of the Latin American project and its contribution of £10,000 to the establishment of the Regional Office in West Africa. He wished to echo Mr. Whitehead's closing words in Paris four years ago: 'Actions speak louder than words'.

Mr. H. N. OSAKWE (Nigeria) thought that it was paradoxical that at a time of general economic stress, ICA was

under pressure to expand its services—purely from the motive of self-preservation: if it did not expand to cover the whole world, it could not fulfil its role of working across the board to save the common man, the ordinary peasant, from the ruthless exploitation of the multinationals.

A new formula had been evolved for calculating subscriptions, which were however calculated in national currencies, and their equivalent amounts in sterling were at the mercy of fluctuating exchange rates and inflation. He believed that solidarity and good will should induce members to make up any shortfall so caused: they should realise that it was to their advantage to pay a little more to ensure ICA's solvency. Mr. Osakwe was quite sure that member organisations in West Africa would be willing to sacrifice a little more in order to ensure the survival and growth of this irreplaceable world Alliance in that Region.

Mr. G. R. GAY (UK) thought it was perhaps easier for him to speak freely now he was no longer a member of the Central Committee, but he hoped to be both helpful and constructive. Dr. Saxena and Mr. Søiland had spelt out the seriousness of the situation. It was easy to be wise after the event but, along with others, he had said at the Central Committee meeting in Copenhagen (September 1978) that the various compromises arrived at by the Executive Committee would give hostages to fortune, and perhaps the chickens had come home to roost even earlier than had been anticipated.

"I felt at the time that the original Ad Hoc Committee's report was a very good one and faced up in a realistic way

to the financial problems facing the Alliance. Now, perhaps understandably enough, in an international organisation composed of so many and such varied types of co-operative organisation it is very difficult to avoid compromises; but without the necessary financial resources the ICA can never be the force for progressive change and overall good that we all desire.

"Surely none of us can be satisfied with the report and its implications set out in paragraphs 7.4 to 7.8. The summary of the Alliance's income and expenditure in paragraph 7.5 (dealing with the financial situation) in the years since our last Congress in Paris in 1976 really says it all. The Alliance works literally on a shoestring and, make no mistake, does it extremely well, but it is not a healthy situation when the subscription income for that period of four years is less than that provided by special sponsors, and here, of course, the Alliance owes a great debt of gratitude to the Swedish Co-operative Movement.

"To cut down on expenditure is all very well, but there is a limit to that, and if it goes too far the services to member organisations and co-operative development in general will suffer, and we could finish up with an organisation that exists only on paper.

"Part of the strength of the Alliance has always been its ability to act as a pressure organisation, particularly on Governments and UN specialised and similar international bodies and to get them to act, promoting co-operative activities, and here the officers of the Alliance do a grand job. But of course we are less likely to be taken seriously by Governments and other bodies unless we adopt the degree of self-help, that is, help from internal co-operative sources, that should be inherent in our co-operative principles.

"For myself, I have felt for some time that one of our present weaknesses is our lack of membership of the major oil or energy rich States, particularly those with great wealth and relatively

small indigenous populations who could do so much to further co-operative efforts, particularly in the under-developed countries of the world although I am well aware of the good work done by many co-operative organisations on a one-to-one basis.

“As I see it, we must face up to the Alliances’s present financial difficulties, and that really means in one way or another raising additional income, preferably subscription income or, instead of the two or three lean years mentioned in paragraph 1.3, we could have a continual running down of the Alliance’s activities. If we will the end, we must will the means, and as one who holds the Alliance in the highest regard I trust that the Central Committee and the Executive will see that this should and will be done.”

Mr. P. MAUREMOOTOO (Mauritius) agreed with the previous speakers that no organisation could run at a loss indefinitely. But he hoped the ICA would not become an exclusive club which only the wealthy could afford to join. There was a difference between unwillingness to pay and inability to pay. In many Third World countries, turnover—on which subscriptions to the ICA were based—bore little relation to net gains. They were facing great difficulties due to rising prices, including that of oil. Even when they could manage to pay their subscriptions, many of them could not afford to attend international meetings, and would not be here at this Congress had it not been for the kindness and generosity of Centrosoyus.

If the Co-operative Movement were to expand, surely the majority of prospective members would be found among the teeming millions of the Third World. But now it seemed that they might be excluded because their enlist-

ment and training needed financial resources which were not available.

It would be presumptuous for a small country like Mauritius to tell delegates what should be done. But he hoped the conclusion would not be to save the ICA at the expense of the Third World.

Speaking on **Technical Assistance**, Prof. E. BOETTCHER (FRG) spoke of his research in Latin America carried out on behalf of the Co-operative Institute in Münster, and the need to make such assistance more relevant to the needs of the recipients.

He was followed by Mrs. M. J. RUSSELL, Project Organiser for the **Buy a Bucket of Water** campaign launched by the ICA Women’s Committee. She described the financial success of the campaign. An up-to-date balance sheet had been distributed, and a full report would be sent to member organisations in due course.

The balance sheet showed that the largest contribution amounting to £175,000 had come from the Japanese movement. Another country which had done a magnificent job was Iceland which, with a population of only 200,000, had collected £12,500. In every country the women had been the backbone of the scheme.

But many other countries had contributed: the UK had organised money-raising events all over the country; Poland had printed several thousand leaflets in English for distribution to other member organisations; in Belgium women co-operators had worked with the Co-operative Insurance Company and enlisted the help of children in the Company’s orphanages and children’s

homes; in the Federal Republic of Germany the women of Dortmund had made a special collection, which had been matched by their Society; Zambia, which was a developing country which needed the wells, had collected £283—this would be supplemented so that some of the wells could be sited in Zambia.

Some countries had directed their contributions through other channels: for example, the three Finnish organisations had collected over £15,000 which had been directed through their Government's water scheme in Tanzania; Denmark had sold postcards to the value of 150,000 Danish marks; France was in process of making its own collection, which would go to the French-speaking countries in West Africa.

Altogether some £300,000 had been collected (£233,000 at the ICA headquarters). They had tried to reduce administrative costs as much as possible which had sometimes caused problems, as they had been dependent on the Regional Offices and other agencies to find projects; FAO had kindly waived administrative costs. Nevertheless, there were 41 wells in Afghanistan which would soon be in working order; they had sent money to India and to Sri Lanka—in Sri Lanka the women had worked with the Swedish Women's Guild on a collection on International Co-operative Day in 1979 and had collected enough money for six wells, most of which had now been sunk; £45,000 had been sent to the USA organisation CARE, which had already sunk wells in Peru and was arranging programmes in Haiti and Honduras; Hungary had provided a water purifier for Ethiopia for use on hospital sites; Bulgaria had allocated 6,000 leva which

would be used in a country with which they had a bilateral agreement.

Mrs. Russell thanked everybody for their collaboration, and hoped that in any future campaign of a similar nature, the whole membership would help.

Mr. M. DOMPER (Organisation of the Co-operatives of America, OCA) particularly thanked Centrosoyus for providing interpretation in Spanish, the fifth official language of the ICA. This had made it possible for some 200 Latin American co-operators to be present and listen to the discussions in their own language, to feel part of the 350 million members of the ICA, and this would contribute to the growing universality of the International Co-operative Alliance.

He then described the educational work of OCA in Latin America—thanks to the UK Co-operative Movement they were able to have an adviser in Bogota (Colombia)—and the educational networks and specialist centres in the various countries of the Region. This was an excellent example of co-operation at the international level, without which the movement could not exist.

Mrs. L. F. DE SANTANA (Puerto Rico) also welcomed the growing collaboration between the co-operative movements of Latin America, as expressed in the recent formation of the Confederation of Co-operators of Latin America and the Caribbean. Twelve countries had participated in the setting up of the Confederation, which was an important step forward in the economic and social development of the region. She hoped it would also be an additional link between Latin America and the ICA.

Mr. E. A. PORTER (UK) spoke of the importance of **Youth**, which was the basis of the whole future of the co-operative movement. His delegation, as many others, was concerned that there was no longer a Youth Officer in the ICA to co-ordinate the whole movement throughout the world.

He listed some of the developments in the UK stemming from the Youth Conference five years ago and the Schools Co-operative Seminar held in Paris in 1979: these included a regular youth exchange with Poland, a 'first ever' exchange with the Greek Schools Co-

operative Movement, joint exchanges with the Portuguese co-operative movement, and a pilot project whereby teachers were visiting Poland to examine the operation of school co-operatives which were at present non-existent in the UK.

He hoped that the new ICA Executive would give serious consideration not only to the possibility of holding another International Youth Conference before the next Congress, but also to the appointment of a Youth Officer to co-ordinate activities arising from such events.

Tuesday 14th October

Morning Session

The session opened with a report by Mr. R. P. B. DAVIES, ICA Deputy Director, who notified changes in the Motions and Amendments as agreed by the Congress Committee.

The Congress Committee also recommended that the time limit for speeches be strictly maintained at five minutes, except for movers of papers and motions, in view of the large number of speakers on Paper 3, "Co-operatives in the Year 2000", which would follow the Debate on the Report of Central Committee. This time limit was in accordance with Congress Standing Order No. 10.

The first speaker in the resumed debate on the **Report of the Central Committee on the work of the ICA 1976-1980** was Dr. K. H. A. KHEIR (Egypt), who as its Vice-Chairman reported on the work of the **International Committee on Agricultural Co-operation (10.1)**.

Dr. Kheir said that more than 50 delegates, from 23 countries, had attended the meeting in Moscow just prior to Congress. The Chairman, Mr. G. Kuylenstjerna, had reviewed the work of the Committee since the 1976 Congress, and had given details of the

setting up of the Economic Sub-Committee to develop inter-cooperative trade as the only way of competing with the multinationals. In addition to visits and contacts made all over the world, two International Co-operative Trade Conferences had been arranged, the CLUSA/ICA Conference in New York in 1978, and the recent Second International Co-operative Trade Conference in Moscow organised jointly by the Economic Sub-Committee and Centrosoyus, at which over 100 delegates participated from 29 countries.

Since the First Conference, co-

operative transactions on international markets had attained a figure of US \$1 billion. He detailed the recommendations of the Second Conference, at which the production of a Co-operative Tractor had been announced. The Third Conference would be held in October 1982 in a less developed country and would deal with co-operative trade and access to energy sources. The Agricultural Committee had accepted this date and would co-ordinate it with the already conceived world conference on energy problems. A working group had been suggested for this purpose, comprising India, Denmark, Yugoslavia, the FAO and the ICA Secretariat.

The Agricultural Committee also discussed the problem of its Secretariat: in view of its increased activities and responsibilities, additional to the organisation of the Trade Conference, the Committee had approved that the Economic Sub-Committee should become the Economic Bureau, and the French movement had offered the services of Mr. C. Scheuer from the Economic Bureau as Executive Secretary of the Committee on the retirement of Mr. Branco Zlataric who would continue as part-time consultant.

The 1981 meeting of the Committee would be in Helsinki.

Speaking on the activities of the **Organisation for Co-operative Consumer Policy (Consumer Committee)** its Chairman, Mr. E. HANSEN (Denmark), drew attention to their new magazine, "Co-op Consumers", which had received considerable support from the Scandinavian and other countries. The magazine was also available in German and Spanish, thanks to the

good offices of BdK (FRG) and FACC (Argentina).

He reported that it had been agreed at their pre-Congress meeting, that the Committee's Executive would study the question of a more effective organisational structure, for recommendation to next year's meeting; they would of course be in close touch with the ICA in London about its own structural plans.

The Executive of the Consumer Committee had produced a discussion paper on a new consumer programme, which would be sent for comment to all members of the Consumer Committee; they were particularly interested in comments from the South-East Asia Consumer Committee and the Regional Offices in East and West Africa.

They hoped to broaden their relations with the United Nations department dealing with consumer affairs, and to be invited to participate in some of the meetings on the subject.

Further details of the Committee's work would be found in "Co-op Consumers", which had been distributed to delegates.

Mr. K. F. HARDING (Canada), on behalf of the **Fisheries Committee**, first expressed their heartfelt appreciation of the leading role taken by the Japanese National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives (Zengyoren), especially the excellent services provided by Mr. Saito of Zengyoren as the Committee's Chairman. He also referred to the happy trading relationship which had existed for ten years between the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union, through its agency, Japan Co-op Trade, and the Canadian fisheries

co-operatives. Such an amiable arrangement could only continue if there were frank and mutual understanding by both parties of the fact that Japan Co-op Trade naturally wanted to buy at as low a price as possible, while the Canadian Fisheries Co-operatives wanted to obtain as high a price as possible: this had occasionally led to an impasse, but so far the spirit of international co-operation, as demonstrated in the International Co-operative Alliance, had generally made a solution possible, and he hoped this would continue.

The Committee appreciated the help given by Zengyoren in providing assistance to its Secretariat at ICA headquarters. With such an example of international co-operation, they believed that the committee had a hopeful future.

Sir Arthur SUGDEN (UK) spoke on behalf of INTERCOOP, which had been formed ten years ago as an Auxiliary Committee of the ICA with the aim of promoting economic collaboration between its members and thus strengthening the competitive power and performance of consumer cooperatives on the market.

The co-ordination of purchases and the pooling of orders represented a very high priority in this collaboration, enabling them to improve purchasing conditions and influence the design and quality of goods. In the non-foods area collaboration was carried out within the framework of expert groups specialised in various ranges of articles. The volume of this trade had increased from US \$100 million in 1976 to US \$190 million in 1979.

In the area of foodstuffs, collaboration was mainly concentrated on the common

use of the buying offices of the UK Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) and the Scandinavian Nordisk Andelsförbund (NAF), whose intimate and specialised knowledge of the current market situation, quotations, placing of orders, shipping control, etc., had proved of great value. The purchases made through these offices (excluding those by owner organisations) had increased from US \$5 million in 1976 to approximately US \$25 million in 1979, the main articles being coffee, cocoa, and canned and dried fruit.

The success of this collaboration had encouraged them to enter into a joint venture—INTERCOOP Far East Ltd.—in Hong Kong, to assist with purchases on the Far East markets, starting with Hong Kong, Macao and China; results so far were encouraging.

INTERCOOP members had also built up an important 'own' industry, in both foods and non-foods, and exports to co-operative organisations in other countries were making progress. Turnover had increased from about US \$60 million in 1976 to US \$105 million in 1979.

Finally he emphasised that their members appreciated the exchange of experience and know-how within the various expert groups, which helped to solve both their own problems and those of the whole group. He felt sure that INTERCOOP would continue to improve its joint efforts into the indefinite future.

Mr. K. BACK, Vice-Chairman of the **International Co-operative Insurance Federation (ICIF)**, apologised for the absence of the Chairman, Mr. R. Lemaire, due to ill-health. Detailed

information on the activities of the ICIF were given in paras. 10. 7.1-7 of the Report, and he would not repeat this. After detailing the changes which had taken place in the composition of the ICIF Executive Committee, the International Co-operative Reinsurance Bureau and the Insurance Development Bureau, he reported on the previous week's Conference.

The Conference was attended by 139 delegates representing 49 member societies from 30 countries. One of the main items for discussion had been the recommendations made by the ICIF Executive Committee, based on a paper by a special Research Committee on the future activities of the Federation. The Conference endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendations, which were as follows:

1. To define new objectives for the Federation which are appropriate to conditions in the modern world, the objectives to include a reference to the special relationship existing between the ICIF and the ICA;
2. To expand the activities of the ICIF secretariat by improving services to members, encouraging more co-operation between members and improving liaison between the various committees of the Federation;
3. To strengthen the resources of the Insurance Development Bureau in order that the work of assisting in the formation and development of new co-operative insurance societies can be carried out even more effectively than at present, ICIF member societies

to be encouraged to participate more actively in the work of the IDB.

Finally Mr. Back reported that ICIF membership had increased from 72 members societies in 1976 to 89 at the present time. Total value of insurance premiums received by ICIF member societies amounted to nearly £5,000 million a year.

Still on the subject of **co-operative insurance**, Mr. J. J. MUSUNDI (Kenya) reported that with the support of the Insurance Development Bureau and the Nordic Co-operative Programme, the co-operative insurance agency which had operated under the aegis of the Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives between 1972 and 1978 was now a fully-fledged insurance co-operative under the name of Co-operative Insurance Services: it was registered as a private insurance company, because the Insurance Companies Act in Kenya did not provide for co-operative societies undertaking and underwriting insurance business.

The co-operative movements in Botswana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia each operated their own insurance agencies, and they were very pleased with the progress that had been made in the Region in this field, thanks to the support of the ICA and the Insurance Development Bureau.

They believed that co-operative insurance organisations would be able to give insurance cover to the small farmers who were not at present catered for by any of the private or State insurance companies. The numerous co-operative savings and credit societies for salaried workers also needed savings and loan protection, and

the movements had appreciated the valuable advice given by the IDB in this field.

He made a plea for more training facilities, for the staff of the insurance co-operatives as well as of those in the co-operative unions operating as agents of the insurance co-operatives; also to assist the leaders of the various co-operative unions and societies to appreciate the importance of co-operative insurance, to enable them to see through the confusing tactics of the private insurance corporations.

He endorsed the Central Committee Report, although he felt that the wide range of activities carried out by the Regional Office for East and Central Africa could have received better coverage. He also suggested that the Executive Committee should consider undertaking an evaluation of the work of the Regional Office, after more than ten years of operation.

Mrs. U. JONSDOTTER (Sweden), Chairperson of the ICA **Women's Committee**, regretted that she had elected to speak under this heading (para. 10.8) rather than under 'General (11.)', as it was a mistake to put women into a special category. Women very often comprised more than half the membership and more than half the employees: in Centrosoyus, 70% of the 3 million people engaged in co-operative activities are women; in Japan, the Co-operative Consumers Union is apparently often referred to as the Women's Union because 90% of the members are women.

Referring to the Motion on Women, Dr. Saxena had said that the follow-up of this motion was one of the main tasks of the Women's Committee. But surely it was not the responsibility of the

Women's Committee only. On the democratic principle of proportional representation, they were obviously still very far from their goal.

She then reported on two recent events. The first was a South-East Asia regional seminar held in Sri Lanka in September 1980, on the subject of enhancing women's participation in co-operative activities. Discussions covered: (1) institutional, financial and other support necessary for making women's participation in co-operatives more effective and meaningful; (2) co-operative education and leadership training for women; (3) income-generating activities; (4) family welfare. The seminar produced recommendations for action in each of the areas discussed. Women's Committees now existed in Japan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The second event was the Women's Conference held the previous week, attended by 160 representatives from 24 countries. There had been 46 speakers, all short and very much to the point. The conference had demonstrated the strength of women working together. Many examples were given to show that not only were women in the majority among members and employees, they were quite well represented at the middle level and were increasing at the 'next to top' level, although not yet at the top.

In a changing society, the co-operative movement could be left behind; the commitment of women was needed to create strong and growing organisations, and this should be the concern of every co-operative society and of the Alliance.

The Women's Committee was the only ICA Auxiliary Committee working towards its own destruction; it would

have achieved its aim when (1) the Central Committee contained 150 women instead of nine; (2) the Executive also included women; (3) all the Auxiliary Committees had a fair proportion of women and women chairpersons; and (4) when member organisations nominated more women co-operators to Congress. While 17 to 20 per cent of the participants in this Congress were women, which was higher than at previous congresses, they had come mainly from the USSR and the United Kingdom: many countries had not sent one woman delegate.

The Women's Committee was still needed during this period of transition, to press the issue of representation. How long that period would be would depend not only on the women but on men and women together.

Mrs. M. A. AJOSE-HARRISON (Nigeria) supported the remarks made by Mrs. Jonsdotter. The financial situation of the ICA was disturbing, but she hoped that it would still be possible to have a full-time secretary of the Women's Committee to concentrate on the increasing number of members.

She expressed thanks to the ICA for setting up the Regional Office in West Africa. She hoped that expert personnel, technical assistance and special training would be provided for members in that Region, with particular attention to a women's programme as was done in South-East Asia and East and Central Africa.

Mr. J. M. CHAMPEAUX (France), on behalf of the **Working Party on Co-operative Tourism (11.5)**, spoke of the growing tourist industry, with

estimates indicating that in the year 2000 some five or six hundred million tourists would be visiting other countries.

Tourism could be an important element in developing friendly relations between peoples, and hence a factor for peace. On the other hand, uncontrolled tourism could carry with it grave disadvantages, especially for developing countries. The Resolution along these lines adopted by the ICA Congress in Paris (1976) had led to the setting up of a Working Party, which it was hoped would soon become a fully-fledged ICA Auxiliary Committee.

The Report presented by Dr. Saxena had described the Working Party's activities, to which he wanted to add:

1. There would be a second Conference on Co-operative Tourism the following April, held jointly with the International Bureau of Social Tourism and the International Federation of Popular Travel Organisations (IFPTO), to further the fruitful exchanges already taking place between various countries.
2. It was planned to set up international co-operative holiday villages, for which some possible sites had already been identified in Southern Europe. Supplementary international co-operative funding was being sought through the ICA Banking and Insurance Committees. The 'villages' would be managed by the social tourism association of the countries in which they were located.
3. With the increasing importance of tourism, the Working Party felt that the Co-operative Movement should define a system of ethics in this context. They had therefore drawn up a *Charter for Co-operative Tourism** which they hoped

*For text of the Charter, see page 265

would be signed by all co-operative movements having their own tourist organisation, and would also encourage others to set up such bodies.

Mr. Champeaux then read the text of the Charter, which would later be distributed to member organisations.

He hoped their programme of activities, and in particular the Charter, would receive the support of Congress.

On **ICA and the United Nations (12)**, Mr. N. J. NEWIGER (Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO) conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the Director-General of the FAO, and said they had enjoyed many years of constructive collaboration with the ICA. However there was scope for even closer and more practical collaboration in the future, in the context of the follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) held in July 1979, which was of particular relevance to co-operative movements in developing countries.

The Conference had adopted a Declaration of Principles, stating that people's participation in the institutions which govern their lives is a basic human right, and this was also essential if rural development strategies were to be fully effective.

The Conference Programme of Action recommended that Governments should:

1. "encourage the establishment of self-reliant local, national and regional federations of rural co-operatives and small farmers' organisations and similar associations, with positive government support and due regard to their autonomy;

2. "promote the participation of rural people in the activities of rural development agencies and ensure that these agencies work in close co-operation with . . . the intended beneficiaries . . . ;
3. "encourage people's organisations providing various economic, social and cultural services to develop self-reliance at the community level and assist them in such ways as meeting legal and financial requirements, training of leaders and other initial needs, exercising care that their independence is not compromised;
4. "provide opportunities for rural people's organisations to participate at the local level in the identification, implementation and evaluation of development projects."

The subsequent 20th Session of the FAO Conference in November 1979 adopted a Resolution 7/79 as a follow-up to the World Conference, calling upon "all States concerned, and the FAO, to take effective measures which will assist in the establishment and strengthening of self-reliant and representative rural organisations, including rural women's and youth organisations, so that such organisations can effectively and democratically participate in the implementation of the Programme of Action".

Since then a working group on People's Participation and Organisation had been formed within the FAO, to prepare guidelines for use by Governments, FAO and other international organisations. At the same time a major programme, known as the programme on *People's Participation in Rural Development*

through Promotion of Self-Help Organisations was prepared, covering some 20 countries in various regions.

"It is based on the fact that active participation of the poor can only become a reality through adequate people's organisations at the local level which provide: (a) a significant degree of self-determination; and (b) effective access to resources and/or employment, information and technology, requisite skills and influence over relevant institutions. The programme aims to aid interested Governments, with increasing collaboration with non-governmental organisations, to develop organisational models to fit their own conditions, by: (i) providing more effective receiving mechanisms in the form of people's self-reliant organisations at the village level; (ii) support of rural employment and income raising activities of these organisations; and (iii) stimulation of existing national rural servicing agencies.

"This programme was presented on the occasion of meetings on the follow-up action to WCARRD held with representatives of different donor countries and aid organisations, such as the Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany, USA, SIDA, ILO, as well as with the following non-governmental organisations: International Co-operative Alliance, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, World Confederation of Labour, World Council of Credit Unions, World Federation of Trade Unions, and others. A special meeting was held with about 20 non-governmental organisations in the United States. The preliminary reaction of donors and non-governmental organisations is very encouraging. Many of them have indicated their support and interest in becoming involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects at the country level."

Dr. Newiger said the interest and active collaboration of the ICA in this important activity of the FAO was very encouraging. They were now in the process of jointly initiating projects in selected countries, an example of which was the proposed project on fishery co-operatives in the Sudan. FAO looked forward to closer collaboration with the ICA in helping co-operatives in the developing countries to help themselves.

Mrs. U. JONSDOTTER (Chairperson, ICA Women's Committee) referred to the UN World Conference held in connection with the United Nations Decade for Women, in Copenhagen in July 1980. The ICA delegation had presented a statement which pointed out that while the ICA statutes made no discrimination between the sexes, local co-operative movements could only reflect the communities in which they worked. ICA therefore welcomed the UN Decade for Women with great satisfaction. The statement went on to outline the various activities in the form of seminars and women's projects stimulated by the UN Decade, which had stimulated a growing awareness of the importance of creating equal conditions for men and women; noted with satisfaction the recognition of the role that NGOs could play; pointed to the urgent need for improving the working and living conditions of women living in the rural regions of developing countries, which constitute one quarter of the present world population; and urged that new approaches be developed in the traditional field of banking, to give women greater access to credit, as exemplified in the collective solution provided by credit unions and co-

operatives, which strengthened the role of women in marketing and income generating activities.

The statement also referred to a consultation on 'Equality for Women in Co-operatives—Legislation and Reality' held in March 1980; on this occasion it was again evidenced that in some cases restrictive legislation, particularly relating to land ownership, tended to deny membership to women, and the ICA asked for the understanding of governments to repeal laws which discriminated against women's right to inherit, own or control land or other property.

Finally the statement emphasised that in a democratic co-operative, women did not occupy positions *as women* but *as members*; there was no distinctive 'role for women', just as there was no separate 'role for men'.

Mr. V. PEROV (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, **UNCTAD**) said the central theme of the Congress was an important and challenging one in a world that had undergone a more rapid and profound transformation than at any previous time in its history. As part of the UN system, UNCTAD had consistently endeavoured to meet these new challenges, to achieve the goals of a New International Economic Order, and to restructure international economic relations on a more equitable basis. To achieve these goals would require sincere political will on the part of all participants in international economic co-operation, and the support of organisations such as the ICA with its direct contacts with people at all levels of society.

UNCTAD was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations

in 1964 for the purpose of promoting international trade, especially between countries at different stages of development and with different systems of economic and social organisation. The early 1960s were characterised by the emergence of many young countries which had been liberated from colonial domination, and that dynamic new force advocated a new approach and a progressive policy of international economic relations.

Mr. Perov went on to outline some of the major activities in the field of trade and economic co-operation within the UN system. These included: continued implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities aimed at improving conditions in world markets for a wide range of primary products, with the creation of a Common Fund to finance buffer stocks (on which agreement had finally been reached in June 1980), and efforts to conclude international agreements on certain individual commodities; development of the Generalised System of Preferences for the benefit of developing countries without reciprocal concessions—since its inception in 1971 this had acquired major importance, not only in terms of the balance of payments of developing countries but for millions of Third World families whose livelihood depends on making and exporting a wide range of goods.

Another concern of UNCTAD was to act as an international forum for discussion of the interrelated problems of money, finance, trade and development; for resolving policy issues related to world shipping; and to discuss the problems of multi-modal transport (containers) on which a UN Convention had

been adopted in May 1980 after more than seven years of negotiations under UNCTAD auspices. UNCTAD hoped that many participants in international trade, in particular co-operative international trade enterprises, would derive benefit from UNCTAD's achievements.

The present international economic situation was exceptional in both the accumulation of difficulties and the promises it offered, and the problem was how to realise the promises. One of UNCTAD's particular tasks was to look for new answers to new problems, in collaboration with other organisations and agencies, so that mutual understanding might be promoted and co-operation enhanced, conducive to solving the problems of trade and development at various levels and to implementing the decisions taken within the UN system aimed at the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and equitable basis.

On behalf of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, he conveyed their thanks to the International Co-operative Alliance for its role and activities in focusing public attention on matters of crucial importance to international peace and co-operation.

Dr. R. C. DWIVEDI (India) said that while it was a matter of satisfaction that the United Nations had granted the ICA consultative status, and that its specialised agencies were providing valuable support for the development of the co-operative movement, especially in the developing countries, he felt that what was also needed was greater and more specific mention of the role of co-operatives in the policies and programmes of the specialised agencies.

To illustrate his point, he mentioned the 3rd UNIDO Conference held in New Delhi, at which Dr. Saxena's presentation of the case of industrial co-operatives was highly applauded; however the recommendations of the Conference had contained no recognition of the role of industrial co-operatives in increasing employment and assisting industrialisation, in spite of the efforts made by Dr. Saxena and the delegates from Italy and Poland.

His own country had 50,000 industrial co-operatives with 20 million members; in addition there were several thousand co-operative industries. He wondered therefore how any international programme aimed at assisting industrial expansion could overlook this important sector. Perhaps the UN agencies assumed that co-operatives *per se* always had priority in every country, and hence that repeated references were not necessary; nevertheless Dr. Dwivedi felt emphasis and reiteration were still necessary, so far as was consistent with the UN approach, especially as the UN agencies functioned through governments, and many governments gave low priority to co-operative projects. He begged that this point be pressed with the UN agencies.

Reply to the Debate on the Report of Central Committee

Dr. S. K. SAXENA, ICA Director, said that it would not be possible to reply individually to all the 40 speakers who had taken part in the debate.

Peace had been mentioned by several speakers: ICA's work in this connection lay mainly in influencing public opinion and leaders; these efforts were often

inadequate and sometimes questionable. However, a more specific contribution consisted in the basic role of co-operatives themselves, which tended to correct the distortions in the distribution of wealth and power at national and international levels, and therefore promotion of the co-operative movement was a move in the direction of peace. The President's participation in the UN Special Session on Disarmament, and his own participation in the Commission on Disarmament based in Vienna, were by virtue of the international co-operative movement. Mr. Nakabayashi (Japan) had mentioned his own movement's efforts against the use of atomic bombs and armaments. In its own small way, therefore, ICA was nibbling at a problem which was quite beyond its bounds and competence.

For want of space the Report had not been able to include many of the major international activities of member organisations—such as the assistance given by CENTROCOOP (Romania) in the printing of the French edition of the *Review of International Co-operation*—but had concentrated almost exclusively on the work done by the ICA itself.

Mr. Kaminsky (Poland) had raised the question of the **adaptability** of the co-operative movement to the changing environment. A static organisation which did not respond to change would wither away and die. It was certainly important to monitor changes in legislation, taxation policies, etc., perhaps through research departments. Unfortunately co-operatives sometimes moved rather sluggishly in response to these wider changes.

Mr. Vishwanathan (India) had emphasised the need for a **strong ICA**. If ICA were to disappear, co-operative organisations would feel the need to

create another umbrella under which they could communicate constructively.

Mr. Marik (Czechoslovakia) had emphasised the **unity** of the ICA, and Dr. Saxena regarded this as the top priority: the co-operative family could be a very turbulent family, but gained much more by being united than by being fragmented.

Mr. Pramov (Bulgaria) had talked about the importance of **diversity** and given details of his own organisation's activities, promising that their experiences would be made available to other countries in the form of consultations etc.

A number of speakers had mentioned the perpetual saga of ICA's **finances**. Dr. Saxena wished to make four points. (1) There should be a drive for new members, including those from the oil-producing countries. Perhaps ICA had been too conservative; obviously it must ensure that prospective members endorsed co-operative principles; this was a matter for the Executive rather than the Director. (2) The subscription basis needed urgent consideration and should be revised upwards; the present subscription was ridiculously low for an international organisation, and ICA had a smaller budget than even internationally fragmented organisations such as the trade unions. (3) In exceptional situations such as the present, when the strength of the pound had worked to the disadvantage of ICA, special appeals might be necessary. Perhaps FABUSCOM should reconsider the issue of currency exchange. Some organisations had quoted turnover figures which bore no relation in size to ICA's problems. (4) He wondered if it might be possible to link ICA's subscription to

a percentage of the country's payment to the United Nations; or to raise a levy—if that was the right word—on the commercial transactions between co-operative organisations, basically made possible by their membership of ICA; or to develop an arbitration service, whereby some income might be raised. Perhaps some of these suggestions were not realistic, but it was important to consider them.

He believed that the fear expressed by Mr. Mauremootoo (Mauritius) that developing countries would no longer be able to afford ICA membership was an imaginary one, as organisations were supposed to pay according to their economic strength. In any case, any organisation unable to pay should notify the Executive in writing—sometimes even this was not done.

He agreed that there should be no wastage of resources, but resources at present were so low that wastage, if any, was absolutely minimal. It was possible to reduce an organisation to a level at which its wings had been clipped so hard that recovery would be virtually impossible, and this was his fear at the present time.

Mr. Miyazaki (Japan) gave examples of **collaboration** between co-operatives, including some of the activities of his own organisation (Zen-noh). These were very impressive, and Dr. Saxena felt that they should be written up, as this would be extremely helpful.

Dr. Saxena referred briefly to Mr. Lacroix's (France) suggestion that a committee of jurists should consider the correspondence of national co-operative legislations to ICA Principles—an immense task; the intervention of the ICA President in Argentina on the

question of co-operative banks, his own visit to Argentina, which had given him the opportunity of discussing a wide range of topics with Dr. Vainstock and of meeting the Board of the Organisation of the Co-operatives of America (OCA), which had led to a better understanding of the nature and work of the ICA.

He felt that Mr. Nagaratne's fears (Sri Lanka) about the cutting down of Regional activities were unrealistic: 80% of the S. E. Asia office activities was financed from extra-budgetary sources, mainly from the Swedish Co-operative Centre. However it was important that the member organisations throughout the Region should increasingly take over the responsibility, financial and otherwise, of the Regional Office; this would be discussed at the next Regional Council meeting in November.

He expressed interest in the researches of Dr. Boettcher (FRG) in Bolivia. **Technical Assistance** had not been discussed in detail since 1960, and one of the purposes of the discussion on the Co-operative Development Decade at this Congress was to help in the enunciation of a long-term policy of technical assistance. It would be useful to receive more information on these researches.

Mrs. Santana (Puerto Rico) had mentioned the creation of a Confederation of Latin-American and Caribbean co-operators: this could provide a useful sub-structure if the ICA were to take a continental initiative in Latin America.

On **Youth**, there was no reason why a conference on Youth should not be organised, although the Executive Committee had felt that this question was of more direct relevance to national, rather than international, organisations.

On the reports of the **Auxiliary Committees** he had little to add. Production of a co-operative tractor, as mentioned in the report of the Agricultural Committee, was extremely important, as was the conference on energy, in which the Agricultural Committee was taking the lead.

On consumer protection, the United Nations had recently begun to show interest in this question, and it was the duty of ICA to feed it with technical information and national experience.

Concerning Mr. Musundi's suggestion for an evaluation of the work of the Regional Office in East Africa, this had been discussed recently and had been approved by the Swedish Co-operative Centre and by the ICA Executive: it would take place some time in the summer of 1981.

Dr. Saxena wished to correct Mrs. Jonsdotter: he had not said that implementation of the 1976 Congress Resolution was the "responsibility of the Women's Committee", but that it had been "under constant consideration" by the Women's Committee. He fully agreed that the position of women in the co-operative movement was much wider, and must involve the decision makers, who were seldom women.

The Charter on Tourism had been accepted by the Executive Committee and the Central Committee, and was therefore now in operation, so far as the ICA authorities were concerned.

Concerning relations with the **United Nations**, Dr. Newiger (FAO) had mentioned the follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: ICA would be pleased to help, subject to its competence and its resources.

With regard to the UNCTAD and UNIDO conferences and current discussions on international development strategy and in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, these did not give rise to a great deal of optimism. There was little that co-operatives could do except—and this was important—try to influence their governments to take a more positive and more international outlook, in which co-operative organisations should have some kind of relevance.

United Nations was an *inter-governmental* organisation which was not automatically seized of the relevance of the co-operative form of organisation. Co-operatives must make the UN aware of this particular aspect.

Dr. Saxena apologised to those whose questions or comments he had not been able to take into account in this brief and hurried reply. (*Applause.*)

The **PRESIDENT** thanked Dr. Saxena for his lucid and brief summing up of the discussion on the report; the applause showed this had been appreciated by delegates. On behalf of the Congress he thanked Dr. Saxena for all the preparations he had made for the Congress and for his continuing work for its success.

He then introduced a draft resolution on "Collaboration between Co-operatives" to be moved by Mr. Luukka (Finland) which, appeared almost to summarise the Report of the Central Committee.

Resolution on Collaboration between Co-operatives

In moving the draft resolution Mr. V. LUUKKA (Finland) stressed

collaboration as an essential part of co-operative activity and pointed to the addition by the 1966 ICA Commission on Co-operative Principles of the Principle of *Collaboration between Co-operatives* to the other basic co-operative principles. It read: "*All co-operative organisations, in order to best serve the interests of their members and their communities, should actively co-operate in every practical way with other co-operatives at local, national and international levels*", thus laying a clear obligation on both the ICA and its member organisations.

Since that time the various aspects of collaboration had been discussed at intervals, and the 1974 Central Committee meeting in Vienna recommended the setting up of a Working Party on Collaboration between Co-operatives, to report to the 26th Congress in Paris in 1976. A resolution passed at the Paris Congress asked the Central Committee to report to the next Congress on progress made. This had been done in the Central Committee Report (paras. 2.2.1-12), which contained several excellent examples of advanced collaboration at national and international levels. In particular the international collaboration in the framework of INTERCOOP, Nordisk Andelsforbund and EUROCOOP, had certainly worked to the benefit of several co-operative organisations, as reported by Sir Arthur Sugden earlier. International trading was not something which could be easily undertaken by a national co-operative organisation individually: only through international agreement could co-operative trade be started effectively between countries.

While multinational corporations

tended to monopolise the fields in which they were engaged, a recent newspaper article on their policy had stated that they lowered the quality of their products to get savings for further investments: the co-operative movement must respond to this challenge through closer and more effective collaboration and the maintenance of high standards of quality.

Much of ICA's work over almost two decades to improve living conditions in the developing countries through technical assistance and dissemination of information, had been offset by constantly rising world energy prices. Nevertheless the need for information and assistance continued to increase, and developing countries remained one of the main points of active collaboration between the ICA and the United Nations. He concluded:

"We, as co-operators, are responsible for our fellow citizens. We must be prepared for the changes going on in the world economy. In the last few years many countries have experienced these changes very bitterly. We have admittedly been able to carry out many forms of collaboration at national and international levels, but this is not enough. We still have many unused resources which we must explore and make the best use of, and the need for collaboration between co-operatives is continuous and everlasting. Therefore the Central Committee took this matter up again at its meeting in Montreal last spring and decided to submit to this 27th Congress a motion on Collaboration between Co-operatives, which you all have before you.

"I am convinced that the motion will be approved by the Congress, and I am convinced that you will all make every effort to promote the implementation of its recommendations at home in your own organisations."

The PRESIDENT then put the motion on **Collaboration between Co-operatives** to the vote. It was adopted unanimously. (*For text, see p. 255*)

CO-OPERATIVES IN THE YEAR 2000

A Special Report prepared by Dr. A. F. Laidlaw

Dr. Laidlaw's paper was commissioned by the ICA Central Committee as an attempt, not so much to provide guidelines for the development of co-operation over the next two decades, as to stimulate discussion in all sectors. According to Dr. Laidlaw, his paper set out to ask the right questions rather than give firm answers. He had divided it into six parts, to cover the following areas:

- I Looking both backwards and forwards from 1980.
- II The world we live in—trends and problems.
- III What are co-operatives? Theory and practice of Co-operation.
- IV Co-operatives' problems and weaknesses.
- V What choices do co-operatives have?
- VI Major questions facing co-operatives for the future.

A separate paper was prepared by the Co-operative Movements of the Socialist countries in membership of the ICA, to deal with the special conditions in those countries.

In calling on Dr. Laidlaw to introduce his paper, the PRESIDENT thanked him for all the work that had gone into its preparation.

Dr. A. F. LAIDLAW commenced by thanking all those who had either directly or indirectly contributed to his thinking on the subject, and the ICA Executive which had given him the privilege of preparing the paper and of introducing it in person. He would be as brief as possible, in view of the large numbers of people waiting to speak after him.

He had heard three criticisms of his paper: the first, that it was too pessimistic. He had pointed out many of the

shortcomings and failures of co-operatives, but it should not be forgotten that, however successful some of them might appear, they had never lived up to the expectations and hopes of the 19th century founders and pioneers. Had they done so, many of today's problems in the world would no longer exist. The second criticism was that he had not dealt in sufficient detail with the various co-operative sectors, but this would have made the paper intolerably long, and he had tried to take a global view. The third criticism was that his report was based too much on the Western world: this was probably valid, as he was a product of Western society. But he wanted to assure the countries of Eastern

*Dr. Laidlaw's paper exists in: English, French, German, Russian and Spanish; as well as Finnish, Japanese, Swedish and Turkish. Catalan and Korean translations are in course of preparation.

Europe, of which he had visited five that, he had tried very hard to understand what they were doing, and had a tremendous admiration for their achievements; after all, he had been as critical in his paper of the excesses of capitalism in his own society as of the excesses of State control in other parts of the world. As for the Third World, in which he had spent some years, especially in India and Sri Lanka, he had no criticism of their co-operators, but he did have criticism of some of their Governments which had virtually expropriated the co-operative movements in their countries, and also perhaps of those international organisations which had gone along with too much intervention, control and decision-making on the part of governments in the Third World.

Two fears

It had been suggested that he might touch on the highlights of the report, but this would take too long. But he wanted to underline two fears he had for the future of the co-operative movement. First, he feared for its democratic character, with less and less popular participation and decision-making moving upwards; it was a question of learning how to handle bigness—whether to use it for taking more power and influence into the central organisations, or for decentralising and disseminating that power. When co-operative democracy vanished, the co-operative movement itself would be finished. A co-operative movement that did not educate would never change the world for the better.

His second fear concerned relations with the Government. While he remained firmly convinced that there were

certain things the State could and should do—e.g. it must control the commanding heights of the economy—it must recognise its limits. The State had its hands full doing the things that only the State can do; it should be prepared to recognise that some things were better done by non-State organisations and be prepared to leave the co-operative movement free to learn from its own mistakes. Only thus could co-operatives become truly self-governing and independent.

Four priorities

In preparing the paper, he had selected four priorities, four things that the co-operative movement of the world should be doing in the years up to 2000.

The first concerned food: producers and consumers co-operatively organised could solve the world's food problem; Dr. Laidlaw wanted to see the farmers, the fishermen and the consumers of the world deciding the world's major food policies through co-operative organisations.

His second priority was workers' co-operatives. He would only add to what he had said in his paper, that he believed the world was due for a second Industrial Revolution, when the ownership and control of the workplace would be returned to the workers as in the past. One warning: trade unions were sometimes indifferent or even hostile to workers' co-operatives; he considered that by sponsoring, encouraging and supporting workers' co-operatives, trade unions might be saving themselves.

The third concerned recapturing the vitality of the consumer co-operatives of the last century in a different way, not necessarily in the traditional form.

The fourth was to build communities. It was in communities of the smaller type that mankind would find its peace and contentment and its fulfilment. And a variety of different types of co-operative could help in this.

The beginning only

Finally Dr. Laidlaw emphasised that in his paper there was nothing final and conclusive:

“... This is the beginning rather than the end of a study. I might call it a prologue to planning. It may be taken as the first chapter in a very long volume on planning that the co-operative movement must be engaged on in the next 20 years. If we do not plan for our future, we can be sure of one thing; if we do not plan for it, somebody else will plan it, and I maintain that only co-operators should be planning the future of the co-operative movement with, of course, all the knowledge,

advice and assistance they can gather from all sides.

“We meet here at a time of great peril for mankind, for humanity, and it is also a time of great peril for democratic institutions, including co-operatives. If we need one word to describe our present position in the world today, it is that we are at a turning point, and the question is, in what direction are we going to go? May I add this final word. The ICA itself is at a turning point. I want to say frankly that the ICA is not nearly as strong and influential as this fine Congress might seem to indicate. Where is it going? Does it have the structure and the strength to get there? I doubt it. I leave it to you to decide where it is going and how it is going to get there.”

The PRESIDENT thanked Dr. Laidlaw wholeheartedly for reminding delegates of their responsibilities and of the fact that this report was only the beginning.

Co-operation of the Socialist Countries in the Year 2000*

Mr. A. A. SMIRNOV (ICA Vice-President) said that Co-operatives in the Year 2000 was a subject close to the heart of every co-operator, regardless of his nationality or his political or ideological views, because all belonged to the same international social movement, all were allied with its interests and destinies.

However the subject was many-sided and complex: the conditions and tendencies, and consequently the future, of the co-operative movement were far from being the same in countries with differing socio-political and socio-economic systems. Dr. Laidlaw had agreed

that his presentation dealt mainly with the problems of co-operatives in Western countries. Therefore, as agreed at the Montreal meeting of the ICA Central Committee, the co-operative organisations of the socialist countries had prepared a separate joint report. As the text had been circulated to delegates he would not repeat its content but would highlight the main provisions of the paper.

1. The socialist system, based on social ownership of the means of production, the exercise of political authority by the working people, creates the most favour-

*A report prepared jointly by the Central Co-operative Unions and Societies of Bulgaria, Hungary, GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

able conditions for the development of co-operatives of all types, voluntary associations of individuals for the purpose of achieving specific economic and socio-cultural objectives. The State brings no pressure to bear upon them, a point where Dr. Laidlaw was clearly in error. The co-operative movement in the socialist countries is (a) a commercial enterprise based upon a specific form of group ownership and (b) a voluntary self-governing social organisation which functions in keeping with its own rules. The constitutions and laws of the socialist countries contain appropriate legal provisions which guarantee independence, inviolability and state support of co-operative ownership and recognise it, alongside state ownership, as a component of the economic system in the same way as it recognises co-operatives—as mass social organisations—as a component of the socio-political system.

2. Given this context, co-operatives will make further headway by the year 2000, their prestige and role in economic and social life will increase, and the scope of their work will expand. The uniformly socialist nature of the state and co-operative forms of ownership ensure unity of objectives and of the economic policy of the State and co-operation, and their close collaboration. For instance, co-operatives in the USSR base their future development on the scientifically forecast socio-economic consequences of the comprehensive programme of scientific and technical progress; the drawing up of such integrated programmes in the socialist countries makes it possible to determine scientifically the conditions of work of co-operatives at the turn of the century.

Diversified collaboration of co-operatives in socialist countries takes place in the framework of this comprehensive programme; 50 per cent of Centrosoyus trade goes to the co-operative organisations of socialist countries.

As set forth in the joint report of the co-operative organisations of socialist countries, the major direction and immediate objectives of co-operatives in the future will be:

- Assisting to improve material and cultural standards generally, and those of co-operative members in particular; to develop education and health protection; and to resolve the housing problem;
- To improve further the position of women in the family and in society;
- The education and harmonious development of young people, the moulding of the new individual, the citizen of a classless communist society.

The co-operative movement under socialism will develop in keeping with the objective economic laws inherent in this socio-political system, including the main law of socialism which determines the central objective of social production as the fullest satisfaction of people's growing material, cultural and intellectual requirements.

3. Whereas co-operatives today differ in the extent of socialisation of the means of production and of implements of labour, by the year 2000 the main types of production co-operatives will be better developed. The experience accumulated by socialist countries at the present time indicates an improvement during the next few decades of agricultural, producer, consumer, housing and credit

co-operatives. At the same time efforts must be intensified to deal with such important questions as food, energy, and environmental protection.

4. An important characteristic of co-operation in the socialist countries by the end of the 20th century will be the further development of co-operative democracy, and a wider involvement of people through co-operatives in the management of State and social affairs and in the settlement of political, economic and socio-cultural questions.

Co-operative development in the socialist states is leading to the emergence of new and more flexible means of ensuring direct and representative co-operative democracy, taking into consideration the specific conditions and peculiarities of co-operative development, its enterprises and associations, in particular: the enhancement of the role of meetings of co-operative members and their decisions; the extension of the network and the increased role of public mass control organs; and the training and development of managers and specialists.

5. The increasing economic integration of the countries of the world socialist system will be expressed in the broadening of comprehensive collaboration among the national co-operative organisations of these countries and in long-term, planned, bilateral and multilateral agreements.

The co-operators of socialist countries will further develop their collaboration with the co-operative organisations of the liberated and capitalist countries, both within the framework of the ICA and on a multilateral and bilateral basis. Every assistance will be given to developing and strengthening the unity of the

international co-operative movement, to vitalising its role, and to increasing its effectiveness in resolving the pressing problems of our time, thus strengthening the prestige of the International Co-operative Alliance

In this context the co-operators of socialist countries will support the work of the co-operative organisations of capitalist countries against monopolies and their search for a democratic alternative in face of national and transnational capitalist associations. At the same time co-operatives in the socialist countries declare their solidarity with all anti-imperialist forces in the co-operative movements of the recently liberated states and advocate the strengthening of their relations with their natural allies, the forces of world socialism and the international workers' movement.

* * * *

Having outlined the prospects for the development of co-operation under conditions of socialism for the next two decades, Mr. Smirnov went on to express some views on Dr. Laidlaw's paper, which contained extensive information on the present state of the co-operative movement in capitalist society and analysed some major trends and problems. As Dr. Laidlaw had himself noted, he set out not so much to give precise answers as to ask appropriate questions, and the questions were indeed more numerous than the suggestions for answering them. It was natural that co-operators should be preoccupied with all these problems.

However the author appeared to have ignored the struggle of the two opposed social systems in the world and their

fundamentally different approach to the development of co-operation. While present-day capitalist realities gave plenty of ground for working people's concern, co-operators of the socialist countries were confident that the global problems of our time were not fatally catastrophic, that they could be successfully solved in the conditions of a just and humane social system. The relation between co-operatives and the State was also quite different in the two systems: Dr. Laidlaw stated correctly that co-operatives in the West were obliged to struggle for their place in the economy, whereas this place was guaranteed to them by the State in the East European countries. In the view of the socialist countries, the role of co-operative organisations in the capitalist countries lay primarily in consistently defending the interests of the working people, of small and medium agricultural and industrial entrepreneurs, and in drawing representatives of the middle sections of the rural and urban population into the struggle against imperialism and its inherently unfair forms of management; also in strengthening links with other mass social organisations—trade unions, women and youth organisations—in the common struggle for peace, democracy and social progress.

The socialist countries could not accept Dr. Laidlaw's interpretation of the situation of co-operatives in the Third World, based on the conflict between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots', which they felt distorted the picture: in their view, everything depended in the final analysis on the choice by the developing countries of the correct direction for their social and economic development. Mr. Smirnov stressed that

the co-operators of socialist countries actively supported the Programme of Action for the establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the United Nations in 1974, and hoped that the 35th Session of the UN General Assembly would adopt resolutions useful also for the co-operative movements of liberated countries.

Therefore, since the central co-operative unions and councils of the socialist countries differed considerably from the forecast presented in Dr. Laidlaw's report, they would propose certain amendments to the draft motion *Co-operatives in the Year 2000*; these had been made available to delegates. The idea behind the amendments was to put on record the presence of two reports on this subject and consequently of two points of view on certain of the problems, and it was hoped that Congress participants would accept them.

While presenting these differing viewpoints, co-operators of the socialist countries at the same time reaffirmed their sincere striving for understanding and for consolidation of the efforts of the international co-operative movement in the struggle to resolve the global problems facing mankind.

He closed his presentation as follows:

“Historical experience proves that co-operation as a constructive effort by the masses of people, as a social movement which involves more and more millions of people, is characterised by a dynamic approach, by the intensification of its role in economic and social life, by the consolidation of its prestige in individual countries and internationally. The co-operative movement has been and remains an important form of protection of the vital interests of the working people, a component of

the working class and peasant movement, an important element of the overall front of anti-monopoly struggle, an effective force of the peoples' movement for peace, disarmament, democracy and social progress.

"Therefore, we regard the future of co-operation with optimism. We are prepared to facilitate its progress and contribute to its development. We will fruitfully co-operate with the co-operators of all countries and do everything to enable our democratic movement to continue to hold a fitting place and to play a progressive role in the life of modern society.

"May I express confidence that the 27th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance will take an important stride forward in consolidating the international co-operative movement and in rallying all its forces in the struggle for a better future for mankind."

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Smirnov for his presentation which gave the approach of the socialist countries to the problem of "Co-operatives in the Year 2000". They now had two reports on the subject, and he hoped that the discussion would be interesting and fruitful.

With reference to Mr. Smirnov's suggested amendment of the draft motion, the rules governing Congress Procedure (para. 14) prescribed that amendments proposed in the course of discussion could be considered at the discretion of the President and the Congress Committee, provided they were accepted by the Congress. Delegates were invited to signify their acceptance of Mr. Smirnov's proposal. (*Accepted*).

The President said the Congress Committee would meet that evening to

consider the amendments submitted by the socialist countries.

Afternoon Session

Resolution on Co-operatives in the Year 2000

The PRESIDENT said that **Central Committee** had asked Mr. Daneau to present its motion on **Co-operatives in the Year 2000*** and that he had prepared his intervention beforehand. Therefore nothing in his statement should be taken as affecting the decision taken by Congress concerning Mr. Smirnov's proposed amendments or expressing an *a priori* position.

Mr. Y. DANEAU (Canada) thanked Dr. Laidlaw and Mr. Smirnov for their excellent presentations, which invited the Congress to consider a dialogue between two different positions.

It was his great pleasure to present the motion suggested by the Central Committee of the ICA in the light of the recommendations of Dr. Laidlaw's paper on Co-operatives in the Year 2000. As Dr. Laidlaw had already presented his main points, Mr. Daneau proposed to mention some of his own thoughts on the document and, in view of the paper presented by Mr. Smirnov, a few points in support of the motion suggested by the Central Committee.

Dr. Laidlaw's paper had avoided the dangers of over-simplification of a very complex subject, concentrating on the fact that the study was based on existing trends and suggesting ways in which those trends *might* develop. Without venturing to give a final solution it aimed at stimulating discussion; it did

*For text see p. 256.

not give a definitive answer but suggested alternative, rather than pre-determined, ways of action.

Mr. Daneau said he would confine himself to some special aspects and issues in the Paper. The first postulate was to distinguish the problems which preoccupy the whole of mankind from those specific to the co-operative movement, although the former obviously affect the latter; hence the interest of co-operators in economic and political prospects in the world, which according to the Paper are bleak and alarming.

Dr. Laidlaw's diagnosis of the dangers resulting from the slump in the economy, depletion of energy resources and demographic expansion, the food supply problem, unemployment and environmental pollution, the increasing power of transnational corporations, accelerating urbanisation, not to mention the outlay on military resources and the danger of a nuclear explosion, coincided with other recently published studies. He had made special mention of the Third World countries, whose requirements differed radically from those facing other countries. The Third World countries comprise the majority of the world, and Dr. Laidlaw believed that if the co-operative movement wished to be successful in the future, it must first of all succeed in the developing countries.

While many factors made co-operative prospects look bleak in the year 2000, there was the paradox that co-operatives can make a contribution to the solution of long-term economic problems, and that interest in and support for the co-operative movement is increasing in modern society.

The Central Committee resolution stated that the paper should be regarded as "a continuing process of research and self-examination by the world-wide Co-operative Movement". The Central Committee therefore appealed to the members of the ICA:

1. to make a careful study of the Reports;
2. to participate in a continuing discussion of their implications;
3. to select for comment those parts particularly applicable to their own situations and problems;
4. to study and if necessary set up a research programme to examine future development throughout all sections of the co-operative system.

Dr. Laidlaw's paper was a synthesis of ideas and forecasts for the coming 20 years and gave certain guidelines for meeting the conditions in which co-operatives would be operating up to the end of the century. Co-operatives and co-operators should therefore ask themselves questions along those lines, on both the theoretical and practical aspects. The Central Committee resolution provided guidance for action and a broad spectrum of the various points for thought and discussion.

The report by the co-operatives of the Socialist countries likewise contained some very interesting information about co-operation in the perspective of the year 2000, and Mr. Daneau thanked Dr. Laidlaw and Mr. Smirnov for their detailed analyses. On behalf of the Central Committee he offered the resolution for consideration and adoption by the Congress.

✓ Debate on Co-operatives in the Year 2000

33 speakers were listed to speak in the Debate; they will be quoted in more detail in the full Congress Report. For reasons of space, only short comments will be featured here.

Mr. J. KASPI (Israel):

"Dr Laidlaw, in his excellent paper prepared for this Congress, enlarges on the possible contribution of the co-operative movement in the coming decade, and he stresses the point that 'various kinds of workers' industrial co-operatives will be the greatest single contribution of the global co-operative movement to a new social order.' "One of the gravest problems facing the world's development in the industrial era is the exodus from villages and farms and the concentration of population in urban centres, with all that accompanies this process, such as environmental pollution, population explosion, low-income slums and the feeling of alienation of a lonely man in a big city.

"By dispersing industry throughout agricultural settlements on a co-operative basis, these problems can be overcome with greater efficiency."

Dr. I. SZLAMENICKY (Hungary) believed that co-operatives must and could increase their competitiveness. Their organisational forms must become more flexible, to adjust to the requirements of rapidly changing markets. He detailed some measures taken to effect this in his own country, but said their success depended ultimately on international conditions, the most important of which was peace, which alone made creation possible. Therefore co-operatives must unite actively to support the forces of peace and progress, taking a strong line against increased armaments which diverted immense resources from the solution of mankind's problems, the

elimination of poverty, of economic and social marginalisation, and the improvement of the world food situation. Hungarian co-operators acknowledged the efforts of the ICA in this field.

Mr. T. SIDIBE (International Labour Organisation) wanted to share with participants a few views of his own, arising from the report on the Co-operative Development Decade and in connection with Dr. Laidlaw's report.

Dr. Laidlaw believed that the co-operative movement in the future should convince the United Nations and other organisations of the need to establish more favourable conditions for the development of co-operatives, in view of their contribution to improving the quality of life. There were two types of problem in which co-operatives could help: those connected with everyday activities and those related to the long-term reorganisation of the whole way of life and work of the population of the globe.

Co-operatives must be able to carry on their activities freely, working alongside other organisations with similar objectives, in order to meet the needs of all. Dr. Laidlaw believed that the Resolution adopted in 1976 by the International Labour Organisation contained an ideal definition of the policies to be carried out by governments in order to ensure co-operative development. ICA should insist on greater freedom for co-operatives. Mr. Lacroix had spoken about a

commission to investigate co-operative legislation in various countries.

On the other hand certain problems were outside the province of co-operatives and needed to be tackled on a national scale, such as agrarian reform, consumer rights and protection, work conditions, etc. What was needed here was the reorganisation of the whole machinery, into which co-operatives could be incorporated.

As stated in Mr. Smirnov's paper, in certain countries co-operatives did not yet take a very active part in economic and social development. This sprang from lack of self-knowledge: co-operators were not sufficiently aware of what they were or should be, and were therefore hampered in their activities. Better self-knowledge would enable them to use their modest resources more effectively, and make for greater understanding of the importance of the movement by those who lead society and public opinion. In this the ILO, within the framework of its possibilities, was ready to lend full support.

The ILO had always had good relations with the co-operative movement. Mr. Sidibé was convinced that by the time of the next ICA Congress their collaboration would be even more effective. As was said some 30 years ago by one of the great theoreticians of the co-operative movement, "people will come to stand under the banners of justice who are at present living under the law of chance."

Mr. J. ZAREMBA (Poland) expressed his thorough conviction about the need to increase the role of co-operation in the future. His belief stemmed from the experiences of the housing co-operative

movement in general as well as the experience of Polish housing co-operatives which had existed for over 90 years.

Co-operatives were a very flexible form of organisation, capable of adjusting to various socio-political systems and different levels of economic development. Housing demands were rising everywhere, not only in quantity but also in quality. New challenges to housing co-operatives included energy saving, modernisation of old housing stock, adaptation of flats to new living standards and new needs.

Speaking from the Polish experience, co-operatives had proved that they could build, manage and administer the housing stock better than any other organisation; they involved future tenants in the siting of buildings and in town planning, thus allowing them to influence the character of their homes; through housing co-operatives, disparities between different income groups were reduced, which led to the establishment of better human relations. Co-operative housing estates facilitated the creation of social units, involving the members in planning, building and eventually in management.

Whether they wished to or not, housing co-operatives in the future would have to accept the duty of representing the interests of their members in other matters outside the sphere of housing, such as culture, recreation, family care, etc., and would have an even greater influence on the quality of life of their members.

Mr. A. ANTONI (France) said he spoke on behalf of the Workers' Productive Committee. Dr. Laidlaw's paper had inspired them with a new spirit and

shown the great opportunities which lay before them as co-operators.

It had also shown what workers' productive co-operatives could do, not only in the field of employment but in involving people in new methods of participation and democracy in the workplace.

Mr. Antoni stressed the importance of maintaining quality of products; the transnational corporations had disrupted the balance in the world and affected living standards, but the small co-operatives could meet the challenge by using local raw materials and developing traditional skills. Their work could lead to human fulfilment, and bring people closer to the realities of the world and the realities of life.

Whatever the activities of co-operatives, they could not live in isolation. If they specialised in a particular service or product, they ran the danger of acquiring the characteristics of similar undertakings outside the co-operative movement; their members were more and more regarded not as members but as customers, and the co-operative began to lose its special character. To some extent co-operatives were trapped: they performed economic functions, but they should be aware that their work was not confined to the economic sphere. Therefore they should act jointly to work out a common strategy. Only if they fully understood the entire range of problems facing them could they be fully cognisant of their historic mission which, in the Year 2000, concerned the radical reorganisation of society and of man.

Mr. I. PRAMOY (Bulgaria) said his movement's standpoint had already been adequately reflected both in the joint

paper of the Socialist countries and in Mr. Smirnov's introductory speech.

He had read Dr. Laidlaw's paper with interest and would like to extend to him thanks and appreciation, while at the same time he was convinced that the Bulgarian co-operatives had very clear and definite prospects of successful development up to the Year 2000. However he fully agreed with Dr. Laidlaw on the necessity for ensuring that promotion of Co-operatives in the different countries of the world should be in conformity with the specific conditions in those countries; there could not exist a blueprint or pattern applicable to all countries.

He stressed a few points drawn from their own experience: first the importance of democracy; multi-purpose co-operatives had turned out to be the most viable and suitable form, especially in helping to create communities; the importance of planning; the importance of ensuring that mergers should not reduce member participation, and the need to look for new forms of collaboration, such as inter-co-operative joint ventures; the importance of a reciprocal relationship between co-operatives and government.

Dr. B. CATALANO (Italy) said that Dr. Laidlaw had asked at the end of his paper: "What of the ICA in the future?" What Dr. Catalano was about to say should not be taken as criticism of the ICA, which had done tremendous work with a restricted budget and a small staff, for whom he had every respect.

Rapid economic and social evolution had taken place in all countries in the past few years, to which co-operatives had adapted and in which many of their

national organisations had played a dynamic and positive role, responding with new social and economic activities. But ICA had lagged behind, and if the Alliance adhered to obsolete systems and structures, its members would lose interest in an organisation which could not provide the services called for by the modern world; the national organisations would then tend to become isolated within their own structures, or else develop geo-political groupings to meet their needs. If, owing to financial difficulties, the Alliance maintained its traditional and outdated functions, it would no longer correspond to the demands of many co-operative sectors which had become strong and were expanding their operations, rejecting traditional forms in favour of more progressive forms of co-operation.

As from this Congress, the ICA must decide. To remain passive and stagnant from the point of view of political leadership and of organisation and financial structure, would be to lessen its role in international life and turn it into a figurehead. By seeking new formulae, adapting to the requirements of the present day, showing interest in different types of co-operation and different methods of financial and political support, the Alliance could gain new strength and a new momentum to meet the challenges of the time. This Congress should decide whether the Alliance was to continue to work in the old way, or to win a place in the world commensurate with its 355 million co-operators and the 450 billion dollars which was the annual turnover of its member movements.

"The ICA should first understand what it is and what its objective is. It must understand the importance of

co-operation in the economic and social development of the next 20 years. It should work out a programme of initiatives and of new economic policies which would not be subject to the influence of narrow groups. This programme should correspond to the possibilities which can be implemented within a reasonable time. In this way the Alliance would increase its prestige in the eyes of its member organisations.

"With all respect to our traditions and our culture, it is possible to continue to make learned studies on the Rochdale Pioneers or to make solemn declarations on peace or on International Co-operative Day. But we should develop new and ongoing initiatives for the development of co-operative culture, calling for the assistance of other international organisations which have similar functions. We should facilitate the exchange of commodities and liaison between the co-operative movements in different countries. We shall have to find the financial means to support co-operative multinationals to oppose the capitalist multinational corporations. To that end we shall have to establish an international banking system to serve our co-operative initiatives.

"Finally, out of the finances which we obtain from our economic activities, we shall have to provide, to an extent not to be compared with the drops of water that we now throw into the sea, for a programme for the promotion of the co-operative ideal in the developing countries.

"In short, it is a matter of adapting ourselves to the era in which we live. When the Alliance regains its prestige, it will have a tremendous influence among both members and non-members, and it will have an increasingly important influence in the changing world and the changing international situation. So we are really talking about adaptation for survival. This is the alternative. It calls for a radical restructuring of all our concepts and modes of action. It calls for the partici-

pation of all of us if we still believe in co-operation and in the ICA. It will call for sacrifice and effort, but we have to have some point of departure. This point of departure could be the 27th Congress of the ICA."

Mr. S. MILENKOVIC (Yugoslavia) believed that the Report would give a new impetus to their future work, in different countries and co-operative sectors, and in the field of international co-operation.

As a specific form of economic relations, Co-operation had from the start developed and adapted itself to prevailing working and living conditions; it had solved various problems, contributed to economic and social progress, and overcome economic and political differences and threats to democratic freedom. Co-operatives had been guided by the interests of individual citizens who had fulfilled certain economic functions through unity and the principle of mutual solidarity which excludes the exploitation of man by man. Throughout their history co-operatives had retained these underlying principles, and this had contributed to their viability and prospects of development.

He gave details of co-operative development in his own country, and said the Yugoslav co-operatives were in favour of international exchange of experience and the international development of trade, on terms which would ensure to the developing countries and to agricultural producers, access to the markets of the richer countries which in some cases were closed to them.

Mr. J. LACROIX (France) said that one positive consequence of Dr. Laidlaw's paper had been that the subject had

been discussed for the first time within the French National Co-operative Group which comprised all the different types of French co-operative. Four aspects had been considered:

1. *Democracy*—It was important that business enterprises, as the basic cells of the modern technological world, should be democratically managed, that is, should be co-operatives, in a market free from the control of either capitalist monopolies or bureaucratic paternalism. Co-operative democracy must apply equally to employees and members, and implies autonomous decision-making, independent from the State and the socio-political environment.

2. *Collective capital*—one of the fundamental points of the French co-operative tradition, a source of financing for the future generations of the year 2000.

3. *Education*—In a world which is both over- and under-informed, with widening divisions running parallel to a trend towards universalisation, where isolation and solidarity cross each other's paths without necessarily meeting, it was important to devise new educational means and a genuinely co-operative system of education.

4. *Inter-cooperation*—He would not speak at length on this as it had been eloquently covered by Mr. Antoni, but would add two personal comments.

There were two paradoxes which beset consumer co-operatives. The first was to demand that co-operatives should assert their 'difference' while at the same time casting doubts on the dividend which was its most obvious manifestation, closely linked with problems of financing, member information and commitment: the dividend was the keystone of co-operative

'difference'—if it were withdrawn, nobody should be surprised to see the building crack and the customer begin to take precedence over the member. The second paradox lay in imagining that co-operative development depended on co-operative 'puritanism', which involved telling members: "Go and buy elsewhere, perhaps at a higher price, those goods which I refuse to sell you because I want to keep my hands clean!"

Mr. Lacroix's second comment concerned a partial omission. Dr. Laidlaw had mentioned that in a multinational enterprise, the enterprise itself accumulates a power that may put it beyond the control even of its own administrators and cause it to lose sight of its objectives. But he had omitted to say that this tended to happen to any large system, public or private, national or international, capitalist or co-operative. President Kerinec in his opening address had cited cases where it was difficult to decide exactly *who* had been responsible for a certain decision—the Concorde was a case in point.

Co-operatives should ponder this matter because Co-operation must have a say to ensure that, in the Year 2000, the man who is capable of taking responsibility is the one in a position effectively to exercise it.

Mr. A. A. FERRO (Organisation of the Co-operatives of America OCA) said that Dr. Laidlaw's paper was an important contribution to the solution of some very important problems, and he agreed it could only be the beginning. In this connection a Latin American representative had said at a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, that any attempt to preserve the old

patterns and structures of international trade would only increase the present difficulties. The developing countries were in a bad situation because they could not market their exports, and it was important to extend their opportunities in order to enable them to achieve a better quality of life.

Mr. M. KITA (Japan) spoke on the importance to his organisation, the National Union of Forestry Co-operatives, of international collaboration between co-operatives. But increased collaboration would benefit not only co-operatives but also the population in general, and he urged any observers present to join the ICA family so as to increase its influence for the betterment of the world.

He had read Dr. Laidlaw's paper with interest and appreciation. The co-operative movement in the Year 2000 must be united throughout the world in order to make its full contribution and provide a countervailing power to big business and the multinational corporations.]

Mr. L. MARCUS (Sweden), after commending Dr. Laidlaw's paper, said that obviously its general character was one of its limitations, and that when it was discussed within the specific context of a country's history and culture and economic, social and political conditions, it was necessary to be more specific.

In particular, the Swedish movement had reservations about two of Dr. Laidlaw's top priorities (Part V): were they really prepared to support efforts to bring about workers' co-operatives and the great variety of new co-operatives that Dr. Laidlaw considered necessary, primarily in the big cities? They felt he

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might be placing too much importance on something that was unproven.

"It is true that the existing examples of workers' co-operatives are of great interest to all co-operators. To assert at the present stage that these are the beginning of a new industrial revolution is, however, going too far. Two reasons will be given for our opinion that, at present, such an assumption is a utopian idea rather than an axiom.

"The question of the security and influence of employees and their right to share responsibility is primarily a question for these groups themselves. At present, however, Swedish employees do not regard co-operative small-scale enterprises as a general solution. They have different ideas. In exchange for partnership and owner responsibility, Swedish workers and salaried employees want to develop employee investment funds for industrial expansion. The idea that co-operative popular movements should actively act against the interests of the employees' own organisations seems uncalled for.

"To sum up, we express our interest in the future of workers' co-operatives, we support Swedish experimental activities in this field, but we refuse to give this development our highest priority.

"I now come to the question of larger and larger cities, increasing isolation of the urban population, and the possibility of creating a co-operative community of interests for various purposes. The attraction of such ideas is remarkable. The examples given are, however, not convincing. It is on the whole unclear how these co-operative forms of collaboration could be combined with the Swedish type of welfare state.

"In Sweden there is already a form of community, represented by the popular movements—trade unions, religious, cultural, co-operative and political movements, as well as non-profit-making associations. In these movements and through them large

member groups can protect many of the interests that the fourth priority of the report wants to look after. Democracy develops from below and is founded on a broad basis. It is then the task of the political bodies to summarise and to lay down the guiding principles for the development of society.

"In the report, as well as in the resolution, there is a tendency to stress the advantages of small-scale business. At the same time most of those participating in this Congress represent associations of another type.

"This is perhaps the point at which the visions of the report give rise to doubt, and one is even more doubtful about the standpoints of the resolution expressed with less delicate nuances. A co-operative one-shop society or a local agricultural co-operative cannot meet the challenge of multinational corporations. The alienation problems of the large city cannot be solved by small groups of people joining together to protect their interests. One could say that small is beautiful rather than powerful. The part played by the co-operative movement in our own and many other communities is the result of, among other things, its economic power and its capacity for continuity. In this respect the report should serve primarily as a necessary reminder of the fact that power, strength, in itself is nothing. The important thing is how it is used and to use it to serve the members. We therefore share Dr Laidlaw's opinion that self-criticism and continued analysis of our weaknesses are indispensable if the co-operative movement is to be successful still at the turn of the century."

[Mr. S. FUJITA (Japan) said Dr. Laidlaw's paper, which had initiated considerable discussion among Japanese co-operators, had been translated into Japanese by the Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives and 20,000 copies had already been distributed.

He referred to one of Dr. Laidlaw's priorities (Part V)—the need to create co-operative communities with a broad range of services and activities provided through a co-operative service centre, similar in fact to the rural multipurpose co-operatives in Japan which had played an important role in raising rural social and economic standards. He fully agreed with Dr. Laidlaw's ideas regarding the method of co-operative development in the future, but felt he should draw attention to the problems at present being faced by their own multipurpose co-operative system in its attempt to build such a community, due to growing urbanisation of the rural areas, introduction of factories, an increase in mechanisation and in the number of part-time farmers, all of which led to more diversified needs—economic, social and cultural.

Unless the multipurpose co-operatives could effectively and efficiently meet these needs, they would lose their members to the private sector. But to do this required a far higher level of training of staff than was at present possible, and there was a tendency for societies to concentrate on 'lower risk' functions, which meant they would lose their multiplicity of function and their importance as community centres. In a community where the household economy and sense of values varied so widely, it might become more difficult to identify common interests and goals.

In view of these recent developments, Mr. Fujita wondered whether it would be possible to find any common cohesive factor among the various types of co-operative housed in such a co-operative service centre, as mentioned in the paper. He felt that the vital force of a genuine

co-operative could only derive from strong unity among members at the grassroots level, where members shared their responsibilities and participated in joint activities, as had originally been the case with the Japanese rural rice-growing communities.]

Mrs. J. LOKKAJ (Poland) took the opportunity to describe the history and achievements of the Polish co-operative movement. She believed that the paper on "Co-operatives in the Year 2000" had provided an in-depth picture of the present situation of the co-operative movement which should be closely studied by all national unions in order to rationalise co-operative structures and widen their own research into the future development of the co-operative movement in the spirit of democracy and the basic co-operative principles.

[Mr. S. TAKEMOTO (Japan) had some comments to make on Dr. Laidlaw's plea for the re-orientation of the consumer co-operative movement.

"Dr Laidlaw, in giving his estimate of the present and future of consumer co-operatives, warns that they are facing various difficulties due to increased member alienation and apathy as a result of concentration, the greater dependence on non-member business, the diminishing importance of share capital and increased reliance on borrowed capital, and the loss of identity through using the same methods of advertising as other business, and so on.

"Consumer co-operatives should take these arguments into serious account as their own problems and seek the right solution. However, I am convinced that it is of primary importance to obtain the confidence and loyalty of members and to promote co-operative

activities based on members' efforts in order that the consumer co-operative movement may pursue the path to firm development. For that purpose, the democratic participation of members should be carried through in all spheres of co-operative activities, and even business activities should reflect members' initiatives and establish a co-operative identity.

"In this context it is of crucial importance to set up structures through which members can participate in the daily activities of co-operatives. Dr Laidlaw's paper gave some instructive comments on this problem—for example, he suggested that breaking large co-operatives into smaller units may be the only alternative in the interest of democratic participation and personal involvement.

"The Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union has been appealing to co-operative societies for the past 15-16 years to form the small groups called Han, consisting of 5-10 members, as the basic unit for members' participation in the daily activities of co-operatives. These Hans not only serve as the basis for electing delegates to the General Assembly but offer members extensive opportunities for constant participation in such areas as selecting co-operative products, improving store operation and examining consumer life itself. They also help consumer co-operatives to consolidate their economic basis by recruiting new members, raising share capital and through joint purchasing activities undertaken by the members themselves. Thus the Hans play a vital role in activating the enlarged organisation through the efforts of the members, which is the greatest asset of the co-operatives."

Mr. Takemoto then quoted the experience of his own large society, the Nada-Kobe Co-operative, to show how the Han system had contributed to converting 'nominal' members into fully committed co-operators. They had re-

cently set up a 1980s Planning Committee to study the long-term image of the consumer co-operative movement, taking full account of Dr. Laidlaw's paper.

In addition, he felt consumer co-operatives should play an increasing role in consumer protection and the fight against manipulation of the world market by multinational corporations, for which collaboration with the rest of the co-operative movement would be needed. They should also extend their contacts with members outside the 'shopping' situation to the wider field of life, covering education, culture and the work for peace as the utmost wish of member housewives, thus contributing to establishing a new creative lifestyle. In this way the consumer co-operative movement would recover the loyalty of members and the confidence of consumers and establish a firm basis for development towards the 21st century.

Miss A. GILLAN (Israel) said that Dr. Laidlaw's excellent introduction reminded her of the optimist and the pessimist both looking at a half-filled glass: the one happily commented that it was half-full—the other sadly noted that it was half-empty. Both views were based on correct information, but their main task at this Congress was not to argue whether the glass was half full or half empty but to convince themselves and the younger generation that it was possible to fill the glass to the brim.

The forces behind them were not as weak as they were sometimes tempted to believe: millions of people all over the globe, out of their own personal interest and involvement, had put the co-operative ideal into actual day-to-day practice in all sorts of forms—farming, process-

ing, marketing, manufacture, transportation, health, education, cultural and social services—in nearly all economic and social activities.

Like Israel, many countries could tell stories of achievement and success so, going back to the pessimist's view of the half-empty glass, where had Co-operatives gone wrong? Which were the little mice and rats so picturesquely described by Dr. Laidlaw, nibbling away at the noble achievements of the co-operative movement? Miss Gillan highlighted a few.

They all believed that the wine inside the barrel was of good vintage, but unless the barrel itself were strengthened, the good wine would eventually leak out. If the present crisis was an ideological one, they must search for better ways and means of handing over the co-operative principles to the youth of today and tomorrow, in other words, greater endeavour in education.

Another weak link was the lack of participation by women in leadership, decision-making and specialised positions. The co-operative movement could no longer afford to pay mere lipservice to this over 50 per cent of humanity.

Her last item was the need to increase consumer protection over a far wider range of goods and services, with special attention to the weak and vulnerable consumer.

If these weak links were strengthened, and if the affluent consumer societies of the developed countries shared their knowledge and resources with the developing countries, the whole co-operative system would be morally as well as economically strengthened, to reach the Year 2000 with hope, determination and success.

Dr. H. FAHRENKROG (German Democratic Republic) said that the Alliance was following a very human tendency in trying to work out what would be its position in the Year 2000. However, for the co-operative movement it was not a case of abstract utopian philosophy but an obligation, in order to measure progress and perhaps even to ensure the continued existence of mankind.

Co-operatives under Socialism approached the subject differently from those in the capitalist countries. The future of the consumer co-operatives in the GDR had been outlined up to the year 1990, not only in words but also in figures, as Mr. Smirnov had mentioned when introducing the paper submitted by the Co-operative Movements of the Socialist Countries. He agreed with everything that Mr. Smirnov had said, and added the further point that they were building a foundation of social security and assurance for the future, which was the living essential for those who worked in the Co-operative Movement and in Socialism.

In the GDR they consciously mobilised all the forces of the people to develop and utilise democracy, science and technology in their own service. As Karl Marx had said, only a higher level of production would make it possible "to develop the whole wealth of human nature". For the same reason they also mobilised the forces working for peace, as an idea to bind the nation together.

As far as the ICA was concerned, he drew the following conclusions:

1. However important it was to look at the Year 2000, it was equally important to work out a concrete

programme for the intervening years, as had always been urged by all representatives of his movement in the various ICA auxiliary committees and working groups.

2. He regretted that it had not been possible to produce a single paper representing the standpoint of the whole co-operative movement throughout the world. Capitalism alone could not provide the answers, and to ignore the viewpoints of Socialism and the Developing World went against historical realism. This was particularly surprising since within the UN system and at the Helsinki Conference all countries—regardless of their social system—had discussed these points and expressed their viewpoints.
3. Co-operators in the GDR would ensure that their own guaranteed future included the further development of collaboration between co-operatives, especially in the Socialist countries, and greater assistance for the co-operatives in the developing countries.

For mankind standing on the threshold of the Third Millennium, the solving of all these problems had an effect on international life, and would continue to do so. This made it ever more important they should work together and strengthen internationalisation in all fields which, as representatives of a communist country, they saw as a positive process and an active contribution towards the Year 2000.

Mr. F. D. KOLESNIK (USSR) gave the prospects for the Co-operative Movement in the USSR over the next

twenty years, based on scientifically substantiated calculations, computations and forecasts related to demographic and other changes, and outlined some of the areas in which it would be expanding its services. He said co-operators in the Soviet Union were fully in favour of strengthening collaboration at all levels, and would actively support the proposal for collectively working out a long-term programme of international co-operation between co-operatives.

He expressed the hope that the 27th Congress of the ICA would make a great contribution to the consolidation of the international co-operative movement, and would open up new horizons for co-operators throughout the world.

✓ Mr. J. SAITO (Japan), as Chairman of the Fisheries Committee said they were greatly encouraged by Dr. Laidlaw's clear-cut indication in Part V of his paper, that "the most valuable contribution of co-operatives to mankind by the Year 2000 will be in food and the conquest of world hunger".

Fisheries would have an important part to play in feeding the world's growing population, especially in the developing countries, and it was obvious that if fisheries were to be promoted in these countries they must be co-operative.

He commended the formation by FAO of a fishing committee for the development of small-scale fisheries, and believed that fishery co-operatives had to be more community-oriented than, for example, agricultural co-operatives, as fishermen shared equipment and fishing rights in common. He thought they should carry out a greater multiplicity of function, perhaps including credit.

With the implementation of the 200 mile economic zone, each coastal country now controlled its own fishery resources, and fishery co-operatives would have an increasingly vital role to play.

Dr. R. HOULTON (United Kingdom) welcomed the opportunity to discuss the two papers on "Co-operatives in the Year 2000" but confessed to some disappointment that neither of them offered rigorous analysis or explicit hypotheses.

"In saying this, I turn to Part III of Dr Laidlaw's paper entitled Co-operation: Theory and Practice. I looked there for analysis but I found very little. It was concerned with description; it was concerned with co-operative theology rather than co-operative theory. In the other document I find the assertion of law-bound concepts—whatever that is. Both papers attempt to place co-operation in a world social context and both do it in a very interesting and imaginative way; but neither places co-operation within the context of the theories of the social sciences. Not even a simple Marxist analysis can be found in either paper.

"Why do I say that analysis is important? It is because I think that at the heart of our dilemma in all countries is our failure to address ourselves to the problem of conflict—conflict as a dialectical process. As far as I can see, within the co-operative movement there are conflicts of values. The co-operative principles laid down by the Rochdale Pioneers do not lie together in harmony. One principle fights another principle, and the task for the leadership and the task for the management is to try to get some kind of a working compromise.

"There are also conflicts of interest between a co-operative society and its employees, and sometimes its members. I could go on at length about the con-

flicts of interest but you can all develop your own lists.

"Then there are the conflicts of roles. Dr Laidlaw spoke about the building of different levels of co-operation—the architecture of co-operation. I detect within these levels in the architecture of co-operation considerable confusion on the part of the people who are elected. They do not know what they are about a great deal of the time, and I think that that is due to the inherent conflict of roles. So we need a powerful theory which will deal with this dialectic process. We also need a theory which will deal with the process of change, with the process of innovation, and with the relationship between innovation and accountability, because accountability is the heart of democracy."

Dr. Houlton said that co-operatives usually began as innovative organisations; they demanded participation; their members had to struggle, and through that struggle came solidarity and consent and consensus. But it was not possible to go back in time: in most countries co-operatives were now well established, and had moved from the age of innovation into the age of accountability, which brought with it delegation, leading to conformity, to neutrality and finally to apathy; in some countries it got even worse, leading to the abuse of power and the alienation of the population.

It should be recognised that co-operation was a reaction of people to perceived and hostile circumstances, which might lead to co-operative institutions, which in turn produced changes in the economic base and within the State which might not necessarily favour co-operatives.

In their 'middle period' co-operatives in the UK had been an instrument for emancipation, for example the dividend

which had transferred money from the pockets of husbands into the purses of wives. Today the movement was looking outwards to the community, to the small democratic self-help groups which had grown up without help from the State or from the existing co-operative movement, was seeking partnership with these young independent and democratic groups. He thought they still had a long way to go, but they could only make progress on the basis of a soundly worked out theory.

Dr. A. E. RAUTER (Austria), after describing some of the Austrian experience, urged that the accumulated experience of the co-operative research institutes all over the world should be used to assist the development of the co-operative movement and to solve some of the problems they had discussed.

Some of the points he felt important were: closer collaboration between professional leaders, experts, and lay members; the avoidance of a technocracy through strengthened democracy; greater involvement of women and of youth. Only in this way would the International Co-operative Alliance be able to approach the Year 2000 with ideas suitable for that time, and future generations be able to realise the great ideals of the co-operative movement and influence the growth of the economy.

Mr. R. RAMAEKERS (Belgium) commented that Dr. Laidlaw's paper was so comprehensive that everybody could find in it what he was seeking: it was obvious from listening to the speakers that each had read the report in his own way. However he himself had four reasons for being less pessimistic than Dr. Laidlaw.

First, there was a widespread renewal of co-operative life and activities, new patterns and structures were being formed and more people were involved in co-operative activities. It was important that the existing national movements should take note of these new forms of activity opening up not only in the economic but in the cultural field, and formulate a better structure that would involve them.

Secondly, a wider form of consumerism was developing in which the co-operative movement must be involved, which went beyond mere consumption and was linked with the need to create a better functioning political and economic democracy.

His third point concerned relations with the State. Governments were also going through a period of crisis: there was an evolution towards federal forms of statehood, and citizens had more power than in the past. Co-operatives must be attentive to such developments, and must be bolder in their dialogues with the State and in their demands for a place in decision making.

Finally, the co-operative movement should come out of its isolation and seek common ground with other organisations working for the same ends, and this was happening in some instances.

These were developments which were taking place now, without waiting for the Year 2000, and therefore he was optimistic.

Mr. E. FRIEDLANDER (Israel) said their history showed that prophets had not always been right about the future: there would be many developments and challenges which could not be foreseen today, with no chance of

offering a universal solution for all the complex problems involved. However one point was and always would be of major importance in co-operation, and that was the human element.

In spite of the need to think big—this was a big Congress and many delegates represented organisations with hundreds of thousands or millions of members—it was essential never to forget that the basic aim of co-operation was to serve the small people, the members of the co-operatives who tried to achieve and maintain a decent existence, an acceptable standard of living. They were not numbers, they were individuals with their own specific problems and needs. Co-operation could only exist and develop as a voluntary organisation based upon education, information, understanding and mutual trust. But co-operation was a two-way street and members must be aware that they have to sow in order to reap: they must invest money, manpower and loyalty in order to build a co-operative movement which will be able to solve their problems.

In fact it could be said that “the strength of any co-operative is a direct function of the readiness of its members to contribute and to identify themselves and to strengthen their own organisation” and this again stressed the all-important human factor in successful co-operation.

Co-operatives should not restrict themselves to being big, efficient and profitable, but should concern themselves with all aspects of the community.

Mr. Friedlander said that Dr. Laidlaw's report and his verbal introduction had been for him a unique experience, and he thanked him for this outstanding contribution. He asked the Congress to

accept his short words about the human element in the co-operatives of the future as a modest contribution by his organisation to this Congress.

Wednesday 15th October

Morning session

In the resumed debate on “Co-operatives in the Year 2000” Mr. J. J. MUSUNDI (Kenya) pointed out that it was easier for the well-established movements in the industrialised countries to look ahead over the next 20 years, than for movements operating in less developed economies. Developing countries were subject to more frequent political changes, beyond the influence of either the local co-operative movement or the ICA, and some of these changes made the operation of co-operatives virtually impossible. In spite of this there had been great progress, as was shown by the experience of his own movement, of which he gave details.

He closed by making a plea for the maintenance of the international character of the ICA by strengthening its financial status, and for more help from developed countries to enable co-operatives in the developing countries to increase their food production. Discussions showed that the co-operative movement was still far from perfect, and he echoed Mr. Friedlander's emphasis on the importance of the individual, who must be helped by co-operation to achieve collectively what he has not been able to obtain individually.

Mr. I. CHIRILESCU (Romania) pointed to the economic gap still existing at the end of the UN Second Development Decade, and the fact that

the Third World had become poorer than before. It was essential that the wealthier countries should abandon their restrictive practices and work for a new international economic order which would benefit the whole of humanity. Military expenditure in 1980 had reached 500 billion dollars and the arms race had increased in intensity; it was necessary that all countries, irrespective of their size and social system, should act decisively in order to put an end to the arms race, since efforts towards the establishment of a new international economic order were closely connected with the maintenance of peace, in which Romania had played a leading role.

These must be the central objectives of the coming two decades, and would involve the mobilisation of all progressive forces. The co-operative movement had always been on the side of the poor; unity in will and spirit of co-operators all over the world could create a favourable framework in which the International Co-operative Alliance could influence international opinion, and it should act more decisively to make its fundamental concepts more widely known.

The Romanian movement fully supported the need to defend democracy, and to be effective both economically and socially, this would become even more necessary in the future. As shown in the report it had sent to the editors of the paper under discussion, his movement was in a state of continuous development, it had a large share in the national economy, and was protected and supported by the State. In the coming decades it would continue to be concerned with increasing the co-operative role in the country's economy, im-

proving the working and living conditions of co-operators, strengthening co-operative democracy and collaboration with other public organisations (trade union, women's, youth and sporting organisations), and training specialists able to meet intensified collaboration with the co-operative organisations of other countries, in the spirit of the foreign policy promoted by Socialist Romania.

Mrs. G. BUNN (United Kingdom) said she had waited a long time to have her name called, and had made tremendous cuts in the long speech she had intended to make; she appealed to other speakers to do the same.

Congress had been enlivened the previous day by the passionate philosophical analysis made by Dr. Houlton of the Co-operative College (UK), and she would have enjoyed pursuing this theme; but she would just say, on behalf of the UK Co-operative Movement, how grateful they were to Dr. Laidlaw for bringing together this whole series of major issues and questions, to which they should all be endeavouring to find answers.

Looking back over the 20 years since 1960 and noting how much the world had changed, technologically and in other ways, made one realise how much greater would be the changes in the next 20 years, and how important it was to turn aside from all the preoccupations of the present time, the social and economic inequalities throughout the world, to look ahead, think about the future, set objectives and goals, make decisions and take steps towards those objectives and goals

In the UK they were becoming in-

creasingly conscious of the need for co-operatives to be 'different' from their competitors, to be unique in the eyes of the community. Mrs. Bunn thought there would be some difference of opinion with Dr. Laidlaw, when he made the point that consumer co-operatives would only serve their members in the future. They understood his point, but felt their own concern was to forge stronger links with the community, as Dr. Houlton had said.

She would not comment on each of the questions posed in the final part of the paper, but if the co-operative movement is to have a future and continue to exist up to the Year 2000 and beyond, it must attract people of calibre who can and will fulfil the role of leader. There will always be people of this calibre in the wider community, and co-operatives must communicate their message outside their own circle to attract these people, making use of all the new technological tools which are being and will be developed.

On education, relations with government, capital and management requirements, etc., Mrs. Bunn was confident that the level of experience and competence in their midst would enable them to work out these problems satisfactorily.

As to the future of the ICA itself, there was no doubt that such a body would continue to be needed to co-ordinate their activities on a worldwide basis, and she suggested that the Central Committee should commission a study to review the structure and financing of the ICA, concentrating on how the Alliance could best be equipped to assist the national movements in dealing with the international problems of the future.

The Resolution on "Co-operatives in the Year 2000" was a lengthy one and

perhaps endeavoured to cover too much, since all organisations should continually be looking ahead and charting their course for the future. However, on the assumption that the Resolution would be accepted with its amendments, she also suggested that the Central Committee should select in each of the years to the next Congress, a particularly important and relevant issue and try to look at it in depth; this could be of material assistance to the national organisations in their ongoing task.

Dr. P. TONHAUZER (Czechoslovakia) said Dr. Laidlaw had done his utmost to deal adequately with the present and future problems of the co-operative movement, and in many places he had correctly evaluated the situation. However, he had purposely limited his standpoint, and therefore the attitudes and opinions expressed in the study could not have universal application, since there were fundamental differences in the conditions governing co-operative development, according to the social system of the country. For example, the statement that the gap between rich and poor would grow wider could only apply to the capitalist part of the world; in socialist countries there was a completely different outlook: economic collaboration, mutual assistance and the Socialist principles of economic integration aimed at balancing the standard of living of individual countries, combining their interests and promoting their common progress.

In view of these differences, he fully supported the analysis of the various contradictory phenomena as given by Mr. Smirnov, and supported the amendments suggested by Centrosoyus to the

motion on "Co-operatives in the Year 2000". They had clear prospects and goals. However, to be able to achieve them they needed peace to be maintained: this was the basic precondition for the future development of mankind and the co-operative movement.

Mr. R. HEIKKILA (Finland) said it was not easy to formulate universal recommendations applicable to all kinds of co-operative systems, but Dr. Laidlaw's proposals and priorities would certainly give rise to thought and discussion.

When talking about the future, it was important to remember that it was not only the environment that changed, but also the membership and its requirements: the Rochdale Pioneers had founded their society to meet their own specific needs; co-operatives today tried to meet the needs of today's members; in the Year 2000 there would be a new membership with very different demands, and it would be a sad situation if membership did not renew and the quality of life did not change. Dr. Laidlaw had perhaps not given enough attention to tomorrow's membership which, in the end, would determine the forms of future co-operation.

It was the great variety of members' needs which made co-operation so diversified, and therefore it was also necessary to accept forms and methods of co-operation which remained true to the co-operative principles but might not be relevant to one's own country. The paper had rather outspokenly classified as weaknesses, or ideologically unacceptable, some practical ways and methods which were fully accepted, successfully realised, and even necessary in many countries.

The paper had strongly emphasised co-operative independence, but mainly with regard to the State. However a growing number of other outside bodies and interest groups were increasingly interfering with the independent decision-making of co-operatives, and Mr. Heikkila wished this aspect could have received wider attention in Dr. Laidlaw's paper.

It was quite natural that a comprehensive report of this kind should contain some views with which they did not agree, and some recommendations and priorities which were not applicable to every country. But Dr. Laidlaw had stressed that the report was intended only as a beginning, and that countries should select those parts which were applicable to their own problems. Bearing this in mind, Dr. Laidlaw's report was fully acceptable.

Mr. V. MAGNANI (Italy) said that Dr. Laidlaw's paper had dealt very comprehensively with the changing face of co-operation and its different manifestations in different countries. Its constant factor was that it was a mass movement, which generated solidarity and thus altered man and society, and this aspect must always be supported; its other main contribution to the future of society was that it placed the life of individuals above monetary gain.

The co-operative movement, while it remained independent, was an essential component in society which the political and social sections were bound to respect. Thanks to the Alliance, the co-operative movement was developing along these lines in many countries. But there was still room for improvement.

Mr. Magnani also referred to the need

for restructuring the Alliance to bring it more into harmony with the realities of the co-operative movement, and to make it more flexible and more democratic. He agreed with what had been said about regionalisation.

Dr. P. KALIS (Czechoslovakia) agreed with the emphasis that Dr. Laidlaw had placed on the importance of the relations between co-operatives and the State, which was of vital importance for the future of co-operatives. But the solution of this problem depended entirely on the nature of the State and its social system; it was not possible automatically to transplant attitudes and postulates from one social system to another, nor from one period in time to another—complete freedom of management of economic affairs, for example, was no longer possible in the present world of large organisations. Economic affairs were in any case less important than education towards self-help, and this was the criterion of a true co-operative.

Many such co-operatives existed in Socialist and other countries, supported by the State for the benefit of the people. Under Socialism the relationship between co-operatives and the State is seen as responsible collaboration and a joint solution to the problems of social development. Accordingly co-operatives do not regard this collaboration as a limitation but as a safeguard of their own development. The Czech State relies upon the existence of co-operatives as a significant part of the national economy.

Dr. K. H. A. KHEIR (Egypt) very much appreciated Dr. Laidlaw's contri-

bution to the discussion, but himself felt that the most important element in co-operative development for the Year 2000 was education, and he described the extension of co-operative education which had taken place in Egypt, attended by hundreds of students from all the Arab world and from Africa and Asia in addition to employees from the various Egyptian co-operative sectors.

Co-operative practice was now a subject for scientific study and research, and also for teaching the future leaders of the nations, because it was important that the key men in politics and government—parliamentarians, lawyers, economists, educators, physicians, engineers, agronomists—should have sufficient knowledge of the co-operative movement, its aims and achievements, to at least enable them to recognise co-operation when they came across it, and deal with it with due regard to its distinctive nature.

His other point was the need for the various ICA Auxiliary Committees to be more in touch with each other's activities: for example, the Agricultural Committee should know what was happening in the Women's Committee, since women's activities played an important role in agriculture.

Mr. J. SOBIESZCZANSKI (Poland) was convinced that even in the Year 2000 food production and the problems of agriculture would constitute priority tasks in both developing and developed countries, and he described the measures taken in Poland by agricultural co-operatives to improve production, to attempt to achieve self-sufficiency for the country in food and agricultural raw materials within a certain period of years.

His delegation fully supported Mr. Smirnov's presentation of the general assumptions of the co-operative movements in the Socialist countries, as well as the proposed amendments to the resolution.

"In our country we shall be working, as in the past, not only to develop the traditional principles on which the Polish co-operative movement is based, but also to implement new aims which will assist social progress and the humanisation of life, as well as friendship and peaceful coexistence between nations."

Mrs. U. JONSDOTTER (Sweden) reminded participants that yesterday she said she had chosen the wrong part of the Agenda under which to report on the work of the Women's Committee: today she had definitely chosen the right point: Dr. Laidlaw asked (Pt.VI, 1) "Where are the leaders for future development?", and went on to stress the need for a great body of lay leaders, *women as well as men*, not just to make a success of co-operatives but also to work towards building a new kind of society. While she hoped that in the future there would be no need for such distinctions between men and women, it was certainly true that if the co-operative movements disregarded the women's experience, they would be deprived of a great reserve of knowledge.

Dr. Laidlaw quoted the saying that first-class leaders attract first-class people to work with them but second-class leaders attract third-class people to work under them. There were certainly many first-class leaders among women. The question was: how many were represented in this Congress, and how many would be represented in the Congress of the Year 2000?

Mr. AZIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM (Malaysia) had found the paper on "Co-operatives in the Year 2000" very interesting because, as a developing country, forward planning went with economic development and they were planning ahead for the next twenty years. To be successful, ICA too must plan positively for the next twenty years of co-operation, and if it did this it would receive the support of the governments of the developing countries.

Many ICA papers had stressed its objective of helping the world community, but he was sure all would agree that the rural community must be given priority, to raise incomes and improve the livelihood and social background of the rural people. They had just completed the Co-operative Development Decade: he hoped that the coming decades would also see progress and support from governments for the developing countries. He expressed thanks for the help given by several developed countries to the agricultural and fishery sectors in Malaysia, much of which was continuing.

The developing countries were very grateful for Dr. Laidlaw's paper, as they would now be able to tell their governments to look at what the ICA was doing in forward planning, not only in theory but also in practical terms.

"Let us move forward together. The paper may be theory but the practical side is very important if we want to succeed in our co-operative activity in the Year 2000."

Mr. S. P. SRIVASTAVA (India) felt that Dr. Laidlaw's paper was among the most valuable documents available to co-operators, especially Part VI which elaborated the major issues and crucial

questions concerning the future of the co-operative movement in the world.

Co-operatives in the developed countries had experienced phenomenal economic growth, which had led to specialisation and integration and, in some cases, to a lessening of the differences between them and the private sector. In the developing world the picture was different: the Third World could no longer use international trading channels for its economic development—as was done earlier by countries now in the developed category—and the widening gap between rich and poor nations was not only a statement of fact but also a challenge to co-operatives as a world movement.

For the problem of multinationals, whose effects were particularly strongly felt in the developing countries, Mr. Srivastava believed that the only solution was to set up international economic co-operative organisations, which would have the added advantage of encouraging co-operators in developing countries to enter international markets and thereby decrease their dependence on their governments. ICA should also encourage bilateral trade agreements between co-operatives, as well as co-operative joint ventures in the developing countries. >

“We have two decades at our disposal. By 1995 the ICA will be celebrating its centenary. Let us strengthen the hands of the ICA, which is the only co-operative link at international level. It must be made powerful and strong to fight against such forces as are opposed to the development of co-operatives. The ICA has played a commendable role in bringing the trading co-operatives together on business terms. Let these trading co-operatives, which have benefited or will benefit from ICA co-ordination, consider creating a patron-

age fund for the ICA, by contributing a certain share of their income accruing out of the business transactions carried out through the ICA. This would be an additional source of finance for the ICA in future years.”

Mr. Srivastava also recommended that the Economic Bureau of the Agricultural Committee of the ICA should be equipped and strengthened to promote and develop inter-cooperative trade relationships.

Having looked back and analysed their failures and achievements, they must now correct their mistakes and look forward to a better future for the co-operative movement. }

Mr. F. E. GRABIEL II (USA) said the Co-operative League of the USA (CLUSA), was in full agreement with the idea of assessing the present position of co-operatives and looking forward to planning their future development. CLUSA supported the motion as amended, and also supported further study on the matter.

He had brought with him copies of the report of a committee of leading United States co-operators, formed to examine co-operation in the USA in the Year 2000, entitled “Co-op USA – Co-ops in the Year 2000”. These were available for participants, but in view of the limited number he asked that each delegation should limit itself to one or two copies.

One of the major hopes of CLUSA for the year 2000, was for a world in which co-operation could flourish, which meant a world at peace. All co-operators must work to reduce tension and to promote peace. The motto of the Co-operative League of the USA was “Common

ground for co-operatives", which meant that co-operatives with differing ideas and interests could come together to work on common problems without acrimony. It was important to concentrate, not on the political differences in the world, but on those matters on which they could work together. In this spirit of co-operation it would be possible to look forward to the Year 2000—a year of peace, opportunity and promise for co-operatives around the world.

Mr. A. A. SMIRNOV (USSR) said there was no need to reply to comments on the paper submitted by the Socialist co-operators. Discussion of the two reports had been meaningful and friendly, and some of the speeches and suggestions made were very interesting, in particular that of Dr. Houlton (UK). He agreed with Dr. Houlton that neither of the reports was complete, but this was only the beginning of a long in-depth study of co-operative development in all its aspects to which, as many speakers had said, this fruitful exchange of views was an important contribution.

Reply to the Debate on Co-operatives in the Year 2000

In replying to the debate, Dr. A. F. LAIDLAW wanted simply to clarify a few points.

"About 40 delegates spoke during the last day and a half. I am appreciative of the praise and I am equally appreciative of the criticisms of my paper. If anything, the praise was all too generous and the criticisms perhaps not sharp enough or sufficient. That is why I appreciated particularly the statement made yesterday by Dr. Houlton from the Co-operative College in the United Kingdom. I think that he

hit the nail on the head when he said that we need to clarify the ideological basis of the co-operative movement. I support him completely in this and I hope that the delegates will take that message back to their organisations.

"Yesterday one of the delegates from Sweden, Mr Marcus, intimated that my report seemed to favour the small co-operatives as against the large co-operatives. I should like to make the point very clearly that I am not against big co-operatives; in fact, I see and understand the necessity of large co-operatives. A razor is a good instrument for shaving but it is a very poor instrument for cutting down trees. In the same way, we need big co-operatives for big jobs, and all I am asking is that the big co-operatives do two things. They must create and build an appropriate structure for a big organisation. This is what many of the big co-operatives simply have not done.

"Secondly, if the co-operatives are big they must have an educational and communications system appropriate to their size. Again, this is what many of the big co-operatives have not done. I emphasise that we need big co-operatives but we also need intermediate co-operatives and many small co-operatives. What we are looking for is appropriateness, that co-operatives should be appropriate in size for the job that they have to do. A co-operative that has to move 50 million bushels of wheat for example, cannot be a small co-operative. I want to make it clear not only to Mr Marcus but to all delegates that we should be looking for appropriate size rather than small size.

"I return to the remarks of Dr Houlton. I agree completely with the concept that in the co-operative movement we are continually trying to reconcile conflicting views or conflicting positions. We are trying, for example, to reconcile our respect for the individual with concern for the membership, for the collective, and for the group, and that is a conflict. We are trying to reconcile the fact that a co-

operative is both a business enterprise and a social movement, and sometimes there is conflict there. We are trying to reconcile the fact that co-operation is something universal and yet we have to adapt it to national and even local or regional needs and aspirations and traditions. So the co-operative movement, in a way, is a whole bundle of these conflicts, and instead of using the word "conflict" we are trying to turn conflict into mutuality and thus co-operation.

"If I may say so, there is one more conflict within the co-operative movement—not a conflict but a duality—that we are continually trying to harmonise and reconcile practical hard-headed commonsense business with the dream and the vision that we have for a better world.

"I should like to comment very briefly on what Mrs Bunn from the United Kingdom said this morning about my insisting on a closed membership for consumer co-operatives. I recommend this because I regard non-member business in consumer co-operatives as a sign or a source of weakness rather than of strength. By closing the membership and carrying on business only with members in the consumers' co-operative we strengthen the bond between the member and the co-operative, and also put the responsibility for raising capital, and so on, where it belongs—on the person who uses it.

"I should like to make a brief comment on the remark from one of the delegates from Italy this morning as to where the co-operative sector belongs in the economy. In my view, the co-operative sector does not belong with the public sector or with the private sector but somewhere between, and hopefully in the co-operative sector we shall adopt the good features or some of the characteristics of the public sector and at the same time blend with it some of the characteristics of the private sector. By combining the two we shall create something different and better than anything else.

"I thank all the people who spoke on 'Co-operatives in the Year 2000'. May I suggest that we leave here as both realists and dreamers; that we work hard in a practical way with the job to be done in co-operatives, but always having in mind that if we are to make progress and to plan for the year 2000 we must also dream creatively."
(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT thanked Dr. Laidlaw. The applause he had received confirmed everybody's appreciation of his paper and his contribution.

He then introduced the **Central Committee Motion on Co-operatives in the Year 2000***, as amended by the Congress Committee, which was carried with one vote against and one abstention.

REPORT ON THE CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT DECADE 1971-1980

Presentation of the Report and of the motion on "ICA and Technical Assistance"*

Mr. P. SØILAND (Norway, ICA Vice-President) assumed that he had been asked by the Executive and Central Committee to present the Report on the

Co-operative Development Decade because, with other colleagues from the Executive, he had served on the Co-operative Development Committee, which would provide some background to his remarks.

*For text see page 256.

At the end of this Development Decade it might be worth reminding themselves about its history. At an early stage the ICA, in common with many national movements, had recognised the need for co-operative development in the less developed countries, and the subject appeared on the agenda of the 1954 Congress; also at this Congress the decision was taken to launch the Co-operative Development Fund. In 1960 the ICA established a Regional Office for S.E. Asia; in 1966 the ILO declared that co-operatives were instruments for economic and social progress; in 1969 the UN Economic and Social Council called for an assessment of the contribution which co-operatives could make to the implementation of the UN's work, and approved a resolution calling for close collaboration between the United Nations, its Agencies and member organisations, both in developed and less developed countries.

He reminded them of these points in order to underline the responsibility which they took upon themselves when they decided to declare the 1970s a Co-operative Development Decade. Had they lived up to this responsibility? Had the optimism of the "golden 60s, when everything seemed possible" produced practical results? How many co-operatives of different kinds had been founded in the various sectors? How were they doing economically? Was it possible to register clearly that the members of these new societies had benefited from the co-operative system?

"... Most of these questions cannot be answered, but from the official ICA statistics certain figures can be given. We had a little over 49,000 consumer societies throughout the world in 1970;

they had increased to 63,000 in 1979. We had in 1970 a little more than 8,000 fishery co-operatives; they increased to 18,000 by the end of 1979. We had in 1970 42,500 housing co-operatives; at the end of 1979 there were 67,000. I could mention more. The biggest increase has been with agricultural co-operatives, because they increased from 145,000 societies in 1970 to almost 270,000 in 1979.

"Now one must be permitted to draw the conclusion that during the Decade a great deal has happened with regard to the development of co-operation. But has it happened because of the Co-operative Development Decade or is it merely because of activities started by other organisations and institutions? It is a fact that support for co-operative development has come from many sources during the decade, from a number of countries and governmental agencies for technical assistance. I could refer to many countries in this respect. I could refer to activities carried out by the socialist countries, which have been of great importance. I could mention the substantial support which has been given by the World Bank, by FAO, ILO, UNESCO, and other UN Agencies. Some member organisations of the ICA have organised fund-raising campaigns and carried out special projects of their own. Personally I will argue that the activities which we have registered on the part of institutions and organisations which have been working on their own have been inspired by the International Co-operative Alliance and its work in connection with the Development Decade. I think I can say—in any case, I believe it—that the activity which we have seen would have been less if it had not been for the efforts undertaken by the ICA.

"The report which is now before the Congress is a fairly long one, and it would be impossible for me to go through it page by page. I hope that many of you have had the opportunity to read it. There are, however, certain

points that I want to make on the report.

"The report describes a considerable programme of activity. In these pages are reported many seminars and conferences held either at international or regional levels, dealing with issues of fundamental and basic importance for co-operative development. The report shows that training and educational programmes have been carried out benefiting different forms of co-operation. A great many important research programmes have been supported and carried out. The report tells how the Regional Offices have taken many initiatives and have carried out a great deal of activity in different fields. AGITCOOP, the Advisory Group for International Training of Co-operators, has been set up during the Decade. CEMAS, the Co-operative Education Materials Advisory Service, has been set up during the Decade. I shall not go further in referring to the report, but I thought it was right for me just to mention some of the important parts, for which I think we owe the Secretariat our thanks.

"According to the formulation applied by the ICA, the tasks connected with the Development Decade were to undertake a concerted and intensive campaign for the promotion of co-operatives in the developing countries. So the question arises, has the campaign during the Co-operative Development Decade really been concerted and intensive? Some people may take the view that the Co-operative Development Decade has not produced what we had in mind. Some people ask the following question: Would not the activities have been just as versatile without the Co-operative Development Decade? These questions I cannot really answer, but I would remind you of what I have already said, that it is my belief that the activities would have been less without the work done by the ICA on the basis of very, very limited resources indeed.

"Development work performed by the ICA and its member organisations

cannot be done without money or the necessary financial resources. During the Development Decade the economic situation in the world has changed dramatically. The 1970s have been very different from those years which I called the golden 1960s. These changes in the world economy have hit first the developing countries and then the industrialised countries in the world. The everyday question for the ICA Secretariat, within the Headquarters and in the Regional Offices, has been: Do we have the necessary money? Do we have the financial resources?"

Mr. Søliland then referred to the difficulties over the ICA's Long Term Programme of Work proposed at the 1976 Congress, which had already been mentioned, and for which the money had not been forthcoming. An important part of this had also concerned development. He would go more fully into the ICA's financial problems the following day, but in connection with development it was impossible not to mention finance. For example, out of 170 member organisations the Development Fund was regularly supported by only four or five. This was also affected by the rather dark and complex international economic situation within the framework of which they had to work. But he felt that "we member organisations" could have done more; the Development Decade could have been something greater if they had followed it up. It was his personal opinion that in the coming years member organisations must do more in spite of the economic difficulties they had to face.

But when discussing co-operative development, they must remember that in the 1980s development was needed everywhere, not only in the less advanced

countries. All member organisations must study their position, their working methods and forms of organisation in order to meet this challenge, whether in the developed or developing, socialist or capitalist countries. He would not go further into this, but underlined the following points in connection with the developing countries:

“(1) As soon as possible after this Congress, the Development Committee and the Executive Committee should study in detail the Secretariat's report, taking into consideration the discussion which will now take place in Congress. The purpose of such a study must be to draw up a policy for the development work which can later be considered by the Central Committee.

“(2) The policy which we draw up and the programmes which we construct must be within the framework of what is economically possible. If I were to say something more about these first two points, (1) and (2), it is that after 10 years of experience we should really study our policy, how our work is organised, and see whether we can do the job better.

“(3) I believe you will agree with me that we cannot do anything without money, and here the Development Fund plays a fundamental role. How could we get more money for the Development Fund? I know on the basis of my experience that it is no use sending out appeals. It is no use going round with your hat in your hand begging for money. That gives you nothing. The problem is whether it will be possible for us to devise a system according to which the Development Fund could grow automatically? I am thinking of such things as this: when you have calculated your ordinary subscription to the ICA, you should add 5 per cent of the subscription which automatically should go to the Development Fund. This is not something which I propose today, but

it is something which we must look into and see whether it is possible to devise a system by which we can get some financial resources.

“(4) Many of our members have been able to establish contacts and negotiate agreements with the technical assistance agencies in their respective countries. Many more members must try to do the same, because that can produce money.

“(5) There is the question of co-ordination between all those organisations which are struggling towards the same aim and purpose. I shall not go deeper into this, but I think that even if we have reached a certain amount of co-ordination, more could be done in this field, and we have to try to do it.

“(6) We have touched on the Regional Offices, and I want to underline how important these Regional Offices are and that very many things can be developed and carried through by the Regional Offices. May I in this connection say that our Regional Office in South-East Asia and our Regional Office in Central and East Africa would not have been in existence today as ICA operative units if it had not been for the substantial support given by the Swedish Co-operative Movement. We have now decided to open from 1st January a Regional Office for West Africa. It will be a small office. The money to start the office and to pay for the administration for a couple of years has been collected. A three-year work programme in education and training has been worked out. That training and educational programme will be financed by the Norwegian Co-operative Movement in collaboration with the Norwegian Development Agency.

“(7) As the Regional Offices strengthen their position in the regions where they work, more responsibility should be transferred from the Headquarters to the Regional Offices. This corresponds with the idea on which we built our activity, namely self-help.

“(8) We have already during the Congress touched on the importance of the Auxiliary Committees. Many of them are doing a fine job in development work. We should study how that collaboration from the Auxiliary Committees could be extended.

“(9) In preparing this introduction and in connection with certain papers which I have been studying, it has struck me that the question of multi-purpose societies should be more closely studied.

“(10) The technical assistance programmes carried out by the ICA have mainly concentrated on education. I would like to ask whether it would be possible to link the educational and training programmes more closely to practical projects?

“(11) We shall study more closely whether it is possible to increase trade between the lesser developed countries and the industrialised world.

“Those are the points which I would like to put in the forefront of my contribution, and which fit in with the text of the Motion on Technical Assistance. I formally move the Central Committee’s Motion on Technical Assistance to the Third World, and seek the unanimous support of Congress.”

Debate on the ICA and Technical Assistance

Mr. M. BANKOVER (Israel) believed that the main task to be faced by the world in the coming years was the advancement of developing societies in order to reduce the gap between them and the developed societies. In this connection certain features of the workers’ co-operative movement made it one of the pillars of economic progress in developing societies.

He mentioned three particular features of the workers’ productive movement in

Israel which he thought might be of interest: societies raised capital from their own members but also internationally; all national and international financing was channelled through the workers’ co-operative movement; and their societies covered a wide range of products and services. He described their contribution to the Israeli economy and to transforming Israel into a modern and developed society.

He hoped the Israeli experience might be useful to those developing countries now in the same phase of development in which Israel had found itself several decades ago. They were willing to share their experiences.

Chief J. E. BABATOLA (Nigeria, Chairman of the ICA Provisional Regional Council for West Africa) expressed satisfaction that during the latter part of the Co-operative Development Decade the ICA had come to identify itself with the co-operative aspirations of his own developing region.

He described the great strides taken in his own country during the Decade, thanks to certain international organisations and to national co-operative bodies such as the Swedish Co-operative Centre and the Canadian Centre for the Development of Co-operatives in the developing countries, as well as to India which had given Nigerian co-operators the opportunity of attending a seminar the previous year.

If what had been achieved in West Africa during the past two or three years was any indication for the future, he believed great progress would be made in the next few years, thanks to the ICA. However, although co-operatives in the developing countries were grateful for

what had already been done, they felt the quality of aid needed to be improved in the future. Regarding education, for example, educational aid appeared to consist purely of imported programmes which had very little relevance to local conditions, whereas they had local talent which needed only a little further training to enable it to be made use of; they did not need the wholesale import of so-called experts and competent advisers. He hoped this would be borne in mind during the coming two decades.

Mr. S. SULEMESOV (Bulgaria) said the paper on the Co-operative Development Decade 1971-1980 reflected the practical aspects of the co-operative principle of collaboration between co-operatives. He elaborated on Bulgaria's contribution to the Decade, and also referred to the international meeting on the "Role of Industrial Co-operatives in the Industrialisation of Developing Countries" organised by his Central Co-operative Union and UNIDO in Bulgaria in November 1979. He added that the Bulgarian Government also rendered assistance to the developing countries on a large scale, within the framework of international agreements.

However, while aid to developing countries should be directed to all types of co-operatives, especially those in difficult circumstances, it must not be forgotten that the co-operative movement's progress would depend ultimately on the utilisation of its own resources. The Bulgarian co-operative societies had begun with very small resources: now the consumer co-operatives covered 100 per cent of capital investments out of their own funds, and the agricultural producers' and workers' productive co-

operatives each covered 85 per cent. Where co-operative societies lacked sufficient funds of their own, the Central Co-operative Union granted loans free of interest. Co-operators in the developing countries should not be afraid of the difficulties, since most co-operative organisations in the developed countries had begun their activities in the same conditions. The Central Co-operative Union would continue to do its best to extend practical assistance to the developing countries.

Dr. H. FAHRENKROG (German Democratic Republic) described some of the contributions made by co-operatives in the GDR to the Decade: for example in one year alone (1977) approximately 66 specialists from developing countries had been trained by their co-operatives; more than 10 billion Marks had been spent on scholarships for co-operators from Asia, Africa and the Far East; high level seminars had been conducted for specialists from India, Malaysia and other countries; contributions had been made to the ICA Development Fund.

The Consumer Co-operative Union of the GDR would continue to assist the developing countries, especially in the training of personnel. They would also try to contribute to the process of stabilisation of the co-operative movement, since it was important that co-operatives should not only utilise fully the assistance offered but should also rely upon their own resources.

Afternoon Session

Mr. N. BLUMENTHAL (Israel), the first speaker in the resumed debate on the **Co-operative Development**

Decade, felt that while there existed a well-developed network of consumers' co-operatives which benefited millions of consumers throughout the world, the co-operative productive arm—the industrial co-operatives—needed to be further developed, especially in developing countries, since they were a vital factor in ensuring proper exploitation and a just distribution of resources. His own organisation, Koor Industries, considered it a duty to contribute to the general strengthening of the developing economies.

The ICA Open World Conference on Industrial Co-operatives held in Rome in October 1978 had declared that industrial co-operatives provided a third alternative to capitalistic, market-orientated enterprises on the one hand, and State enterprises on the other; indeed the industrial co-operative integrated the economic goals of the one with the national and social goals of the other—industrialisation of development areas, provision of employment, promotion of economic independence and workers' wellbeing. He described how Koor Industries had performed this function in Israel, even before the State was established.

The Rome Conference had called for close co-operation between the ICA, its Workers' Productive Committee, UNIDO, the ILO, trade unions and other organisations, in promoting the development of industrial co-operatives. His own organisation was willing to contribute its own experience and its assistance to any sister country in the setting up and development of industrial co-operatives, for the benefit of fellow workers and for a better society.

Mr. Z. Sh. SIRADJEV (USSR) referred to the assistance being given by Centrosoyus to the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In the Soviet Union they fully understood the problems of the newly liberated nations, since without a developed industry and agriculture, or a diversified infrastructure, they would not be able to consolidate their national sovereignty and independence. About 90 per cent of the means provided under agreements between the Soviet Union and the developing countries was channelled into industrial development, and thanks to the Soviet Union a number of countries had set up new branches of their national economy and were extending the extraction of minerals and the production of fertilisers. Trade with the developing nations was encouraged, and as long ago as 1965 the Soviet Union unilaterally abrogated tariff barriers for products from the developing nations.

This assistance was fully shared by the Soviet co-operatives, which had brought about co-operative links with other co-operatives on a bilateral basis. During the past Decade the Centrosoyus higher education establishments trained over 1,800 co-operators from the developing countries. Trainees' travelling expenses were paid by Centrosoyus and textbooks and clothing were provided free of charge. Centrosoyus had spent some 5 million roubles, over £3 million, during the Decade. It had also organised annual seminars for more advanced abstract discussions, which had been taking place since 1975 and were attended by representatives from more than 42 countries; lectures and seminar documents were published in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Centrosoyus would continue to do everything possible to assist the co-operatives of the developing countries.

Mr. W. SIELANKO (Poland) described the contributions made by the Polish Central Union of Work Co-operatives to the Co-operative Development Decade which had included: preparation for UNIDO of a report on the role of co-operatives in industrial development; provision of a knitting factory and the necessary training for Bangladesh co-operatives; organising seminars and setting up a Centre for Industrial Co-operatives in Warsaw to provide courses, in collaboration with UNIDO, on the organisation of industrial co-operatives; an exhibition in Poznan of co-operative products; seminars on the organisation of invalids' co-operatives and the rehabilitation of handicapped persons; missions to Turkey, Mali and other countries to assist in the elaboration of programmes of assistance from both UNIDO and the co-operative organisations; co-operation with the co-operatives of Hungary and other countries with regard to education; organisation of a seminar for co-operators from South-East Asia.

He added that the Polish Co-operative Movement had made a substantial contribution to the "Buy a Bucket of Water" Campaign organised by the ICA Women's Committee. They would continue their efforts during the coming decade: while helping to develop existing forms of co-operation, they would continue to look for ever more effective ways of assisting the developing nations.

Mr. H. WHITEHEAD (United Kingdom) said that the need for o-

operative development in the developing countries was recognised by everybody and needed no debate; the point at issue was the provision of technical assistance. As Mr. Søiland had said, this was the responsibility of each and every co-operative movement in membership of the ICA, with their reserves of practical experience in the planning and development of newly organised co-operatives of all types in the developing world, on a self-help basis. ICA needed the technical support of its auxiliary bodies, and Mr. Whitehead referred in passing to the excellent record of the International Insurance Federation in this respect.

In addition, co-operative movements in the developed countries must collaborate with their respective government technical assistance agencies, and the UK movement had been successful in obtaining financial support from the UK Overseas Development Administration for various projects, including: the engagement of an education adviser in Latin America; a Co-operative Liaison Education and Research unit (CLEAR) based at the Co-operative College, Loughborough; and a 3-year research study on industrial co-operatives in developing countries. They hoped to do more in the future.

In his excellent analysis of the results of the Co-operative Development Decade, Mr. Søiland had said it embraced contributions of both East and West; as Dr. Bonow had once said, co-operation was "without boundaries".

"I submit to this Congress that we can best endorse the report and give approval to the motion by our determination, as member organisations of the ICA, to increase our aid and financial support. We could consider the possibility of 5 per cent—some

may only be able to give less, some more—to the Development Fund so that the ICA can continue its important role in co-operative development.”

The UK Co-operative Movement would do all it could to assist in fulfilling the aspirations of the motion, which it would be supporting in due course.

Mr. K. NOVAK (Czechoslovakia) said that the Czechoslovak Co-operative Movement considered the Co-operative Development Decade as the project, not only of the ICA but also of the individual co-operative movements. While they fully realised that the co-operative movements alone could not solve the complicated problems of the national economies of the developing countries, they were in a position to play a significant role if orientated as people's movements linked with the progressive forces in society.

When the Czechoslovak Co-operative Movement decided to support the Decade, a wide publicity campaign ensured a climate favourable to the Decade which made it easy to raise contributions for its co-operative solidarity fund. The Czechoslovak workers' productive co-operatives donated 40,000 CDD badges as the Movement's contribution to the ICA Development Fund.

The Central Co-operative Council concentrated on further education and training of higher and middle level co-operative personnel from developing countries: during the Decade more than 1,000 persons participated in various educational projects, mainly in international co-operative seminars, and 30 students from developing countries graduated at Czechoslovak universities. Further assistance to developing countries included provision of co-operative

experts, through the foreign trade company Polytechna; technical assistance amounting to 4 million Czechoslovak crowns; assisting with co-operative legislation and providing information about legislative modifications in Czechoslovakia at various stages of its development; developing inter-cooperative trade links through its two foreign trade companies, Unicoop Prague and Intercoop Bratislava.

They were expanding their accommodation at the Central Co-operative College, in order to be able to welcome more co-operators from developing countries, and would continue to organise further education and training as a way of providing assistance to those countries.

Mr. W. BRIGANTI (Italy) gave details of the work of the Lega Nazionale in providing assistance for developing countries, working on the underlying principle that in order to assist their co-operative movements it was first necessary to consider the general situation. Thus their first contacts were made at ministerial level to ascertain practical needs. He said the Italian Government had no specific development body, but would guarantee financing of certain projects.

The Lega had experience in various countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Its work covered four aspects: (1) building up the food industry; (2) extension of trade exchanges; (3) construction, both housing and infrastructural; (4) technical aid and expertise for the agricultural sector. The Lega also provided training for co-operative personnel, as they considered this very important in the development of co-operation. They believed that the

Alliance had not done enough so far, and should collaborate more with the UN Specialised Agencies although the problem of finance was becoming greater as a result of inflation and the indebtedness of the developing countries.

However, one serious problem was the lack of a purposeful policy on the part of many developed countries.

“ . . . I was convinced on this matter during the conference of UNIDO and UNCTAD last year, which Dr Saxena, myself and our Polish friend attended as representing the Alliance, and we heard the paper by the Group of 77 which did not even mention the word ‘co-operation’. For our part, we regard co-operation as a means of political, social and economic advance and progress. For this reason there is much for the ICA to do to convince the world of the importance of co-operative development and of the possibility of helping to establish the New Economic Order and the realistic policies of the Brandt Report. We support the idea of Mr Seiland concerning allocations to the Development Fund.”

Mr. F. FERREIRA DA COSTA (Portugal) made the point that it was almost impossible to assist the less developed countries while they were under colonial control, and for this reason 25th April 1974, the date of the Portuguese democratic revolution, had been important in that it had allowed a new life to begin for Angola, Mozambique, São Thomé, Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde, as well as for Portugal. He himself had earlier been arrested as a member of a committee for the liberation of the ex-colonies, and when he was appointed by Mario Soares the then Prime Minister, as President of the *Instituto “Antonio Sergio” do Sector Cooperativo* (INSCOOP), he felt it a duty

to carry on this work. With the support of SIDA/SCC and UNDP/ILO, INSCOOP invited co-operators from the ex-colonies to attend its courses on education and training, management, investment projects, etc. The following February they hoped to visit some of these new African democratic republics, using their own tropical and equatorial experience, and the fact that they spoke the same language, as a bridge. They also had contacts with Brazil and with most of the Central and Latin American co-operative organisations, as well as with the Organisation of the Co-operatives of America (OCA).

Mr Seiland had referred to prospects for the 1980s. INSCOOP were concerned about many points, including the future of the Portuguese agrarian reform co-operatives. On the other hand they were providing strong support for the Portuguese productive and artisanal co-operatives which now had an important role: before the Revolution there had been ten co-operatives of this type, now there were about 700, for which INSCOOP provided technical assistance with specialised courses as well as financial assistance; they were also attempting to prepare leaders and experts for all types of co-operatives. In this connection he expressed their thanks to the many countries which had invited Portuguese co-operators to visit their organisations including Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Israel, and countries in North and South America. They were currently in process of organising a co-operative bank with the collaboration of experts from CLUSA.

He was impressed by Dr. Laidlaw's study. Looking to the future did not

imply a lack of realism: people had two eyes and needed both. They must improve the effectiveness of existing co-operatives in the coming years, and must also look to the future and accept changes and new experiences. In Portugal suddenly all types of new co-operatives were springing up—fishery, productive, artisanal, services, with workers' participation. They were also studying the development of a co-operative community centre.

He closed by expressing appreciation of the ICA's work, and his thanks for this opportunity of addressing the Congress.

Mr. J. PAL (Hungary) said that since its inception the Hungarian People's Republic had believed that support for and assistance to the developing countries was essential. The Hungarian Co-operative Movement devoted some 1 million forints to assistance for co-operatives in developing countries, in collaboration with the Polish Movement. During recent years Hungarian productive co-operatives had supplied the complete equipment for various small-size enterprises in developing countries, together with the necessary training of personnel, fully adapted to the countries' social and economic conditions. Farm productive co-operatives also maintained trading contacts with co-operatives in developing countries on the basis of governmental and co-operative bilateral agreements.

In addition to general co-operative training for co-operative personnel in the developing countries, the Hungarian movement also held international seminars from time to time, in conjunction with the UN Agencies, with the ICA, and with the Polish movement.

All three branches of the Hungarian Co-operative Movement, with the assistance of the Government, were helping to build stronger ties with the various co-operative movements in the developing countries, and believed that the Co-operative Development Decade should be extended. They would continue to assist and support the developing countries and their co-operatives.

Mrs. K. BENIWAL (India) thought the ICA had made notable progress since the Paris Congress in 1976 and during the Co-operative Development Decade; by arranging conferences, study tours and the exchange of information, ICA had tried to make co-operation an effective means of development and to have it accepted as such by governments and international organisations.

She had three points she would wish the ICA to consider:

(1) If it were possible to produce dedicated co-operators all over the world, men and women, this would ensure that whatever might be the political or economic system in any country, it would be impossible for any national government to crush the co-operative movement. Mrs. Beniwal suggested that national governments should be contacted through the ICA and urged, with the collaboration of UNESCO and other bodies, to prepare a syllabus of education which would ensure that the tender minds of children should grow to regard co-operation as the very life of society: if a child acquired this philosophy at an early stage in his life, no one would later be able to change his or her mind.

“Co-operation is not a routine matter: it is a psychological thing, it is

a philosophy of life. Therefore we should start at the very beginning and prepare a syllabus for general education from the pre-primary stage to the university level so that we shall have genuine, devoted and dedicated co-operators all over the world."

(2) Women comprised 50 per cent of the world; if they were afforded the amenities and facilities for education, they would impart that education to their children and to other households. Mrs. Beniwal felt that if the education and training of women were taken seriously, most of the world's problems would be easily solved. In addition, women co-operators in the developing countries were mostly either ill-trained or semi-trained, and lacked managerial and technical skills, since training facilities tended to be concentrated on the men. It was the duty of the ICA, along with other international bodies and agencies, to prepare a programme to assist women to get the education and training they needed.

(3) In the developing and under-developed countries, the credit and production side was doing reasonably well: producers obtained good co-operative loans and used modern production techniques. It was on the marketing and distribution side that the rich became richer and the poor poorer, because of corporate power and vested interests. This was an important matter for the co-operative movements of these countries. She requested that the ICA and the UN Agencies should send in experts from countries with flourishing marketing and consumer co-operatives: "Effective marketing and distribution by a co-operative Movement is the only way to eliminate capitalism, exploitation and vested interests."

The Rochdale Principles of Co-operation were important, but the most important job was to press for a new world economic order; if this was not achieved, then it would not be possible to fulfil co-operative aims and objectives. She was proud that their great Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on the occasion of the platinum jubilee of their Co-operative Union, had assured the co-operative movement that she wanted it to flourish and to work for the amelioration of the weaker sections of society, and that all help would be given to the co-operative organisations in India.

Mr. J. J. MUSUNDI (Kenya) noted that one result of the work done during the Co-operative Development Decade was that some other donor agencies, including the World Bank, had come to recognise the important role that co-operatives could play as a vehicle for accelerating social and economic development in the developing countries.

According to the report on the Decade, it was apparent that education had come high on the list of activities, and he echoed Mrs. Beniwal's plea for more education based on the needs of the developing countries, which were badly in need of managerial expertise in their co-operatives.

Mr. Musundi had served as a member of the Co-operative Development Committee, and knew how numerous were the requests from developing countries for assistance. He appealed to co-operatives in all countries to contribute to the Development Fund; his own movement in 1978 had contributed a drum which was later sold and fetched some £1,000—he wished they had more drums to hand over, but he pledged his

movement's continued support of the Fund.

During the past Decade the Government of Kenya had also been able to extend training to co-operative staff from other developing countries (Ethiopia, Botswana, Jamaica, Namibia, Swaziland, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Ghana, and others) in keeping with the purpose of the Development Programme, which was to assist co-operatives to help themselves and be able to assist others.

He closed by urging that the Development Decade should be extended to the Year 2000, and that co-operators should continue to support the Development Fund, which would be the most important aspect of the ICA Development Programme.

Mr. D. CRACOGNA (Argentina) began by emphasising the positive achievements of the Co-operative Development Decade, despite the scarcity of material resources.

He then referred to Mr. Søliland's comments in his introductory speech, concerning the difficulty of effectively evaluating the effects of the Decade on co-operative development in the developing countries. Mr. Cracogna said it was necessary to devise some mechanism for the objective evaluation and appraisal of co-operative activities, not only in the economic field but also the social aspects. Only such a mechanism would make it possible to remedy defects in both the national and the international movements.

Some research had already been done on this subject, notably by the ILO, and he proposed that the Central Committee should set up a group of experts,

including perhaps representatives of the FAO and ILO, to elaborate ways and means of appraising co-operative activities in the social as well as the economic field.

Mr. D-Y RHEE (Korea) spoke about the agricultural co-operative development in his country, which he thought would be of interest also in the context of development over the next two decades.

Multi-purpose agricultural co-operatives in Korea were organised in 1961 by merging the former Korean Agricultural Bank and the existing agricultural co-operatives; the movement now consists of 1,487 primary co-operatives, 140 county co-operatives and a national federation, a total membership of 2 million farmers or 90 per cent of all farm households, and an average membership of 1,300 farmers per co-operative.

During the past decade they had taken certain steps to improve services and training facilities and to increase production. These steps included: amalgamation of primary societies to improve viability; implementation of a mutual credit programme (started in 1968); marketing of agricultural co-operative produce through their own co-operative chain stores (started in 1970) as part of the rural consumer movement; from the early 1970s, installation of improved facilities by primary co-operatives—offices, chain stores, agricultural marketing centres, warehouses, milling plants and farm machinery service centres.

They had worked in close collaboration with the ICA Regional Office for S.E. Asia and the other national co-operative organisations in the Region, hosting study visits for participants of re-

gional seminars, and also other meetings.

He closed by extending his heartfelt thanks, not only to Centrosoyus for its hospitality but also to the Soviet Government for their specially thoughtful arrangements for his delegation.

Mrs. B. LINDSTRÖM (Sweden) spoke on the importance of co-operative insurance, in ensuring the viability of co-operatives and the development of the co-operative movement. As Secretary of the Insurance Development Bureau (IDB), the committee within the International Co-operative Insurance Federation responsible for providing technical assistance, she had been surprised at the lack of interest in insurance shown by co-operators in both developed and developing countries.

She drew attention to the recent report by UNCTAD, which stated that for the year 1977, out of the total volume of insurance premiums amounting to some US\$ 300 million, the whole Third World accounted for only 5 per cent. This did not reflect lack of need in those countries, but rather that existing schemes were not suitable. It was important for the developing countries to establish domestic insurance companies and to devise insurance programmes adapted to and compatible with local conditions; this was also mentioned in the UN programme for a New International Economic Order.

The advantage of co-operative insurance was that funds remained inside the movement; if co-operatives insured with private companies, they were contributing to the growing power and influence of private capitalists. The IDB could help co-operatives to establish their own insurance operations,

through provision of education and training, and practical help and advice. During the past few years the IDB programme has been based on movement-to-movement assistance: when a new insurance society is set up, a long-established co-operative insurance society undertakes to organise and be responsible for the technical assistance but without any financial interest in the new company.

She ended by supporting Mr. Søiland's plea for more co-ordination and liaison between the different ICA Auxiliary Committees, which would greatly benefit the co-operative movement as a whole.

Dr. R. C. DWIVEDI (India) congratulated Mr. Søiland on his excellent review of the achievements of the Co-operative Development Decade, which gave an indication of the developments that should take place particularly in the Third World countries during the 1980s.

In India the co-operative movement made vast progress during the Decade, and further diversified to serve the entire community, especially the poorer sections—the small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, artisans, fishermen, handloom weavers, as well as the educated unemployed and disabled persons. The National Co-operative Union of India also made efforts to provide education and training facilities in the under-developed regions of the country, to supplement financial allocations under the Five-Year Plans. The Co-operative movement is now a well-established sector of the national economy, covering 98 per cent of villages, with 350,000 co-operative societies with a total membership of 100 million. Some two dozen

national co-operative federations provide support and help to the various sectors. A new experiment is being conducted to co-operativise the entire village economy and village management. Training has been improved, especially in management, with as many as 10,000 personnel attending courses every year. Member education is regarded as an essential input, and co-operation has been introduced in the schools and colleges to help equip the people of the nation with the concepts, ideals and philosophy of the co-operative movement.

During the Co-operative Development Decade the Indian movement collaborated directly with international organisations, including the UN Specialised Agencies, providing the services of faculty members of co-operative institutions to ILO to assist MATCOM to organise and conduct courses in the Asian and African countries, as well as providing facilities under the Colombo Plan. The FAO has set up a regional centre in collaboration with the NCUI and the Government of India, to assist in training functionaries working in the agricultural financing institutions of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The Indian co-operative movement also supported the activities of the ILO Regional Office and of other international organisations, and established bilateral relations and collaboration with movements in several other countries.

The Decade enabled them to develop a clearer vision and perspective, which would enable them to make further strides in the future. He thanked the ICA for the assistance received during this period and expressed the hope that its guidance would be consistently available during the 1980s.

Mr. M. LUNGU (Zambia) had unfortunately not been able to contribute to the earlier discussions on the Report of the Central Committee, but wanted to quote, as an example of collaboration between co-operatives, a recently signed agreement between the Swedish movement and the Zambia Co-operative Federation to establish the Zambia Seed Company, which would take over the certification and distribution of seed in the country early in 1981. He hoped other co-operative organisations would consider the prospect of joint ventures for the benefit of both parties.

“My delegation is alarmed at the prospect of liquidating the ICA because it is insolvent. We of the Third World know what poverty means. We also know what it is to go without food. It becomes worse still to know that your ‘provider’ is dying also of hunger . . . We owe it to ourselves to find ways and means to alleviate the situation so that the ICA can continue to provide varied services to the co-operative movements, more especially those of the developing world.”

Concerning the Co-operative Development Decade, his movement was grateful to the ICA for its vigorous campaign in the field of co-operative education in the East and Central African region, and also to the Swedish co-operative movement which had poured both money and personnel into supporting their education programme, including the construction of a co-operative college in Lusaka.

“Most of our co-operative societies which started after Independence collapsed . . . (through lack of knowledge) . . . The efforts of the ICA, SCC, Centrosoyus and the British Co-operative Movement and other organisations in providing scholarships and facilities for co-operative education

have opened new avenues of knowledge in the running and operation of co-operative organisations in our country. We hope that other co-operative organisations will emulate this example and offer wider opportunities to co-operative movements in the developing countries to learn from their experience."

Although their long-term education programme was not without problems—limited resources, lack of materials, illiteracy—his movement felt that the Co-operative Development Decade had been successful as regards co-operative education, and they would support the motion.

Mr. N. THEDIN (Sweden) quoted both Dr. Laidlaw and Mr. Søiland as implying that the Development Decade had been only partially successful, and added: "We have not done all that we really should have done":

Dr. Laidlaw placed great importance on the active participation of co-operative members when he said: "If participation is an index of vibrant democracy, then far too many co-operatives could be described as undemocratic." Mr. Thedin quoted this, because he believed that perhaps one important result of the Co-operative Development Decade had been to increase solidarity within the national movements of developed countries, Sweden in particular. Development aid was linked with development co-operation; the Swedish fund-raising campaign had been launched not only to raise money.

"It was just as much to make our members aware of the situation, of our responsibilities, of the need for solidarity in action. This necessitated information and discussion, and that in

turn influenced public opinion and facilitated our efforts to rally the support of the Swedish Development Agency, SIDA, for co-operative projects.

"I want to underline this very strongly: the efforts to involve the members in actions of international solidarity have benefited our own movements. One of the results is the fact that it has been possible to unite all the various co-operative organisations in a joint effort to support development activities in the Third World, through the SCC and in close collaboration with the ICA. We are, of course, grateful that through these joint efforts, and with the strong support of SIDA, we have been able to finance a large part of the costs of the ICA Regional Offices in Asia and Africa over these years.

"But it is not past achievements that make me especially happy today; it is rather what is in store. If the CDD has not been a spectacular success, it has prepared the ground for new developments. I think first of the important decision, taken here in Moscow, to start the third Regional Office, in West Africa. This is done with a substantial degree of support from Norway but also from several other sources—France, the United Kingdom, UNDP, and so on. We have good reason to look forward to the establishment of a similar office in Latin America in the not too distant future. Thus the outreach of the ICA will be largely increased. That is essential, because it is in the field that the work has to be done.

"It is quite obvious that the need for co-operative action in the developing countries is more and more recognised, not least in the UN agencies. Wealth does not trickle down. It has largely to be built by the peoples themselves, through self-help and mutual aid. Here there is an immense field for co-operative aid to self-help. Obviously, different kinds of assistance to the self-help efforts are called for. Uganda, for example, is a country where the infra-

structure has been severely damaged. Large parts of the country are stricken by social unrest and by famine. The Swedish movement has taken the initiative to assist the co-operators in Uganda. It is in the first instance a movement-to-movement action but it is naturally carried out in conjunction with the ICA Regional Office.

"In other countries the assistance is of a more technical nature—for instance, in the form of management training and member education. You have just heard Mr Lungu mention the project in Zambia. The Zambian and Swedish movements will most probably

be responsible for the implementation not only of the co-operative aid but also of the official assistance to Zambian co-operation.

"There is hope in our discussions today. We find that more and more organisations contribute to our common development effort. We recognise the challenge, and a growing number of co-operative movements are prepared to meet it. Mr Søiland's idea concerning the strengthening of the Development Fund came at the right moment because it opens up better possibilities for this kind of support. Our universal co-operation strengthens all of us!"

Before declaring the session closed, the PRESIDENT announced that the list of members of the new **Central Committee** had been distributed, and asked for Congress approval of the new Committee which was due to meet in a few minutes' time.

The new ICA Central Committee was approved.

Thursday 16th October

Morning Session

The DIRECTOR, Dr. S. K. Saxena, announced that Mr. Roger Kerinec had been re-elected ICA President at the previous day's meeting of the new Central Committee.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair amid acclamation and thanked the Congress for its confidence in him. He announced that the two Vice-Presidents, Mr. Smirnov and Mr. Søiland, had also been re-elected. (*Applause.*)

The PRESIDENT then announced the composition of the new ICA **Executive Committee** as follows: Y. Daneau (Canada), S. Fujita (Japan), R. Heikkilä (Finland), J. Kaminski (Poland), F. L. Lair (USA), V. Magnani (Italy), L. Marcus (Sweden), M. Marik (Czechoslovakia), J. J. Musundi (Kenya), O. Paulig (FRG), A. E. Rauter (Austria), B. S. Vishwanathan (India), H. W. Whitehead (UK).

The first delegate to speak in the resumed debate on the **Co-operative Development Decade 1971-1980** was Mr. Y. FOREST (Canada) who stressed the great interest of French-speaking Canada in the co-operative principles. He also suggested that while economic

problems might have placed constraints on ICA initiatives, they might also have given the developed countries some awareness of what was daily faced by the developing countries, an awareness they often seemed to lack.

The French-speaking co-operative

movement in Canada has close links with the French-speaking co-operatives in Africa and with movements in the Caribbean and Central and South America. During the Decade they had set up a special organisation, International Services, to provide assistance to developing countries, in the form of training of cadres, supply of educational material and trade exchanges. The Co-operative Union of Canada, representing the English-speaking movement, was also closely linked with the developing countries.

He considered it most important to strengthen the feeling of solidarity between co-operatives in the different countries; for example his organisation had set up a committee to study the possibility of granting credit to co-operatives in the developing countries. This solidarity would be strengthened if all co-operatives were to make their members more aware of the international aspects of the world co-operative movement.

Mr. J. M. APPIAH (Ghana), speaking on the motion on *ICA and Technical Assistance*, referred to the disastrous effects of population growth, food shortages, and inflation on the Third World countries, and the need to increase agricultural production by improved methods and by organising farmers into co-operatives. He believed—as presumably also did most of the delegates—that only co-operatives could meet the needs of the non-wage-earning sectors of the population, mainly resident in the rural areas.

While he appreciated that the ICA had made some efforts towards co-operative development in the less developed

countries, these had unfortunately made little impact in his part of the world. His delegation felt that Congress should adopt a resolution to empower the Executive Committee to give more attention to the food problems of the developing world, in collaboration with the World Food Programme.

Mr. Appiah also appealed to donor countries and organisations, which had already done much to help the co-operative movements of developing countries, to continue their financial contributions to ICA development efforts.

Dr. J. C. ROUT (India), after describing the problems of the developing countries, said emphatically that the developed countries could not remain mere spectators but must disseminate their knowledge of science and technology, and must formulate plans for training the co-operatives of those countries for better production and all-round social development instead of manufacturing destructive weapons for the elimination of mankind. They should strengthen the ICA to enable it to expand its technical assistance work.

Dr. Rout described the efforts of his country's co-operative banking institutions, through their primary village agricultural credit co-operative societies, to raise the living standards of small marginal farmers and agricultural labourers by advancing loans at concessionary rates of interest; 50 per cent of the loan was subsidised by the Government. Indian co-operative credit institutions had advanced 82,500 loans during the past five years, of which 60 per cent had gone to that category of borrower.

He asked the developed countries to help the co-operative credit banks in the

developing countries, by providing grants or loans at nominal rates of interest, or by strengthening the ICA Co-operative Development Fund to act as a consortium for providing such aid.

He further requested the ICA to use its good offices to secure interlending by the World Bank and other international monetary organisations to the co-operative credit structures in the developing countries, to minimise their interest burden.

Mr. F. TEMU, speaking on behalf of Mr. P. NDAKI (Tanzania) agreed with previous speakers that the report on the Co-operative Development Decade indicated that there had been a remarkable development in the co-operative movements of various countries, co-operative training and economic activities had been expanded, and new co-operative societies founded, though not without some problems. If these obstacles to development were analysed, it would be found that while some were due to internal conditions, others were beyond the control of the movements and even of their Governments.

In Tanzania agricultural co-operatives constituted about 80 per cent of the movement, although there had been recent developments in other directions such as housing, consumer, transport and small industrial co-operatives. Initially the agricultural co-operatives had achieved their goal of marketing their products at reasonably fair prices for the peasants. Today this was no longer the case: because of worsening international economic conditions, fair prices were not easily obtained in the markets; in some cases countries were unable to pay fair prices due to local factors such as

subsidies to their own producers for higher productivity.

He called upon the ICA to continue its co-ordinating role and to take every opportunity of procuring assistance—from those institutions concerned with bridging the growing gap between developed and developing countries, UNCTAD, FAO, UN, UNDP, UNESCO—for the economic development of co-operatives in the developing countries.

He also urged that the duration of technical assistance projects should be calculated in such a way that, by the end of the project term, the transfer of the necessary expertise will also have been completed.

He took the opportunity of thanking those co-operative movements which had assisted the development of the Tanzanian movement and continued to do so. He personally believed that such bilateral collaboration was the best method of carrying out technical assistance.

“The Union of Co-operative Societies has a high respect for the services of and co-ordinating role played by the ICA and in particular I wish to congratulate the President of the ICA, Mr Kerinec, and the Director, Dr Saxena, on their able leadership, especially at this time of economic crisis. I also wish to congratulate the various Committees of the ICA on their efficient work and contributions which have led to the expansion and strengthening of the co-operative movement.

“Finally, I wish, on behalf of the Tanzanian delegation, to express the hope that the draft motion on technical assistance will be endorsed and to wish the Congress all success.”

Mr. F. E. GRABIEL (USA) declared

the support of the Co-operative League of the USA for increased efforts to develop the co-operative system, to provide technical assistance and to promote trade and collaboration between co-operatives, particularly with respect to the developing countries; in addition CLUSA wholeheartedly seconded the remarks made by Mr. Whitehead the previous day.

“Indeed, the Co-operative League, which was founded in 1916, was organised on the same basis: we drew from the experiences of the Northern European co-operatives in order to determine our form and direction. Those co-operatives and countries provided a rich heritage and a strong foundation on which we were able to build.”

Delegates would be aware that CLUSA had an extensive programme of aid and provided technical aid and assistance, consultancy and other services, to co-operative organisations in several countries. CLUSA supported the draft resolution, in that it called on the Central Committee to study the question of technical assistance and determine a long-range policy, but believed that the role of the ICA should be defined by the expertise of its various members: many ICA member organisations had built up expertise, ability and capability, in providing assistance to developing countries, and it would be a wasteful duplication of effort for the ICA to attempt to create identical expertise and capability. “We need not reinvent the wheel.”

The role of the ICA should be to serve as a co-ordinating and umbrella agency, as a clearinghouse of information for its members, and as a means of influencing international and national organisations.

The Co-operative League was ready and willing to assist the ICA in this work, and to serve on any committee or sub-committee which the ICA might set up to develop a plan of action for the development and co-ordination of its co-operative goals.

Mr. AZIZ MOHD. IBRAHIM (Malaysia) said that many speakers had already stressed the importance of assistance to rural communities, and he urged that the ICA should place more emphasis on the development of co-operatives in these communities, which would continue to need advice, help and support.

He spoke particularly of the fisheries sector in the developing countries; most fishermen came from the rural communities and were classed among the poor, and he asked the ICA to consider six specific areas of activity in the four years to the next Congress:

1. The ICA should plan more educational courses and training programmes in developing countries, organised from the developed countries, in order to help the fishermen's co-operatives and their members in developing countries, these courses to be arranged by the ICA through its Regional Offices and to be particularly in the field of technology, in aquaculture, fish-farming and prawn breeding techniques, to ensure a better income for the fishermen alongside their present operations in the sea.

2. In the promotion of the development of co-operatives, the ICA should suggest to the Governments of developing countries that they should give greater financial help to fishery co-operative movements to enable their members to benefit from and make progress on projects which are economically viable.

3. The ICA should make a study of the development plans of Governments in developing countries from time to time, through their member organisations, to ensure that the ICA development programme for co-operatives is in line with Government policies in the respective countries.

4. The ICA should collaborate with the Governments of developing countries and request them to give greater encouragement for the carrying out of education and training programmes for fishermen in deep-sea fishing activities, as well as techniques which could give greater income from better catches of fish and marine products.

5. In order to have a greater impact on the food production programme, the ICA should request the Governments of developing countries to carry out a research and study programme by exploring new fishing grounds in the present vast areas of sea of each country.

6. In line with the policies for the development of the fisheries programme, the ICA should request Governments of developing countries to give greater emphasis to the rural community by extending greater financial support, either by grants or loans, to the members of fisheries co-operatives, or to the co-operatives, so that they can acquire their own fishing boats equipped with the latest and most modern fishing equipment, thus dispensing with the middlemen who exploit the poor fishermen.

Mr. Aziz reminded participants that Malaysia had hosted the ICA S.E.Asia Regional Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 1979 for five days, of which two had been devoted to discussions on the fishery sector, especially the education and training aspects. He hoped that at the 1984 Congress the ICA would devote more space to fisheries than in the present report, where the fisheries sector had only one paragraph.

Reply to the Debate on the ICA and Technical Assistance

Mr. P. SØILAND (Norway, ICA Vice-President) was sure delegates would understand that it would not be possible for him to comment separately on the contributions of each of the 26 speakers in the debate. However he assured them all that note had been taken of what they had said, and that this material would be studied after the Congress with a view to making ICA development work more effective.

He was grateful for the information which the various speakers had given about their own countries' development activities. ICA had always been aware that many countries carried out **independent development activities**, and he had touched on this the previous day when he wondered whether the Co-operative Development Decade had in fact made any difference. He asked that such countries would keep ICA informed of their activities, so that ICA could co-ordinate its own activities and thus more effectively use its available funds in this field.

He touched on the problem of countries with **non-convertible currencies**, despite which certain countries—the GDR, Poland, Hungary, Romania—had found ways of contributing, and he thought that with joint discussions it would usually be possible to find a helpful solution.

He agreed with several speakers that future ICA policy should deal more with **agricultural and fishery** co-operatives, because they could help with increasing the production of food.

He also agreed that **workers' productive** co-operatives could be of great help

in increasing the infrastructures of the developing countries; the Chairman of the Workers' Productive Committee had in fact attended a special meeting of the ICA Executive to talk about his committee and what they might be able to do.

Of **insurance** he had little experience, but it seemed to him that for many families in the developing countries, insurance was a matter of producing children. The introduction of insurance would have great significance here, and he recognised that the International Co-operative Insurance Federation had done some work on these problems; the Federation had promised to place an expert in the ICA Regional Office for East & Central Africa and he hoped they might also offer an expert for the West African office.

Mr. Søiland referred to the interesting experiences in connection with **multi-purpose** co-operatives described by delegates from Israel, Japan and Korea, and hoped it might be possible to set up more multi-purpose village co-operatives to extend the range of services which could be provided for members.

Finally, **education and training** were of vital importance, particularly in management: if a co-operative collapsed through bad management, it meant a

setback to co-operation in that area for years. He felt that education and training linked to practical projects was the most effective method, and thought they could learn much from what was being done in Latin America and especially in Argentina.

The motion on 'ICA and Technical Assistance' had already been moved and had been supported by many speakers, so he assumed Congress would vote for the motion.

The **PRESIDENT** then introduced the **Central Committee motion on ICA and Technical Assistance***, which was carried unanimously.

Earthquake victims in Algeria

The **PRESIDENT** drew the attention of participants to the earthquake in Algeria, which had taken place while they were at the Congress and about which some of them might not have heard. Considerable damage had been caused and some thousands of people had lost their lives. The Agricultural Committee had taken the initiative with a view to assisting the relief efforts and would choose a delegation to go to the scene of the disaster to find out in what way the ICA could help.

*For text see page 256.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO ICA RULES

1. Resolutions

The texts of the Resolutions adopted by the Congress, including an emergency motion concerning the *Seat of the ICA* proposed by Mr. H. W. Whitehead (UK) on behalf of the Executive Committee, are given at the end of this report (see pp. 255 *et seq.*).

2. Amendments to ICA Rules*

The PRESIDENT asked Mr. Søliland to introduce the Amendments to ICA Rules, which had already been adopted unanimously by the Central Committee.

Mr. P. SØILAND (Norway, ICA Vice-President) said the Central Committee had given these amendments full consideration, and he hoped that the Congress would also be able to take a unanimous decision on them, especially as the question of finance had already been referred to by several speakers.

“Already in the middle of the 1970’s when the Executive Committee dealt with the drawing up of a new work programme it became clear that it was necessary to study carefully the ICA’s financial situation. The result of this was that the Central Committee, in the spring of 1976, when we had our meeting in Sofia, decided to set up a special Ad Hoc Committee on Finance, and the changes in Rules arise from its report to the Central Committee.

“When we started our work after the Paris Congress in 1976, we had a deficit in that year of nearly £12,000. For the four-year period after the Paris Congress our total deficit has been a little more than £78,000, and the deficit for 1980 is estimated to be between £15,000 and £20,000. These

losses have been covered by drawing on the ICA reserves, and now the reserves are down to such a limit that it is impossible to draw on the reserves which had been built up at an earlier stage.”

Mr. Søliland said the present subscription formula dated from 1972 and incorporated characteristics which not only made calculation difficult but also militated against the maintenance of an adequate income for the ICA which would keep pace with cost increases. The Ad Hoc Committee on Finance had therefore set out to devise a new formula which would give an adequate income from subscriptions and be in keeping with Article 16 of the Rules which states that “Every organisation affiliated to the ICA shall pay an annual subscription in proportion to its development and economic importance.”

“The task before the ad hoc committee was to construct a formula which could be fairer in this respect, so that every member of a co-operative sector would pay at the same rate. The formula should be easy to apply. The formula should make it possible to achieve the same result whether or not member organisations pay directly or aggregated through a national organisation. Subscriptions should be calculated in national currency, because it is important to try to meet the effect of inflation in the respective countries. When they calculate in national currency as turnover, premium income and so on increase, the sum of subscription in national currency will increase similarly. It should be easier to forecast subscription both for the member organisation and for the ICA and, of course, to provide the ICA with a growth in resources that corresponds to the strength of its members.”

*For texts, see p. 262.

Mr. Soiland then explained the principles on which the new formula was based, why it had differentiated between the various co-operative sectors, and how it would affect delegations to Congress. He said the new formula had been adopted by the Central Committee meeting in Copenhagen in September 1978, and put into effect from 1 January 1979.

In moving the adoption of the new rules, the PRESIDENT said they were structurally more flexible, and also fairer. They were the result of a very thorough and long piece of work and he thanked the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for their contribution to the working principles of the Alliance. He suggested they should be taken as a whole, and not presented for approval article by article. However, he understood there was one speaker on Article 28.

Mr. G. HADDRELL (Canada) quoted Article 28, which reads: "*The Central Committee shall have the following duties: (a) to interpret the policy and to carry out the programme of the ICA established by the Congress . . .*"

"At this Congress the Canadian delegation deliberately kept a low profile because of the report of our native son, Dr Alex Laidlaw, for whom we have great respect and pride. We wanted to see how his report would be received, particularly as it was the theme of the entire Congress. We cannot imagine a theme more significant than the subject of 'Co-operatives in the Year 2000' and in the 20 years from now until then.

"It is apparent also that we Canadians are in accord with the other report entitled 'Co-operatives in the Socialist

countries in the Year 2000", because we have agreed unanimously with the resolution which combines these two reports as a document of this Congress.

"This brings us to the position at which we should be able to go home from this Congress and analyse the two reports that we have adopted with unanimity, with the objective of determining how we can combine the experience and the recommendations of both reports to promulgate a universal co-operative movement; a movement which would have an acceptable level of State assistance without State domination; a co-operative movement which we could describe as having the same fundamental principles and practices in the Socialistic states as in the capitalistic States; a co-operative movement which has the social and economic welfare of the people as its primary concern, no matter what the countries in which it resides.

"Whether or not we can achieve this state of universal co-operation we are not certain, but we must have hope. We have hope. Mankind must exist on hope and in the faith of the brotherhood and the sisterhood of man, for we believe that there is just no alternative.

"In conclusion, and to give stress to the timeliness of this Congress, I should like to quote a statement from the eminent British philosopher, Bertrand Russell. Upon being interviewed during the tenth decade of his life, he was asked "What further words of advice would you leave for a world which seems to be in great peril?" Without a moment of hesitation he replied, "Co-operate, for unless mankind learns to co-operate it will perish from the face of the earth." Is there any better message that we could take home from this Congress?"

The PRESIDENT endorsed Mr. Haddrell's philosophy, and put the amendments to the vote. They were carried unanimously.

CLOSE OF CONGRESS

Farewell Message From Nils Thedin

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. Nils Thedin was retiring from international co-operative activities on account of age, and had asked for a few moments in order to bid them farewell.

Mr. NILS THEDIN (Sweden) wanted to share with them two or three of his experiences.

"I would like to take you back to the London conference of the ICA in 1945. It was the British movement, we shall never forget, that carried the ICA through the war, and immediately after the war it was Lord Rusholme who invited us to come to London and discuss the future of the ICA and the future of international Co-operation. We came from 14 countries. There were the visionary Americans Howard Cowden and Axelson Drejer, there was the sharp, intelligent Soviet delegate, Suvarov, there were Albin Johansen and Mauritz Bonow, and many others. We assembled in a city badly damaged by the war. The mighty dome of St Pauls rose above a desert of stone and rubble. But at that conference two decisions were taken; one related to a new world economic order that was remitted to the United Nations, and the other related to the creation of an International Co-operative Petroleum Agency. The ICA looked forward. The ICA was needed. And how much needed the ICA is. That is something that I have experienced many times over the years, but I shall never forget that first time."

He went on to talk about the ICA's post-war initiatives to bring back into the international movement, first the Federal Republic of Germany, and later Poland and Hungary.

"Of course we need Poland, of

course we need Hungary, of course we need to have all these co-operative movements from different political, economic and social systems, because it is the strength of the International Co-operative Alliance that we can bring together representatives from all over the world, from all the various political systems, to provide a common platform to plan for practical co-operation, to try to learn to understand one another better, to try to strengthen the community of interest that is at the bottom of international co-operation.

"In these words I have tried to convey to you the conviction that has become stronger and stronger in my mind that the international co-operative movement is in a unique position to make an important contribution to peace by trying to eradicate all the misunderstandings and distrust and to create confidence. We can do that if we strengthen what is common to us, and that is our co-operative ideology.

"I thank you for these 35 years I have been allowed to work with the ICA. It has been my privilege that the Swedish Co-operative Movement has given me this task and I am immensely grateful for it and for all the wonderful contacts that these years have created with co-operators from all over the world. Thank you very much." (*Applause.*)

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. Thedin had made an immense contribution to the international co-operative movement since World War II, and as a very old friend he wanted to thank him once again.

Venue of the 28th Congress

Mr. O. PAULIG (Federal Republic of Germany) said all participants were warmly grateful for the hospitality they had received during this Congress. The co-operators of the Federal Republic of

Germany wanted the hospitality to continue, and extended a very heartfelt invitation to the ICA to hold the next Congress in the City of Hamburg.

He was warmly thanked by the PRESIDENT.

Closing Address

The PRESIDENT expressed the thanks of the Congress to all who had helped to make its work run smoothly: the rapporteurs, the speakers, the interpreters, the ICA secretariat staff, the verbatim reporters, guests and observers; last but not least he thanked Centrosoyus, its Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and its entire personnel who had catered for their welfare during the Congress. The delegates' future memories of Moscow would always be linked with a successful 27th Congress.

The spirit of the Congress had been one of friendship and mutual understanding, and one of great tolerance because they had understood and accepted differences. Mr. Kerinec emphasised the high quality of the interven-

tions. He hoped that when delegates returned to their countries they would remember and try to implement what had been voted for in Moscow, so that their actions might correspond to their words.

Finally he thanked delegates for easing his task as Chairman, and wished them a pleasant stay and a safe return. (*Applause.*)

Mr. P. SOILAND (Norway, ICA Vice-President):

"The President has thanked everybody and of course we agree with what he has said, but there is one other person whom we should also thank. Some of us have had the opportunity to go out and smoke and have a cup of coffee, but the President has had to sit in his place from early morning till late evening. On behalf of us all, I want to thank him for the way in which he has led us through our Agenda and the way in which he has conducted the Congress. I am sure that every delegate will join me in thanking the President." (*Applause.*)

The PRESIDENT then declared the 27th Congress closed.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE XXVIIIth CONGRESS

1. COLLABORATION BETWEEN COOPERATIVES

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

REAFFIRMING its belief in the principle of cooperation between cooperatives proclaimed at its 23rd Congress in Vienna in 1966;

RECALLING the Resolution adopted at the 26th Congress which, inter alia, called for efforts to expand collaboration;

RECOGNISING that some progress in collaboration between cooperatives has been made in the last four years, but that inter-

national collaboration between cooperatives has made only limited progress during this time;

EMPHASISES the importance of closer collaboration between cooperatives during the 1980s in the face of the growing power of the multi-national corporations and in view of the difficult trading conditions that seem likely during the decade;

REQUESTS member organisations during the 1980s urgently to seek trading opportunities with cooperatives in other countries and to explore the possibilities of joint ventures in developing and developed countries and to promote collaboration through exchange

visits, exchange of staff, exchange of publications and in other ways;

ASKS the Central Committee of the Alliance in consultation with its Auxiliary Committees to monitor progress made in collaboration between cooperatives and to explore ways and means of extending it.

2. ICA AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the ICA's Cooperative Development Decade, 1971-1980, has made an important contribution to cooperative development in developing countries;

RECOGNISING that the Cooperative Development Decade's contribution could not meet all the needs expressed in this period;

NOTING the ongoing discussion within the UN Bodies on the New International Economic Order to which cooperatives and cooperative ideology have so much to contribute in bridging the gap between the richer and the poorer countries;

EMPHASISING that rural development and the provision of more adequate public facilities in the countryside is of vital importance in raising living standards and reducing poverty, and that cooperative development is an essential factor in promoting participatory rural development;

RECALLING that many governments recognise the value of the cooperative formula as an important instrument for the economic, social and cultural development of their communities;

WELCOMING the fact that many governments and cooperative movements are prepared to increase their support for cooperative development;

REGRETTING that the donations to ICA's own Development Fund come regrettably only from a few organisations;

PROPOSES that in the period to the next Congress in 1984, further efforts be made by cooperatives in developed countries, by governments of developing countries, and by trade unions, religious groups, voluntary associations, to increase their efforts to develop the cooperative system, to provide technical assistance and to promote trade between cooperatives;

ASKS that the Central Committee draw up a long-term policy for cooperative development which should set out guidelines for ICA's technical assistance work; cover the type of assistance to be given, the way the ICA should work in developing countries, the use of the Development Fund, the beneficiaries of technical assistance and the links with national, social and economic plans;

CALLS ON member organisations to expand the ICA's Development Fund so that it can play an increasing part in cooperative development;

REQUESTS that an assessment of progress be submitted to the next Congress.

3. COOPERATIVES IN THE YEAR 2000

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

WELCOMES the Report on Cooperatives in the Year 2000 prepared by Dr Laidlaw at the request of the Central Committee, and also welcomes the joint report prepared by the Central Cooperative Unions and Councils in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, USSR, which describe the economic environment in which cooperatives will probably operate during the next two decades as well as their prospects for the Year 2000;

NOTES that the Report prepared by Dr Laidlaw takes a sombre view of economic prospects during the next two decades particularly in view of the growing oil shortage, its likely effect upon continuing inflationary pressures and rising unemployment, and the probability of continuing trade recession and rising trade barriers and breakdown of the international monetary system;

ACCEPTS that these Reports view with alarm the growing gap between the rich industrialised countries and the poor developing ones in spite of efforts by the UN and certain agencies to help developing countries; and COMMENDS the far-reaching proposals of the Report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues;

NOTES that these Reports take account of the environmental crisis, the need to conserve natural resources and control pollution and the debt to the towns; and of the prospect of severe food shortages as world food

production falls short of the needs of growing populations;

AFFIRMS the vital need, if peace is to be secured and disaster is not to engulf mankind, for a significant reduction to be made in expenditure on armaments;

RECOGNISES that cooperatives will face increasing difficulties in a world in which wealth continues to be concentrated in a few countries and in the hands of a few individuals in many of those countries; and in the face of the growing power and wealth of multi-national corporations run for the profit of the few;

WELCOMES certain basic economic and social trends which help to bring hope to mankind: such as increasing concern about the inadequacy of a profit-motivated economy to meet human needs; proposals for an international development strategy by the United Nations to bring a fairer distribution of wealth and income and the benefits of development and the greater personal participation in a New International Economic Order; the emancipation of women;

DECLARES that growing interest in and support for cooperative development is one of these trends and that such development can make a major contribution to resolving some of the economic and social problems facing the world;

DECLARES further that the highest priority should be given to:

- (i) the development of agricultural cooperatives including agricultural producer cooperatives among small farmers, particularly in developing countries, with a view to increasing food production and raising the real incomes of primary producers;
- (ii) the promotion of industrial cooperatives and the conversion of existing industrial enterprises to the cooperative form or organisation so as to contribute to: an increase in incentive and productivity; a reduction in unemployment; an improvement in industrial relations and the development of a policy for a more equitable distribution of incomes;
- (iii) the further development of consumers' cooperatives in such a way as to emphasise the features which distinguish them most clearly from private traders and sustaining their independence and effective democratic control by members;

(iv) the creation of clusters of specialised cooperatives or a single multi-purpose society, especially in urban areas, in such a way as to provide a broad range of economic and social services: housing, credit, banking, insurance, restaurants, industrial enterprises, medical services, tourism, recreation, etc. within the scope of a single neighbourhood cooperative;

REGARDS these Reports as the beginning of a continuing process of research and self-examination by the World-wide Cooperative Movement; and therefore

ASKS member organisations to consider ways in which they, either by themselves or through representations to their governments for action or both, can help to bring about the implementation of these four priorities for cooperative development;

ASKS member organisations:

- (i) to make a careful study of the Reports;
- (ii) to participate in a continuing discussion on their implications;
- (iii) to select for comment those parts which are particularly applicable to their own situations and problems;
- (iv) to study and if necessary set up a research programme to examine future development throughout all sections of the cooperative system;

REQUESTS the United Nations and its Agencies to pursue with all possible vigour their objective of devising an international development strategy to create a New International Economic Order which will bring about a more participatory society and a fairer distribution of the fruits of development, and at the same time create more favourable conditions for sustained cooperative development;

REQUESTS member organisations to report regularly to the Central Committee the results of their investigations into the future directions of their own movements, and for the Central Committee to receive a special report in 1982 on this aspect.

4. PEACE

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance, representing 350 million cooperators in 65 countries with varied economic, political and social systems; **CONFIRMS** its belief that peaceful co-existence is essential worldwide economic and social progress is to be achieved;

DECLARES its firm conviction that the United Nations Organisation is the indispensable authority for promoting lasting peace and security throughout the world;

REAFFIRMS all the Resolutions on Peace adopted at previous Congresses and Central Committee Meetings, the most recent being the Resolution passed by the Central Committee at its Meeting in May 1980 in Montreal;

UNDERLINES its determination to support the United Nations in its endeavours to develop constructive programmes for peace and international cooperation.

5. AID TO SELF-HELP IN HOUSING PROVISION

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

REGARDS with increasing concern the catastrophic and inhuman housing conditions of millions of inhabitants of the developing countries;

RECALLS the existence of inadequate housing conditions in many parts of the world;

REFERS to the Declaration by the United Nations World Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver in 1976, and to the appeals that were issued to governments, non-governmental organisations and the parties affected, that measures should be taken to ensure better housing and living conditions;

DEPLORES the paucity of results that have so far been achieved in pursuance of the Vancouver Declaration;

FEARS that failure adequately to incorporate policy on housing and settlements in development efforts as a whole will result in a further dramatic worsening of the housing and living conditions of millions of people;

STRESSES that cooperatives and other non-profit making organisations have in the past been successful in working for housing provision for socially disadvantaged classes of society, and that these organisations have supported self-help for the impoverished;

DECLARES that, in view of the worsening of the housing situation on the world scale, cooperatives and non-profit making enterprises desire to increase the efforts being made to satisfy the basic need that housing represents;

DEPLORES the fact that government

support for the work of cooperatives is still very meagre in many countries;

CALLS UPON governments to aid initiatives of a cooperative and self-help nature by means of a framework of appropriate legal and institutional conditions;

CALLS UPON governments to give low-cost access to land, infra-structure and public services, and to make such access available without prejudice for cooperative and self-help housing;

DEMANDS that expensive technology, standards and building materials should be replaced by resources that are available locally and suitable for self-help use;

ENTREATS governments and non-governmental organisations to work together more effectively, so that a large number of dwellings will have been built by cooperatives and self-help by the time the next Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance takes place.

6. MEASURES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

RECALLS the Declaration of Consumer Rights adopted at the 24th Congress of the ICA in 1969;

WELCOMES all reports on initiatives that have since been taken by ICA members to implement this Declaration;

FINDS that the consumers' situation still remains critical;

REGRETS that a reasonable standard of nutrition, clothing and housing is not available for the majority of consumers and that adequate standards of safety and a healthy environment free from pollution are not a fact for all consumers;

REGRETS that access to unadulterated merchandise at fair prices and with a reasonable variety is still a vague hope for many consumers;

REGRETS that access to relevant information on goods and services and to education on consumer topics is more the exception than the rule;

REGRETS that influence on economic life and democratic participation is not given to consumers to a reasonable degree;

EMPHASISES the need for closer collaboration for expansion and development of increased consumer protection in developed as well as developing countries by promoting

contacts through exchange visits, improved communications, greater exchange of publications, greater collaboration on general initiatives to increase the role of the consumer, thus contributing to greater world-wide social and economic justice;

RECOMMENDS ICA member organisations to aim for increased consumer protection in the field of the right to a reasonable standard and quality of life, the right to safety, the right to be informed, the right to choose, the right to be heard, the right to representation and participation, and the right to recourse and redress;

WELCOMES the intention of the ICA Consumer Committee to formulate an ICA programme on consumer protection as a step forward from the Declaration of 1969;

REQUESTS the ICA Consumer Committee to continue to extend and to deepen its work based on guidelines of its recently adopted working programme and a new set of rules;

CALLS on all member organisations of the ICA to promote the protection of consumers and to improve living conditions for consumers by strengthened support for the Consumer Committee in its world-wide work for an increased quality of life for consumers in developed and especially in developing countries.

7. THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN HOUSING COOPERATIVES

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

CONGRATULATING the ICA Housing and Women's Committees on the holding of a Joint Seminar on "The Role of the Family in Housing Cooperatives" in 1979 in Sweden;

BELIEVING that the participation of families in the planning and management of housing benefits the individual as well as society and that such participation efficiently contributes to the provision of good housing for families and to developing individuals and strengthening the democratic functions in society;

NOTING the big differences between the countries represented at the Seminar as far as the practice of the Role of the Family in Housing is concerned and that all organisations work within the economic and legal conditions laid down by the State, and that in some cases these conditions stimulate active participation of the family in the planning and management of housing, and

in other cases put obstacles in the way of such a role;

NOTING that the participants of the Seminar on the Role of the Family in Housing Cooperatives have been urged to try to utilise ideas and suggestions submitted to the Seminar, and not to let obsolete traditions and changing conditions within their respective organisations and countries act as an obstacle in furthering such ideas, and to try to spread those ideas within their organisations and relevant bodies;

REQUESTS member organisations of the International Cooperative Alliance and in particular its Housing Committee and Women's Committee to contribute by spreading information material and arranging further seminars of a similar kind;

URGES member organisations

- (i) to examine statutes regulating cooperative housing in their countries in order to remove any obstacles to an improved housing democracy;
- (ii) to help those working in different housing organisations to gain more knowledge about procedures in various countries aimed at improving democracy in housing cooperatives and the progress made in this field;
- (iii) to request their government authorities to initiate legislation that facilitates the development of housing democracy.

8. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE DISABLED

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

NOTING that 1981 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of the Disabled;

DRAWS ATTENTION to the problems of full integration of invalids and their rehabilitation into society;

NOTING that the Cooperative Movement in a number of countries has attained considerable success in giving disabled people the possibility of full participation within the framework of the Cooperative Movement in social, economic and cultural life;

UNDERLINES the achievement of housing cooperatives in the field of constructing flats for disabled people and in overcoming the architectural difficulties as well as contributing specialised cooperatives for invalids, in solving the difficult problems of professional rehabilitation and work access;

APPEALS to all member organisations of the International Cooperative Alliance to pay special attention to these questions and to help cooperatives for invalids in their activities and development;

REQUESTS all member organisations to take an active part in the International Year of the Disabled by developing national programmes of action and broadening the collaboration between cooperative organisations of different countries in order fully to utilise the cooperative form for the rehabilitation of invalids.

9. COOPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE WITH OTHER MASS ORGANISATIONS

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

DECLARING that internationalisation of the economy, which has reached a scale hitherto unknown, promotes the establishment of new inter-relations between different mass movements—nationally, regionally and internationally, and increases the effectiveness of their struggle for people's rights;

DRAWING ATTENTION to the process whereby production and capital are increasingly concentrated, thus increasing the influence of national and international monopolies and the business activities exercised by them, which damages society as a whole and especially consumers;

UNDERLINES the need for the Cooperative Movement to interact at all levels with other mass organisations pursuing the same goals as cooperatives, which will enhance their role and importance and will promote the success of the efforts to raise the standard of living of the working people, to ensure durable peace and security;

RECALLS the Resolution on Collaboration between Cooperatives and Trade Unions adopted at the 25th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance;

APPEALS to all member organisations to develop cooperation with the professional unions and other mass social organisations at local, regional, national and international levels which will promote the strengthening of the position of the cooperatives and their success in reaching their goals.

10. ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE CO OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

RECALLING that among the basic aims of the International Cooperative Alliance are: the assistance of the development of cooperation in all countries; the safeguarding of the interests of the Cooperative Movement in all countries; the strengthening of the friendly and economic relations between cooperative organisations at the national as well as on the international levels;

APPROVING the direction of the activities of the cooperative organisations towards safeguarding the social and economic rights of working people in accordance with the fundamental rights and freedom of man and with the principles of justice, simultaneously promoting the development of the forms of land-ownership and means of production which do not permit any exploitation of individuals and which guarantee equal rights for all and create conditions leading to a real equality of people;

SUPPORTS the UN Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and the Declaration and the Programme of Action for the establishment of a New International Economic Order;

WELCOMES the Resolution adopted by the 23rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on "The National Experience in the field of Promoting the Cooperative Movement";

RECALLS its many efforts to support trust, cooperation and mutual understanding towards preserving peace through all the world;

EXPRESSING its firm belief that detente and the improvement of the political climate throughout the world will create favourable conditions for extending cooperation between peoples and between their cooperatives;

EXPRESSING THE WISH that the advantages of collaboration for the good of social progress would be used to the benefit of all, regardless of their present level of economic and social development;

NOTES WITH SATISFACTION the activity of the affiliated organisations of the International Cooperative Alliance for improving information to the public about the aims and actions of the Cooperative Movement;

RECOGNISES the importance of the part the Working Party on the Cooperative Press could play in the International Cooperative Alliance, as well as individual members in increasing support for collaboration and mutual understanding;

REQUESTS the Executive and Central Committees of the International Cooperative Alliance to work out methods for strengthening the part played by the ICA in the consolidation of the International Cooperative Movement in cementing its unity and extending the collaboration of cooperatives on all levels;

CALLS ON all member organisations of the International Cooperative Alliance to pay attention to the international exchange of experience within the framework of the International Cooperative Alliance in the field of growth, the further development and diversification of the Cooperative Movement, and actively to promote both at the national and international levels the social and economic benefits rendered by cooperatives to all levels of society and in particular to the poorer sections of the community.

11. THE USE OF MASS MEDIA IN THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

RECALLING that one of the objects of the ICA as stated in its Rules is to propagate Cooperative Principles and methods throughout the world;

CALLS ATTENTION to the Resolution 4301 adopted in 1970 by the General Conference of UNESCO, concerning the contribution of the mass media in strengthening international mutual understanding and its contribution for peace and better life for mankind and for the struggle against propaganda for war, racism, apartheid and hatred between the peoples, and also

MINDFUL of the contribution of the mass media in propagating the Cooperative Principles;

CONSIDERS that cooperation must use the mass media for the sake of propagating the principles of mutual respect and understanding with the object of reaching equality of rights for all peoples and nations, and for economic and social progress;

UNDERLINES the necessity of a greater utilisation by cooperative organisations of the mass media for active propagation of the objects and principles of cooperation as a means of raising the living standard of the mass of the working people, and of developing and strengthening the world's Cooperative Movement;

APPEALS to all national Cooperative organisations actively to use the mass media for promoting the establishment of durable peace and security ensuring economic and social equality for the working people from all countries according to the objects as stated in the Rules of the International Cooperative Alliance.

12. WOMEN AND THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

RECALLING that the United Nations has declared 1976-1985 the Decade for Women under the theme "Equality-Development-Peace";

CONVINCED that the equal and effective participation of women in the process of development is possible only when equal access to education and professional training is available and that these opportunities can be provided by the appropriate institutions in the respective social climates;

BEARING IN MIND that the equal participation of women in the process of development and in political life should contribute to the preservation of peace throughout the world;

AWARE that the setting up of a New International Economic Order and the wish for more intensive economic and social progress in the developing countries should to a great extent contribute to the gradual integration of women in the cooperative movements of those countries;

RECALLING the Resolution on The Role of Women in the Cooperative Movement adopted by the 26th Congress and its recommendations to the member organisations and

also the actions carried out by the International Cooperative Alliance in connection with the International Year of the Child in 1979;

RECOGNISES the contribution and desire of the Women's Committee of the International Cooperative Alliance to include women in the broad economic and social activity and also activities of an educational and cultural nature in the Cooperative Movement;

CALLS on its member organisations in all countries to continue their efforts to achieve full equality for women in political, social and economic life; and

IS CONVINCED that it is necessary for all social forces concerned with the role of women to carry out joint activities by combining their efforts in this direction not only with international but also with national organisations and institutions.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION— THE SEAT OF THE ICA

The 27th Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance,

ACCEPTING that Article 6 (Seat of the ICA) provides that the seat of the ICA shall be situated in such country and at such place as the Congress shall determine;

NOTES certain factors affecting the financial resources and efficient working of the ICA Secretariat;

APPRECIATES the need to secure new premises when the present lease of the premises in London at 11 Upper Grosvenor Street expires;

REQUESTS the Executive Committee to explore the possibilities of locations other than London, and

AUTHORISES the Central Committee to determine the seat of the Head Office and to report the decision to the next Congress.

AMENDMENTS TO ICA RULES

ARTICLE 9—APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Add new sentence at the end of the last paragraph. The third paragraph will now read:

“Before any application is submitted to the Executive the Director shall make appropriate enquiries as to the suitability of the organisation concerned to be admitted to membership of the ICA. *All applications must include the calculation of the subscription due under the current subscription rates, with an undertaking that if membership is granted, the sum can be transferred to the ICA's account.*”

ARTICLE 11—CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP (paragraph (b))

Delete all after the word “subscription” in line 2, and substitute new text.

The new paragraph (b) of Article 11 will now read:

“Membership of the ICA shall cease . . .

(b) “By non-payment of subscriptions: any organisation which in two successive years has not paid its sub-

scription, nor made a specific request for leniency which has been approved, shall be removed from the list of members.”

ARTICLE 13—OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS (paragraph (b))

Insert after the words “Article 16 and 17” the words:

“as authorised from time to time by the Central Committee”.

New paragraph (b) will now read:

“Every organisation affiliated to the ICA shall have the following obligations . . .

(b) To pay, during the first three months of each financial year, an annual subscription according to the provisions of Article 16 and 17, as authorised from time to time by the Central Committee, and to declare the basis upon which it is calculated.”

ARTICLE 17—RATE OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Paragraph 1—delete all after the words “Central Committee” in line 3.

Paragraph 2—delete the existing paragraph and substitute new text.

Paragraph 3—delete the existing paragraph and substitute new text.

Article 17 will now read:

- “1. The subscription to be paid by each affiliated organisation shall be calculated in accordance with the scales applicable to the different types of cooperatives laid down by the Central Committee.
2. *Until the Central Committee shall decide otherwise, the types of cooperatives for which organisations shall pay are as follows:*
 - (i) *Consumer, agricultural, and all other types of organisations not specified below;*
 - (ii) *Housing;*
 - (iii) *Insurance;*
 - (iv) *Banking, including credit and financial institutions.*
3. *The Central Committee shall be responsible for working out the rates of subscription for the above types of cooperatives and shall adopt such formulae as will ensure adequate resources for the Alliance, including, if considered appropriate by the Central Committee, a minimum and a maximum rate.*”

ARTICLE 22—REPRESENTATION AT CONGRESS

Delete existing sub-paragraph (b), and substitute new text.

Delete last paragraph and substitute new text.
Article 22 will now read:

“Representation at Congress, subject to the full discharge of their financial obligations to the ICA shall be accorded to affiliated organisations as follows—provided that the organisations of one country, or of a union of countries, or supra-national or international cooperative organisations, shall not exercise more than 15 per cent of the total voting power of the Congress—

- (a) All member organisations shall be entitled to one delegate;
- (b) *Until the Central Committee decides otherwise all member organisations shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each complete £300 of*

subscription after the first £300 of subscription. The Central Committee shall have the power to revise the subscription figure used as a basis for calculating the number of delegates to Congress in the light of changes in monetary value which may occur.

Each delegate shall have been for at least twelve months previous to appointment a member of the affiliated society or union making the nomination, or of a constituent member of such union.

A fee, as determined by the Central Committee, shall be paid for each delegate, and shall be sent to the Secretariat with the nomination form.”

ARTICLE 28—DUTIES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

After sub-paragraph (e) insert new paragraph (f).

Re-number existing paragraph (f) as (g), and insert after (g) new paragraph (h).

Re-number existing paragraphs (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n).

Article 28 will now read

“The Central Committee shall have the following duties:

- (a) To interpret the policy and to carry out the programme of the ICA established by the Congress.
- (b) To elect the President and the two Vice Presidents of the ICA, also the Executive.
- (c) To appoint the Director of the ICA and to fix his remuneration.
- (d) To appoint the Auditor.
- (e) To confirm the budget of the ICA drawn up by the Executive.
- (f) *To adopt such formulae for subscriptions, including a minimum and maximum rate, as will ensure adequate resources for the Alliance.*
- (g) To decide the agenda and the date of the Congress, as well as the order of Congress business, and to report on all matters submitted to Congress.
- (h) *To determine the fee for Congress delegates and to fix the subscription figure used as a basis for calculating the number of delegates to Congress.”*

Sub-paragraphs (i) to (j) remain the same as sub-paragraphs (g) to (l).

ARTICLE 32—DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE (paragraph (b))

After the word "under" in line 2, delete "Article 17 of the Rules" and substitute:

"the formula as laid down by the Central Committee".

The rest of the paragraph remains the same.

Sub-paragraph (b) will now read:

"(b) To examine the requests from member organisations for special consideration regarding the fulfilment of their obli-

gations under the formula as laid down by the Central Committee, and if, in the opinion of the Executive, a reduction in the financial obligation of any organisation is justified, it shall fix the subscription it considers appropriate, also the representation rights of the organisation concerned under Articles 22-27. In exercising this right, the Executive shall take particular account of the stage of development of the country and the organisation concerned."

APPENDIX 1

Affiliated Organisations as at May 1980

Argentina	Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Consumo, Buenos Aires Intercoop, Editora Cooperativa Ltda., Buenos Aires Asociación de Cooperativas Argentinas, Buenos Aires COOPERA, Buenos Aires Instituto Movilizador de Fondos Cooperativos, Rosario Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Crédito Ltda., Buenos Aires Asociación Argentina de Cooperativas y Mutualidades de Seguros, Buenos Aires
Australia	Cooperative Federation of Australia, Melbourne
Austria-	Konsum Österreich, Vienna Österreichischer Verband gemeinnütziger Bau-, Wohnungs- und Siedlungsvereinigungen, Vienna Österreichischer Raiffeisenverband, Vienna
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union, Dacca
Belgium	FEBECOOP, Brussels Société Coopérative d'Assurances, "La Prévoyance Sociale", Brussels OPHACO - Office des Pharmacies Coopératives de Belgique, Brussels L'Economie Populaire, Ciney Fédération Nationale des Coopératives Chrétiennes, Brussels
Botswana	Botswana Cooperative Union, Gaborone
Bulgaria	Central Cooperative Union, Sofia
Canada	Cooperative Union of Canada, Ottawa Conseil Canadien de la Coopération, Quebec
Chile	Instituto de Financiamiento Cooperative "IFICOOP" Ltda., Santiago
Colombia	Cooperativa Familiar de Medellin Ltda., Medellin
Cyprus	Cooperative Central Bank Ltd., Nicosia Cyprus Turkish Cooperative Central Bank Ltd., Nicosia Vine Products Cooperative Marketing Union Ltd., Limassol
Czechoslovakia	Ustredni Rada Druzstev, Prague
Denmark	De Samvirkende Danske Andelskaber, Copenhagen Det Kooperative Faellesforbund i Danmark, Copenhagen Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger, Albertslund
Egypt	Central Agricultural Cooperative Union, Cairo
Fiji	Fiji Cooperative Union, Suva
Finland	Kulutusosuuskuntien Keskusliitto, Helsinki Keskusosuusliike OTK, Helsinki Yleinen Osuuskauppojen Liitto, Helsinki Suomen Osuuskauppojen Keskuskunta, Helsinki Pellervo-Seura, Helsinki Pohja-Yhtymä, Helsinki
France	Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommateurs, Boulogne Billancourt Société Générale des Coopératives de Consommation, Boulogne Billancourt Confédération Générale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production, Paris Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole, Paris

France (continued)	Confédération des Organismes du Crédit Maritime Mutuel, Paris Confédération Nationale de la Coopération, de la Mutualité, et du Crédit Agricoles, Paris Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives d'Habitation à Loyer Modéré, Paris Confédération des Coopératives de Construction et d'Habitation, Suresnes Confédération Nationale du Crédit Mutuel, Paris Union du Crédit Coopératif, Paris
The Gambia	Gambia Cooperative Union Ltd., Banjul
German Democratic Republic	Verband der Konsumgenossenschaften der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, Berlin
Federal Republic of Germany	Bund deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften, Hamburg Coop Handels- und Produktions AG, Hamburg Volksfürsorge Lebensversicherung AG, Hamburg Volksfürsorge deutsche Sachversicherung AG, Hamburg Gesamtverband gemeinnütziger Wohnungsunternehmen, Cologne Deutscher Raiffeisenverband e.V., Bonn Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, Frankfurt am Main
Ghana	Ghana Cooperatives Council, Accra
Greece	Pan-Hellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives, Athens
Haiti	Caisse Populaire Dominique Savio, Pétion-Ville
Hungary	National Council of Consumers' Cooperative Societies, Budapest National Council of Industrial Cooperatives, Budapest National Cooperative Council, Budapest National Council of Farming Cooperatives, Budapest
Iceland	Samband Islenzkra Samvinnufelaga, Reykjavik
India	National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd., New Delhi National Cooperative Consumers' Federation, New Delhi The All India Central Land Development Banks' Federation, Bombay National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation, New Delhi Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd., New Delhi
Indonesia	Dewan Koperasi Indonesia, Djakarta
Iran	Central Organisation for Rural Cooperatives of Iran, Tehran Consumers and Services Cooperative Society, Tehran
Iraq	General Cooperative Union, Baghdad
Irish Republic	Cooperative Development Society, Dublin
Israel	Hevrat Ovdim – General Cooperative Association of Labour in Israel, Tel Aviv "Bahan" Audit Union of Agricultural Cooperative Societies in Israel, Tel Aviv
Italy	Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Rome Confederazione Cooperative Italiane, Rome Associazione Generale delle Cooperative Italiane, Rome
Ivory Coast	Chambre d'Agriculture de Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan
Jamaica	National Union of Cooperative Societies, Kingston
Japan	Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union, Tokyo Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, Tokyo National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations, Tokyo IE-NO-HIKARI Association, Tokyo National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives, Tokyo National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations, Tokyo National Federation of Forest Owners' Cooperative Associations, Tokyo Central Cooperative Bank for Agriculture and Forestry, Tokyo

Jordan	Jordan Cooperative Organisation, Amman
Kenya	Kenya National Federation of Cooperatives Ltd, Nairobi
Korea	National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, Seoul National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, Seoul
Malaysia	Cooperative Union of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur National Union of Cooperatives (ANGKASA), Selangor Malaysian Cooperative Insurance Society, Kuala Lumpur Cooperative Central Bank Ltd., Kuala Lumpur National Land Finance Cooperative Society Ltd., Kuala Lumpur Federation of Housing Cooperatives Ltd., Kuala Lumpur
Mauritius	Mauritius Cooperative Union, Port Louis
Morocco	Union Nationale des Coopératives Agricoles Laitières, Rabat-Chellah
The Netherlands	Dutch Federation of Workers' Productive Cooperative Societies, Utrecht
Nigeria	Cooperative Federation of Nigeria Ltd., Ibadan
Norway	Norges Kooperative Landsforening, Oslo Norske Boligbyggelags Landsforbund (NBBL), Oslo Landbrukets Sentralforbund, Oslo
Pakistan	Mercantile Cooperative Finance Corporation Ltd., Rawalpindi Punjab Cooperative Union, Lahore
Peru	Cooperativa de Seguros del Perú Ltda., Lima Cooperativa de Crédito Central del Perú Ltda., Lima
The Philippines	Central Cooperative Exchange Inc., Rizal Cooperative Insurance System of The Philippines, Quezon City Sugar Cooperatives Development Institute of The Philippines, Bacolod City National Association of Training Centres for Cooperatives (NATCCO), Cebu City
Poland	Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Cooperatives, Warsaw Supreme Cooperative Council, Warsaw Central Union of Building and Housing Cooperatives, Warsaw "Spolem" Union of Consumer Cooperatives, Warsaw Central Union of Work Cooperatives, Warsaw
Portugal	Instituto "Antonio Sergio" do Sector Cooperative (INSCOOP), Lisbon
Puerto Rico	Cooperative League of Puerto Rico, San Juan Cooperativa Consumidores Unidos de Puerto Rico (UNI-COOP), San Juan
Romania	Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives (CENTROCOOP), Bucharest Central Union of Handicraft Cooperatives (UCECOM), Bucharest National Union of Agricultural Producers' Cooperatives (UNCAP), Bucharest
Singapore	Singapore National Cooperative Union, Singapore
Somalia	Union of Somali Cooperatives Movement, Mogadishu
Sri Lanka	National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka, Colombo
Sweden	Kooperativa Förbundet, Stockholm Kooperativa Gillesförbundet, Stockholm Folksam Insurance Group, Stockholm Lantbrukarnas Riksförbund, Stockholm Hyresgästernas Sparkasse-och Byggnadsföreningars, HSB:s Riks- förbund ek för, Stockholm Svenska Riksbyggen, Stockholm
Switzerland	Coop Schweiz, Basle Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank AG, Basle Coop Lebensversicherungsgenossenschaft Basel, Basle Verband sozialer Baubetriebe, Zurich

Tanzania	Union of Cooperative Societies, Dar-Es-Salaam
Thailand	Cooperative League of Thailand, Bangkok
Turkey	Turkish Cooperative Association, Ankara Köy-Koop, Ankara
Uganda	Uganda Cooperative Alliance, Kampala
United Kingdom	Cooperative Union Ltd., Manchester Cooperative Wholesale Society Ltd., Manchester Cooperative Insurance Society Ltd., Manchester Plunkett Foundation for Cooperative Studies, Oxford Cooperative Bank Ltd., Manchester
Uruguay	Centro Cooperativista Uruguayo, Montevideo
USA	The Cooperative League of the USA, Washington DC
USSR	Centrosoyus, Moscow
Yugoslavia	Yugoslav Cooperative Union, Belgrade
Zambia	Zambia Cooperative Federation Ltd., Lusaka

International Organisations

Organisation of the Cooperatives of America, Colombia
 Nordisk Andelsförbund, Denmark
 International Cooperative Bank Co. Ltd., Switzerland
 International Cooperative Petroleum Association, USA
 Sociedad Interamericana de Desarrollo y Financiamiento Cooperativo (SIDEFCOOP),
 Argentina
 International Cooperative Housing Development Association (ICHDA), UK
 World Council of Credit Unions Inc., USA

Audited Accounts for the four years ended 31st December 1979

Revenue Account

Four years to Dec 1975	1976				1977				1978				1979				TOTALS for four years
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
	INCOME:																
663,782	Subscriptions—current year	..	..	..	..	286,316	334,326	381,913	1,227,615							
3,768	—arrears	..	..	..	..	9,648	4,548	7,902	24,139							
667,550	TOTAL Subscriptions—Note 1	..	..	..	..	295,964	338,874	389,815	1,251,754							
63,375	Interest on Investments, net after allocations to Funds and Deposits	..	..	..	..	23,715	16,250	20,797	84,244							
£730,925	TOTAL INCOME	..	..	..	..	£319,679	£355,124	£410,612	£1,335,998							
	EXPENDITURE:																
	HEADQUARTERS																
298,503	Personnel—Note 2	..	..	..	..	128,351	176,473	192,687	616,753							
62,054	Property—Note 2	..	..	..	..	24,860	27,626	33,292	107,885							
53,096	Communications—Note 2	..	..	..	..	24,311	29,465	29,423	104,761							
89,296	Meetings and UN Representation	..	..	..	..	29,493	59,696	55,896	192,397							
19,241	Congress, net after Delegates' Fees	..	..	..	..	36,813	—	—	36,813							
(277)	Conferences and Seminars	..	..	..	..	(3,368)	(535)	11,150	7,247							
16,301	Contract Activities	..	..	..	..	33,951	44,737	27,287	105,975							
—	Other Charges, net after Grants Receivable	..	..	..	..	7,386	8,084	7,090	27,960							
—	Project 2000—1980 Congress	..	..	..	..	—	—	6,590	6,590							
538,214	Less Contract Activities met by Sponsors	..	..	..	..	262,803	345,546	363,415	1,206,381							
—	Development Grant for Seminars	..	..	..	..	(33,951)	(44,737)	(27,287)	(105,975)							
538,214		..	..	..	..	228,852	300,809	325,542	1,089,820							
	SOUTH EAST ASIA																
159,815	Personnel	..	..	..	..	66,794	65,298	59,332	244,915							
29,403	Office Rent	..	..	..	..	13,629	10,724	10,577	46,959							
48,213	Travel	..	..	..	..	15,010	11,990	8,945	55,567							
—	Regional Council	..	..	..	..	2,353	2,582	5,653	10,588							

202,024	Educational Activities	85,177	83,213	116,842	338,584
36,801	Other Charges	10,033	11,207	8,778	39,572
476,256					
(390,167)	Less met by Swedish Co-operative Centre and S.I.D.A.	192,996	185,014	210,127	736,185
86,089		(161,698)	(160,573)	(192,917)	(639,436)
		31,298	24,441	17,210	96,749
62,005	EAST and CENTRAL AFRICA				
13,251	Personnel	43,865	55,739	38,586	178,538
14,034	Office Rent	3,145	3,033	2,465	10,494
4,186	Travel	10,465	9,389	13,461	41,057
72,074	Regional Council	17,068	2,667	5,603	36,649
43,099	Educational Activities	101,170	190,784	131,177	458,854
15,898	Sponsored Activities	51,730	55,942	102,651	243,209
	Contract Activities	6,053	20,510	—	26,563
	Other Charges	10,508	18,640	16,576	56,290
224,547		244,062	356,344	310,519	1,051,654
(98,144)	Less met by: Swedish Co-operative Centre and S.I.D.A.	(128,442)	(223,868)	(150,035)	(559,482)
(51,576)	Sponsors	(62,317)	(64,635)	(106,332)	(275,062)
	Sponsors (Contract Activities)	(6,053)	—	—	(6,053)
	Member Organisations in East and Central Africa	(2,475)	—	—	(8,099)
(5,189)	Charge to Supplementary Fund	(8,073)	(7,086)	(1,369)	(23,334)
(24,301)	Charge to Development Fund	(9,175)	(15,188)	—	(32,420)
45,337		27,527	45,567	52,783	147,204
609,640		287,677	370,817	395,535	1,333,773
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE for the year				
4,000	PROVISIONS FOR EXPENDITURE, partly attributable to the year:				
	Headquarters—Maintenance	2,000	2,000	11,000	17,000
	—Equipment	—	2,000	—	4,000
31,000	Congress—1980	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000
(14,000)	—1976 Provision Released	(31,000)	—	—	(31,000)
(1,319)	75th Anniversary Book Provision Released	(65)	—	—	(5,590)
	75th Anniversary Book Stock Written Off	5,525	—	—	5,525
	Doubtful Debtors	—	—	3,000	3,000
689,321		306,677	389,817	424,535	1,371,708
23,370	TOTAL EXPENDITURE and PROVISIONS	11,660	8,730	10,850	43,077
18,234	Charge for UK Taxation on Interest Receivable at 40%	1,342	(43,423)	(24,773)	(78,787)
£730,925	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year after Taxation	£250,583	£319,679	£410,612	£1,335,998

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1979

	1975	£		1979	£	£
ASSETS						
FIXED—Leasehold Property at Cost—Note 3	35,000					35,000
INVESTMENTS—Deposits with Bankers	258,551			283,876		
—Loan Accounts—Building Society	131,893			161,439		
—Shares—International Co-operative Bank, 15 shares each 200 Swiss francs, donated to ICA	—			—		
—Shares—Subsidiary Company ICA Domus Ltd—Note 4	510			510		445,825
	<u>390,954</u>					
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks—Publications at nominal value	1,500			1,500		
—75th Anniversary Book at cost	5,590			—		
Debtors and Prepaids	42,989			199,320		
Cash at Bank and in Hand—Note 5	73,210			146,666		
	<u>123,289</u>			<u>347,486</u>		
Less CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Sundry Deposits	(37,847)				4,463	
Sundry Creditors	(89,259)				256,328	
					<u>260,791</u>	
Headquarters Furnishing Donations less Expenditure to Date					4,760	
West Africa Office—Grants					26,500	
					<u>292,051</u>	
						55,435
NET ASSETS	<u>422,137</u>					<u>536,260</u>

14,557	FINANCED BY:				
114,612	FUNDS—Leasehold Sinking	..	..	..	42,585
—	—Development	..	..	..	129,439
19,085	—Bucket of Water	..	..	..	30,219
1,375	—Supplementary—E. and C. Africa	..	..	..	—
149,629	—Dr. Bonow Study	..	..	..	28,479
					<u>230,722</u>
2,000	PROVISIONS—Headquarters—Maintenance	..	..	..	19,000
—	—Equipment	..	..	..	4,000
31,000	—Congress 1980	..	..	..	45,000
—	—Doubtful Debtors	..	..	..	3,000
5,000	—75th Anniversary Book	..	..	..	—
68,000	—Currency Losses—Note 7	..	..	..	134,490
106,590					<u>205,490</u>
165,918	RESERVE—Note 7	..	..	..	100,048
422,137					<u>536,260</u>

Funds Statement

	Leasehold Sinking	Development	Bucket of Supplementary Water	Supplementary C. & E. Africa	Dr. Bonow Study
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance, December 1975	14,557	114,612	—	19,085	1,375
Income	22,000	109,280	47,492	2,560	27,871
Interest	6,028	31,577	—	1,689	3,233
TOTAL	42,585	255,469	47,492	23,334	32,479
Expenditure	—	126,030	17,273	23,334	4,000
Balance, December 1979	42,585	129,439	30,219	—	28,479

Notes

- Subscription Income comprises amounts received during 1979 and up to 31st January 1980; adequate information by way of Annual Reports of Member Organisations is not available to confirm the correctness of the amounts remitted. Under Article 13(c) of the Rules, each affiliated organisation has an obligation to supply the ICA with its Annual Report.
- These amounts are shown net, after charges to other bodies.
- The Accounts are prepared under the Historical Cost Convention and the current value of the Leasehold Property has not been brought into account. The annual amortisation charge credited to the Leasehold Sinking Fund was increased in 1977 from £2,000 to £5,000 and again in 1979 to £10,000 and this charge under the heading "Property" is to be reviewed periodically, with the expectation that the Sinking Fund and its co-related investment will match the replacement value at the expiry of the Lease in the year 2016.
- No credit has been taken for the profit accruing to the ICA from its majority shareholding in the subsidiary company, which at 31st December 1979 amounted to £24,531 (1975 - £8,043). Net attributable assets are likewise excluded from the ICA accounts.
- The Cash at Bank includes £1,537 balance in a West African bank in respect of the projected office there and is the amount held at 31st October 1979 according

to a statement, not directly confirmed in audit. No information is available on the balance held at 31st December 1979.

6. Foreign currency balances have been converted in Sterling at the rate ruling on 31st December 1979, transactions during the year being converted at the average remittance rate. The gains in conversion up to the Balance Sheet date are carried forward as a provision against losses; at the date of the audit, 3rd June 1980, the foreign balances held at the end of 1979 show a loss of £5,475 on the values brought into these accounts.

Movement of	Reserve	Currency Conversion Gain
	£	£
Balance, December 1975	165,918	68,000
Total adjustments relating to prior years	12,917	66,490
Less Deficit for the four years	(78,787)	
Balance, December 1979	<u>100,048</u>	<u>134,490</u>

Net gains, on conversion for the four years

Auditor's Report

The Accounts of the Regional Offices have been audited by other firms and are incorporated in these accounts. In my opinion, the foregoing accounts notes thereon, especially subject to Note 5, and the statement of funds give a true and fair view of the Revenue of the particular activities dealt with thereby for the four years to 31st December 1979 and the state of affairs at that date.

Woodford, Cheshire
3rd June 1980

P. E. CUCKOW
Chartered Accountant

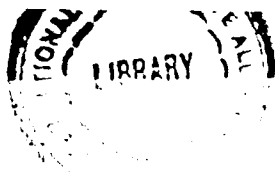
International Co-operative Alliance

Subscriptions Received for the four years to 31st December 1979, shown under the year in which they were received.

	1976	1977	1978	1979
	£	£	£	£
Argentina	619	785	1,161	1,659
Australia	1,234	1,000	1,200	1,611
Austria	1,940	3,295	3,684	4,495
Bangladesh	—	—	—	1,350
Belgium	7,835	10,839	12,204	11,796
Botswana	—	—	—	100
Bulgaria	1,265	1,400	1,530	1,910
Canada	4,022	6,406	7,509	11,734
Chile	484	—	400	—
Colombia	50	100	50	—
Cyprus	425	490	696	778
Czechoslovakia	4,000	4,000	4,800	4,397
Denmark	5,634	6,598	7,700	14,376
Egypt	270	270	—	750
Fiji	480	505	606	606
Finland	15,695	16,344	19,224	18,552
France	13,233	18,525	29,142	29,166
Gambia	578	350	396	396
German Democratic Republic	10,328	10,710	13,394	12,697
German Federal Republic	13,094	27,726	30,156	34,601
Ghana	290	290	—	2,200
Greece	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,200
Haiti	—	12	12	23
Hungary	4,100	4,000	4,800	7,922
Iceland	1,575	1,707	2,264	2,264
India	2,510	2,545	3,057	3,583
Indonesia	—	—	—	245
Iran	270	310	220	50
Iraq	—	2,000	1,200	1,200
Irish Republic	25	30	30	98
Israel	2,100	2,100	2,120	2,500
Italy	6,659	7,353	7,024	8,054
Ivory Coast	—	—	—	97
Jamaica	—	—	100	100
Japan	18,936	33,200	39,978	43,676
Jordan	66	65	78	167
Kenya	650	1,000	—	100
Korea	1,000	1,000	1,200	2,014
Malaysia	1,588	2,031	2,082	2,534

1971

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Malta	—	—	—	—
Mauritius	75	150	180	180
Morocco	70	—	—	386
The Netherlands	50	68	83	101
Nigeria	1,000	1,000	—	1,066
Norway	7,710	10,099	10,676	11,673
Pakistan	—	1,712	200	100
Peru	150	550	—	360
The Philippines	75	475	35	289
Poland	7,599	7,873	9,466	11,719
Portugal	—	—	—	—
Puerto Rico	1,466	—	—	782
Romania	3,700	2,000	3,600	3,900
Singapore	—	—	164	100
Sri Lanka	—	900	540	185
Sweden	12,940	19,345	17,256	21,273
Switzerland	15,056	19,536	21,161	20,916
Tanzania	—	1,392	2,471	1,105
Thailand	250	250	300	300
Turkey	50	1,060	1,200	1,372
Uganda	—	—	—	—
Uruguay	50	50	63	60
United Kingdom	22,263	24,793	30,516	28,100
USA	11,022	12,975	14,016	14,055
USSR	16,510	16,510	19,800	35,000
Yugoslavia	394	—	899	497
Zaire	—	—	—	—
Zambia	—	150	175	175

International Organisations

Organisation of the Co-operatives of America	560	561	—	336
Nordisk Andelsforbund	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,600
International Co-operative Bank	1,700	2,566	2,814	2,605
International Co-operative Petroleum Association	1,033	1,335	1,189	1,107
Sociedad Interamericana de Desarrollo y Financiamiento Cooperativo Argentina	100	—	100	120
International Co-operative Housing Development Association	123	143	153	152
World Council of Credit Unions	—	985	1,200	1,200

227,101	295,964	338,874	389,815
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