

SUMMARY OF  
XXVI<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
OF THE  
ICA (PARIS, FRANCE)  
28 Sept - 1 Oct. 1976

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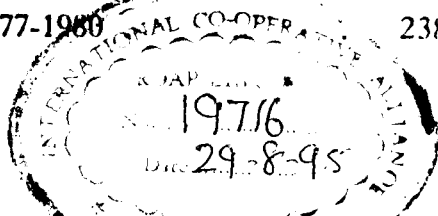
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*The ICA is not responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.*

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# XXVIth Congress in Brief

*This issue of the Review of International Co-operation  
is devoted to a shortened version of the 26th ICA Congress  
held in Paris in 1976*

*A full Report of Congress will be published later this year.  
The shortened version of the Report was prepared by  
Ms L. Kent, Information Officer of the ICA.*

## Opening of Congress

### First Session

**Tuesday, 28th September 1976  
(morning)**

More than four hundred and ninety delegates representing 114 organisations from 49 countries, and more than 300 observers and visitors, attended the opening of the 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance held at UNESCO House, Paris on Tuesday, 28th September, 1976.

Mr ROGER KERINEC, President of the Alliance, opened the Session and extended a welcome to Mr Giscard D'Estaing, President of the French Republic, members of the French Government, and other distinguished visitors, delegates to Congress and representatives of the United Nations and its Agencies, of Government Agencies giving support to developing countries and from international non-governmental organisations.

Although four previous Congresses had been held in Paris, this was the first time that the opening of Congress had been honoured by the attendance of the President of France.

In introducing Mr A.-M. M'Bow,

Director General of UNESCO, Mr Kerinec expressed the thanks of the International Co-operative Alliance to UNESCO for their kindness in allowing the Congress to be held at UNESCO House.

### Welcome by Director-General of UNESCO

In welcoming the distinguished guests and delegates to Paris, Mr M'BOW said that this Congress would be of special importance as it would give the Alliance the means of furthering the Co-operative Development Decade. This would have considerable influence throughout the world, and it would be followed with great interest by UNESCO. For UNESCO it was true, as for all other agencies of the United Nations, that Co-operation was not only a means to action but the stimulus for that action.

It was true to say that the road which led to understanding between all peoples and to the fair sharing of the fruits of progress between all people was still strewn with obstacles. Despite the efforts made armed conflicts had never ceased for one day. Despite the progress towards decolonisation, many people

still lived under the yoke of colonialism. Despite all efforts made in developing the world economy hundreds of millions of people still had a precarious existence. Despite the developments in education, hundreds of millions of people did not yet know how to read and write. When one considered the enormous financial and scientific resources and human efforts devoted to the means of destruction, those concerned were right to be pessimistic.

The presence of so many co-operative leaders however, showed that they were not victims of pessimism. They realised how great the difficulties were but they were confident that they could be overcome. They understood that misunderstanding and antagonisms were powerful but that they must be overcome through Co-operation. This common conviction of the ICA and of UNESCO was shown by the importance the ICA was giving to the New International Economic Order which the UN is supporting.

Justice demanded that the increasing inequalities which were a constant threat to peace be removed. It was in everyone's interest that all should benefit from the solution of economic problems and the achievement of general social well-being. No task in the world today was more urgent than the need for solidarity in all branches of human activity.

Since 1961 when the ICA had received consultative status with UNESCO useful collaboration had been developed between the two organisations. The ICA had been represented at Sessions of the General Conference of UNESCO and had participated in consultations and meetings of technical experts. The work carried out in collaboration with

UNESCO had been most effective in the field of adult education, in the training of co-operators and particularly in the important field of literacy.

Mr M'Bow extended his warmest wishes for the success of the work of the 26th Congress of the ICA and expressed the hope that the spirit of mutual respect, understanding and social justice, which characterised co-operative action, would make a lasting contribution towards peace amongst the people of the world.

### **The President's Inaugural Address**

In his address, Mr R. KERINEC stressed that the purpose of the Congress was not to examine the past, but to plan the future work of the ICA and to investigate how to promote further collaboration between co-operatives in all fields of activity. These two themes were to form the major part of Congress discussions.

The President drew attention to the conditions under which the co-operative movement could make a contribution towards a world that was more equitable, because Co-operation was based on solidarity and participation. The first co-operatives were created as a reaction against private profiteering. Co-operatives had always preferred the virtues of working together to the athletic joys of battling for life.

In 1895, when co-operators showed the importance they placed on relations between people, they established the International Co-operative Alliance, which today was one of the oldest and most powerful international non-governmental organisations. Since those days, co-operators had forged links across borders that surpassed the level of good-

will and good intentions. These links had allowed them to exchange experiences and to undertake joint activities in the field of production, distribution, housing insurance, credit, banking, petroleum products, agriculture, fisheries and other fields. Today co-operators were involved in issues such as food and energy resources, the dangers that menace the environment and the health of the people of the world. This did not mean that Co-operation alone was an infallible solution to these problems, but it did mean that it could make a unique contribution to the solution of these problems.

Mr Kerinec expressed the hope that co-operatives would in future provide more striking evidence that they had the capacity to undertake on a worldwide level actions of such range as to demonstrate another method of managing matters, another way of tackling problems than those which were today practised by gigantic national or multinational private enterprises whose interests did not always coincide with those of the people.

This appeared to be particularly relevant to aid to developing countries, the most serious problem of them all. Everybody recognised that the gap between the rich and the poor countries was widening, particularly as regards the least developed countries. The international community was sinking into what the President of the French Republic had described at an UNCTAD meeting, as "a sort of placid resignation". The people of the so-called rich countries were losing interest in development aid because they felt that it did not achieve its objectives.

The need for a New International Economic Order was now recognised by

most nations and the outlines of this new Order were beginning to be perceived. It was now a question of developing a strategy for all countries for basing the growth of a country on the satisfaction of the needs of its people and of helping people to help themselves. These were ideas which had long been advocated and the ICA had been promoting, particularly through the work of its Regional Offices in Asia and Africa.

Mr Kerinec stressed that these were ideas for which the co-operative movement would be prepared to work, but only on certain conditions and he underlined the fact that co-operatives were not a panacea or a miracle solution to the problems of poor countries. There had been failures by co-operatives in developing countries, and the ICA and its member organisations had to ask themselves whether they had not at times been somewhat over-hasty in promoting the growth of co-operatives, without assuring themselves that such co-operatives were viable. Failures by co-operatives were not always attributable to their own actions, but to the fact that conditions needed for success had not been met. The first condition was that efforts deployed by co-operatives must form part of an overall development strategy.

It was also necessary—and this was the second condition—for governments to consider Co-operation as a true instrument for social change and not as a means of helping the stronger sections of the community to help themselves. In order to be successful, co-operatives had to be inspired and wanted by the people and not only by a few officials.

Far too many governments were using co-operatives for their own ends. A number of co-operative movements had

been dissolved or nationalised—either when they had failed or when they had succeeded too well. It was tempting to take over co-operative banks, co-operative insurance societies, credit unions and others once they had accumulated considerable funds. However, governments had a role to play, particularly in developing countries, in assisting new co-operatives in order to ensure that they were run efficiently. But governments must be told that co-operatives could not be imposed on people, and that in order to be efficient, co-operatives had to be lived by the people themselves. It was only under these conditions that co-operatives could in complete independence, make a contribution to an economic and cultural evolution without social disintegration, develop self-confidence amongst co-operators, and mobilise the energies of the people necessary to develop joint action for the benefit of the community.

The President reminded Congress that the Alliance had succeeded in surmounting all the crises this century had known, sometimes narrowly avoiding splits and divisions. This he attributed to the fact, that the ICA did not bring together representatives of governments, but representatives of the millions of men and women who had chosen Co-operation as a way of life. Its permanence was also due to the efforts that had been made within the Alliance to understand one another by accepting the rights of others to be different and thus building something together because of the shared belief in the virtues of the co-operative form of organisation—one of the rare systems that sacrificed neither freedom nor social justice to economic or technological progress.

Mr Kerinec then called on the President of the French Republic to address Congress.

MR VALÉRY GISCARD d'ESTAING said he was pleased to accept the invitation extended to him by the President of the ICA to participate in the opening of the 26th Congress, because he regarded the International Co-operative Alliance as one of those organisations which could make a contribution towards the search for a New International Economic Order. This ambition was within the resources of the Alliance which proclaimed with legitimate pride the federal power of 326 million co-operators from 65 countries.

For the fifth time in its history the ICA had decided to carry out its work in Paris, under French chairmanship and at the Palace of UNESCO. He wanted to address to each person attending Congress a personal welcome and to wish all delegates a pleasant stay in the French capital which had at all times sought to provide welcoming shores for ideas of human progress.

His speech would not only be that of a host greeting visitors, but as a Head of State, as President of the French Republic, who wanted to call on the International Co-operative Alliance to make its contribution towards the solution of the problems of today—a contribution which could have a twofold nature: at the national level, to provide an example for economic and social progress; at the international level, to act as a privileged instrument for development.

At the national level, thought was being given in a large number of countries to finding a better content to working life, and to turning enterprises into real human communities. Each country had





*At the opening of Congress—Mr Valery Giscard d'Estaing, President of France, Mr Roger Kerinec, ICA President, and Mr A.-M. M'Boze, Director-General of UNESCO*

its own specific methods and it would be naive to believe that any example could be automatically exported from one nation to another. And it would be equally naive to think that it was possible to invent an abstract formula, based on principles and not on reality.

In this connection, the co-operative movement presented two distinguishing features: first, it existed; and secondly, it existed nearly everywhere. Co-operative enterprises were usually born through local initiatives and in general preserved human dimensions, thus con-

stituting efficient centres of resistance against the exodus of workers and the devitalising of rural areas. As they were neither branches nor subsidiaries of national or multinational groups, they also had a genuine autonomy of management. The co-operative system was thus the opposite of centralisation and bureaucracy. At a time when it was prevalent for men to try to unload their responsibilities on others, the co-operative movement offered a positive concept of responsibility.

As he had mentioned before, the Co-

operative Movement existed nearly everywhere—in the East as well as in the West. This was a matter of basic philosophy concerning its economic and business activities, free from any particular political or ideological dependence. It was therefore clearly distinct both from capitalist enterprise and from a collective enterprise, from the liberal economic system and the centralised economic system. This fact arose without doubt from the remarkable independence which the co-operative movement had always demonstrated and which would remain the mainspring for its inspiration in the future.

Speaking of the contribution which Co-operation could make towards the problem of development, the President of the French Republic referred to the initiative taken by the French Government in creating the North-South Conference which was at that very moment continuing its researches and preparations into a New International Economic Order. Every country must feel that such an economic order should be brought about through discussion and joint planning between countries and not through forcibly imposed relationships.

In his view the co-operative model seemed to respond well to the aspirations of many developing countries. The co-operative system demanded of its members the willingness to act by themselves, for themselves. It took for granted an enterprising spirit. It was up to the Congress to delineate the necessary principles of action, so that the co-operative movement could develop in those countries without succumbing to the dangers which existed of these movements being taken over or being centralised by bureaucracy. Thus the

content of the Executive Committee's decision to make 1970-1980 the "Co-operative Development Decade" would be reinforced. The lines of action that needed to be defined would naturally follow the course drawn up by the 1974 United Nations General Assembly calling upon Governments to establish a New International Economic Order.

The ICA had set up Regional Offices in New Delhi and Moshi which were working effectively to assist co-operative movements in Asia and Africa. The efficiency of this action had been achieved through a rapprochement between co-operative bodies and governments.

Governments generally provided assistance to developing countries, but it was becoming more and more apparent that aid, without sufficient local participation, without being part of the economy of the particular country, was not achieving its aim. To improve the quality of their assistance donor governments would have to improve the systems of information, preparation and transfer in order to provide the resources which truly corresponded to the real needs of the countries concerned. It would be possible to include co-operatives amongst them as had been shown by technical assistance given by several European countries in collaboration with the ICA. In order to use the co-operative channel it must be assumed that each government recognised the importance of the co-operative sector, by encouraging its development and he assured Congress that France would do this.

In the recent proposal for reform of industry, measures favouring the co-operative sector had been included. A Bill was in preparation for submission to the French Parliament to facilitate the

development of workers' productive co-operatives and to increase the participation of workers in the management of their enterprise.

Governments had to be prepared to use the international co-operative network, without impairing its liberty, to distribute or receive development aid. France was disposed to do this, and would so do as soon as the co-operative movement was sufficiently organised at international level to offer the necessary guarantees of effectiveness. This Congress could be the occasion for reflection and useful proposals on this theme.

### **Welcome on behalf of the French Co-operative Movement**

In his address of welcome on behalf of the French Co-operative Movement, Mr A. ANTONI pointed out that since the establishment of the ICA four Congresses had been held in Paris. The first one in 1896 when the ICA was very new, in 1900 when co-operators declared their hopes at the time of the Great World Exhibition in Paris, and in 1937 at a time when the world was overshadowed by the threat of war; and in 1954 when Marcel Brot appealed to all co-operators for their work to be a true witness to the will of all nations and ideologies to show that people could really co-operate and organise themselves in the interests of peace.

Of all the international non-governmental organisations the ICA was the only one which had survived the two World Wars and also the Cold War. This was proof of the will of co-operators to stand together. Co-operation had spread throughout the world. It had become a means by which men and women were able to change their economic circum-

stances, could act together to establish a more equitable society and could prevent the strong exploiting the weaker section of the population.

Organisations in membership with the ICA represented various types of co-operative activity. It was important to support each sector of co-operative activity and to encourage each member to play a full part in the working of the co-operative movement.

### **Distinguished Guests and Fraternal Delegates**

The President introduced the distinguished guests and fraternal delegates. The guests of the Alliance were Dr M. Bonow (former President of the Alliance) and Mrs Bonow and the guests of the French co-operative movement were Mr W. P. Watkins (former Director of the ICA) and Mrs Watkins.

The United Nations and their Agencies were represented by Mr H. Morsink (UN), Mr A. M. M'Bow, Mr Rigaud and Mr Gaudin (UNESCO), Mr Francis Blanchard and Mr Raymond Louis (ILO), Mr K. A. P. Stevenson and Mr N. Newiger (FAO), Mr A. Krasnov (UNCTAD), Mr A. E. Saenger and Mr M. Janjic (UNIDO).

National technical assistance agencies supporting co-operative development in the Third World were represented at Congress by Mr K. Lund-Jensen and Mr G. Lemke from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA); Mr A. Arnsen from the Norwegian International Development Agency (NORAD) and Mr S. Pellback from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA). The developing countries were represented by Mr A. C. George, Minister of State for

Cooperation (India) and Mr A. U. A. Mutallab, Federal Commissioner for Cooperatives and Supply (Nigeria).

The International non-governmental organisations were represented by Mr A. A. Bailey of the World Council of Credit Unions; Mr T. Sidibé and Mr R. Hewlett of the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Cooperatives (COPAC); Dr M. Cracknell of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP); Mr R. Romieu of the International Organisation of Consumers' Unions (IOCU); Mr A. Van Hulle of La Comité Générale de la Coopération Agricole de la Communauté Economique Européen (COGECA); Mr E. Horii of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and Mr G. Spallone and Mr A. Schöne of EURO-COOP.

Fraternal delegates included representatives of French co-operatives not in membership with the ICA, French Civil Servants, Academics and representatives of the French Trade Unions.

In introducing Mr Blanchard, Director-General of the ILO, the President drew the attention of Congress to the close links between the ICA and the ILO which had existed for well over 50 years

Mr FRANCIS BLANCHARD reminded Congress that it was Mr Albert Thomas, the first Director of the International Labour Office, who had given a decisive impetus to collaboration between the co-operative movement and the International Labour Organisation. Right from the outset he had perceived that through its inherent virtues, through the harmonious synthesis which it can bring about between the necessary development of the individual personality and the equal necessity for collective action, the co-operative association can

serve as a model for the union of our restless and divided nations, and for the building of a single economy in which the conditions for the development of each will depend on the safety of all".

As early as 1921, when Mr Thomas was a member of the ICA Central Committee for a year, he had established links between the ICA and the International Labour Office, within which he had already set up a co-operative branch in 1920.

It was well known that the aspirations of the Alliance towards international Co-operation manifested themselves at a very early stage. Co-operators soon felt the need for what had been termed "collaboration between co-operatives". It was therefore hardly surprising that relations between the Alliance and the ILO, based on this principle had become very fruitful.

Mr Blanchard stressed that he greatly valued the collaboration between the two organisations and that he hoped to see it develop further.

Joint action covered a vast field and extended in many directions. At the present time voices were being increasingly raised in favour of the establishment of a New International Economic Order. In this context the ILO had convened a World Employment Conference in June 1976, at which the Government, Workers' and Employers' delegates of its 132 member States had stressed the imperative necessity of satisfying the basic needs of the poorest population groups. The Conference had recalled that mass poverty, particularly in the developing countries, was the major problem of this age. It had stressed that this situation could not be improved without major changes in the economic

system. It had further stressed that the present situation could not be improved unless profound transformations took place in economic relationships, and had affirmed that the purpose of such economic changes should be to transform the social situation of the workers. The Conference had emphasised that if attempts to achieve this were to fail, the outlook for the future of mankind as a whole would be very bleak.

Faced with such a challenge and with an undertaking of this magnitude, co-operatives had an important and well-defined role to play if, as Albert Thomas had said, it was true that Co-operation was "the pre-condition for a national and international economy organised not with a view to profit but with a view to the satisfaction of needs".

Their hope that the co-operative movement might take this path was the more justified in that the concepts which inspired the commission set up to reformulate co-operative principles might perfectly well be applied to the establishment of a New World Order. The World Employment Conference had stressed the role that co-operatives might play in this respect.

One of the many tasks before the ICA Congress was that of fixing the Alliance work programme for 1977-1980. The Long-Term Plan of the ILO covered almost the same period which was of some significance. The projected activities of the ILO had been grouped around a number of areas of main emphasis which were closely related to the concerns of the ICA: mass poverty, employment and training; industrial relations, social security and human rights. In determining the scope of activities of the ICA account should be taken of the ILO

Long-Term Plan. In order that this collaboration should be effective, it should not be limited to harmonising the two programmes, but it should also be institutionally strengthened using the means which were at the disposal of both organisations.

The work of the various committees in the two organisations would gain from being better co-ordinated at the national level at a time when decentralisation of ILO activities was one of its major pre-occupations. It would be most useful if co-operators could organise themselves in such a way as to make known their views systematically to the three ILO constituents: governments, workers and employers. It would be advisable in this respect if co-operators could group themselves into national committees to act as spokesmen. This would ensure that the concerns of the co-operative movement would be more faithfully reflected within the ILO.

Although the group of consultants on Co-operation had now been set up, closer links might be maintained between some of the ICA auxiliary committees and the various committees of the ILO. The Alliance might make fuller use of the possibilities offered by the full consultative status which the ILO granted only to five major international occupational associations.

Only constant day-to-day collaboration could, however, produce concrete results. There were three fields in which such collaboration could be intensified: standard-setting activities, research and technical assistance. The ILO standard-setting activities went beyond the purely co-operative framework to cover Conventions and Recommendations relating to different aspects of man's work, and it



*The ICA President signing the Visitors' Book at the Paris Town Hall*

also drafted texts which were of concern to the great majority of co-operators. If the efforts of co-operators in the field of research were to take the concrete form of a world co-operative university, the ILO would welcome its creation. In the field of technical assistance, the need to avoid overlapping or dispersal was great since resources were far from adequate to meet the considerable needs.

Mr Blanchard expressed the hope that the work of the Congress might enable delegates to formulate and implement a plan of action which would strengthen the special links which history had forged within the Alliance and the ILO,

so as to build a more just World Order. Other specialised agencies of the United Nations carried on important activities in the field of co-operatives. This was particularly the case with the United Nations itself, FAO, UNIDO and UNESCO. They, like the ILO, would like to strengthen their ties with the Alliance. Permanent access by the ICA to each of these organisations at the highest level was facilitated by the existence of the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives (COPAC). It would thus be a relatively simple matter for the ICA to harmonise its programmes with those of the United

Nations agencies and to co-operate even more closely with them in the fields of standard-setting, research and technical assistance. By making a wider and more systematic use of the facilities offered by these organisations, the ICA would always find them ready to offer it their services.

### **Congress Committee**

Congress approved the appointment of the following as members of the Congress Committee, in addition to the President and two Vice-Presidents: Mr R.

Domper (Peru), Mr T. Janczyk (Poland), Mr M. Marik (Czechoslovakia), Mr W. B. Melvin (Canada), Mrs S. Rääkkönen (Finland) and Mr R. G. Tiwari (India).

### **Tellers**

Congress agreed to appoint the following as Tellers: Mr Y. Daneau (Canada), Mr M. Eshref (Cyprus), Dr W. Kellerhals (Switzerland), Mr B. Khvostov (USSR), Mr J. J. Musundi (Kenya), Dr L. Schujman (Argentina), Mr J. Sobieszczanski (Poland) and Mr L. Wilkinson (United Kingdom).

## **Report of the Central Committee**

The debate was introduced by the Director, Dr S. K. SAXENA, who pointed out that the activities of the Alliance derived their relevance from the objects laid down in Article 3 of the Statutes of the Alliance.

During the period under review membership of the Alliance had somewhat increased. Resolutions adopted by the Congress held in Warsaw in 1972 had been implemented by member organisations in various ways. The new formula for subscriptions adopted at Warsaw had been considered to provide for a normal rate of inflation to allow the ICA to carry on its activities; however, the high rate of inflation and the declining value of the pound sterling had created a rather serious situation for the ICA.

The core of the technical work carried out by the ICA was described in the Report under publication and information services, education, library, research, activities relevant to women and youth, work in developing countries and technical assistance mainly through the

ICA Regional Offices, relations with the United Nations and NGOs, and the work of the auxiliary committees.

An assessment of the Regional Office for South-East Asia had been carried out by an international team in 1974 which suggested a more specialised orientation to seminars and conferences organised by the Regional Office. Increasing attention was being given to creating field projects, which were methodologically innovative. In East and Central Africa there was evidence of an encouraging involvement of member organisations and auxiliary committees in providing technical support to the Regional Office in Moshi. In West Africa somewhat isolated activities carried out since the last Congress were now tending to assume some coherence and had raised in the ICA Executive Committee discussions on the need for co-ordinated long-term action in that part of the world. In Latin America, the ICA worked mainly through the Organization of Co-operatives of America and the Latin

American Institute for Co-operative Integration, although more sustained action was yet to be developed.

The ICA continued to enjoy with the United Nations and its specialised agencies and regional commissions a continuing dialogue at various levels. Discussion had ranged around subjects of immediate and direct relevance to co-operators to more remote areas where the Alliance helped in the creation of a climate of opinion favourable to the work of the United Nations.

The Alliance had also been active in its relations with other organisations concerned with the promotion of co-operatives.

As far as the auxiliary committees were concerned, two new committees had been set up since the last Congress, namely the Organisation for Co-operative Consumer Policy and the Women's Auxiliary Committee (formerly the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council). Important conferences and meetings had been organised, including the first Open World Conference on Co-operative Fisheries held in 1975, and several specialised groups had been working on detailed, technical problems.

The ICA had actively participated in a number of efforts dealing with problems of peace and disarmament, subjects which had consistently figured at Central Committee meetings and at Congresses.

## **Second Session**

**Tuesday, 28th September (afternoon)**

### **Debate on the Report of the Central Committee**

Dr P. TONHAUZER, Czechoslovakia, pointed out that since the last

Congress capitalist countries had experienced growing difficulties, such as inflation, rising prices, and unemployment; new countries had become independent, and people had tried to achieve social progress. The work of the Alliance had been influenced by these developments, and the authorities of the ICA had to make pronouncements on these urgent problems. However, positive aspects had predominated during this period. Good sense had prevailed and even in very complex circumstances acceptable solutions had been found. Unity of action within the Alliance had not only been defended but strengthened. Its democratic and progressive character bore witness to these positive aspects which had become clearer in the Alliance during the last few years. This favourable situation was due to the fact that the ICA and its authorities and also the member organisations had really understood the nature of their work, stressing true collaboration between co-operatives, which would contribute to the successful accomplishment of future tasks.

Mr S. SULEMESOV, Bulgaria, while commenting on the expansion of the activities of the ICA, expressed his regret that the activities of co-operatives in the Socialist countries had not been sufficiently reflected in the Report of the Central Committee. The ICA could profit from the experiences of these co-operative movements which helped their governments as equal partners in the development of their countries.

Mr T. JANCZYK, Poland, pointed out that the activities of the ICA had supported the strengthening of peace, but there were still dangers which threatened peace, such as the competition



between various countries trying to seize raw materials for their own exploitation. As a real mass movement the co-operative movement could organise and mobilise public opinion to demand the end of the arms race. Resolutions on Peace passed by the Central Committee had been given publicity in many countries and co-operators had supported these Resolutions in many ways, but greater efforts had to be made in the future in trying to defend peace in a more intensive way.

In spite of the positive results in many fields of ICA activities, Mr Janczyk called for still greater collaboration between the various ICA authorities, the auxiliary committees and working parties and for greater collaboration between co-operatives and also between the ICA and the United Nations and its various agencies.

Mr A. I. KRASHENINNIKOV, USSR, stated that the 25th Congress in Warsaw had raised and defined a certain number of very important problems and it was now necessary to examine the results which had been achieved in relation to the tasks defined at that Congress. The Report reflected in an exhaustive and complete way the work carried out by the Alliance during these four years.

The last four years had seen considerable changes in the international situation. During this period the ICA took a part in supporting the interests of the people, especially in regard to the Resolution on Peace adopted at the 25th Congress. But with the mobilisation of the forces of reaction, the ICA had to maintain its efforts to strengthen peace and had to continue to fight so that the

growing danger of war might be eliminated.

The Report illustrated the harmful effects of monopolies on the activities of co-operatives. The Alliance in collaboration with other international organisations had attempted to organise public opinion against monopolies.

The ICA had tried to react correctly in relation to the various crises which had arisen in the capitalist countries in recent years. The energy crisis, unemployment and inflation had had a bad effect on the co-operative movement, and they had hampered developments in the poorer parts of the world. Co-operatives must work more closely together, so that the struggle against the monopolies might be fully effective.

In the last few years the activities of the auxiliary committees and the Regional Offices, the most important tools of the Alliance, had grown increasingly. More should be done in the future. Specialists from national movements should be brought in to strengthen these activities. Centrosoyus was ready to support these activities and to send and finance specialists to work in developing countries.

Collaboration between the Alliance and the United Nations and its Agencies had also considerably expanded in recent years. Co-operators had everything to gain from such collaboration.

The prestige of the Alliance was growing every year. This was because the ICA had shown its ability to change and to face up to the new problems confronting the world today.

Mr M. D. HASANOV, USSR, spoke of the Co-operative Development Decade and of Centrosoyus' active participation in the promotion of the Decade.

The USSR had always tried to expand its help to the developing countries in the areas of trade, technology and science.

Massive aid had been given to the developing countries in training workers in the co-operative movement. Aid was given on a planned basis which would benefit the countries concerned, taking into account their future development. Other socialist countries had also taken part in these efforts. In addition, developing countries had been helped in setting up their own management training schemes and technical training for management had also been given. Technical colleges and centres for secondary or higher education had been set up in developing countries and training programmes for thousands of people had been carried out in the USSR.

Exchange of experience had also played an important part. 69 developing countries had sent delegations to the USSR which had been financed by Centrosoyus. Delegations from Centrosoyus had visited developing countries during the Co-operative Development Decade.

Mr N. COLYMVAS, Greece, expressed his pleasure that the Panhellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Co-operatives had once again joined the membership of the ICA after an involuntary absence of eight years due to the political situation in Greece.

After the re-establishment of democracy the co-operative movement initiated elections which reactivated co-operatives in Greece and they were now able to play their part within the international co-operative movement.

Mr Colymvas expressed the thanks of the Greek co-operative movement to the ICA and its member organisations for

their continued support during difficult times.

Mr A. P. KLIMOV, USSR, addressing Congress extended an invitation to hold the 1980 Congress in Moscow.

Speaking on peace he referred to the havoc caused by the First and Second World Wars. The cost of the Second World War had been 12 times greater than that of the First World War. With the weapons of destruction available today, the continuance of human life on earth was certainly at risk.

After the Second World War international relations had deteriorated and astronomical sums were spent annually on military budgets in many countries. Vast sums of money and vast amounts of energy were spent on the development of new types of arms and on research.

A report published by some scientists in the United States dealt with the role of armaments in a social context. It pointed out that "all this military expenditure is contrary to the true interests of humanity, the achievement of peace and security and the happiness of all people."

Humanity was tired of living under the constant threat of atomic warfare. The reserves of arms and atomic weapons had become gigantic, and stockpiling continued. There were more than 15 tons of these weapons for every man, woman and child living in the world today. The stock of atomic bombs in Europe alone was sufficient to destroy some 10,000 towns and cities completely. New arms were being produced all the time. More sinister types of weapons were being planned, including biological warfare. The ecological consequences of this must be recognised as well as the adverse influence on climates which had

been created by experiments, such as the aiming of increasing rainfall in a tropical area which had already affected the climate. The instability caused by interference with ecological processes could have very serious consequences for mankind.

It was the arms race which used up material resources which could be used for the benefit of humanity. Much more could have been done in terms of agriculture, education, medicine and science throughout the world. Such resources could have been used to improve the economy of the developing world in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Better results could have been achieved in the fight against famine, against illiteracy and for better health of the people in the Third World.

Mr Klimov called on co-operators throughout the world to continue the struggle for peace and urged them to work for greater understanding between peoples. Armaments must be decreased throughout the world, so that the world may no longer be divided into military blocs. This was an essential task for all co-operators. This was the only way which could bring about social and economic welfare in countries throughout the world. The co-operative movement should actively support these basic ideals and should do everything in its power to try to reach these objectives. Co-operators throughout the world should do all they could to implement the Peace Resolutions of the ICA.

Dr R. VILSTRUP, USA, pointed to the great responsibility and opportunity for co-operators to chart new directions for ICA programmes in education, leadership, collaboration and trade among co-operatives. The growing con-

cern over the world's food and energy needs in the future emphasised the vital need for immediate co-operative organisation and action.

Building new systems of world trade among co-operatives was an exciting and stimulating idea for co-operative action. Early efforts by co-operative leaders had demonstrated that it could make a significant contribution in food, grain and petroleum, as well as consumer products. Expanding the joint efforts in co-operative trading could lead to an essential reduction of duplication and increased efficiency in the improved use of technical knowledge, facilities and the leadership capacity of the co-operative movement. The challenge of developing multinational co-operatives was recognised. If the cherished idea of Co-operation was valid in serving the local, state and national economies it must hold the vital key to building a strong global economy to benefit all nations and people.

Dr Vilstrup then posed the question as to what were the components of increasing world trade and co-operation among co-operatives and nations? He named the following: first, co-operators had to develop mutual confidence, respect and knowledge of their capabilities and resources; second, they had to expand the channels of communication to exchange ideas and concepts to build bridges of understanding; third, they needed to search for new ways to harmonise their purposes and objectives; fourth, they needed to maximise the impact of their limited financial resources in global planning; fifth, they needed to identify clearly and to articulate their common areas of interest; finally, they had to minimise their

cultural differences through the exchange of technical advancements and scientific knowledge which would be useful to them all.

Mr R. LESKA, Czechoslovakia, stated that the Alliance had paid a great deal of attention to important contemporary problems—the struggle for peace, the development of collaboration between co-operatives, the energy crisis and the accomplishments of the tasks of the Co-operative Development Decade. Many events organised by the ICA between the two Congresses had been successful, such as the Youth Conference in Moscow and the International Co-operative Seminar in Dresden, German Democratic Republic.

But when speaking of success mention had also to be made of the problems which had not been resolved and to which increased attention had to be paid in the future activities of the Alliance. The most important task was to study the question of what should be done to enlarge the membership and scope of member organisations. Another problem which had not been resolved was the proper representation in the governing bodies of the Alliance, membership fees, education and management training and so on. A place for the solution of these problems should be reserved in the long-term programme.

Mr H. W. WHITEHEAD, United Kingdom, speaking on finance pointed out that the achievements of the ICA had been constrained by the limitation of finance and its dependence on subscription income. More money had to be made available to reward staffs or priority areas would have to be established paying more money to fewer staff. Unless this problem was faced squarely,

the inevitable decline in the standard of service provided by the Secretariat would have its effect on the reputation and standing of the Alliance.

The financial problems of the ICA could not solely be ascribed to contemporary inflationary pressures. Those had aggravated the situation, but the basic problem of adequate finance had existed for many years. The ICA was run on a shoestring budget. In 1975 the ICA had a deficit amounting to 43 per cent of the expenditure which had to be covered by grants, mainly from Scandinavia. 53 per cent of subscription income came from seven countries and 30 per cent from three countries. The United Kingdom alone provided 17 per cent. That was clearly a very tenuous base on which to run an international organisation. An improvement in the subscription income from the larger subscribers could be expected only if the national movements themselves considered they were getting value for money with regard to the range, efficiency and relevance of ICA activities.

Mr Whitehead underlined the President's earlier remark that the ICA needed to concern itself primarily with matters of relevance and significance to its member organisations rather than matters of marginal importance. It was essential to undertake a careful realistic budget exercise for the next five years and then to confront the realities of that exercise. The ICA should be looking for other sources of income. A bold, imaginative approach to the formidable question of supplementing subscriptions income was needed to decrease the reliance on grants. Another possibility would be the field of consultancy, with the ICA providing specialist advisory services, at least at cost.



*Congress in Session*

The creation of an *Ad Hoc* Committee to examine the finances of the Alliance was to be welcomed.

Mr Whitehead informed Congress that the British co-operative movement was hoping to increase its contribution to the ICA to £30,000 in 1977.

Professor A. AZIZ, Malaysia, referred

to the fact that most people only came into the co-operative movement once they had started work. People joined a co-operative because they wanted to derive some advantages, they wanted easy credit or cheap insurance or because they wanted to buy consumer goods of good quality in the co-operative society

at reasonable prices. People in many of the developing countries saw co-operatives as institutions from which they could get something, but they had a poor grasp of the essential spirit, the moral and the ideological basis of Co-operation.

Co-operation might be taught in schools as is already done in France. In most developing countries Co-operation in schools was poorly developed, yet it could be the place to demonstrate to the future generations that co-operators believe in and will practise democracy, and that they will try to sustain and defend it. If young people were taught the principles of Co-operation at school and college they would be a strong element in the co-operative movement in years to come. They would sustain co-operative movements in developing countries because they believed in them.

Professor Aziz called for greater attention to be given to the teaching of Co-operation in schools and colleges.

Mr R. L. MARSHALL, United Kingdom, drew the attention of Congress to the agency and project of the Co-operative Education Materials Advisory Service, addressed especially to the developing countries, a project that acted as a clearing house for existing material relevant in these countries and as a production centre for the new materials that were needed. He pointed out that the project contained an identity and characteristics which were significant not for the past and not for the present, but had a more general relevance for the future work of the ICA.

First, identity, in that the work was exclusively funded by Sweden. In effect, national resources were placed at the disposal of an international

agency without national direction, without national control. That mixture of generosity and self-denial was a characteristic which needed to be developed. Secondly, there was the characteristic that it promoted Co-operation not merely from the developed to the developing countries. It promoted also Co-operation among the co-operative movements of developed areas because in the setting up of devices relevant to conditions in the developing countries it was necessary to draw on the co-operative experience of all the developed countries with their different systems and conditions, from Co-operatives in the capitalist countries, in the Communist countries and the countries with mixed economies. In helping to serve the needs of the developing countries, co-operators in the developed areas could rediscover Co-operation for themselves. Finally, there was the characteristic that it was a project of specific, limited, practical and measureable action. That had a great deal to commend it to the deliberations of Congress.

Mr I. KRUMIN, USSR, recalled the resolution condemning the military junta in Chile passed in Budapest in 1973 in which the ICA was asked to do its best to help human rights in that country. The ICA had always interested itself in the fate of the Chilean people and tried to help them in their struggle against the military junta.

Fascism had at all times acted against the co-operative movement and against the interests of co-operators. Since the resolution had been adopted the situation in Chile had not changed. The propaganda of the junta tried to blazon forth the successes of Chile, but these were very small. Thousands of people had

been killed, hundreds of thousands thrown into concentration camps and there were many children whose parents were in prison. This was the true situation and the true progress of the fascist regime in Chile. Fascism and repression had also taken hold of the co-operative movement in Chile. Co-operators could not find work, some were thrown into prison and others were forced to leave their native country.

More and more people were finding themselves in considerable economic difficulties and repressed by the fascist regime. It was vital to support the democratic forces in that country against the forces of repression and tyranny. Everything had to be done to oppose fascism and to restore a fair situation for the population of that country.

The Chilean Government had been criticised by many governments within the United Nations, the ILO and many other organisations. Centrosoyus supported this criticism and called upon the ICA and the international co-operative movement to adopt a resolution and to carry out concrete measures to help the democratic and co-operative forces struggling to support the true interests of the Chilean people.

The PRESIDENT then called for reports from the **Auxiliary Committees** to supplement the information given in the Report of the Central Committee.

### **International Committee on Agricultural Co-operation**

Dr L. MALFETTANI informed Congress that at the meeting of the Agricultural Committee in Paris, Mr G. Kuylenstjerna had been elected chairman and that it had been decided to elect four Vice-Chairmen, two of whom

should be from developing countries. He would continue to serve the Committee in an advisory capacity.

The meeting of the Agricultural Committee held in Paris prior to Congress had discussed *Agricultural Co-operative Strategy with regard to Multinational Corporations*, a theme that had been touched upon during the debate on *Multinational Corporations at the XXVth Congress held in Warsaw*.

For the first time an invitation had been extended to the Chairman of the Committee to participate in a meeting of the ICA Executive which showed the importance the ICA authorities were giving to the agricultural sector within the ICA. To date agricultural co-operatives formed only a small percentage within the total membership, even some of the important agricultural co-operative movements in Europe had not yet joined the ICA.

Referring to the activities of the Committee, Dr Malfettani stated that it maintained good relations with the agencies of the United Nations which promoted co-operatives in developing countries, particularly the FAO. The *Yearbook of Agricultural Co-operation* had for the first time been published by the Plunkett Foundation for Co-operative Studies in collaboration with the ICA. An effort had been made to help co-operatives in the developing countries; through the International Business Advisory Service for Co-operatives contacts had been made with organisations in Sri Lanka, Peru, Jordan, and Kenya. A number of technical seminars were being organised during the coming year.

The Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade for South-East Asia had carried out its functions effectively since

the last Congress. Considerations had been given to the setting up of agricultural sub-committees for Africa and for North and Latin America, and to the establishment of a forestry sub-committee.

On behalf of the Committee, Dr Malfettani asked Congress to affirm throughout the world the essential role of agricultural Co-operation as a means of raising the standard of living of the people.

Mr S. SULEMESOV, Bulgaria, stated that the Agricultural Committee had played and would play a very important part in the development of agricultural co-operatives. It had done its best to extend and strengthen the work of agricultural co-operatives and to improve links with other types of co-operatives.

At its meeting in Paris the Committee had adopted a comprehensive programme of activities which could not be implemented without collaboration with others. This involved the development of different types of co-operatives, the expansion of trade and closer links between co-operators in order to increase production. An appeal should be made to governments to help agricultural co-operatives through tax concessions and through the granting of credit at favourable interest rates. Non-governmental organisations should increase financial aid for the promotion of agricultural co-operatives in developing countries.

### **Fisheries Sub-Committee**

Mr P. LACOUR, informed Congress that he had retired from the chairmanship of the Sub-Committee, but would continue to serve as Honorary President.

Mr J. Saito, Japan, had been elected chairman.

Since the last Congress the Sub-Committee had continued its work of education and technical aid. In collaboration with the FAO a number of seminars had been organised in developing countries.

The main event of the Sub-Committee's activities had been the First Open World conference on Co-operative Fisheries held in Tokyo in 1975 and attended by over 300 delegates from 25 countries which had provided an opportunity of making contacts with co-operators from countries in Latin America and the Arab world who had not previously attended such an event.

Mr J. SAITO, Japan, expressed his pleasure at being elected chairman of the Sub-Committee which was not only an honour to himself, but also to the entire fisheries co-operative movement of Japan. He pointed out that the future activities of the Sub-Committee would be guided by the needs of its members. Priority would be given to assistance projects for the developing countries in collaboration with international organisations, especially the FAO. Activities would be developed realistically within the framework of the international co-operative movement under the guidance of the ICA authorities and with the assistance from the headquarters and the Regional Offices of the ICA.

### **International Co-operative Housing Committee**

Mr W. Ambrosius, Chairman, highlighting some of the activities of the Housing Committee said that members of the Committee had participated in the Habitat Conference of the United



Nations in June. The Housing Conference held prior to Congress had discussed the problems and the risks involved in housing co-operatives and education and training related to co-operative housing. The meeting of the Full Committee held in Paris had elected a new Executive Committee.

Mr Ambrosius as the newly elected Chairman of the Committee paid tribute to Mr S. Kypengren, who had carried out this task for the past 15 years, and also to Mr A. Johnsson, the retiring special secretary.

### **The Organisation for Co-operative Consumer Policy**

Mr N. THEDIN, Chairman, stated that some members of the Committee had paid a visit to the Co-operative Food Laboratory outside Paris which was playing such a decisive role, not least in influencing public opinion with regard to foodstuffs and quality.

At the Conference organised by the Organisation for Co-operative Consumer Policy held in Paris prior to Congress the theme had been "Advertising from a Consumer's Point of View". Speakers had dealt with misleading advertising, advertising in Socialist economies, co-operatives and advertising, and the dangers of advertising to health. The Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs, Ms C. Scrivener, who had attended the Conference had spoke about the present consumer policy in France.

Mr Thedin then pointed to some of the problems which co-operators had to face. The consumer co-operative movement was a consumer-owned enterprise. In the industrialised countries with mixed economies it had to compete with very efficient private enterprise, and

advertising was one of the means of competition. On the other hand, the consumer-owned enterprise had for its main purpose not to sell, but to satisfy the need of the consumer. Co-operative advertising should not be that of persuading people to buy, but to create knowledge among the consumers about goods, and confidence in the consumer-owned enterprise. The various consumer co-operative organisations in many countries, including the Eastern European and the developing countries, had much to give one another by an exchange of experience regarding their methods and legislation for consumer protection.

### **International Co-operative Insurance Federation**

Mr H. SEELEY, (Secretary), reported that the Federation had held its Conference in Paris. The two regional advisers from Africa and Latin America attending the Conference had reported to the Insurance Development Bureau and the International Co-operative Re-insurance Bureau. Six papers had been presented at the Conference and the wide-ranging selection of topics had generated a lively interest in the Conference, which was borne out by the fact that members had unanimously supported a proposal to hold an intermediate conference in 1978.

Two meetings of the Executive had taken place in Paris. Members had agreed to the formation of a third sub-committee, the European Members Bureau, to study ways in which assistance could be given to European members and particularly members in EEC countries in influencing future changes. Further studies would be carried out in

connection with inflation and in connection with mass merchandising and product development. The Executive had received a very encouraging report from the Insurance Development Bureau which had continued its very important work in developing countries. The IDB had decided to study ways in which continuous support and advice could be provided to all new co-operative insurance societies.

Further discussions had taken place and progress had been made with the report by the Federation on the merits of co-operative insurance in developing countries which would be presented to the next UNCTAD meeting in 1977.

Mr Seeley stated that he found the remarks made by Mr Giscard d'Estaing of great interest. He could assure the President of the French Republic that the Federation, through the Insurance Development Bureau, could provide the assistance, and meet the conditions of proper supervision and support which the President required for the financial assistance he had so kindly offered.

### **The International Organisation for Consumer Co-operative Distributive Trades (INTER-COOP)**

Mr CH. VEVERKA, Chairman, reported that since the last Congress collaboration within INTER-COOP had been developing. This had been evident at the annual meeting held in Paris. This positive development concerned the three major aims of the INTER-COOP work programme—exchange of experience on distribution problems, common buying policies, and exchange of merchandise between member organisations and collaboration on the productive level.

International collaboration had been improved over the years by the increasing freedom, liberalisation and economic progress in many countries, a development which had caused a belief in perpetual progress, which had been shattered in the past few years. There had been the energy crisis which had brought about monetary difficulties and rises in prices. The gap between the rich and the poor countries had widened and protectionist tendencies in several countries, had appeared, thus perpetuating the economic and social differences between countries and preventing a more reasonable use of the world's resources. It was the duty of co-operators to remove these obstacles to progress in trade as quickly as possible. In order to achieve this considerable economic and monetary changes were needed.

There was no doubt that INTER-COOP activities had been strengthened by the integration with EURO COOP in 1974 and with "Nordiska Kansliet", the Nordic regional organisation, in 1976. The services of the Nordisk Andelsforbund had been available to non-Scandinavian members since 1971. The total amount of joint buying had increased from 45 million dollars to 220 million dollars, 90 per cent of this had been in non-food products bought by 18 buying groups. Efforts were being made to expand the range of common purchasing and to achieve better conditions for buying in large quantities.

In the food sector INTER-COOP had been faced with a number of trade barriers to protect the economy of a certain country or region. Despite this, progress had been made in certain fields—tinned food, wine, fruit and vegetables. Joint purchasing outside Scandinavia

amounted now to 20 million dollars. Trade between the productive units, especially in the chocolate and biscuit-making factories, had developed favourably.

The exchange of experience in the working parties in the distributive sector had been very lively. Experts from many organisations were participating in the working group dealing with department stores and shopping centres.

In 1974 a conference had been held in Manchester which had dealt with warehousing and the distribution of food in general. A conference on collaboration between central organisations and regional co-operatives in the non-food area was being planned to take place in Denmark in 1977.

### **Third Session**

**Wednesday, 29th September 1976  
(morning)**

**Debate on the Report of the Central Committee (resumed)**

#### **ICA Women's Committee**

Mrs S. RÄIKKÖNEN (chairman) reported that the activities of the Women's Committee had broadened in recent years.

The Conference organised by the Committee and held prior to Congress had dealt with "The Problems of Food Resources and Energy—The Co-operative Answer", a theme that had been chosen to find out if there were special approaches to these important problems that were typical for women, so that the Committee might be able to make a contribution to the ICA when these issues were being discussed in future. Papers had been presented by speakers

from various parts of the world on various aspects of this important subject. In the discussion a delegate from Tanzania had reminded the Conference that in Africa it was the women who did the farming and therefore it would be necessary to educate the women if the production of foodstuffs was to be improved. Population, which was one of the new issues listed in the ICA long-term programme, had an important bearing on the food problem.

A telegram of encouragement had been sent to the Irish Co-operative Women's Guild in connection with the women's peace protest in Belfast.

Ms R. AZIZ, Malaysia, spoke on the question of international collaboration between co-operatives, in particular between the developed and developing countries, and the changes in the world market which had particularly affected countries, like Malaysia, which was one of the world's largest suppliers of tin and rubber. Changes in the world market not only affected foreign earnings, but they also affected employment, the rate of growth and development. She appealed to Congress to assist in ensuring that the major problems of the developing countries in the context of the world market for primary commodities were properly realised and better understood by the people of the advanced countries. UNCTAD had recently advocated price stabilisation for primary commodities and this idea should be supported by the members of the ICA. International collaboration could only be meaningful if it went right down to the basic economic problems of developing countries, and it should not only be based on technical assistance or on providing financial aid, but also on the liberalisa-

tion of trade. The ICA through its member organisations had the capacity to exert influence to this end.

Ms Aziz expressed the hope that the ICA would continue its good work in trying to elevate the status of women co-operators throughout the world. A regional seminar for women co-operators organised by the ICA had been held in Malaysia earlier in the year. It was essential that special efforts should be made by the ICA to analyse the progress made by projects devoted to women. Such analysis would give an indication of what more should be done for women.

More attention to women in terms of allocation of facilities and staffing should be given by the Central Committee. Any aid or assistance the ICA could give which would increase the involvement of women in the co-operative movement would be welcomed by the developing countries.

Ms U. JONSDOTTER, Sweden, referred to the Resolution passed by the 1969 Congress in Hamburg and the discussion within the Central Committee on the situation and the role of women in the co-operative movement in Bucharest, which had adopted proposals for action by the ICA, the national member organisations, by employees and women co-operators themselves. Following this discussion, surveys of activities of women in co-operatives had been initiated in some countries.

The National Assembly of Kooperativa Förbundet had asked the Board of Directors of KF to carry out a survey on women's representation within the consumer co-operative movement in Sweden. This task has now been completed after an investigation lasting three years and a report would be presented to the

Board of Directors of KF in October. The survey included 68 proposals which could easily be implemented, one of which had dealt with follow-up action suggesting that a committee directly responsible to the Board, consisting of equal numbers of men and women, should be set up. Ms Jonsdotter proposed that the role of women in the co-operative movement should be a subject for discussion at the next Congress.

Ms S. PETRUSCHENKOVA, USSR, spoke about International Women's Year and the programmes organised on this occasion in her country.

Women took an active part in the co-operative movement and thus helped to raise the standard of living of the Russian people. During that year a great deal had been done to improve the working conditions of women in the consumer co-operative movement. Co-operative shops were playing an important role in providing an ever increasing selection of food and non-food for their members and many new co-operative shops were being opened throughout the country. Women co-operators in the Soviet Union were playing an increasingly large part in all these activities.

Ms E. FEHER, Hungary, stressed that the Alliance, according to its democratic tradition, had examined with great care the role and situation of women in the co-operative movement.

On the basis of the resolution adopted by the Central Committee in Bucharest the co-operative movement in Hungary had drawn up a programme of action within the framework of a government programme to improve the situation of women. This programme was supported by the membership who were striving to implement the objectives.

The presence of women in the co-operative movement must be secured in a significant way. The prerequisite for this was their representation within co-operative committees and boards of management. Women should be given every opportunity to acquire the knowledge necessary for this purpose.

Since the last Congress, the Women's Committee had acquired full auxiliary status and since then the activities of women had become an organic part of international co-operative policy. A lot of useful work had been done by the Committee. The number of women representatives on the Central Committee had increased.

### **The ICA and Developing Countries**

Dr H. FAHRENKROG, German Democratic Republic, referred to the contribution the co-operative movement in his country had made to the Co-operative Development Decade and expressed regret that this had not been reflected in the Report of the Central Committee. Since the last Congress 300 co-operators from developing countries had been trained at the Co-operative College in Dresden. Educational experts had participated in the training of co-operators from Bangladesh. Following the ICA appeal help had been given to the people of Cyprus. His own organisation had been active in South-East Asia and had participated in a seminar in Tanzania. All these activities had involved an expenditure of 5 million Marks.

Such support given to the Co-operative Development Decade should have been reflected in the Report, together with other activities on a world-wide basis. Only then could people learn of the real scope of the work undertaken by

the ICA.

Dr M. REUBEN DOMPER, Organization of the Co-operatives of America, speaking on behalf of its members from North and Latin America and the Caribbean, outlined the work being done by the OCA. In the area of training and education, courses, seminars and congresses had been organised dealing with a wide variety of subjects relating to selected co-operative activities. OCA had also conducted a programme of adult education designed to impart basic training in selected skills. An agreement had recently been signed with the Government of Peru, the country from which OCA operates, to establish a programme of co-operative tourism. Discussions had taken place with the Inter-American Society for Development of Co-operative Financing (SIDE-FCOOP) on the establishment of an Inter-American Co-operative Bank; and a beginning had been made in the promotion of co-operative trade.

Mr B. SENKYIRE, Ghana, reminded Congress of the activities carried out by co-operative movements in a number of countries in West Africa and stressed the need for the establishment of an ICA Regional Office in that part of the world. The co-operative movements in both the English-speaking and the French-speaking countries, were supporting the idea. He proposed that a team of experts should visit the area to investigate the feasibility of such an office and to make contacts with the various governments concerned in West Africa.

The Ghana Government had already shown its interest and had indicated its support and willingness to make a contribution towards the expenses of an ICA Regional Office.

## REPLY TO THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Dr S. K. SAXENA, Director of the ICA, pointed out that it would not be possible to cover all the points raised in the debate or to deal with them in detail.

Mr Tonhauzer had talked about the peaceful atmosphere which was a precondition for the development of the co-operative movement. The fundamental philosophy governing the work of the ICA was to reduce global disparities and to extend its support to the United Nations. Perhaps the discussion on the New International Economic Order would provide opportunities to examine the problem a little more closely.

While commenting upon the expansion of the activities of the ICA, Mr Sulemsov had outlined the significance of the co-operative movement in the Socialist countries. The ICA Central Committee had recently met in Sofia and members had had an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the extensive and constructive role played by the co-operative movement in Bulgaria.

Mr T. Janczyk in speaking on the global maldistribution of wealth had referred specifically to the role of international monopolies and multinational corporations. The ICA should help in the creation of a climate which would put the true nature of the problem before the people in general. A resolution on this subject had been passed at the Warsaw Congress. Financial and managerial imperatives were the two key factors affecting the co-operative movement in this particular respect. The Agricultural Committee at its recent Conference had also discussed the subject.

The other aspect was informing the

public and bringing influence to bear politically both at the national level, which was the responsibility of the national movements, and at the international level with the United Nations, which was in some ways the responsibility of the ICA. Contact had been made with the Centre on Transnational Corporations of the United Nations and the ICA had been asked to outline its views, as the Centre wished to draw up an international code of ethics for the operation of multinationals. A more practical demonstration in this context would be the setting up of joint co-operative productive enterprises at the national, regional and international level. The discussion on multinationals would be continued during Congress.

The second point raised by Mr Janczyk had dealt with the urgent need for co-ordinating the activities of the various ICA auxiliary committees. Co-ordination could take place on specific issues and it was for the ICA and its member organisations to identify those issues of relevance to the auxiliary committees which would cut across the narrow interests and concerns of each auxiliary committee. The problems of pollution of the environment, energy questions, food problems, production and distribution, were of relevance to a number of the specialised committees and a concerted approach to these matters should be developed.

Mr Krashenninikov had stressed the importance of peace, had referred to international monopolies and had made an offer to send experts to developing countries. The latter was a most welcome proposal and further discussions on the mechanics would be held with Centrosoyus.

Replying to the need for assistance in training in developing countries, a point emphasised by Mr Hasanov, Dr Saxena referred to his visit to the USSR when he had an opportunity of calling on the Moscow Co-operative Institute and other technical institutes which were providing a wide range of services to co-operators from developing countries. The factors which were crucial in this context were the period of training, the selection and the relevance of training to the needs of the movement. These factors had to be kept in mind constantly when planning international training. A grouping of co-operative college principals existed in South-East Asia. AGIT-COOP was looking into the question of providing better services to co-operators in developing countries. There was also the conference of principals of co-operative colleges in Western Europe. This mechanism existed at international level, but it was somewhat fragmented. The ICA should try to ensure that as far as possible duplication was avoided in the work done by these various bodies.

Mr Colymvas from Greece had made a short intervention which had been welcomed by the entire Congress. The Alliance would lose its essence, its primary quality, the reason for its existence, if it were to desert its friends in times of adversity.

Mr Klimov's invitation to the ICA to hold its next Congress in Moscow would have to be decided in the usual manner.

Mr Vilstrup from the USA had made a number of very pertinent remarks on leadership training, short-term seminars, enlargement of co-operative trade, and on the pre-conditions in terms of establishing mutual confidence, opening up

channels of communication, harmonising our purposes and exchanging scientific know-how and he had summarised a wide variety of activities which the Alliance constantly pursued. Mr Vilstrup had made a contribution to the ICA Seminar on Management in the Seventies held in the United States. Dr Saxena expressed the hope that co-operators in the United States would put their own management experience at the disposal of the international co-operative movement.

Mr Whitehead had spoken on finances or rather the absence of them. This was a most serious problem for the ICA. The quality and range of services made available by the ICA and the relevance of those services to the national movements were bound to suffer if additional resources were not forthcoming. The idea of consultancy services might be a good one, but for this a level of expertise would be needed which was normally not available to national movements and that would cost money. The announcement of an increase in the subscription from the United Kingdom was a most welcome gesture.

The point made by Prof. Aziz had concerned the introduction of Co-operation as a subject in schools and colleges. There was, however, one point which might sound paradoxical. The fact that the co-operative movement from its very early days had pioneered educational work might itself be the reason that colleges and universities did not feel the need for including Co-operation as a discipline in their curricula. This was to some extent the case also with regard to trade union education.

Mr Marshall's warm appreciation of the ICA's Co-operative Education Ma-

terials Advisory Service (CEMAS) project was most welcome. The project was specific, was useful, and was a matter for field decision all the time in different countries. The ICA had to enlarge these activities and to create resource centres. Discussions had been held with the two Regional Offices and there had been some exchanges of letters with the Organization of Cooperatives of America.

Dr Saxena then referred to a number of interventions from the various Auxiliary Committees, mainly reporting on the work which had been done at their conferences in Paris.

Amongst the interventions concerning the work of the Women's Auxiliary Committee, Ms Rääkkönen had spoken on the discussions which took place at the Women's Conference. Ms Aziz had raised the complex question of international collaboration between co-operatives especially between advanced and developing countries. There was the problem of trade and the movement of prices of agricultural commodities, a problem in which UNCTAD had been involved and which would probably be the nub of the discussion in regard to the New International Economic Order. The ICA had helped to set up the International Co-operative Trading Organisation in Singapore. The possibilities of relations between ICTO and INTERCOOP were to be explored. The problem of joint ventures, an extremely important approach, would figure in the discussion on collaboration between co-operatives. Referring to the Women's Seminar in Malaysia, Dr Saxena said that the report of the Seminar had broadly indicated the needs and that future efforts would have to be related

to those needs rather than to further enquiries.

Ms Jonsdotter had given a brief account of the development of women's activities, but more particularly of the recent inquiry carried out in Sweden. Ms Petruschenkova had outlined the activities of women in Soviet society and Ms Feher's contribution needed no further comment except that the resolution passed in Hamburg was often referred to as the "Hungarian resolution".

Dr Fahrenkrog had referred to a number of global problems which were of great concern to the ICA. He had pointed out that the Report of the Central Committee had not given a complete picture of the work done by the ICA and especially by member organisations. The constraint was one of space, but information was being made available through the Co-operative News Service and conferences. Dr Fahrenkrog had also referred to the work in developing countries which was mainly, but not entirely, undertaken through the Co-operative College at Dresden. The work done by the College was most impressive and also the general support which Dr Fahrenkrog's organisation was providing, particularly in the educational field and also within AGITCOOP.

Dr Domper had described the activities of the OCA. Discussions had been held with Dr Domper and his colleagues for a number of years, but for some reasons these initiatives had not quite jelled. Recent discussions had been more concrete than hitherto.

Mr Senkyire had appealed to the ICA to establish a Regional Office in West Africa. This would be part of the discussion concerning the future work



programme. However, three points had to be considered. First, it was basic to have a clear indication of the priorities of ICA'S work. Secondly, there was the question of location. Thirdly, there was the question of finance. Mention had been made earlier of the activities which had been carried out by the ICA in West Africa. The Executive Committee was seriously considering the proposal made by Mr Senkyire to send a team to West Africa to enquire into the points which had just been indicated.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

On voting on the adoption of the Report, the delegate from Chile opposed its adoption.

Mr M. L. AMUNATEGUI, Chile, stating his reasons for opposing the adoption of the Report, said that he regretted the speech made by the Russian delegate who had spoken of the political situation in Chile. In his opinion the speech had constituted a deplorable violation of the principle of neutrality of the ICA.

Referring to the Resolution on Chile passed by the Central Committee in 1973, Mr Amunategui stated that the General Confederation of Co-operatives in Chile considered that the Central Committee should not formulate declarations on the political situation in

any country and particularly not without consulting the co-operative representatives of that country.

The democratic structure of the Chilean co-operative movement had been maintained. In recent years legislation had been passed which had enabled co-operatives to develop completely freely and autonomously. Special mention should be made of the help given by the Government to develop workers' co-operatives and the legislation which had been enacted to open the way for the development of the Co-operative Bank. Managers of American co-operatives had visited Chile and they were the best witnesses of what was going on.

The regrettable spectacle displayed at Congress yesterday had led him to vote against the adoption of the Report on behalf of Chilean co-operators.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Chilean delegate for his explanation. It was the right of Chilean co-operators to voice their dissent with the Resolution which had been passed unanimously by the Central Committee.

#### **Obituary**

The PRESIDENT asked Congress to pay tribute to the memory of co-operators who had died since the last Congress by observing a short period of silence.

## **ICA's Programme of Work, 1977-1980**

The need for the ICA to work out a programme of action was suggested and accepted by ICA's 25th Congress held in Warsaw in 1972. The Congress did not envisage a re-examination of the objects and methods of work as laid down in the Rules of the Alliance; rather it suggested that efforts should be made to achieve greater rationalisation and efficiency in the work of the Alliance and to ensure that

the priorities established for the next four years would be relevant to the needs of co-operative movements throughout the world.

The Report of the Central Committee consisted of four parts. The introductory part gave the background of the exercise and examined the methodology adopted in the preparation of the paper; the second narrated the current activities of the Alliance and its related bodies; the third drew attention to some newly emerging issues which might be relevant to the co-operative movement; the fourth part outlined a programme of work for the period 1977-1980 and the document concluded by suggesting priorities and their approximate financial implications.

The paper stressed emphatically that a programme of work for the future had to be considered with sufficient flexibility. In order to maintain its relevance the co-operative movement had to take cognizance of changes and adapt its strategy and programmes accordingly. The contribution of the permanent staff of the ICA to the implementation of the programme could only be very limited. The strength of the ICA was in its member organisations who must shoulder the major responsibility. As the objects of the ICA, as laid down in its rules, did not fall within the scope of the programme of work, it was evident that much of the existing work of the ICA would continue, although, in some cases, in a modified form.

The PRESIDENT, Mr Roger Kerinec, introducing the Report pointed out that the decision to draw up a long-term programme of work had been taken on the suggestion made by Mr Klimov, Vice-President of the ICA, at the Warsaw Congress. It had been agreed that definite aims should be decided on and minimum conditions laid down which it would be possible to achieve.

He emphasised that the strength of the ICA was first and foremost in its member organisations, and the interest which they took in the Alliance. Its strength was also in the value of the permanent team of the ICA in London and at the Regional Offices and that value depended on the financial resources which member organisations were ready to provide. Therefore it would be the duty of the delegates to Congress to decide what they wanted the ICA to be or what they wanted it to become in future.

In the discussion establishing the

long-term programme, two aspects had emerged, the policies within and the policies outside the movement. Within the co-operative movement the aims were without doubt to contribute towards the growth and the efficiency of the national movements, and to alert them to the international character of the International Co-operative Alliance. As far as outside policies were concerned, their aims were to create in the world a climate which would be favourable to co-operative ideas and for the development of co-operative organisations.

Mr Kerinec went on to list the methods by which these aims could best be achieved: through the creation of international inter-cooperative committees which would specialise in the co-ordination of the policy of the Alliance; the promotion of inter-cooperative policy at the national and international level through the auxiliary committees; the organisation of seminars for co-operative movements to make them

more aware of the specific character of co-operatives; the promotion of ICA publications; and the co-ordination of the work of the auxiliary committees. It was important to carry out research on subjects, such as relations between governments and co-operative movements, and to watch the political, social and economic developments in the world in order to alert the co-operative movements in time of danger and to show them the opportunities they could grasp and the reforms they should carry out.

Other methods were the co-ordination of efforts of national movements on help to developing countries; working towards durable peace and contributing to the establishment of the economic and social conditions which were necessary for a lasting peace; setting up institutions which would act as counterweights to multinationals; working through the headquarters and Regional Offices of the ICA to spread co-operative ideas and to strengthen relations with international and non-governmental organisations, particularly in respect of work for developing countries.

The Report submitted by the Central Committee summarised what had been done in all these fields and all that should and could be done in the near future. But the Report also took into account the fact that the ICA was not a rich organisation. It concluded by summarising certain priorities with their financial implications. These priorities were very modest indeed. They would however, permit an improvement in the quantity and the quality of the services which the Alliance offered directly and indirectly to its member organisations. In order to attain these priorities member organisations would have to in-

crease their contribution to the ICA by about £50,000 per year. If members placed their confidence in the team directing the Alliance, this money would represent a profitable investment.

The resolution on the ICA's Programme of Work which would come before Congress contained an appeal to Central Committee that it should outline within one year the responsibilities of member organisations with regard to the implementation of the programme. In order to achieve this the Central Committee at its meeting in Sofia earlier in the year had set up an *ad hoc* committee to study this problem.

In conclusion, Mr Kerinec said: "The time has come to measure up to our responsibilities. If we demand a great deal of our Alliance, we must give it the essential tools to accomplish the task which we want it to undertake".

#### **Debate on Programme of Work 1977-1980**

Mr A. C. GEORGE, Minister of State for Co-operation (India), bringing the greetings of co-operators from his country pointed out that out of the 326 million co-operators in membership with the ICA one-fifth came from India. They were members of more than 250,000 different co-operative units engaged in credit, production, processing, marketing, banking and various facets of economic life. India was one of the oldest members of the Alliance. It had received much help not only from the ICA, but also from wealthy co-operative movements, such as Sweden.

More importance had to be given to building up the co-operative movement, as it was the most powerful democratic economic institution available for social

transformation. The changes that were envisaged for India—and this might be applicable to all developing nations—could come about only through a democratic economic institution like the co-operative movement.

In planning the future of the ICA, special stress must be put on the development of the co-operative movement in developing countries. More and more emphasis must be given to producer, processing, marketing and consumer co-operatives. They must reduce the cost of production, improve the quality of processing, streamline marketing methods and take care of the interests of the consumer.

Mr J. LACROIX, France, pointed out that a vast programme had to be considered, but there were a number of priorities which must have prime consideration.

Throughout the history of the ICA, a major role had been given to Europe and consumer co-operatives. For the ICA to become effective in other fields it would be necessary to sectorise and regionalise. There were the auxiliary committees which were the basis of the Alliance and it was through their work that the ICA was effective. The auxiliary committees must aim to become self-financing. This should become an absolute rule. Regionalisation was the only way in which costs could be decreased and efficiency improved.

The Secretariat should be given exact terms of reference and its work should be limited to the co-ordination of the activities of the auxiliary committees and regional institutions and to dealing with international problems and not regional problems which must be the task of the institutions on the spot.

The tasks to be undertaken required financial means. Co-operators must ask themselves whether the financial aspects were beyond their means or whether their movements could not find the means to make their appropriate contribution to the international co-operative movement.

Mr K. A. P. STEVENSON, FAO, addressing Congress on behalf of the Director General, Dr Saouma, said that for 30 years there had been constructive collaboration between the FAO and the ICA. During this time the world had witnessed major developments in many fields, but people were still living in a world of unrest, plagued by the population explosion, increasing unemployment, inflation and widening disparities. It was no exaggeration to say that the world food situation was still precarious. While millions of people were undernourished and hungry because they were poor and because of lack of adequate measures to provide the necessary supplies a New International Economic Order was being discussed.

From its very inception the FAO had been concerned with co-operative action. Close collaboration between the ICA, national co-operative organisations and the FAO could be maintained in three major areas:

The first was production orientation which had not been done successfully so far. It was necessary to group co-operatives together which had a production oriented basis, so that there could be better hope for the poorer farmers in the future.

The second was training at the grass-roots. Here again grouping was needed, as extension services could not be taken to individuals. The co-operative closely

associated with the grouping could come forward and assist in the grassroot type of training programmes in order to get the people involved in the whole production circle.

The third aspect was integrated rural development. The United Nations system had pledged itself to a production-based poverty-oriented approach to rural development and had set up a task force to show which part of its programmes really touched the poor. This integrated inter-agency approach included all the agencies of the UN system, including the World Bank. The FAO was sponsoring a world conference on agrarian reform and rural development in 1979. Co-operatives could play a direct role, because in many instances they also formed groups of the rural poor.

The President and Director of the ICA had recently visited the FAO. Discussions had been started on programmes jointly sponsored by the ICA, national co-operative organisations and the FAO to tackle these problems directly in the field and see what could be done in joint action towards integrated rural development with special reference to the rural poor.

Mr A. U. A. MUTALLAB, Federal Commissioner for Co-operatives and Supply (Nigeria), expressed his pleasure at being able to attend Congress as an observer.

Co-operation had been accepted in Nigeria some 40 years ago as a means of improving the social and economic conditions of the people. During this period each region, later called State, had developed a co-operative movement at its own pace. Now the Federal Government had taken up the development of co-operatives in the whole country in

order to improve the social and economic conditions of the people. The co-operative movement would be allowed to develop in its own way, but the Federal Government would provide the necessary infrastructure.

The Federal Government believed that Co-operation was one of the most effective distribution channels which should be encouraged and supported. Therefore in 1975 a Ministry of Co-operatives and Supply had been set up at the federal level to foster the growth of co-operatives and to co-ordinate their activities at the national and international levels. The Federal Government was fully committed to the establishment of three major co-operative educational institutions, to the setting up of co-operative financial institutions, the development of agricultural and industrial co-operatives and the setting up of national co-operative institutions in insurance and housing.

Mr Muttallab called on the ICA to open a regional office in West Africa and to site such office in Nigeria, which would be prepared to give all the necessary infrastructural and initial financial support to realise such an objective.

Mr G. KRASNOV, UNCTAD, brought greetings from the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The Report of the Central Committee had outlined briefly the relations of the ICA with UNCTAD and it was hoped to increase collaboration with the ICA within the framework of the long-term programme of work. Collaboration between the ICA and UNCTAD could only be viewed correctly against the broad issues of international trade and development. In this regard, the recent

fourth session of UNCTAD held in Nairobi might be considered as a milestone in the adjustment of international economic relations.

That conference had been held against a background of continuing world crisis. On the other hand, the General Assembly of the United Nations at various Sessions had adopted documents which embodied the concept of a New International Economic Order.

The fourth session of UNCTAD had provided the first opportunity for decisions to be taken by the international community in a universal forum on specific issues so as to create some of the essential elements of a New International Economic Order. Twelve resolutions on substantive matters had been adopted in Nairobi. Many of them were directly relevant to the work of the ICA.

The decisions taken could broadly be classified into several categories. First, there were decisions which involved Governments in negotiations on specific issues. A second category of decisions had related to issues on which a consensus had been reached on new policy approaches, or on strengthening existing policies.

In terms of the principal issues on which the conference had focussed its attention, the results had been generally positive. There had been a major breakthrough in international commodity policy as a result of the acceptance of the integrated programme for commodities. The proposals for such a programme consisted of two main aspects. First, there was the concept of an integrated approach itself. The second main aspect consisted of a series of operational steps to be followed in pursuit of that programme. In this respect two major

decisions had been taken. The first was to launch a series of negotiations on a wide range of individual products of particular interest to developing countries. The second was to convene not later than March 1977 a negotiating conference and a common fund for the financing of commodity stocks and other measures within the framework of the integrated programme. Advances had also been made in many other policy areas. The conference had endorsed a wide-ranging programme to strengthen the technological capability of the developing countries and had set out the modalities for negotiations for a code of conduct for the transfer of technology.

A significant feature of the discussion at the Nairobi meeting on trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems had been the awareness of the vast but still largely unexploited potential in trade and economic relations among them. The Nairobi resolution adopted on this subject recommended to all countries concerned a number of inter-related and specific policies and measures to be taken. The question of trade relations between countries of different systems would continue to be an important one in the work of UNCTAD.

At the forthcoming 16th Session of the Trade and Development Board consideration would be given to the implementation of the resolutions adopted in Nairobi. It was no coincidence that one of the items on the agenda would be a "Review of the effectiveness of the arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organisations in the activities of UNCTAD". The Board would be expected to address itself to the role of non-governmental organisa-

tions in the follow-up action on the resolutions of the Nairobi conference and this might open up further avenues of collaboration between UNCTAD and the ICA.

Mr J. KAMINSKI, Poland, reminded Congress that the programme under discussion would decide the activities of the ICA in years to come.

The Alliance as an international organisation should help its members to carry out their responsibilities in their own countries. The ICA, one of the largest non-governmental organisations, had gained recognition from international organisations. In order to strengthen and develop its position, the ICA should act as an organisation which was universal and democratic and made a useful and practical contribution towards social and economic development.

Traditionally the ICA had been a consumer organisation. But the time had come to realise the essential policy of activating the ICA programme in the field of agriculture, to promote agricultural co-operatives, to help the rural populations, and to assist in food production in general. World resources were distributed very unevenly, especially food resources. The food problem was not only linked to the increase in production, but also to solving social problems in the village.

The ICA could play an important role in this field. Its activities should be directed towards: firstly, uniting the various co-operative movements in all areas of the world within the ICA; secondly, organising assistance to agricultural co-operatives by arranging a broad exchange of technical information for these co-operatives; thirdly, helping in food production by arranging for the

training of experts who would be able to organise the work of agricultural co-operatives; and fourthly, to organise scientific research in various fields in order to improve agricultural production.

The problem of food production, the development of the rural economy and help for the rural population were very important questions for the world economy as a whole. If the ICA wished to continue to command the respect of the world population, it must deal with questions of topical value and assist in solving the day-to-day problems of the population of the world.

Mr S. NAKABAYASHI, Japan, said that the long-term programme contained many suggestions and it showed vision. It was important to strengthen unity and solidarity.

Amongst the problems, the most important was the financial problem of the ICA. The financial situation had reached a serious stage. Membership subscriptions could not be increased more than was absolutely necessary. Economies must be made and priorities given to important activities. During the past four years the subscriptions from Japan had risen by one third, more than from any other country. The greatly increased contribution had come from the agricultural co-operatives in Japan. Mr Nakabayashi called on ICA members to encourage other co-operative organisations in their own countries to join the ICA, thus increasing subscription income.

The problem of the provision of food had become serious in the world. The consumer co-operatives in Japan were making the greatest efforts to collaborate with the agricultural co-operatives

in this field. The ICA should put more emphasis on agricultural co-operation and not rely so much on the support of consumer co-operatives. This view would be important in the future, not only for financial reasons.

As pointed out in the long-term programme, pegging subscriptions to one national currency had reduced ICA's real income in recent years. The subscriptions to the ICA itself and those to the auxiliary committees had to be discussed as well as the management of these bodies.

The other problem which was of great concern to all co-operators was the multinational corporations. A serious discussion had taken place on this subject at the Warsaw Congress. The recent oil crisis and the scandals concerning multinational corporations had shown the power wielded by these organisations in the world. The ordinary people had become angry with the methods used by multinational corporations. As was pointed out at the Warsaw Congress, multinational corporations trampling on the laws of every country and pursuing their profits across all boundaries were the enemies of the people.

In order to combat the power of multinational corporations, Mr Nakabayashi suggested that the ICA should ensure that co-operatives were recognised as a social movement combating the power of capitalist enterprises; that greater emphasis be laid on good management and greater efficiency to enable co-operatives to compete with private trade; that collaboration between co-operatives be improved; that further links be established with trade unions and other democratic organisations; and that people be made aware of the

fight of the co-operative movement for world peace.

He believed that it was the duty of co-operatives to safeguard the livelihood of workers, farmers and consumers in the forthcoming difficult economic circumstances by fighting private big business which was supported by capitalists and multinational corporations, and called on the ICA to take the initiative in this battle.

At the end of the session the General Secretary, Mr R. P. B. DAVIES, reported changes in the texts of Motions and Amendments agreed by the Congress Committee.

## Fourth Session

Wednesday, 29th September 1976  
(afternoon)

### DEBATE ON PROGRAMME OF WORK 1977 - 1980 (resumed)

Mr J. SOBIESZCZANSKI, Poland, referred to the item on Youth, and particularly to the debate on Youth and the Co-operative Movement which had taken place at the Central committee meeting in Stockholm in 1975. It was most important to engage young people in the co-operative movement and to ensure that activities within the co-operative movement were directed towards youth, as this would determine the future of the movement.

The ICA had taken the first steps in accomplishing this task by organising Youth Conferences. The most recent one had taken place in Moscow in 1976. This had been followed by the European Assembly of Youth and Students held in Warsaw in June at which the ICA was represented by observers and partici-



pants from the Moscow Youth Conference. Mr Sobieszczanski called on the ICA to take heed of the resolutions passed at the Youth Conference and by the Assembly of Youth and Students.

It was important for the ICA to work out a plan of activities with regard to Youth which could form the basis for similar methods of elaborating activities by national co-operative movements. The activities emanating from this plan should be reported annually to the ICA Secretariat which should summarise the information for passing on to member organisations. Further efforts should be made in organising meetings and conferences for young people with the support of national co-operative organisations.

Mr P. Søiland, Vice-President, stated that it was the responsibility of the Central Committee to deal with the finances of the ICA and to try to find solutions to financial problems when they arose.

When the Executive Committee and the Central Committee had considered the question of working out a long-term programme of work for the ICA, they also had to deal with the finances of the ICA. The work on the long-term programme had been going on since the Warsaw Congress. The work and studies in this connection had shown that there was still a lot to be done in the world in promoting Co-operation as one of the really important means of raising the standard of living and also the social and cultural standards of the masses of the people. The work and studies carried out, however, had also shown clearly how very limited the resources of the ICA were compared with the work that should be done.

The Executive Committee and the Central Committee found it important to include a special paragraph in the motion on the long-term programme which said that the implementation of this programme necessitated increased resources and called upon the Central Committee to outline within one year the responsibilities of members in the implementation of the programme.

Mr Søiland then drew attention to the accounts of the ICA as set out in the Agenda and Reports. They showed that the ICA had been running a deficit every year since the last Congress. It had only been possible to balance the accounts by drawing on special resources. It could be seen that the greatest responsibility had been put on one country, a situation which could not be tolerated.

The implementation of the long-term programme could only be looked at by dealing also with the financial implications. It was necessary for everyone to understand that the cost of implementing the programme would be in addition to the ordinary operations. It would be necessary to strengthen the Secretariat in London and to strengthen and maintain the regional offices in Asia and Africa. It would also be necessary to arrive at a position where it was possible to pay the ICA staff reasonable salaries.

For these reasons the ICA Central Committee at its meeting in April in Sofia had set up a working group consisting of six people to examine the entire financial situation of the ICA. The group had met in Paris to work out a time-table and to discuss the main points which should be analysed.

The group had been instructed to have its report ready in time for the next Central Committee meeting. It was

hoped that with the help of experts in financial matters the report would be finalised in time for every national organisation to study it before it was presented to the Central Committee. Mr Søliland appealed to Congress delegates to study the report carefully before the next Central Committee meeting when important decisions would have to be taken arising out of the Report.

Mr J. S. LAYZELL, United Kingdom, welcomed the return of Greek co-operatives to membership of the ICA and wished them success in the future.

It was a tribute to the ICA that it had not stood aside or remained aloof, neutral or oblivious to the sufferings of any people. It was because of their concern for the future that co-operators had become increasingly alarmed and concerned at the repressions, the large-scale arrests and tortures, the disappearance and even the assassination of democrats of all shades of opinion by the present military junta in Chile. The evidence of the contravention of human rights by this regime was now overwhelming and irrefutable despite the statement made earlier.

He proposed that the Central Committee should urgently examine the validity of the Chilean co-operatives, study the situation within Chile and the conditions under which the co-operative movement was functioning, and find out how far the politically regressive regime had penetrated the Chilean co-operatives. A strong, representative delegation should visit Chile to examine the internal situation and report back within the next few months so as to decide what action would be necessary.

Mr N. THEDIN, Sweden, referred to the statement made by Mr Søliland

earlier which had dealt with the most important issues facing the Alliance.

Congress was aware of how much had been achieved through the work of the dedicated staff of the ICA at headquarters and at the Regional Offices as well as by co-operators in other quarters. There was no reason to be satisfied with what had been done, because the Alliance had not been given adequate resources for its important tasks. The ICA represented 326 million co-operators. Its budget was £400,000 of which less than half came from regular contributions from the members. During the period up to the next Congress a tremendous challenge had to be faced.

Co-operators were aware of the immense needs of the broad masses of the population in the poorer countries. They were also aware of the great possibilities for co-operative action. Mr Blanchard of the ILO had spoken of basic needs. The United Nations family had increasingly drawn attention to this problem.

Today 40 per cent of the scientists in the world are engaged in research related to armaments—to destruction instead of construction. Less than 10 per cent of the rural population in developing countries had access to health facilities. Only 15 per cent had access to safe drinking water and 30 per cent of the children suffered from malnutrition. After decades of development work by the United Nations and other agencies it had been found that the unsatisfied needs were greater than ever.

The conclusion was that it was not possible for low-income countries to provide the necessary services by using conventional methods. According to the new United Nations concept, it was no

longer sufficient to do things for the people; improvements had to be achieved with the people and preferably by the people. Co-operators were confronted in the recent United Nations document with a co-operative concept, the concept of self-help. This was a tremendous challenge to all in the world co-operative movement. It provided a new framework for possible action by free and independent co-operative societies and organisations in the international field. This meant that the ICA had to be given the necessary tools. Without substantially improving the resources of the Alliance, most of the discussions on practical projects would just be lip service to a beautiful idea.

Several countries had shown that it was possible to mobilise resources for the work of the Alliance. The experience in Sweden had shown that it was practical and good policy to use a large part of the resources for development assistance in order to support the educational and other activities of the ICA, in other words to work through the ICA. Other organisations might find it possible to support action of the same type as Swedish co-operators in Asia, East Africa, West Africa and Latin America.

Co-operators in the Socialist countries often spoke about crises, unemployment and inflation in capitalist countries, but so far only one country had promised increased support for the ICA during Congress, and that was the United Kingdom.

The over-riding problem was that the needs were known, that methods and experience were available, but there were not sufficient resources. An effort must be made to try to interest more of

the millions and millions of co-operative members in supporting the Alliance.

Mr V. GALETTI, Italy, speaking on behalf of the whole Italian co-operative movement stated that they were in agreement with the programme of work for the next four years as outlined by the Central Committee.

The Alliance, a world-wide organisation, which could play a role in developing the co-operative movement in different political, social and economic conditions throughout the world, should make its image more specific.

In order to reply to this calling, the ICA had already shown that it would support the following three strategies—unity of inter-co-operative collaboration, unity of international co-operative action and unity in the promotion of co-operatives in the Third World.

The positive experience of the regional offices in Asia and Africa showed the need to take into account differing situations and to co-ordinate the co-operative movements more efficiently in all regions. It would then become easier to co-ordinate and strengthen the efforts for inter-regional collaboration, especially the efforts which were necessary to give a new impetus to solidarity and practical aid by the industrialised countries to the Third World. This would be the true test of the strength and the vitality of the ICA as a whole.

The economic crisis which struck at the heart of the industrialised and developing countries made it more necessary than ever before to have concerted action among the co-operative movements. Among many people there was a new awareness of the co-operative movement. They hoped that Co-operation could represent a way of overcoming

these difficulties and finding a solution to them.

Delegates had a big task confronting them. Efforts had to be renewed to extend the co-operative movements within national boundaries and at the international level. In order to achieve these aims co-operators had to play their part. Efforts must also be made to ensure that governments would play their part in taking legislative and economic measures to create conditions which would be favourable to action. At the same time co-operators had to be vigilant to ensure that the autonomy of their movement was not threatened.

If only on the basis of modest experience in recent years in some African countries, the Italian co-operators were confident that progress could be made along this difficult road.

Mr H. MORSINK, United Nations, speaking on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kurt Waldheim, pointed to the Secretary-General's personal interest in the international co-operative movement which had been reflected in the fact that in 1973 he had received the members of the ICA Executive Committee in New York.

Referring to item 4.11 'Collaboration with UN and its Specialised Agencies', Mr Morsink indicated that he wished to make a distinction between the role of the UN Economic and Social Council and the UN General Assembly, which were the policy-making bodies taking the decisions that would influence the attitude of Governments, in particular of donor Governments, in support of the co-operative movement.

The United Nations Secretary-General had submitted detailed reports about the co-operative movement to the

Economic and Social Council, specifying its role in international development and its contribution to that development. The most recent reports had been submitted in 1970, 1972 and 1973.

It was with regret, however, that he had to report to Congress that there were signs that the Council had been reassessing its attitude towards the co-operative movement. In 1973 none of the 54 Governments present in the Council had been willing to initiate or adopt any resolution in support of the co-operative movement. In 1975 none of the delegates of the 54 Governments had spoken on the subject of co-operatives at all, even though an elaborate report had been submitted, which had been prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Secretariat of the ICA, the FAO, ILO, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and the World Council of Credit Unions and all major co-operative organisations concerned.

This rather sad news had led to a growing feeling within the Secretariat of the United Nations that it would be rather difficult to recapture the unreserved goodwill and complete support of the Council, which it had expressed in the 1960s. Now it seemed that the Council was waiting for the co-operative movement to come up with new ideas, new approaches to development and new commitments among its members. He wished to congratulate the President on his opening address indicating many new suggestions for the future programme of the Alliance.

Looking at the question of why the Council had reassessed its attitude, Mr Morsink thought that it could be said that in recent years the interest of the

United Nations policy-making bodies had been focussed more and more on the need to combat poverty and to introduce social reforms to this end. The resolutions adopted by the *Economic and Social Council* in support of co-operatives had tended more and more to view co-operatives as a possible instrument to achieve this objective. In this context he wanted to offer his congratulations to the Director and the Central Committee of the ICA on their plans to convene a meeting of high-level co-operative experts who would discuss in 1977 the vital question whether co-operatives, in their mode of operation and structures, were responsive to the problem of poverty and social reform in developing countries.

Concerning immediate action by the co-operative movement to improve the conditions of the poor and enlist their active involvement in their own development, the United Nations Secretary-General had suggested that special importance should be given to field projects that answer the urgent and desperate needs of the poor in developing countries.

The United Nations had put funds at the disposal of the co-operative movement in this connection. For several years the United Nations Capital Development Fund had offered the international co-operative movement help in providing necessary funds—for example, for implementing local co-operative projects which would provide credit to the poor. These offers had been made through the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives (COPAC) where the United Nations, the ICA and other major organisations were collaborating.

On behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Morsink wished to express the hope that in the course of the work programme for the period 1977-1980 the ICA would devote some of its precious energy to initiating and strengthening practical programmes and projects which may help in combatting poverty, thus providing a glimmer of hope to the millions of people living in poverty and misery.

Mr ABD-EL KHEIR, Egypt, pointed out that Egyptian co-operators were taking part in Congress for the first time.

Speaking on the Middle East, he said that illiteracy was rampant. The average was 70 per cent, but in some countries it was as high as 90 per cent. Illiteracy amongst women was even higher. It was for that reason that a Higher Institute of Co-operative and Managerial Studies had been set up in Egypt without assistance from the Government or outside sources.

Co-operators in Egypt were aware of the financial problems of the ICA, but the establishment of a regional office and education centre of the ICA in the area would assist in combatting the problem of illiteracy.

Mr A. E. SAENGER, of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) brought greetings from the Executive Director.

He referred to the collaboration between the Alliance and UNIDO on the one hand and between the International Committee of Workers' Co-operative Productive and Artisanal Societies on the other. UNIDO was using co-operative methods more and more and in the application of self-help principles close collaboration had

been promoted between developing countries.

In January a seminar has been held in New Delhi where the poorest of the Asian countries together with some industrialised countries had established a programme for the next few years. Part of the activities of UNIDO dealing with the transfer of technology were within the framework of UNIDO's co-operative investment programme.

In 1975 the Lima Declaration and the programme of action for industrial and technical co-operation had been proclaimed, which had stressed that in developing countries the national policies of industrialisation must devote the necessary attention to industrial co-operatives, because they mobilised human and industrial resources in order to achieve national goals of economic and social development.

In this context mention should be made of the close collaboration of UNIDO with the Centre for the Promotion of Industrial Co-operatives set up in Poland by the International Committee of Workers' Productive and Artisanal Societies and the Polish Union of Work Co-operatives. A joint programme of international collaboration was under consideration and an agreement was likely to be signed before the end of the year.

The report on collaboration between co-operatives had successfully gone into industrial production. In view of this it would perhaps be possible for industrial co-operative production from developing countries to be absorbed by co-operative organisations of consumers in developed countries. Trade exchanges were already being undertaken by INTER-COOP and such exchanges

might also be undertaken with developing countries which would benefit from technical assistance in the field of production, quality control and marketing which could eventually be provided by UNIDO, UNCTAD and other agencies.

The report had stated that the quality of manufactured products from developing countries had sometimes been an obstacle to their sales. This obstacle, could perhaps be overcome more easily than inflation, the disruption of the monetary system or the general recession which hampered international trade.

By offering the collaboration of UNIDO in a number of fields, Mr Saenger reiterated its willingness to work with the ICA to set up a joint programme for practical and efficient activity in the future. This was a challenging task. UNIDO would be happy to join its efforts with those of the ICA since producers or consumers of developed or developing countries were called upon to subscribe to the New International Economic Order as an act of faith.

Mr J. J. MUSUNDI, Kenya, congratulated the ICA authorities on preparing this document and expressed the hope that, consequent on this discussion, a new pattern for a programme of work would emerge which would be followed in the future. The image of the ICA as a worldwide co-operative organisation would very much depend on the success of the role of co-operative enterprises in promoting the pace of development required to enable them to surpass the efforts of the multinational corporations.

The membership of the ICA was largely in the industrialised countries. It must aim at becoming truly representative of the co-operative movement of

the world. Financial barriers to membership should not be such as to hold back the development of the ICA. Those potential members who were often unable to pay were the ones in greatest need of help. It was therefore necessary for the ICA in collaboration with the Regional Offices to make it possible for all eligible members to attend and participate in the activities of the ICA as full members.

With regard to the auxiliary committees, there was an urgent need for these committees to be open to all ICA members as a matter of right. The Regional Offices should be encouraged to set up sub-committees of all types in order to ensure the effective participation of movements in developing countries in the work of the ICA.

With regard to co-operative education, most training should be undertaken within member organisations and within member countries. Institutes of learning were expensive to construct and maintain and those countries in greatest need of such intensified education were also the ones least likely to afford such institutions. The ICA should consider the setting up of a large education fund capable of starting off desired institutions to a level where member organisations or their governments could support them. Such efforts would enable co-operative organisations in developing countries to provide the necessary training facilities for their members in their own countries.

The establishment of the Advisory Group for International Training of Co-operators (AGITCOOP) had been a useful innovation. The result of the group's work should be publicised, so that member organisations could avail themselves of the expertise of this group.

The ICA should also promote co-operatives where none existed and assist those in developing countries. It must adopt a more aggressive approach by instigating collaboration with governments and existing national co-operative movements to facilitate speedy co-operative development whenever such development was welcome, without waiting for spontaneous development.

Co-operative educational tours and visits for co-operative leaders from developing countries within the regions or overseas should be arranged with the help of UNESCO and similar agencies.

Mr Musundi submitted proposals on the following lines: the ICA should set up or encourage member organisations in the industrialised countries to set up a special fund to finance investment in developing countries which would cater for long-term, medium-term and short-term investment needs; the ICA should monitor and identify projects which could be undertaken as joint ventures between the co-operatives of developed and those of developing countries; the ICA should support the New International Economic Order and member organisations could set an example by opening up needed reforms in their areas of operation; the ICA Secretariat staff should be made available to visit co-operatives in developing countries in order to project the image of the ICA in the areas concerned.

Mr E. HORII, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, brought greetings from the General Secretary of the ICFTU. Reference had been made in the long term programme to close collaboration with international non-governmental organisations, which included the international trade union

organisations. Although he was the only trade union representative present at Congress, he could only speak on behalf of the ICFTU which had regarded and would continue to regard the ICA as an ally and partner.

He expressed the hope that the fruitful collaboration with the ICA in various fields would be further intensified and expanded. The ICA had accepted an invitation to take part in the working group on multinational corporations set up by the ICFTU which was due to meet shortly.

Although collaboration between co-operatives and trade unions was not to be discussed until later, Mr Horii asked Congress for special permission to speak on this subject as he had to leave at the end of the session.

The ICFTU had greatly appreciated the resolution adopted at the Warsaw Congress dealing with collaboration between co-operatives and trade unions and the study published by the ICA on the same subject. The Report on Collaboration between Co-operatives had mentioned that the recent ICFTU report on industrial democracy approved by its Congress in 1975 had contained a warm commendation of co-operative ideas in general and of the extension of co-operative production in particular. This was a new field for the ICFTU where exchange of experience and ideas with co-operators would be beneficial.

In spite of co-operatives having been accused of failing to reach the poorest section of the working population, the ICFTU continued to encourage its member organisations in the developing countries to try the co-operative method in their efforts to meet the needs of their working people, for whom trade unions

were often the only social institution known to exist and to be working for them.

The "co-operative method" was not merely a matter of technique. It meant the principles and ideas that inspired and continued to inspire all co-operatives worthy of their name. It was sad to see some government extension programmes being paraded as co-operative. It was well known that in a few cases rather successful co-operative enterprises set up by trade unions had been replaced by such government-imposed schemes.

Co-operatives were not simply business organisations. They were, like free trade unions, one of the most valuable instruments for human development, provided that they remained truly independent voluntary organisations under democratic membership control. Many of the problems that were being faced in an increasingly large number of developing countries stemmed from the fact that such voluntary organisations of common men and women in the lowest social and economic strata did not readily fit into the life patterns of a rigidly hierarchical society.

The rural poor were more likely to come into conflict with the vested interests of the other segments of their society as experiments succeeded, as confidence of their own potentialities was instilled into them and as help was given to them to release their energies for the improvement of their lot through collective action.

Mr Horii posed the question whether established co-operatives, often representing the interests of the comparatively better off agricultural producers, would be prepared to work for a more equitable distribution of wealth and press for



necessary institutional reforms. If this was so, then one of the misgivings that stood in the way of fuller collaboration between co-operatives and trade unions would be removed.

There were, of course, other problems, but they did not affect the fundamental belief of trade unionists in the overriding necessity to collaborate with their co-operative partners. They had to work together wherever possible in providing the effective means for a fairer distribution of wealth and to defend together their right to raise the voice of conscience in national and international gatherings in order to ensure that human values were not sacrificed for the sake of political and economic expediencies.

Mr N. MIHAI, Romania, made reference to the training and education which was being provided for co-operators from developing countries in his country. Some of the high-level educational institutes were providing training for co-operators from some African countries, so that they could become competent leaders able to contribute directly to improving the level of efficiency of their co-operative organisations.

Speaking on Youth, it was the duty of the young generation to continue social development and in this connection co-operatives in Romania, with the support of the party and state, paid special attention to the needs of the co-operative youth of his country, educating it professionally and socially.

The future development of the co-operative movement depended on the way in which the young people might be able to influence the further social and political evolution of the developing countries. The ICA and its specialised

committees should do more in the field of youth for co-operatives in developing countries by educating and training the cadres and should seek solutions that would lead to the economic strengthening of the co-operative movement.

Mr M. G. HESS, Secretary of the Banking Committee, addressing Congress said that the Executive of the Banking Committee had met prior to Congress and this meeting had been followed by a plenary conference in which the programme of the Committee for the next four years had been discussed. Banks were not particularly interested in publicity, preferring to work more covertly. For this reason the work of the Banking Committee had not always been perceived in the correct light.

It had been decided that the Banking Committee should participate in the Fourth International Conference on Thrift and Credit to be held in Rio de Janeiro in April 1977 by providing financial resources and speakers. Support would be given to the International Liaison Committee on Co-operative Thrift and Credit. Contacts with other institutions would be reinforced and the exchange of information and ideas in order to improve collaboration between member organisations would be promoted. The exchange of young employees in member banks would be encouraged and meetings of people working in banks would be organised through facilities provided by the International Co-operative Bank (INGEBA).

The financing of co-operatives in developing countries was of particular interest to the Banking Committee, but it must be borne in mind that INGEBA and its shareholder banks were not in a

position to take on greater risks. But there were other institutions, such as the World Bank, which could assist co-operative movements in developing countries through INGEBA. Once the risks had been clearly assessed, a certain amount of credit could be offered.

A paper had been presented on the work of the co-operative banks in Latin America and it was hoped to continue collaboration with them.

Ms V. THORNTHWAITE, USA, stated that the Cooperative League of the USA was supporting the ICA's long-term programme of work. They believed that the major purpose of the ICA and its member organisations was to advance co-operative enterprise, both in countries where it is seemingly established and also in developing countries.

In order to do this an important function of the ICA was the provision of practical opportunities for an exchange of views and experiences, as presented at Congress. A partnership concept could be realised through the work and activities of the auxiliary committees, but co-operative societies themselves must take some responsibility for reaching out to the whole movement, even within their own countries. Greater co-ordination and unity should be sought with the ICA both on activities and on scheduling in order to maximise efforts and minimise expense. The suggested joint meetings with the Chairmen and Secretaries of the auxiliary committees were a worth-while undertaking in this regard. Auxiliary committees should explore the possibilities of permitting member organisations within a region to form self-supporting sub-committees.

The ICA needed a long-range plan

for the financing of Regional Offices and for extending its services to co-operative movements not yet served by Regional Offices.

The promotion of peace was a recognised area of ICA concern. Its contribution to peace was to strengthen the co-operative movement. Resources diverted from this effort would not be as productive as inter-co-operative trade and the building of strong democratic economic institutions.

In connection with peace, there were three points that should be made. First, the strengthening of ICA representation at the United Nations as a way of influencing its policies and operations in the co-operative context was to be welcomed. Secondly, there was the question of economic and political concentration of power in the world. Regulation and competition were two ways of controlling such expansion of power. By strengthening co-operatives with programmes of research, education and management training it should be possible to provide a climate for multinational co-operatives so that they could develop and compete and be an effective countervailing force. Thirdly, a future peaceful world also depended on the participation of young people and women of the co-operative movement. The ICA could provide a forum for the exchange of information, but the responsibilities beyond that point were with member organisations, as was so much of the practical work of the ICA.

The continual improvement of the structure and effectiveness of the ICA was of great importance. It had been agreed that the ICA Congress should be more forward looking. Perhaps the

procedures of operating the Congress and of conducting the affairs of the ICA needed study as the ICA undertook almost overwhelming assignments. An effort should be made to structure within the ICA a process of continuing evaluation of the governing bodies and their effectiveness. The activities of the ICA depended upon the resources of the organisation, and the formation of an *ad hoc* group on finance in this respect was to be welcomed. Perhaps a portion of the new thrust of the long-range programme might find some financing outside the ICA budget by interested agencies and organisations, such as the FAO and UNIDO.

Mr H. N. OSAKWE, Nigeria, extended greetings from the co-operative movement in Nigeria.

The co-operative movement in Niigeria had witnessed a period of rapid co-operative expansion and development since the inception of the Co-operative Development Decade. The Federal Government of Nigeria had publicly adopted the co-operative movement as an accredited national instrument of economic and soeial development. The Co-operative Federation of Nigeria and its affiliated co-operatives were paying very great attention to the development of co-operative unions, federations or councils at State and divisional levels, which in turn spear-headed and promoted the orderly development and growth of primary co-operative societies within the urban and rural communities.

The consolidation of the existing co-operative banks and the establishment of new ones offered the climate required for the stable economic investment of co-operative societies.

It was now clear that the demand of the ordinary co-operator in Nigeria was to see an ordered society where those in the movement could contribute to the economic and social development of their country. The Federal Government had given maximum support for the expansion of the existing co-operative colleges and the resuscitation of those which had been insufficiently active for the past five years. This decision had no doubt been taken in keeping with the Government's policy of helping the co-operative movement and also in acknowledgment of the fact that the rate of growth in the co-operative movement was so rapid that it needed Government assistance to blend it with the national programme for capital and manpower development. In this way it would be possible to plan more realistically a programme of training for key men and women who would direct, manage and administer the affairs of the co-operative movement. The State Governments were at the same time promoting co-operative education at their levels in order to achieve greater efficiency.

The programme of work for 1977-1980 stated that during the Co-operative Development Decade consideration would be given, resources permitting, to the setting up of ICA regional offices in those parts of the world where they were desired by the national movements and had a useful role to play. The report stated that "ICA activities in West Africa have lately been on the increase; repeated requests have been made by co-operators to establish an ICA presence in West Africa. Investigations will be conducted into the feasibility of creating an ICA focal point for West Africa." The Co-operative Federation

of Nigeria had been in the forefront of this repeated request. Co-operative societies in Nigeria, in close collaboration with the Government, were anxious to pool their resources to offer the necessary help in this respect. It was hoped that in the near future a survey would be carried out by the ICA and that it would lead to a favourable result. Help was, however, needed from many of the stronger national co-operative organisations such as those in Canada, the Americas, Europe and Asia and from other regional co-operative bodies.

The report of the Functional Literacy Seminar held in Nigeria in 1975 was very illuminating and stimulating. It would not now be prudent to withdraw from this area, but it would be important to make the ICA presence in West Africa more permanent and therefore more effective.

The economy in Nigeria was mainly agricultural, even though recently there had been an increase in mineral oil production. It was still an agricultural country and therefore efforts had to be concentrated in the field of agricultural Co-operation, co-operative distribution and consumer goods and services for the ordinary men and women, backed up by co-operative education and sound financial management.

The recommendations made by the Central Committee needed every delegate's support. Mere moral support was not enough. All had to share in covering the cost of the programme additional to the present budget.

At the end of the session, the GENERAL SECRETARY sought the formal approval of Congress of the nomi-

nations for election to the new Central Committee.

## **Fifth Session**

**Thursday, 30th September 1976  
(morning)**

### **DEBATE ON PROGRAMME OF WORK 1977-80 (resumed)**

Mr F. OWEN, United States, spoke in support of the ICA long-term programme of work, and commented on the role of the ICA in technical assistance.

Co-operatives were necessary as a base for sound rural development. There were very few examples of successful rural development anywhere in the world without the social and economic effects of co-operatives. Co-operatives had proven able to help people to achieve better lives.

The problem facing most developing countries was how to do a more effective job of developing co-operative institutions. If this was so, then what was the proper role for the ICA in providing technical assistance? What did it have to offer?

First, within the ICA membership there were the successfully operating co-operatives in every field of co-operative endeavour. In these co-operatives were persons with the practical operating experience essential in the planning and implementation of newly-organised co-operatives in the developing world.

Secondly, in the ICA membership were many of the co-operative organisations of the developing countries which were seeking access to the financial and technical resources needed in their development.

Thirdly, the ICA in its daily work was in contact with all those national and

international donor organisations which were involved in co-operative technical assistance. These included UN agencies such as FAO and ILO, foundations, national Governments, religious organisations and other social groups. The ICA was in a strategic position to bring to this front line of world need the number one element now missing in most co-operative efforts—that was, the experienced co-operative operational persons who understood both the social and economic elements involved in viable co-operative development.

Co-operatives were not easy institutions to form, especially the involvement of members in the operations, financial stability of these operations and the desirable social and economic results.

The ICA could become a catalyst for more effective co-operative development. It was the best-qualified and most appropriate international organisation to act as an intermediary between these three groups: the funding organisations, the co-operative organisations which could supply the experienced personnel, and the developing countries which were seeking help and direction. The ICA, acting in this role of catalyst, should encourage donor agencies to use the resources within its membership.

Mr Owen cited the example of the Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Co-operative (IFFCO) which was one of the most successful co-operative endeavours in the developing world. Within 16 months of its inception IFFCO, owned by the farmers of India and assisted by the fertilizer co-operatives of the USA, had generated 2.5 million dollars of savings and had saved the government of India over 100 million dollars in foreign exchange. In addition six reductions in

fertilizer prices had taken place within the last year. This and other such projects would not exist without the input of experienced personnel supplied by member organisations of the ICA.

The ICA had an open channel to discuss with the UN agencies and others the greater utilisation of operational personnel within the ICA family of members. The ICA should not attempt to create the capacity within its own staff or in the staff of the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives (COPAC) to plan or implement co-operative activities, but should find the way effectively to utilise its greatest resources—its member organisations. It had been pleasing to hear the remarks of the President of France urging a marriage of greater governmental financial support with the technical expertise of co-operatives in development.

Worldwide co-operative development would depend upon the ability of co-operatives in the more developed countries to transfer and adapt their experience to the needs of people in their sister nations who were asking for help. Viable co-operatives could not be created by talking co-operative principles only. There was need for action to strengthen the bonds and transfer the knowledge from the people who had already achieved some success to those who were just beginning. Who knew how important such bonds could be in the future world economic and social order?

Mr B. CATALANO, Secretary of the Workers' Productive Committee, stated that his Committee was convinced that the ICA could play a very important role in making a contribution towards the New International Economic Order, as

it had been invited to do by Mr Giscard d'Estaing.

The Committee at its meeting prior to Congress had discussed a report on the programme of its work for the period 1977-80. It was important to increase membership of the Committee and to ensure that members were more active. There was a need for members to give aid to co-operatives in other parts of the world, particularly in the developing countries.

The Committee would in future aim at more effective collaboration between members in supporting programmes not only at the ideological level, but also through practical contributions.

Particular attention should be given to the promotion of industrial co-operatives in both the developing and the industrialised countries taking into account the recommendations adopted by the ILO Employment Conference held earlier in the year. Consideration had been given to the appointment by member organisations of a permanent correspondent in the various regions with a view to later decentralisation. At some stage in the future there might be the need for making a member of the staff of the ICA Regional Offices responsible for developing industrial and artisanal co-operatives. The Regional Offices in East Africa and South-East Asia should provide the committee with information about the need for help in countries in those areas.

The Committee would in future issue its own newsletter and would continue its support to the Centre for the Promotion of Industrial Co-operatives in Warsaw. Closer relations with the Housing Committee would be sought.

The links with UN agencies and other

organisations supporting the development of co-operatives should be intensified, but this could not be done without the help of the ICA. The Directors-General of the ILO and of UNESCO in their speeches had expressed the desire for closer collaboration with the ICA. Heed should be taken of these speeches, because they bore witness to the representative force of the ICA and the increasing credibility of its image.

The Committee was aware of the lack of financial means of the ICA and the difficulty of having sufficient personnel to ensure its presence in other parts of the world where this would be necessary. For this reason it was necessary to re-examine the role of the auxiliary committees, a name which should be changed to "specialised committees". This would give the committees a wider scope of action and greater responsibilities. They should be encouraged to take a more active part in the general programme of the ICA. On the other hand the ICA should consider the committees as its technical bodies and assist them in all matters which could fall within their spheres of activity. This would imply a large promotional and political delegation of powers to each committee. The committees could take action which the ICA could not take at present because of its lack of means.

The Workers' Productive Committee had helped the ICA by representing it at various conferences organised by the UN agencies, and at the periodical meetings of UNIDO in Vienna. Through better co-ordination the Committee could play a larger role within the ICA and help it in carrying out its long term programme of work for 1977-1980. As specialised committees, not simply auxi-

liary committees, they could carry out their work more effectively, leaving to the ICA the basic political and representative functions which should remain its responsibility.

Mr C. H. PERETTE, Argentina, brought greetings from the co-operators of his country and expressed his appreciation to the Central Committee for the work it had done with regard to the long-term programme of work.

The Co-operative Development Decade constituted a real challenge for the developing countries. It was a means of proving solidarity with all people in all countries of the world. Much had been done in recent years but more must be done in the years ahead. The developing countries were not asking for charity from the industrialised countries, but for solidarity and joint efforts in the tasks to be fulfilled. These were the fundamental bases of international co-operation.

Co-operators must act to achieve these aims. Under-development should be overcome, as should poverty, social injustice, oppression and economic dependency. Under-development was sometimes caused through influences outside developing countries. An intensive effort was therefore necessary not only by the ICA, but also by co-operators in other countries without any distinction of ideology, race or religion.

Co-operatives were the source of peace and solidarity throughout the world. Only they could overcome the problem of under-development, of economic inequality and social backwardness. In Latin America, with a population of 300 million which would increase to 600 million by the year 2000, rigorous efforts must be made to promote co-

operatives. In Argentina there were already 5,000 co-operatives with a membership of 6 million.

Co-operation would not be overcome. It was bound to triumph, because it could help in the spiritual field, in education, in the moral field and also assist in achieving a more equitable economic situation.

Mrs P. VARATORN, Thailand, said that co-operatives in her country were initiated by the Government in 1916 when the first co-operative society was established among the small paddy farmers. The primary intention of the Government had been to relieve farmers of severe indebtedness and to enable them to retain ownership of their land.

In 1943 the Bank for Co-operatives had been established to serve as a financing institution of agricultural co-operatives. In 1968 the Co-operative Societies Act had been promulgated in order to facilitate the expansion and improvement of co-operatives. This legislation had embodied two new features—the amalgamation of co-operatives and the establishment of the Co-operative League of Thailand. At present there were six main types of co-operative in Thailand: agricultural, land settlement, fisheries, consumers, thrift and credit and services. Amongst the service societies were five rural electric co-operatives, one taxi drivers' co-operative and four housing co-operatives.

In order to improve the performance of co-operatives in Thailand it should be recommended that the Government should encourage the Bank for Co-operatives to become the financing institution for all types of co-operatives and that the Department of Co-operative Promotion and other agencies concerned with the

promotion of co-operatives should work out a long-term programme for the improvement of farm techniques, cottage industries, marketing and processing, and co-operative management; advice should be sought from the ICA to accomplish these tasks. It should further be recommended that the ICA should assist in working out a plan for closer collaboration between the Department of Co-operative Promotion, the Bank for Co-operatives and the Co-operative League of Thailand.

Mr Y. DANEAU, Canada, said that from the report it could be seen that the image of the ICA was predominantly one of an organisation of consumers. This was largely to be explained by the history of the ICA. In years to come it would be necessary to ensure that other forms of co-operatives became associated as closely as possible with the ICA, especially the financial and agricultural sectors, but also housing, fisheries and the new types of co-operative which were now being established in various parts of the world. A greater balance had to be established between the production, consumer and financial sectors.

In many regions of the world the ability of political and economic systems to meet the needs of the people were being questioned today. The different types of development which Co-operation offered and the very varied fields of activity in which it could participate should be emphasised. It was also necessary to stress increasingly that Co-operation as a dynamic experiment in social and economic development was a new means of offering a valuable, positive and efficient answer to the many problems which countries faced today. No distinction between the developed coun-

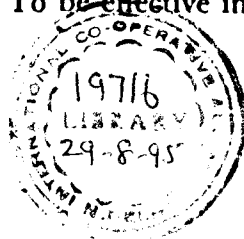
tries and the Third World countries should be made when one was thinking about Co-operation as a means of development; it had the same advantages for both.

For the benefit of the whole co-operative movement, the ICA should project an image of an institution which was truly international, truly open, and ready to respond to the different co-operative sectors. It should aim to increase membership and vary such membership as far as possible. For this reason greater collaboration between co-operatives at the national and international level was needed. Only thus would it be possible to solve some of the problems raised in the Report and to present Co-operation as a truly flexible movement capable of responding to present-day problems.

Mr P. O. MOHN, United States, pointed out that although he was representing the Co-operative League of the USA, he was also the President of the International Association of Co-operative Educators. Members of that Association were primarily from the Caribbean, Canada and the United States.

Dealing with the role of education in management training as it impacted upon co-operatives as efficient economic organisations, he said that his delegation would support the long-term programme of work on education as stated in the various sections of the Report. Management training could, however, be interpreted in several ways, as was evidenced during the Education Conference. Two fundamental and critical elements of management training as a priority issue related to who was going to be trained and what information was going to be disseminated.

To be effective in the long term as a





co-operative enterprise of and for the members, it was imperative that the total management team, namely the committee, received training. The word "committee" would mean those who represented the members and those operating management which were hired by the committee. They should concern themselves with sophisticated and up-to-date management principles and practices.

The ICA met this need already to some degree through regional management seminars. It further contributed by surveying what management education was being conducted for operating management by member organisations. It seemed, however, that the required emphasis upon management education for the elected committee members was absent.

Significant efforts had been made, particularly in Canada and the United States, to ensure that every committee member had an opportunity to participate in seminars. Usually this was done with operating management to develop proficiency in decision-making and leadership, combined with management proficiency by operating managers. He urged the ICA similarly to place equal emphasis on educational programmes for committee members.

Without each part of the management team fulfilling its role effectively, the great danger existed that the co-operative would lose competitive efficiency. On the other hand, there was a danger that the co-operative would not respond to the will of the members, and for all practical purposes would become like a proprietary corporation where the sole objective was profitability rather than service to members. Balanced leadership

between both parts of the management team was most likely to achieve both efficiency and responsiveness to members' economic and social needs.

Most people would argue that managerial competence in co-operatives must be as great, or greater than, that of proprietary corporations. Since the last ICA Congress, co-operative leadership in the United States had taken a significant step to instill in young co-operative executives the meaning of co-operation. The objective was to help these young executives to become successful co-operative leaders as well as successful managers. For this purpose the Graduate Institute of Co-operative Leadership was established at the University of Missouri with a governing board representing both co-operative management and committee members. A similar institute for committee members was under consideration. A book entitled "Boards of Directors of Co-operatives" had been published to strengthen the decision-making and leadership of committee members within the context of co-operative philosophy and principles.

Another neglected area in management education was that of inter-co-operative collaboration. Significant opportunities existed for increased collaboration between co-operatives. They existed at three specific levels: (1) between co-operatives of a country in the same service or product field, such as between and among agricultural co-operatives; (2) between co-operatives of a country in different service and product fields, such as between consumer and agricultural co-operatives; (3) between co-operatives of different countries.

There were a number of examples at these levels, but few existed between

co-operatives on different continents. In the management and committee members' training programmes, greater emphasis should be placed upon issues related to multinational collaboration between co-operatives.

A good example of what could be done between co-operatives of different continents would be the co-operative venture called Nordiscan owned jointly by the Greenbelt Consumer Services of the USA and Nordisk Andelsexport, owned by the Scandinavian consumer wholesale societies. Nordiscan bought furniture for the Greenbelt consumer co-operative from the Scandinavian countries thus making it possible for a consumer co-operative in the United States to materially benefit its members.

This initial collaboration could be a beginning for much more product and service collaboration. To fully develop these opportunities, it was essential that management training broadened the horizons of both operating management and committee members. The ICA should be encouraged to continue its leadership in co-operative education and training. Particular attention should be given: (1) to increasing emphasis on education and training of committee members; (2) to ensuring that co-operative principles were a continuing part of the educational programme for co-operative operating managers; (3) to encouraging increased efforts to broaden the horizon of both management and committee members for collaboration between co-operatives.

Mr P. TRAMPCZYNSKI, Poland, pointed to the role of workers' co-operatives in accelerating economic development. In order to encourage such development it would be necessary to set up

centres for the promotion of industrial co-operatives.

A Centre for the Promotion of Industrial Co-operatives had been set up in Poland. The administrative costs were borne by the Polish workers' co-operatives and the various assistance programmes were jointly financed by the Polish co-operatives and the specialised agencies of the United Nations—in particular by UNIDO. The Centre worked in close collaboration with UNIDO and with the help of UNIDO, seminars and management training courses for co-operative leaders from developing countries had been organised every year in order to promote industrial co-operatives in these countries.

Part of the 1976 Poznan International Fair had been reserved for displaying craftsmen's industrial products of co-operatives from developing countries. This had created a great deal of interest and made people aware of the needs. It also gave the opportunity of comparing the quality of goods offered and of establishing possible channels for the transfer of technology.

It was necessary to stress the activities of workers' co-operatives which could play a very important part in increasing the standard of living of the people in the developing countries. The Second General Conference of UNIDO stated that national industrialisation policies in developing countries should encourage small, medium-scale and rural industry and to this end due attention should be given to workers' co-operatives.

Mr S. SULEMESOV, Bulgaria, pointed out that one of the major tasks which required the efforts of all co-operators was to increase the membership of the ICA by attracting all co-

operatives which applied the co-operative principles. In a number of geographical areas there were agricultural co-operatives which were not members of the ICA for reasons which were defined in the Report.

There were many areas where there was no ICA presence, despite the fact that conditions were favourable. This was the case in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Governments of many countries in these areas were in favour of co-operatives and the opportunity should be taken to seek new members. Experts should be sent out to help the young co-operative movements in order to enable them to expand and also to assist in setting up new co-operative movements. This would also make it possible to set up national organisations which could become members of the Alliance.

The Bulgarian co-operative movement had set up a school for the training of cadres from developing countries and was willing to expand this activity.

The subscription to the ICA created problems for a number of co-operatives. It might be possible to adapt contributions to the situation of these co-operatives. If it were possible to attract more organisations into membership, the ICA would become more representative.

Mr K. HARDING, Canada, referred to the section dealing with the Fisheries Sub-Committee and paid tribute to the untiring work of Mr P. Lacour, the retiring chairman. Because of the wide geographical distribution of membership the chairmanship had not been an easy task. The first Open World Conference on Co-operative Fisheries held in Tokyo in 1975 had been a concrete result of Mr Lacour's efforts.

The Committee would continue its

work under the chairmanship of Mr J. Saito, President of the National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives of Japan. The meeting held in Paris had indicated that practical action to achieve maximum results in the development of fisheries through co-operative channels throughout the world was desired. There had been a unanimous expression of opinion that the Fisheries Sub-Committee should be given the full status of an auxiliary committee, and it should in future be known as the ICA Fisheries Committee.

With the rapidly increasing world population and the critical acceleration of pollution of the environment, particularly of the oceans, the future of the fishery resources of the world was at the most critical stage recorded in the history of the earth. Those who were citizens of maritime nations had been following with much interest the conferences on the Law of the Sea. Whether or not these would eventually lead to international agreement was still open to question, but it was evident that fishing limits of 200 miles would be fairly general by 1977. Those nations, like Canada, with important stocks of anadromous fish, such as salmon, knew that this was not enough if the sensible management of such species, in order to maintain their maximum sustained yield to feed the world's growing population, were to be successful.

These problems were of the utmost importance to everybody. The experience gained by fishermen in co-operatives in running their own affairs made them more mature and responsible in their attitude towards such problems. Fishermen had a vested interest in the fishing industry, because for the most

part they followed it, generation by generation. Therefore they had an interest in environmental control and conservation of fish stocks. Their interest was not only in what they might catch today but in what would be available for those who followed them.

Therefore there would be an important future for a committee that might be called the ICA Fisheries Committee in utilising to the fullest extent the inherent responsible attitude of members of fishermen's co-operatives to collectively take a position on these important issues. Such a committee could be used as a voice for the expression of opinions on such issues as the control of the environment, the minimisation of adulteration of marine food products and the maximum sustained yields of fishery resources.

Mr R. L. MARSHALL, United Kingdom, offered his tribute to the competence, the organisation and the contrivance of the Report. It posed, however, two questions. First, was this the work co-operators wanted to be accomplished? Secondly, if this was so, were members prepared to pay for it? Mr Whitehead had already indicated that the British response would be sympathetic and positive.

Beyond that, Mr Marshall wanted to offer two reflections on a particular section of the Report. The reflections were addressed to the sections of the Report dealing with the image of the Alliance. That image was good. Co-operators looked upon the Alliance with respect, gratitude and affection. That was a tribute to past Directors and the present Director who for many represented a focus and embodiment of the contribution of the Alliance. But the

reflections would take the form of two pieces of advice to himself.

The first advice was in a sense arithmetical. It was that only once a year or perhaps twice a year, at most three times a year, he would speak of 326 million co-operators supporting some point of view or some resolution of opinion. That in a sense also was the indication in cautious terms of the Report itself. It offered the advice that one could not attach too much importance to the passing of resolutions. One certainly could not claim for such a resolution a consensus of 326 million co-operators. Of course, the figure was mathematically precise, legally and constitutionally correct, but the reality of positive commitment to Co-operation, the reality of some understanding of Co-operation, was much more limited. It was the duty of co-operators to extend that reality as widely as possible.

Mr Marshall went on to say:

"My second reflection follows in a sense from the first. I advise myself to make the most of what the Report calls this 'valuable dialogue which can help in the development of mutual understanding'. And it can if we talk not only about what co-operators share but about our differences, not only talk about our differences but be honest enough to make a dialogue about them—differences in forms of Co-operation, differences in the relation of co-operative institutions to the State which is an area of particular interest to me. We should talk about them frankly and objectively, reasonably and receptively. We should not only talk to each other but listen to each other, and in that exchange perhaps achieve some fruitful advance, not behind barricades of entrenched preju-

dices, not out of entrenched positions of deep-rooted conviction, but as co-operators capable of an honest and frank dialogue."

Mr P. MAUREMOOTOO, Mauritius, expressed his appreciation of the valuable technical assistance which, as a follow-up to the recent ICA mission to Mauritius, the ICA was offering to the Mauritian co-operative movement in the form of a comprehensive educational programme; he commended the approach which the ICA had adopted in this case and recommended it to other developing countries.

Co-operatives had first been organised in Mauritius in 1913 in the agricultural field. They now involved some 20 per cent of the whole population. They had diversified in all the usual sectors, but had arrived at a crossroads. Co-operators in Mauritius operated in a mixed economy and had to compete with well established private enterprise. Co-operatives had to prove that they were quite as good if not better than private enterprise in the provision of goods or services to their members. The government was very sympathetic, but co-operatives had constantly to show their worth—hence the value attached to the ICA education programme, its thrust would be concentrated on the transfer of skills to the Mauritian people. Only the acquisition of new skills could ensure progress and development.

To be small and insignificant posed no threat to anybody, but as co-operatives were beginning to grow opposition was being encountered. It would assist co-operators in his country if they could make use—with appropriate modification—of the know-how of co-operators in developed countries who had gone

through a similar experience in similar circumstances.

Dr H. FAHRENKROG, German Democratic Republic, commended the ICA on the long-term programme of work as outlined in the Report. It dealt with all types of political, economic and social questions which were of vital interest to all member organisations of the ICA and formed a framework in which each of the federations and members could actively participate.

Priorities had been laid down. This list of priorities established a new stage in collaboration between co-operatives. It was with great satisfaction that it had been noticed that the programme had dealt with the question of time. The element of time should work for peaceful co-existence, as co-operators had been realising for many years, especially in the German Democratic Republic. This was a fundamental aspect of activity which should underlie the long-term programme of work for 1977-1980.

His own organisation had decided to invite AGITCOOP and the Women's Committee to hold meetings in the GDR during the period 1977-80 provided the ICA authorities agreed to that proposal.

Mr LAHITTE, France, welcomed the proposal to establish an efficient system of information exchange which would link member organisations and stressed that efforts must be made to try to project an image throughout the world which would show that co-operators supported the social and economic development of people. Member organisations should try to participate as actively as possible in the activities of the ICA. He supported the idea of the establishment of national liaison committees. These committees could exam-

inc the agendas prepared for the meetings of the Central Committee in order that the programme of work might be carried out more effectively. In France an organisation, the Groupement National de la Coopération which linked all ICA member organisations, could effectively carry out this task.

Auxiliary committees should also have a network at national level. By setting up specialist committees it might be possible to discuss important problems at annual meetings which could perhaps be held prior to the plenary auxiliary committees. The questions to be put before Congress should be widely discussed through the national co-operative movements. This would contribute towards improving the image of the ICA and make it more authoritative with its member organisations.

The Report mentioned four new and emerging problems — environment, energy, population and food. These problems should be studied and debated widely in order to awaken the conscience of fellow co-operators and to make them aware that it was essential to find solutions to these problems.

Contacts between co-operatives of different countries through seminars, symposia and study tours should be developed. An initiative in this respect could be taken through the auxiliary committees which would thus see their educative and research role increased.

Faced with the difficulties of the capitalist world and its structures based on the search for profit, Co-operation could bring a solution to the economic problems. In the present world situation co-operators had a very important role to play. Therefore, it was necessary to improve the image and to encourage

members to become more active at every level of ICA activity.

Mr A. I. KRASHENINNIKOV, USSR, said that the programme outlined the work of the ICA for the period 1977-1980. It was directed towards further strengthening the ICA throughout the world, making known to people the role co-operatives could play in social and economic development and in fighting for democracy and social progress against capitalist monopolies.

If this document was accepted by Congress there would be a programme which would typify the image of the ICA, lay down its policy, its concrete aims and the methods and means by which the programme could be implemented by the ICA.

Centrosoyus would like to suggest that the text of section 2.3.2 dealing with peace should be deleted. This paragraph had not been very well expressed. It stressed perhaps the wrong elements. It could be seen as giving too much importance to the political side of discussions within the ICA, which could mean a return to the period of the Cold War which could so very easily turn into a hot war. The USSR in common with other Socialist countries had managed to turn away from the Cold War towards detente by setting up the prerequisites for the social and peaceful progress of all peoples and countries, especially through the development of the co-operative movement. Co-operators from Socialist countries speaking at meetings of the Alliance during this period, when the political threat was even greater, always bore in mind the idea of peace. The contents of section 2.3.2 did not correspond to historic facts and it would

therefore be a good idea to delete this paragraph.

Apart from these comments Centrosoyus entirely agreed with the long-term programme as outlined in the Report and gave it its full support.

Section 2.3.6 stated that the ICA was taking a particular point of view with regard to political regimes which were acting against human rights. It went on to speak of—

“refusal to admit co-operative organisations from such countries and sometimes even the expulsion of or suspension of relations with existing members where politically regressive regimes have penetrated the co-operative movement . . .”

Russian co-operators totally supported this statement and thought it should be applied to the situation in Chile. They had no other aim but their concern for co-operators of this country and they were doing everything possible to support them. It was known that many progressive Chilean co-operators were in prison or had been assassinated, others had been forced to emigrate and were now living in various parts of the world. It was the right of the ICA to break off relations with organisations supported by such regimes. The Central Committee held in Budapest in 1973 passed a resolution condemning the Military Junta and calling for respect for human rights.

Throughout the world there had been protests against the tyranny of the present regime and against the flouting of human rights in Chile. There were unfortunately co-operators present at Congress who supported the Military Junta and this was a shameful position.

The delegate speaking on behalf of the London Co-operative Society who attacked the regime in Chile had the full support of the Russian delegation. It would be a good idea for both the Executive Committee and the Central Committee to examine the possibility of excluding such organisations from the ICA, as had happened previously with the co-operative organisation in Greece.

Mr AZIZ IBRAHIM, Malaysia, expressed his appreciation on behalf of the National Co-operative Council of Malaysia to the staff of the ICA headquarters in London and particularly to the staff of the ICA Regional Office in New Delhi for their advice, guidance and assistance given to the co-operative movements in South-East Asia, especially in Malaysia.

Co-operators in the developing countries wanted to participate in the many activities in which the developed countries were involved. It had been noted with satisfaction that the ICA and FAO were collaborating in the interests of co-operators throughout the world. The policies of governments in the various countries changed from time to time and the priorities given to different schemes of development were then modified. If the ICA and the FAO could keep abreast of these changing governmental policies, the co-operative movement could play a greater part in the development of the countries concerned.

In Malaysia the co-operative movement had become an anchor for the people. With their support the movement was growing all the time. But direct help, direct aid from the ICA and the FAO was needed, without the usual red tape. Politics could interfere with the advancement of projects and some-

times hinder such activities. For that reason political comments or activities should be avoided in an organisation like the ICA.

Malaysian co-operators wanted to participate increasingly in fisheries activities. There were potentials for exporting jellyfish, catching sharks and the rearing of cockles. If the ICA and the FAO were able to help the Malaysian co-operators to look into the viability of these various schemes it would be possible to make progress in the same way as Japan and Korea had done.

Mr R. G. TIWARI, India, said that Congress provided the occasion for a review and reassessment of the performance, problems and prospects of the co-operative movement. It also provided the occasion for reaffirming the faith of co-operators and for rededicating themselves to the cause of Co-operation, and through it to the service of the under-privileged, the poor and backward communities.

Co-operatives were now universally accepted as a powerful instrument for social and economic transformation, and it was precisely for this reason that there was a wide application of co-operative principles and a co-operative approach to problems aiming at quick changes in socio-economic conditions. This had an added advantage, as it provided people with opportunities for active association in programmes designed for their own welfare, and also with a sense of dignity and fulfilment as they made their contribution to these programmes. This process was more marked in developing countries as they provided more congenial conditions for such application. Co-operation was thus making a very significant contribution to programmes

of production, marketing and distribution—the trinity of any healthy economic enterprise.

The Prime Minister of India had rightly said that she knew of no other instrument so powerful and full of social purpose as Co-operation, and hopefully desired that the healthy growth of the co-operative movement in India might continue so that it became a real people's movement dedicated to the service of man—specifically the poorest and most backward sections of the community.

What was true of India might also be true of other developing countries with minor local variations and minor differences in the socio-economic order. Co-operatives in these countries had an historic role to play being vitally linked with economic prosperity and the well-being of the people living in those countries. Co-operatives must succeed in the interests of the people in developing countries. The assistance, help and technical knowledge received from the ICA and its Regional Office must be acknowledged. Thanks must be given to the co-operative movements of the developed countries for their interest in and appreciation of the problems of Indian co-operators and for their positive contribution towards the healthy and purposeful growth of the co-operatives in developing countries, so that they might become an effective instrument of service to the people. Co-operators in India had benefited immensely from the scientific studies, knowledge and advanced technology which the movements in the developed countries had acquired by their experience and sustained effort. Hundreds and thousands of co-operators had availed themselves of the opportunities provided by



the training institutes of the USSR, the German Democratic Republic, the United Kingdom, Sweden and other countries. They had been enabled to acquire the knowledge to run co-operatives more efficiently in their respective countries.

These contacts had led to further co-operative joint ventures and collaboration. The Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative stood permanently as a symbol of friendship, goodwill and understanding between thousands and thousands of co-operators in India and the United States. There had also been collaboration between co-operatives in India and the German Democratic Republic in the field of fruit processing. Such ventures were not only desirable on economic grounds but also on those of human considerations leading to greater understanding and goodwill. Such joint ventures with the co-operatives of developed countries would always be welcomed by Indian co-operators in the future. For their part Indian co-operators offered the knowledge and experience gained by them through a long period of work in the field of Co-operation, to whatever use it could be put by developing and developed countries of the world.

Indian co-operatives were involved in several sectors of the development programme. This was made possible by the amount of understanding between the governmental bodies and the co-operatives in India. The fact that the Minister in charge of Co-operation could snatch some time out of his busy schedule and associate himself with the Congress and its deliberations was an indication of the interest the Government of India had been taking in co-operative activities.

The co-operatives of India had not

only expanded immensely, they also had a record of wide diversification. There was not an area of economic interest in which Indian co-operatives were not involved. Agricultural credit was the mainstay. The co-operatives were meeting about 40 per cent of the total agricultural credit needed. It was an acknowledged agency in the programme of production which had recorded appreciable growth in recent times. Through the network of co-operative marketing, co-operatives were responsible for the distribution of 60 per cent of chemical fertiliser and other agricultural goods to the Indian farmers. They also functioned as catalytic agencies for the implementation of support price procurement and the processing policy of the Government.

The sugar co-operatives in India accounted for almost 50 per cent of sugar production, and the dairy co-operatives had earned a name internationally by virtue of their achievements. There were other co-operative societies dealing with housing, handicrafts, industry and fisheries. Last but not least were consumer co-operatives. Though of recent growth they were looking after the equitable distribution of essential goods in urban and rural areas and they had been encouraged to become involved in the production of essential consumer goods.

The purpose of giving some rough details of the size and functions of co-operatives in India was to inform delegates of the size of problems that Indian co-operators faced and to request those present to continue their interest and to draw up suitable work programmes for India and other developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The developing countries were engaged in the colossal task of improving the socio-economic life of their people and of building a social order based on equality and fair opportunity for all, irrespective of sex, social or religious convictions. Co-operatives associated themselves with this process. Indian co-operators aimed at peace, progress, prosperity and solidarity and therefore interested themselves in the matter of global peace as outlined in the ICA Resolution on peace. There was potentiality for progress and there were also resources and the time was not far off when the prosperity of the Indian people would be achieved. Indian co-operators had joined hands in this process and were making a significant contribution. In this task they continued to seek help and guidance from this enlightened and distinguished gathering.

Mr M. MARIK, Czechoslovakia, said that the efforts of the working party which had drafted the long-term programme deserved appreciation. It was difficult to set up a long-term programme for an international organisation which grouped together members from different social and economic systems and with different political ideals. Therefore the programme had to be a compromise reflecting the desire to find a consensus, and could not satisfy all the member organisations.

The authors had defined it as an open document which would be supplemented and adapted to new conditions. However, a great deal of attention had to be paid to some of the problems. It would have been better if the document had used a more precise terminology. It was essential to define the nature of the ties between the state and the co-operative

movement, because these ties determined the position and the function of the movement in society. The opinion was shared by all that the co-operative movement must give assistance to the forces wishing to remove capitalist exploitation. It was the duty of the ICA and of the co-operative membership to struggle against domination and pressure from monopolies. This had been stressed in a number of resolutions of the ICA. It would be difficult to work concretely if co-operators only wished to eliminate inequalities and did not devote their efforts to removing the roots of these inequalities, and if they did not attempt to bring about relationships which would in turn lead to a progressive economic and social system.

The co-operative movement in Czechoslovakia fully understood the aims and needs of the Alliance. Within the framework of its abilities the movement attempted to support the aims of the ICA, participating in implementing the tasks of the Co-operative Development Decade and, in particular, in assisting in the training of cadres from the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. During the last four years approximately 10 million Czechoslovak krona had been spent on the training of co-operators from developing countries. This activity would be expanded in the future in order to support the aims of the Alliance.

#### **REPLY TO THE DEBATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 1977-1980**

In summing up the discussions, the DIRECTOR of the ICA, Dr S. K. Saxena, said that he would summarise groups of areas, of subjects, which had been presented by the various speakers

and not reply to individual comments.

Comments had given the ICA a great deal of food for thought. The suggested work programme would be amended appropriately after assessing the consensus of Congress. It would then go back to the Executive Committee for its implementation. The programme should not be cast in so rigid a mould that it could not respond to immediate changing situations.

A great deal of emphasis had been laid on the fact that the ICA was a service organisation and that it should assist the national movements. This was, of course, strictly in keeping with co-operative principles, where the organisation was serving its masters who were its members. A couple of major points had been made in this connection. One had related to the ICA's efforts in arranging for the exchange of experiences in a wide variety of fields—technical meetings, seminars and so on. A fairly comprehensive mechanism for this purpose existed at present within the Alliance, although perhaps some rationalisation might be necessary here and there.

The second point within this area of discussion related to the information which was available to the Alliance, in response to which it had formulated its programme. The process of constant monitoring had been mentioned because it was only in this way that the Alliance could be informed of the topicality of problems which were to be discussed or further discussed at various meetings of the ICA. One suggested approach in the paper was the creation of national committees, but this did not mean the creation of a plethora of institutions. There were perhaps already too

many in existence. It was really the concept of a unified source at the national level which could keep the Alliance informed of the urgency and the nature of problems which the national movement actually faced.

Additionally, there were a number of hardy perennials which the Alliance continued to study from time to time. Information on these subjects needed to be collected, classified, interpreted and disseminated to the member organisations of the ICA: legislation on co-operatives, aspects of relations of the co-operative movement to the government, problems of taxation, multi-nationals, structural reforms, and so on; these were all matters which inhibited the operations of the co-operative movement. The Report contained a tentative list of these subjects which should be constantly monitored. The list was bound to decline in importance as time went on, but new issues would emerge to take their place. Therefore, the information coming from member organisations would help the ICA to up-date the areas which required constant study and discussion. These comments related to yesterday's and the morning's debate.

The second part of the debate had emphasised the universality and solidarity of the movement consistent with increasing specialisation. There were two or three points to be made on this. There were, of course, different parts of the world where the spread of ICA membership was extremely thin. It was thus a question of getting the ICA known through information media and through contacts the ICA had, such as UN personnel. They had been doing an excellent job in making the ICA known in different parts of the world. But it had

to be said, as the President of the Alliance had repeatedly emphasised, that it was not quantity but quality which should govern the ICA in this respect.

The Executive Committee of the ICA had to continue to apply stringent tests, as laid down in its constitution, before a new organisation was admitted to membership of the Alliance. This was never an easy task.

Another part of the debate had related to the work of the auxiliary committees of the ICA, because that was the process through which the Alliance was seeking to specialise in terms of its activities. Delegates were familiar with their work, as they were mentioned during the debate. Not much more needed to be said about them. But it was important to recognise that the definition of an expert, knowing more and more about less and less, was both important and also somewhat dangerous in terms of the interdependent nature of many of the world's contemporary problems. These were some of the issues, but there were others which did not respect the traditional frontiers. By instituting a meeting of chairmen and secretaries of auxiliaries it should be possible to bring the strength of the entire co-operative movement to bear on a topical problem. Any number of them had to be faced. There were also varying degrees of closeness between the ICA Secretariat and the various auxiliary committees. More had to be done from the Secretariat's point of view in this respect. However, the structure of the auxiliary committees was not uniform and therefore it was not possible to devise a general pattern for what was at present a fairly diverse structure.

Regionalisation had been mentioned.

As and when necessary extensions of the auxiliary committees in different parts of the world should be created. There existed already an extension in the case of agriculture and fisheries in South-East Asia. There were some discussions of a similar nature, although in a different field, concerning East Africa. But before this was done the ICA must ensure that the need for such an extension existed; that existing structures, unless there were special reasons to the contrary, were respected, and that the extension was welcome and satisfied a genuinely felt need in the region concerned.

The other aspect of regionalisation related to the persistent demand for ICA's presence in West Africa, the Middle East and perhaps in Latin America. That these areas needed help from the international fraternity was too obvious to repeat. The Director, therefore, wished to express his appreciation to the Minister of State for Co-operation (India), Mr George, and to the various speakers from West Africa for their support, actual or promised, and their passionate advocacy of this cause. In the case of West Africa matters seemed to be moving satisfactorily. The Executive Committee was discussing the possibility of sending out a mission to West Africa to study some of these aspects. There were a number of prerequisites which needed careful consideration and the offers of help which had been made had been noted. These were, of course, most welcome, simply because the ICA itself had a rather miserable budget as everybody knew.

The efforts of all the auxiliary committees and their contributions in various ways were greatly appreciated. The contribution to be made by the

Banking Committee to the Thrift and Credit Conference to be held in Rio in April 1977 was especially appreciated. The International Liaison Committee which was organising the Conference performed a useful function in that it made it possible for the ICA to have contact with a large number of thrift and credit institutions, many of which were not within its membership.

It also had to be appreciated that the international co-operative financial institutions in the advanced countries were working in a highly competitive environment and did not have limitless funds for transfer to developing countries. But there was in these financial institutions another possibility. A wide ranging expertise was available. Looking at the recent World Bank sector policy paper there was a great possibility of a liaison between the banking institutions in the co-operative movement and the World Bank. This was an idea which ought to be explored and studied much more carefully. In these discussions the assistance of the co-operative finance people would be needed.

The second point in this connection concerned the international inter-lending programme which was currently under discussion and for which the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) had given a certain amount of money to carry out feasibility studies under the offices of the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives (COPAC).

Passing on to agriculture, on which some very precise comments had been made by Mr Stevenson of the FAO and from Mr Kaminski of Poland, the Director informed Congress that discussions were taking place with the FAO.

Within the context of their recent policy on field projects yielding quick results, one would hope these would be successful. The trickling down effect referred to earlier had revealed many leakages, but the dilemma for an international organisation like the ICA was that it might create small, isolated projects which were useful in themselves but made no major dent in the policy decisions of the governments concerned. Nevertheless Mr Stevenson's point was very well taken in terms of an integrated rural development programme and the orientation of efforts towards increased production. These would be increasingly reflected in the work of the ICA Regional Offices in South-East Asia and East Africa.

Mr Kaminski had made some worthwhile comments. He had mentioned the assistance to agricultural co-operatives through a broad exchange of information and the help in food production by arranging for the training of experts and the exchange of scientific know-how. The Agricultural Committee had been re-constituted and discussions would take place with the new chairman as soon as possible with regard to setting specific priorities.

There was also the wider question of the representation of various sectors within the power structure of the Alliance itself. We were conditioned by our history, as somebody had said, but it could be said to some extent that we were moving away from our history in keeping with the changes of modern times.

Mr Morsink from the United Nations said that there was a great deal of re-thinking taking place within the Economic and Social Council on the role of

co-operatives. The background to this was well known. It started with the research studies which had been carried out by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in Geneva. The ICA had strongly contested the findings of those studies, not because it was scared of criticism but because it regarded the methodology as faulty. But ICA's response to the request from the Secretary General of the United Nations as contained in the document, to which he had made reference, was very positive. Mr Morsink had already mentioned that the Alliance would be mounting an expert consultation at the highest possible level in terms of intellectual sophistication on the subject of co-operatives and the rural poor. But one comment had to be made here. A distinction had to be made between co-operative effort and rehabilitation finance. Rehabilitation finance was the responsibility of the government, and to that the co-operative movement was prepared to add its mind, its experience, and sometimes even its mistakes. This was an important distinction which must be kept in mind.

There had been interventions about finance from Mr Søiland, Mr Thedin and other delegates. The *ad hoc* finance group would meet in November to look at the whole range of questions which affected the ICA from the financial point of view. Perhaps a "basket" of currencies needed to be created for establishing the subscription currency of the ICA. Perhaps some indexing schemes were needed. Perhaps much stricter monitoring was needed so that member organisations were always paying their proper dues. Above all, the staff in the Secretariat had to be introspective in seeing

that their own efforts were relevant to the needs of the movement. But if the situation was not sorted out, the whole discussion would have been a waste. The reasons why and when the ICA got a confluence of positive factors for its work were not easy to understand. However, there was now evidence of a resurgence of interest and even a faith in international people's organisations, and the ICA must not falter.

The PRESIDENT then asked Congress to vote on the Resolution submitted by the Central Committee. The Resolution was carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION ON ICA's PROGRAMME OF WORK (1977-80)

The 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance:

RECALLS the suggestion made at the 25th Congress for a long term programme of work to be drawn up;

EMPHASISES the primary importance of better planning, co-ordination, careful forecasting and control of the activities of ICA and its affiliated organisations;

RECOGNISES the complexity in the formulation of the programme and the importance of the need to interpret it flexibly;

#### NOTES THAT

- (a) co-operatives must be helped to achieve increased efficiency in their economic operations through carefully devised programmes of education and management training, research, inter-co-operative collaboration and structural reforms;
- (b) effective publicity, extending ICA membership projection of ICA's image as an efficient organisation, and close coordination with Auxiliary Committees are all very necessary;
- (c) much has been achieved under the pro-

gramme of the Co-operative Development Decade but that much more needs to be done in providing assistance to movements in developing countries directly and in collaboration with the United Nations and its specialised agencies;

(d) the vital pre-condition for the execution of all these tasks is the strengthening of the ICA Secretariat;

ADOPTS the programme as formulated in the document "ICA's Programme of Work

1977-1980" as amended by Congress;

**UNDERLINES** that the implementation of this programme necessitates increased resources and calls upon the Central Committee to outline within one year the responsibilities of members in implementation of the programme;

ASKS that regular reports be made to the Executive and Central Committees of the Alliance and a final report be presented to Congress in 1980.

## Collaboration between Co-operatives

Collaboration between co-operatives has been one of the major objectives of the International Co-operative Alliance since its inception over 80 years ago. When the ICA Commission on Co-operative Principles reported in 1966 it proposed that collaboration between co-operatives should be proclaimed a basic principle of the movement and this proposal was approved at the 23rd Congress of the Alliance held in that year in Vienna. The same Congress approved a report on structural changes which was concerned with the development of closer collaboration between primary and federal co-operatives in national movements. The ICA paper on "Multinational Corporations and the International Co-operative Movement: Financial and Managerial Imperatives" prepared for the ICA Congress in Warsaw in 1972 discussed the need for even closer collaboration between co-operatives in face of the growing power of large companies.

Collaboration between co-operatives was further discussed at the meetings of the ICA Central Committee in 1973 and 1974, when it was recommended that a Working Party on "Collaboration between Co-operatives" should be set up by the ICA Executive Committee to give further consideration to the matter.

The paper presented by the Working Party approached the subject from the point of view of:

- collaboration at national level to form wholesale and other federal societies for a common purpose;
- collaboration between consumer, producer, agricultural and other co-operatives in the field of trade and production;
- collaboration between the national movements of different countries with special attention to inter-cooperative trade;
- financial collaboration between national movements, often through international co-operative agencies;
- exchange of experience and knowledge through national consultation, education and instruction;
- more effective collaboration with other organisations at national and international levels.

## **REPORT ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN CO-OPERATIVES**

Mr A. P. KLIMOV, Vice-President of the ICA, introducing the Report stated that it was both timely and useful to discuss the question of collaboration between co-operatives, for such discussion responded to the urgent requirements of today.

International collaboration between co-operatives also represented a contribution towards the implementation of the resolutions of the Helsinki Conference. It served the development of mutual understanding between nations and countries and also the cause of peace and social progress. For those participating in the international co-operative movement, there was no loftier or nobler aim than the promotion of co-operative collaboration.

But co-operative collaboration was not merely collaboration between co-operatives of one or different kinds or between their unions at different levels, but also a relationship with the outside world, in the interests of the co-operative movement. It also provided the opportunity for contacts with similar and kindred movements, organisations and institutions. The development of the co-operative movement depended on such collaboration which constituted the very essence of Co-operation as a democratic mass organisation set up for mutual aid and relations among individuals. A co-operative organisation was only effective if it combined within its activities the interests and the aims of the individual with the interests and aims of society as a whole.

The Report was the result of almost two years' work of the Working Party whose members voiced points of view

which did not always coincide with those of the others. Therefore the Report was a document of compromise, but it fully expressed the idea and illustrated existing co-operative collaboration. Its recommendations would not only serve as an object for careful study, but also as a good basis for practical action in this field by national and international co-operative organisations. The development and intensifying of collaboration at all levels of the movement should correspond to the economic and social needs of co-operators, should promote the strengthening of the co-operative economy in the interests of members, and should contribute towards the elevation of the role and authority of Co-operation at national and international level.

In common with the other members of the Working Party, he had stressed the importance of inter-cooperative trade and international co-operative trade which were of vital importance to all co-operative organisations. Their promotion facilitated commercial activities of consumer, supply and marketing co-operatives, widened the opportunities for co-operative production, helped to increase employment and to lower the prices of goods, and helped co-operatives to enlarge their role in protecting the economic and social interests of the ordinary people. International co-operative trade was also an important factor of co-operative development in developing countries. It was a contribution to the development of economic contacts between countries. It helped to raise the standard of living of the people and made a contribution towards mutual understanding, confidence and collaboration between people and states.



However the development of international trade, including co-operative trade, met obstacles of a political character, customs barriers and other difficulties connected with the existence of closed economic groupings and the domination by cartels and monopolies of the world market. The ICA and national movements should insist that governments abolish restrictive practices which hampered the promotion of free trade between countries.

The Alliance had in its membership co-operatives of different types, from different countries with differing socio-economic systems. Each national movement had its own national experience and problems, its successes, difficulties and tasks and its own direction of developing collaboration. Therefore the document to be discussed ought to be regarded as a declaration of principle on collaboration and used as a guide for concrete action, while taking account of national conditions. It was in this that the value of the Report lay.

Each national and international organisation would be able to select from the document a suitable direction for itself and in addition draw on the experiences of other organisations. Soviet co-operators were always very interested to learn from the experience of co-operators in other countries and for this purpose co-operative experts had visited co-operative enterprises in many countries. Soviet co-operators were also prepared to share their experiences with co-operators from other countries.

In the Report an attempt had been made to show and even to generalise concrete experience of collaboration at national and international levels. It was undoubtedly a useful attempt, because

different countries and different socio-economic systems had their own peculiarities and traditions of co-operative structure. Even before the October Revolution in 1917, the national union in his country was the organisational, political, ideological and economic centre which also carried out the functions of a wholesale organisation supplying the retail trade and helping its development. The concentration of all functions in one central organisation had been justified and its expediency had never been doubted. This structure provided for good relations between the central organisation and the primary co-operatives and had enabled co-operators to play their part in the democratic decision-making process.

Co-operative organisations of the Western European countries, where a process of centralisation at national level was taking place, could learn useful lessons from the Soviet experience. A basic principle was adhered to in the Soviet Union which was that economic efficiency had to be combined with safeguarding the democratic rights of members.

Referring to collaboration and exchange of experience between co-operative organisations in Socialist countries, Mr Klimov referred to the regular meetings of the leaders of central co-operative organisations of member countries of COMECON which discussed and adopted five-year plans of economic, scientific and technical collaboration. These plans dealt with rationalisation of retail trade, purchasing and foreign trade activities, the study of methods of management; the scientific organisation of labour; training, research, exchange of information and documentation and joint inter-

national initiatives and activities. The five-year plan for the period 1976-1980 covered a wide programme of work to be carried out by co-operators of seven countries. Working groups had been set up to study specific aspects and seminars and conferences and symposia for specialists from this group of countries had been organised. Foreign trade relations between the different countries had been promoted over the past 20 years. Long-term trade relations would be developed in future not only with socialist countries but, it was also hoped, with capitalist and developing countries.

The experience of developing collaboration between the socialist countries on a planned, systematic and long-term basis was of interest to co-operators of other countries. They would be welcome to acquaint themselves with this experience.

In the document under discussion mention had been made of possible collaboration of co-operatives with capitalist institutions and enterprises. Co-operators of socialist countries understood well enough that co-operatives of capitalist countries could not conduct their activities in a vacuum. They were part and parcel of the economies of their countries. Co-operators in the socialist countries, however, watched with great alarm the development of increased collaboration of certain co-operative organisations in the West with private capitalist enterprises, including monopolistic enterprises. Trying to justify this trend, some co-operative leaders asserted that such collaboration provided opportunities to use "co-operative influence" on the private capitalist sector

and to teach it co-operative ideas and principles.

It had, however, been demonstrated that such collaboration, which brought only temporary and insignificant benefits, undermined the principles of Co-operation and led to a striving only for profit. In attempting to survive at any price in the competitive struggle, at the same time waiving genuine co-operative ideals and principles, co-operatives degenerated and were sometimes ruined. The tragic experience of certain co-operative movements bore witness to this.

An alternative, and the most proper solution to the problem, was to strengthen the economic potential of co-operatives in capitalist countries through the promotion of collaboration between co-operatives at all levels, thus uniting the efforts of co-operators in their struggle against the domination of monopolies for the democratisation of economic and political life by the adoption of legislation limiting the activities of monopolies and by the establishment of economic conditions favourable to the development of co-operatives.

This struggle on the part of the co-operative movements could only be effective if it was linked with the activities of other democratic movements having similar tasks, such as trade unions and political parties acting in the interests of the people.

Mr Klimov called on the participants of Congress and their organisations to devote their activities to these tasks and to the promotion of collaboration which not only in words but in deeds served the cause of social progress, democracy and peace.

## Sixth Session

Thursday, 30th September 1976  
(afternoon)

The GENERAL SECRETARY announced that 19 nominations had been received for 13 places on the Executive Committee. A separate election would be held for the President and the two Vice-Presidents.

### REPORT ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN CO-OPERATIVES (cont.)

Mr L. A. HARRISON, Chairman of the Working Party on Collaboration between Co-operatives, stated that collaboration between co-operatives had been recognised as an inherent need by generations of co-operators before it had been proclaimed a basic co-operative principle. It was indeed part of the very nature of co-operative activity. As the ICA Commission on Co-operative Principles commented:

“Such working together implies not merely the loyal collaboration, within their unions and federations, of co-operatives of a given type, but also closer and more helpful relationships between co-operatives of different types on every level where this is practicable.”

The establishment of “more intimate and comprehensive inter-cooperative relations” had been the main aim of the ICA throughout the 81 years of its existence—an aim which called upon the united effort of all co-operative institutions at local, regional, national and international levels, whether they be consumer, agricultural, fishery, workers’ productive, housing, credit, banking or insurance co-operatives.

The motivating force of the central

aim had meant that the ICA had grown from a small grouping into the vast organisation it was today, one which embraced 166 co-operative organisations in 66 countries with a total membership of 326 millions.

Further, the Commission had recognised that these Co-operative Principles “support and reinforce each other”, and also that the co-operative movement needed to “concentrate its power in larger units by applying consistently without restriction, from the local to the international plane, the principle of Co-operation among co-operatives to make its greatness manifest and to act successfully against the monopolies”.

Competition from large scale capitalist organisations, not only in the home markets, but also on the international scene, was becoming more formidable. That was why the co-operative movement had to match this growing competition, collaborate to make itself more technically efficient, more integrated, more co-operative. The theme of collaboration between co-operatives was both urgent and challenging.

Mr Harrison pointed out that his approach in introducing this Report to Congress was to be suggestive rather than dogmatic, and to indicate a number of the more important issues in the hope that contributors to the discussion would bring forward experiences and quote examples which they thought would take the debate on collaboration forward, and result in further practical steps to be taken.

Referring to collaboration in trade, he said that in Sweden the centralisation of buying, with assortment policies determined by collaboration between Kooperativa Förbundet and the retail

societies, had achieved important economies and a distinctive marketing approach which had established the consumer co-operative movement as the main leader in retailing in that country. In the United Kingdom, retail societies purchased something like 70 per cent of their requirements through the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and in Norway 50 per cent had been achieved.

Although collaboration did not necessarily imply merger, closer collaboration in the use of co-operative resources, both physical and financial, did often result in structural reform and formal merger, competitive necessity being the main motivating factor.

In Denmark the merger of FDB and the HB Society in Copenhagen had resulted in close relations being established between FDB and the very considerable number of 'B' societies and even closer relations with the 'A' societies. Important steps towards collaboration and integration were being taken in the Federal Republic of Germany, where there had been reorganisation and centralisation, and in Austria where plans for the integration by merger of the Konsumverband with the wholesale society and the retail societies were well advanced.

In the United Kingdom and in Sweden, the possibility of establishing a single national society had been discussed. But the major issue which was at present being debated in the British movement was whether a single national federation, which had proved so successful in Sweden, would be established. Such a move would mean that the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Co-operative Union would merge and combine their functions.

The trend towards closer collaboration and amalgamation, noted in Vienna ten years ago, had continued in the agricultural co-operative movement as well as in the consumer co-operative movement. One recent example of a successful and important merger in the agricultural movement had taken place in Poland, where the dairy co-operatives and the Central Agricultural Union had merged. In the USA the big agricultural co-operatives collaborated between themselves to export their products; their supply relations with the big supermarket chains were developing, as indeed were their trade relations with the multinational corporations. In Japan important economies had already been achieved through the amalgamation of the purchasing and marketing co-operatives to form Zen-noh. Economies had also been achieved in the past five years from the merger of the agricultural co-operative movement with the Swedish Farmers' Union.

Collaboration was infinite in its variety of forms. In the UK the development of regional warehousing in the late sixties, and the merger in 1973 of the CWS with the Scottish Co-operative Society, had assisted the processes of procurement and integration. NORMID, a retail marketing group with a purchasing power of £400 million, was a successful example of local collaboration in both procurement and marketing. These examples from Britain undoubtedly had an important bearing on the increase in the movement's share of retail trade in recent years. Freedom of retail societies in Finland to buy direct from manufacturers was said to act as a spur to the wholesalers to operate more efficiently. In France the consumer movement had

made impressive progress in spite of the competition from big hypermarkets, which was tougher than it was from the supermarkets and smaller shops ten years ago. In Western Europe in the next few years it was hoped to see closer collaboration between agricultural and consumer co-operatives in food distribution. International comparisons of the extent of such collaboration—certainly of the experiences in Eastern Europe—would be helpful.

The ICA, as an international organisation, was perhaps primarily concerned with collaboration between co-operatives at the international level. Here the outstanding achievement was the close collaboration of Nordisk Andelsforbund and INTER-COOP.

Mr Harrison then posed the question whether the initiative taken by consumer co-operatives in these organisations would encourage prospects for further joint co-operative development and the growth of inter-cooperative trade collaboration between the Western European and Eastern European co-operative movements.

Progress in collaboration between co-operatives in Europe and co-operative supply organisations in the developing countries would also be welcomed. Ten years ago a comprehensive survey of co-operative trade prospects in South East Asia had been undertaken. Since then the International Co-operative Trade Organisation had been established in Singapore, with the object of providing co-operative organisations with market information on products of interest to them and also to assist in buying and selling. The Japanese-Thai Feed-grains Agreement had now existed for over ten years. The Indian Fertiliser

project was progressing. Co-operative trade in Africa and Latin America was developing.

Talking about collaboration of co-operatives with governments, Mr Harrison pointed out that co-operatives needed the support of governments to make it easier for new co-operative ventures to be established, especially in the developing countries. Governments were introducing legislation on social issues which co-operative movements had espoused for many years, such as the environment, pollution, consumer protection and overseas co-operative development. Governmental support in the form of loans to the various types of co-operative enterprise was required—in the development of agricultural and fisheries co-operatives, producer co-operatives, and credit unions, in retail distribution and in the United Kingdom for the establishment of a Co-operative Development Agency. In Eastern Europe co-operative and governmental collaboration was close.

Governments in recent times had given financial support to various types of producer co-operative, such as the Meriden co-operative and the co-operative at Kirby near Liverpool in the UK. Both co-operatives had been established with government support after the privately-owned companies had gone bankrupt. In the United States a Bill was under consideration for the establishment of a National Consumer Co-operative Bank with finance coming mainly from federal sources: the Bill would allow for loans up to \$250 million a year for four years. It was envisaged that a consumer co-operative banking system would be developed, similar to the Farm Credit System with its banks for co-

operatives which was first launched some sixty years ago. The banks were now wholly owned by farmers because the money borrowed from the government had been fully repaid.

Support was being given by government agencies in a number of countries for aid to co-operatives in developing countries. The Ministry of Overseas Development of the UK had recently approved financial support of a study on industrial co-operatives in developing countries to be carried out by the ICA. In Hungary, for instance, the industrial and consumer co-operatives had lent their support to the promotion of co-operatives in developing countries. In most countries governments recognised the contribution co-operatives could make to the economic and social development of a particular country.

Practical collaboration existed in a number of countries between co-operatives and trade unions. In Sweden in the field of co-operative insurance and travel, in Finland in the field of research and in the Federal Republic of Germany trade unions were associated with the consumer co-operatives. Such collaboration also existed in developing countries, and at the international level closer collaboration was being established between the ICA and the international trade union organisations on discussions of such problems as the multinational corporations.

Collaboration between the ICA and the United Nations agencies and with a number of international non-governmental organisations continued to be close. Such collaboration was important because it enabled the co-operative point of view to be stated at conferences

and seminars of these agencies and organisations.

Commercial collaboration between co-operatives and companies was developing as co-operative trade grew. Joint ventures between co-operative societies and private enterprise had led to the establishment of large-scale productive enterprises. Co-operatives, however, were strongly opposed to monopoly and the domination of world markets by multinational corporations because their practices affected supplies and prices. The record of the Swedish consumer co-operative movement in breaking monopolies was well known.

International collaboration in the field of finance was carried out through collaboration between the ICA Banking Committee, the World Council of Credit Unions and the International Liaison Committee. "International Financing of Co-operative Enterprises in Developing Countries" was one of the subjects discussed at the Third International Conference on Co-operative Thrift and Credit held in London in 1974.

The Report of the Working Party called for increased collaboration between all kinds of co-operatives, and for the Central Committee to seek ways and means of extending such collaboration and of implementing the sixth Co-operative Principle. There was certainly room for closer collaboration between different kinds of co-operatives in many countries, and a need for closer collaboration to help co-operatives to compete more effectively with the multinationals.

Because international co-operative organisations were relatively few they did not match the scale of operations of the multinational corporations, and a great deal of work had still to be done to in-

crease the number of such organisations and the resources of those already operating. Nevertheless the International Co-operative Petroleum Association had shown that a co-operative could operate on a fully international basis. The Swedish oil co-operatives (O.K.) were exploring the possibility of extending their international operations. The new International Energy Co-operative was also expanding its activities.

The International Organisation for Consumer Co-operative Distributive Trades—INTER-COOP—which had in its membership consumer co-operative central organisations in West and East European countries as well as in Israel and Japan, stood as an outstanding example of what could be done through collaboration. INTER-COOP had been instrumental in developing trade between co-operatives and in furthering co-operative thought and practice on retail problems through its working groups, such as those on Food Stores, Department Stores and Shopping Centres, and Warehousing and Distribution. It was hoped that, following Congress, more retail societies' representatives would be brought closer to its work generally and more particularly become involved in the activities of the working groups.

Summing up, Mr Harrison pointed out that the Report asked for collaboration between co-operatives at all levels to grow and develop. This could often be done without structural change, although it had been recognised that collaboration often led to integration and structural change. In essence collaboration meant the adoption by co-operatives of a Good Neighbour Policy to each other. How else could increased trade

opportunities be sought, joint ventures developed, exchange visits increased, communications improved, the exchange of publications increased, collaboration between co-operative organisations and academic institutions on research into the ways and means of extending collaboration between co-operatives fostered, without this approach being made manifest in practical ways? The proposal asked for ways and means for the ICA Central Committee further to extend collaboration between co-operatives, such as through conferences and seminars.

Secondly, because of the growing strength and competitive power of multinational companies, the Report favoured closer forms of integration to be developed as outlined in the ICA Resolution on Multinational Corporations adopted by the Warsaw Congress.

The motion on Collaboration between Co-operatives was a very important one. It would feature prominently in making the ICA's programme of work a success. Increased collaboration would make a signal contribution to the strengthening of the co-operative movement throughout the world. It would assist co-operators to make their contribution to the New International Economic Order, towards which the developing countries were asking for more positive and more authoritative action.

## **DEBATE ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN CO-OPERATIVES**

Mr M. SPRECHER, USA, told Congress that he was a farmer producer belonging to the most efficient group of farmers in the world. This had been proved by the amount of grain the group

had been able to export throughout the world.

Land O'Lakes Incorporated, the large regional co-operative with headquarters in Minneapolis, originated in a small way. With a borrowed typewriter and hardly enough money to open a bank account it was launched in 1921. At first it was a dairy co-operative specialising in butter manufacturing and marketing. Through a series of mergers and acquisitions, accompanied by a well-devised plan for internal growth, it now had sales of one billion two hundred million dollars and savings of thirty-four million dollars. It had blossomed into one of the larger co-operative enterprises in America and was on the way to becoming one of the nation's leading food concerns.

Land O'Lakes had long ceased to be a butter organisation. It was now diversified in both agricultural services and in food processing and marketing. It provided nearly all of the agricultural inputs and the broad range of goods that farmers needed to grow crops and rear poultry and livestock. It produced and sold over 600 varieties of food products. To serve this agricultural variety, Land O'Lakes became diversified so that it could absorb the shock of those inevitable years when product prices moved up and down in the economic cycle responding to supply and demand, or reacting to the influence of other economic factors.

Delegates might wonder why his organisation found it necessary to work with other co-operatives. The answer to that question was easy. Land O'Lakes believed in the broad meaning of the word "co-operation". Where there were social and economic advantages, it was decided to work with other co-operatives

by forming inter-regional co-operatives or by working jointly in a mutual effort. An inter-regional was an organisation of regional co-operatives such as Land O'Lakes which joined together to accomplish a specific task. They, investing together, were able to purchase extremely expensive facilities that one co-operative might not be able to afford. The major advantage accruing from joint ventures was that economy of size was assured. When the members pooled capital, they could build or buy facilities large enough to be competitive, to keep unit costs down and to produce in large quantities because of the market potential provided by the regional co-operative member owners.

Land O'Lakes had also been involved at state and national level with other co-operatives in education, member relations and governmental affairs. When inter-regional organisations were developed, two additional benefits were frequently obtained: first, the regional co-operatives' management was freed to run the regional co-operative. Management of inter-regional facilities was delegated to professionals specifically trained in these kinds of operations. Secondly, regional co-operatives spread the capital risk that was naturally present in large manufacturing investments.

These were some of the things regional co-operatives were doing together. Seventeen regional co-operatives in the United States and two in Canada had organised C. F. Industries, one of America's largest fertiliser companies. The economy of size became very apparent when examining C.F.'s production figures. The organisation owned four anhydrous ammonia plants in Louisiana, three in other locations across the



United States and two new ones in Canada. Many of these plants had been in production for some time. Additional ones were coming on stream next year. By 1977, total production capacity would be 2,085,000 tons of anhydrous ammonia a year.

Production figures in phosphate were equally impressive. Two plants owned in Florida mined and processed 1,265,000 tons of acid  $P_2O_5$  per year. Through ownership in potash mines in Canada and exclusive contracts elsewhere, C.F. Industries produced 1,900,000 tons of potash each year for its membership. Transportation and storage facilities were also part of the system. The organisation owned nineteen anhydrous ammonia terminals, nine UAN solution tanks and five strategically located warehouses for dry products, plus innumerable barges, tow boats and a long-term contract on a pipeline.

Twenty-five co-operatives owned a large farm supply organisation, called Universal Co-operatives. Through this organisation, mass purchases of products like twine, tyres, automotive supplies and a multitude of other products permitted price breaks for its member owners.

In 1970 ownership in a refinery in one of America's plain states had been acquired. It served adequately as a reliable source of petroleum products for co-operatives and their farmer owners, but with the energy crisis it had become increasingly evident that this ownership was not broad enough. Nine regional co-operatives had recently purchased a large refinery on the edge of Chicago. It was presently processing 140,000 barrels of crude oil per day. To back up its ownership of the two refineries, inter-

regional co-operatives had explored for crude oil in Egypt. All of these projects had become possible when regional co-operatives had recognised the value of pooling capital and sharing risks to accomplish tasks together.

Some time ago, a warehousing/transportation co-operative called AgFoods had been organised by regional co-operatives. The main purpose of this organisation was to reduce costs by developing a collecting point warehouse. Regional co-operatives, shipping on their own, often found they were sending products to the retailer in less than carload lots. By using a central warehouse for storage and reshipment, loads could be combined, mixing packages and transporting to the retail market in heavily populated areas.

Land O'Lakes, along with many other regional co-operatives in the United States, had made a substantial contribution several years ago to the development of the Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Co-operative. This had not been a commercial venture. It had been a contribution to help the farmers of India, working through their government and their co-operatives, to obtain fertiliser and thereby increase their agricultural output.

Land O'Lakes also marketed and processed soya beans. Many regional co-operatives were now working together to see what could be done in the international export market for the benefit of American farmers. Local co-operatives had long served the farmers as grain marketing units. Forty per cent of the grain produced in America was handled by co-operatives at collecting points. Twenty-five per cent of it was moved to the ports by co-operatives, but from

that point on co-operatives shipped a very limited amount of farmers' products into the export market. Much needed to be done in this area.

The time had come to ask what other ventures could be embarked upon together. Land O'Lakes had an almost missionary zeal for the family farm type of operation and was positive that co-operatives perpetuated that kind of ownership. Through inter-regional organisations, building facilities big enough to get the job done, it had been possible to bring real benefits to the farmer owners. As a diversified agricultural, food processing and marketing organisation, the farmers who owned Land O'Lakes obtained their reward. It added value to their products, it found markets for their products and the members reaped the benefits that derived through integration from the soil to the retail shelf. Whenever that mission could be accomplished better by working together with other similar organisations the possibilities would be evaluated and the necessary steps would be taken.

Mr K. F. GHYIA, India, said that collaboration between co-operatives had been realised in India in the Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative, IFFCO. Magnificent help and moral strength had been given to Indian farmers. They had also received subsidies and technical know-how.

Before this project had been started in India, people were often of the opinion that, although the co-operative movement could start credit societies, processing units and banking institutions, as well as some small industries, it could never handle a big project such as IFFCO. With the help and guidance of Mr F. Owen from the Cooperative

League of the USA, not only the physical facilities had been provided but also the moral strength and the needed inspiration. This aid from a developed nation to a developing country had to be greatly admired. Today IFFCO had a membership of about 26,000 village level co-operatives embracing 25 million farmers. This huge organisation on a co-operative basis was not only the biggest in India but perhaps the largest in Asia.

The Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, had great faith in the co-operative movement but had expressed doubts about such a big project. It was generally thought that huge plants required professional leadership not easily available in a country like India, but with a good team and with professional management it had been possible not only to inspire the Indian co-operative movement but also the movements in other developing countries.

Today the co-operative movement in India was involved in the activities of 95 per cent of the villages with a membership of over 36 million. It covered some 41 per cent of the rural population.

One of the fundamental principles of Co-operation was democracy. Co-operation could not exist without democracy or democracy without Co-operation. People in India believed in democracy. India was passing through a revolution at present and the co-operative method was being used as something unique. A new society should be formed in which no man could exploit another. That could be achieved through the co-operative movement.

When the Cooperative League of the USA became involved in collaboration with Indian co-operators they could not

have realised that this would lead to such developments. IFFCO today was one of the 20 top producers in India. There was now a project in Allahabad involving the expenditure of some 16,000 million rupees, which would be one of the ten largest projects in India once it started operations.

Collaboration between co-operative institutions on an international basis not only made it possible to start new projects, but it also helped to realise wider horizons, in the sense that one could think in terms of social and economic revolution and of solving the problems of society by means of Co-operation.

Mr CH. VEVERKA, France, said that it had been an excellent initiative on the part of the Executive Committee to suggest that the question of collaboration between co-operatives be put on the Agenda for Congress. The reports of Mr Klimov and Mr Harrison had enabled delegates to become aware of the necessity of developing and extending collaboration at this level. For ideological and for economic reasons co-operatives had to be strong enough to stand up against the concentration of multinational corporations. Only by concentrating their efforts would they be able to compete successfully with private capital.

The Report showed that the level of collaboration, either nationally or internationally, was not yet sufficient. On a national level the situation was different from country to country. It should be recognised that strength was only found in unity. Only by adhering closely to co-operative principles could co-operatives be really effective in their work.

It was necessary to extend collaboration between different types of co-operatives. First of all, however, the condi-

tions which made collaboration possible must be determined objectively. Agricultural co-operatives wished to give their members the best price for their produce, while consumer co-operatives wished to benefit the consumer by achieving the lowest prices for them. Great wisdom and a sense of reality were obviously needed in dealing with these problems. A *modus vivendi* had to be found and it was necessary to work together for the benefit of all the parties concerned. Through the use of new techniques of organisation and financing it would be possible to develop collaboration gradually.

In France there was hope that progress would be made in this field. A start had already been made, but in the international field the problem was much greater. From his own experience, he knew that international collaboration between co-operatives was a slow task. There had to be a proper exchange of information and experience so that suitable guidelines for the future could be drawn up.

Mr Veverka pointed out that he himself had contributed to some of the positive results achieved by INTER-COOP. But it was hoped to achieve better results in the field of merchandising and the dissemination of new techniques in the future. In the case of joint production on an international level certain difficulties had been encountered. Errors which had been made in the past must not be repeated. It must not happen again that enterprises were set up which were not able to adapt themselves to the problems facing them or which were too large for what was required. National co-operatives had first to agree on the aims they wished to pursue. Solutions must be

defined on the basis of this agreement. All those involved must then work together to achieve the objectives.

These were only moderate suggestions and possibly they did not correspond to the enormous expectations which might be drawn from the reports by Mr Klimov and Mr Harrison, but they were presented with a sincere desire for the success of collaboration on a national as well as on an international level. The two reports would certainly reinforce in the minds and hearts of all co-operators the desire to work together. That was the wish of the French co-operators. They were willing whenever possible to participate in the achievement of these aims, which corresponded to the interests of co-operators throughout the world.

Mr K. F. HARDING, Canada, stated that the Report referred to the very fine collaboration that had existed now for about six years between the Japanese co-operative movement and the fishermen's co-operative in Canada which he represented. This collaboration had been made possible through the Japanese organisation CoopTrade owned by the consumer co-operatives of Japan and with the assistance of the Hokkaido Federation of Fishery Co-operatives Associations, together with the Prince Rupert fishermen's co-operative in Canada. It had worked admirably. The Canadian fishermen's co-operative had supplied the needs of the Japanese, mainly herring roe. The trade had become very large indeed. Between 25 and 30 per cent of the co-operative's trade, dollar-wise, was with the Japanese group, which was a very significant thing.

The report had, however, incorrectly

stated that this collaboration had resulted in some investment in the plant in Canada by the Japanese group. This was not so. There had been collaboration in trade, but there had been no investment by the Japanese group. This might yet occur.

Mr R. RAMAEKERS, Belgium, felt sure that people outside the co-operative movement would be very surprised to see the subject of collaboration reappearing in some form or other on the agenda of ICA's events. But the problem of true collaboration between co-operatives was a very difficult one and there might be some need to look for the reasons impeding collaboration within the structure of the ICA. There could be a number of reasons for this, such as the structure being too close and co-operators being too absorbed in day-to-day matters. It might be necessary to try and relate more to the world outside in general and to the increasing perspectives which opened out in front of us.

Co-operatives must try to make an impact on the national and the international market. However deep ideological convictions and differences between co-operators might be, they should come together in the spirit of hope which drove people forward towards a new society.

Belgian co-operators faced up to these facts constantly. They favoured this kind of approach knowing that they could only maintain the movement by the simple concept "United we stand, divided we fall", a concept which might be applied to the entire co-operative movement.

Co-operators must recognise the dilemma facing them and the kind of strength they needed. They did not want

to build up a large co-operative movement without any real collaboration. Perhaps co-operators did not really recognise the full force of the structures they could utilise. There was a yawning gap between the apex organisations and the grassroots as co-operative organisations grew bigger and bigger. The elements of a new strength must be found in global co-operative projects, and by mobilising public opinion throughout the co-operative movement it could become a militant organisation, strong and firm in its ideas. This was an ambitious project and some might even ask whether it could be realised.

Mr Ramaekers said he now wished to underline some general tendencies, or some aspects of them, which could be of interest to all member organisations. The first was towards convergence in the various sectors, with unavoidable consequences for the co-operatives in each sector. The second was towards solidarity and using the complementary nature of the co-operative movement so that a suitable framework might be found. A compromise might be appropriate here with the help of the banking and insurance sectors. All co-operatives could contribute financially to the expansion of the movement as a whole, first locally, then nationally and internationally.

The third tendency was towards co-ordination between movements. Belgium was divided into two movements and in some other countries the situation was similar. Today there was greater collaboration between the two movements and it was hoped to reach unity one day.

The fourth tendency was on the international level. Belgian co-operators tried

to make their presence felt in all the committees of the ICA, especially with regard to insurance.

The fifth tendency, which affected and interested many co-operative movements, was towards collaboration with the private sector. It had been decided by his movement to collaborate with the private sector if the interests of Belgian consumers and co-operators demanded such collaboration and where a situation of oligopoly existed. This was true in Belgium with regard to distribution. The markets were dominated by four enterprises whose capital came partly or wholly from foreign sources. This had made it tremendously difficult for a new competitor to break into the market; in other words, there was a tremendous obstacle facing the co-operative movement. This obstacle had been overcome by getting capital from a source which dealt with both the French and Belgian distributors. It had also been stipulated that the co-operative movement could retire from the contract if it failed to produce results.

It was essential that the consumer should be kept fully informed of what he was buying and at what price. It was not possible to ask co-operators to take part in a formal sort of democracy if they had no power to affect decision-making. If they were given the opportunity to attend meetings and take part in long-term planning decisions, they must be in a position to say what choices should be made. The structural reform undertaken in Belgium was designed to make this easier. Co-operators had to be presented with choices which, though sometimes difficult, were far more exciting than the ritual rubber-stamping of decisions.

The Belgian Co-operative Insurance Society and the thrift and credit co-operatives were very strong and no one could say that the co-operative movement had been bought out by the private sector. It was buying out the private sector. If the money of Belgian co-operators was put into private companies, it was done for the betterment of the co-operative movement as a whole. It was therefore of the utmost importance that decisions regarding financial matters should be in the hands of co-operators.

Mr J. KUSTOW, Bulgaria, expressed the gratitude of Bulgarian co-operators to the Working Party for presenting the Report.

Experience showed that collaboration between co-operatives within a sector as well as between different types of co-operatives at national level was of very great importance, particularly in times of inflation and economic depression, in order to fight the competition of large companies and multinational corporations.

With regard to collaboration between co-operatives and private companies, Mr Kustow said provided that the co-operatives preserved their structure, character and independence, it was possible sometimes for such collaboration to be to the advantage of co-operatives. However, when making plans for development, co-operatives should not count on collaboration with monopolies. There existed deep-rooted fundamental contradictions, determined by the very essence of monopolies and co-operatives — contradictions which would show themselves sooner or later. In his opinion, the right way for development was closer and more effective collabora-

tion at national, regional and international level.

Such collaboration existed between the consumer and the agricultural producer co-operatives, members of the Central Co-operative Union, in Bulgaria. Collaboration between these co-operatives contributed largely to raising the standard of living of their members which was the ultimate aim of these basic economic organisations in rural areas. With joint financial and labour resources they promoted the building of shops, shopping centres, restaurants, kindergartens, sports facilities, cultural clubs, etc.

Close financial collaboration between co-operatives and the Central Co-operative Union was of great importance for the development and strengthening of co-operatives. Funds were being set aside by primary co-operatives, to be held by district co-operative unions and the central organisation, for granting interest-free credit to co-operatives for periods of one to ten years, to enable them to build new, reconstruct or modernise existing premises, thus providing almost 100 per cent self-financing of capital expenditure.

Collaboration between different types of co-operatives at national level, as well as support on the part of the State where possible, contributed considerably to their economic and financial stability. At the international level, inter-cooperative collaboration was very important in enabling co-operatives to compete more effectively with large private companies and multinational corporations.

Dr F. MOLNAR, Hungary, said that Hungarian co-operators believed that international collaboration between co-operatives should be many-sided and

serve progressive social, economic, scientific, technical and cultural aims. Such co-operative collaboration made a considerable contribution to the broadening of social and economic relations between countries and promoted the solution of important problems occupying mankind, such as peace, detente, mutual understanding and collaboration in different fields. As a result of the broadening of social and cultural collaboration, economic relations with other co-operative organisations in Hungary and those of other countries were being promoted.

Hungarian co-operators were in the first place interested in the development of external economic relations, as more than 40 per cent of the national income was attained through international economic relations. Economic relations with other co-operatives in Hungary and in other Socialist countries were improving steadily to the advantage of all concerned.

Mr Klimov, the President of Centrosyous, in his address had drawn attention to the importance of collaboration and of the agreements concluded between co-operatives in the Socialist countries. Such collaboration based on mutual interests and advantages guaranteed security of economy and an increase in international trade. Along with an increase in the volume of trade between co-operatives in Socialist countries, favourable results had also been achieved in collaboration in exchanges of technical and scientific information, foreign trade, rationalisation of retail trade, purchasing, education and other important fields. Gradually economic collaboration between Hungarian co-operatives and those in capitalist countries were also improving, but much more needed to be done in this respect.

Apart from activities in the export field, collaboration for industrial and agricultural production had also greatly increased. "Co-operative weeks" organised in different countries had proved successful.

Hungarian co-operators supported those objectives dealing with the promotion of international trade and economic relations which served to strengthen the co-operative movements in developing countries. The widening of international economic relations was of mutual interest to the co-operative movements of all countries. Therefore it was of great importance for the Alliance and the individual co-operative movements to take joint action against international monopolies and fight for the abolition of discrimination which still existed in international economic relations.

In order to improve relations in general and trade in particular it was thought expedient to organise further "co-operative weeks" and to conclude agreements for the exchange of goods also with co-operatives in capitalist countries. Hungarian co-operators were ready to engage in negotiations in this field with all those co-operative organisations which showed a readiness to collaborate in this way. Thus bilateral and multilateral collaboration could be further developed.

Mr E. GROES, Denmark, pointed out that his comments on international collaboration were based on his experience as President of Nordisk Andelsforbund, the organisation mentioned in the Report.

In his long life and work he had always given priority to international collaboration because he knew that, despite all opposition and difficulties, it was in

itself a goal worth fighting for, which might bring about concrete advantages. However, success had not been achieved in one day. It had taken three generations to achieve the results of today.

NAF worked at present mainly as a giant Nordic purchasing organisation for foodstuffs and raw materials for processing in the co-operative foodstuff industry. Its foundation dated back to 1918, and NAF had made consistent progress, especially since the Second World War. This year's turnover was expected to be a record £100 million. This successful development had been made possible by the gradual liberalisation of world trade. Yet the following points were and remained of great importance.

First, the Scandinavian consumer co-operatives recognised that through economic collaboration their individual decisions on the world market would be strengthened, their competitiveness would increase and advantages for consumers could be achieved.

Secondly, the co-operative democratic structure of NAF, with its close collaboration with the managements of its member organisations, was important. Major decisions were made and the respective board members saw to it that these were carried out in their national organisations. In this connection mention might be made of the various commodity working groups.

It was important to note that the responsibility of NAF and its individual members was carefully laid down so that arguments about the division of responsibility did not arise. Its form of organisation and working methods had proved efficient in practice. All major decisions were backed by the full authority of the

top management, while decisions concerning the daily business were made by responsible people directly involved.

The third point was the establishment of buying offices in countries with which business was done in important items, such as coffee, cocoa, fruit and vegetables, canned goods and so on. The advantage of having a man on the spot was apparent. The benefits included procurement of orders, pooling of orders, control of deliveries and forewarning of market reports. In this way NAF had come much closer to the buying market.

Fourthly, one should not forget that for centuries there had been a feeling of solidarity in Scandinavia. In this collaboration language problems were almost non-existent and member organisations had reached similar stages of development. In future, a further strengthening of collaboration and joint buying from all over the world was expected. New policies were being laid down as collaboration with INTER-COOP members, which were offered the services of the NAF offices on the same terms as NAF members, was increasing.

It was also important to maintain and strengthen the liberalisation of world trade. An increase in purchasing was expected, not least from the developing countries, especially if efficient sales organisations—preferably based on co-operative principles—could be established more rapidly. This was an important task not only for the ICA, but also for all present here.

Within the framework of NAF, international collaboration on the production side had also been discussed. In 1973 a report was given on this at the ICA Central Committee held in Budapest. In 1970 the co-operative chocolate manu-



facturers in Denmark and Sweden were amalgamated into Nordchoklad with Norway joining in 1975. This had proved a success. The investment programme of about £10 million provided for a new building for this organisation. Since the 1st July of this year a joint factory for the chemical-technical sector, Nordtend, comprising all co-operative factories in this field in Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden, had been in operation.

However, it must be said here that the establishment of a joint co-operative productive enterprise, a supra-national organisation, involved considerable problems and required considerable patience. A warning must be heeded against too high expectations regarding the conclusions and recommendations in this field as presented in the Report of the Working Group. It was not at all easy. The various reasons had been stated in 1973.

One reason was capital. It did not need any capital to form an agency for international buying, but capital was needed to build a factory of the right size to be competitive. However, capital or the lack of it was not the main reason. It must be borne in mind that multinational companies based their structure and operations on force—perhaps mild and often intelligent force, to be sure, but force in the form of buying up majorities of stock and all the other forms of capital supremacy. Co-operators must, if they were loyal to their ideals, use the way of voluntary agreement and voluntary collaboration among—in principle—equal partners. But then the problem arose that equal partners were never equal. One partner might have more capital, larger turnover, more able leadership than the others. But even if one of the partners lagged behind he

still had his national pride to defend. Even if the weaker partner had the very best will, there were other obstacles, not forgetting the employment problem.

The aim of this statement had been to show that it paid to make every effort to further international collaboration. It called for idealism, courage, new ways, good will and patience, but also for un-sentimental realism and hard work. This would also be a guide to all co-operators in the future.

Mr J. J. MUSUNDI, Kenya, stated that his delegation wished to affirm its support for the sixth ICA principle which emphasised the need for collaboration among co-operatives at local, national and international level. The Report of the Working Party had elaborated at great length on methods by which collaboration could be developed and strengthened at various levels of the co-operative movement of the world. His delegation felt, however, that the document had not adequately dealt with the problems facing the co-operatives in developing countries, especially those of Africa.

Co-operatives in Africa faced certain peculiar and potentially damaging circumstances that required an international co-operative effort to keep them within bounds. It should be appreciated that many countries in Africa had emerged from colonial rule only in the last 10 years. Prior to this they had lived under generations of maximum suppression by those in power, who were determined to keep down the masses and those institutions capable of raising the standards of living of such masses from their extreme degradation. Thus the co-operative institution was deliberately sabotaged while multinationals were en-

couraged to benefit the minority shareholders.

Therefore, whereas industrialised countries could boast of unhindered co-operative development for more than 100 years, in Africa such development had only just begun. It was only after attaining national independence that a free atmosphere had been established. Co-operators of developing countries were therefore far behind and there was no doubt that this was so.

The poverty of the people forming these co-operatives made them weak institutions and hence they easily became victims of the multinationals which had had an early start, beginning in the colonial area, and were more ruthless and experienced in their operations. This showed a need for the international co-operative movement to protect and nurture co-operative enterprises in developing countries, to a point where they could not only speak with one voice but also become strong economic forces capable of challenging any opposition.

The Kenyan delegation felt that it was not purely a duty of the respective governments to make the co-operative an accepted institution in each country. It felt that governments must be given a good excuse to support these institutions without having to accept lowered standards of living and widespread disruption of economies. In other words, co-operatives should portray themselves as worthwhile alternative institutions.

The international co-operative community had a duty to achieve such economic results within the shortest possible time by adopting the following measures:

1 ICA should develop and institutionalise machinery to enable co-

operatives of industrialised countries to assist co-operatives in the developing countries;

2 ICA should be enabled to provide staff to monitor and supervise projects mainly in developing countries;

3 Governments and non-governmental and international agencies should be encouraged to co-ordinate their financial and technical assistance, in consultation with the ICA, with that given by co-operatives. The concept of joint ventures between co-operatives, governments and other interests was the accepted trend in some developing countries, and helped to create employment opportunities. This would also remove the notion that developing countries were only producers of raw materials, the benefits of which accrued to the multinationals.

4 In line with the above, efforts should be made to make people aware of co-operatives in developing countries as the most suitable institutions for the development of an equitable economy, and the ICA and its member organisations should actively campaign for this view internationally by lobbying at the United Nations headquarters and UN Commissions for Africa, Asia and Latin America, and at the Organisation of African Unity and the United Arab League.

5 The ICA should declare co-operatives in Africa as development projects for improving the standards of living of rural populations.

6 Assistance should be extended to co-operatives in developing countries to establish strong co-operative movements. Reference had been

made in the Report to amalgamation of co-operatives in European countries, including the United Kingdom and Sweden. In some of the African countries there had been advocacy that co-operatives should be broken up into smaller units. There was a need for more developed co-operatives to extend their expertise in these areas.

Mr Musundi expressed sincere thanks to those co-operative movements of the industrialised countries that had come to the aid of Kenyan co-operators in one way or another. It would be appropriate to mention the assistance which had been extended to Kenya by the co-operatives of the Nordic countries in collaboration with their respective governments. With the innovation of the well known Nordic Co-operative Project, the co-operative movement in Kenya had been transformed. It was now referred to as the best vehicle through which to channel credit facilities for development of rural areas. Under this project the Nordic countries helped the Kenya government to establish a very important co-operative institution which was very valuable in the country's development, because it helped in the training of management personnel of the co-operative movement.

Appreciation was extended for the support given by Centrosoyus (USSR), the Co-operative Union of the United Kingdom and the Canadian co-operative movement in assisting the training of Kenyan co-operative personnel, as the one problem that confronted co-operatives in most of the developing countries was the lack of managerial expertise and know-how.

Reference should also be made to the latest development in Kenya. The World Bank, which was assisting the Kenya government, would be granting a loan of some 200 million shillings, 75 per cent of which would be channelled through co-operatives. This showed the interest that some other agencies were taking in co-operative development. With this trend it was hoped that other organisations as well as co-operatives would be able to make a gesture in helping co-operatives in the developing countries.

Only an international co-operative effort could help to shape the destiny not only of co-operatives but also of the nations within which they operated. What was called for was a much less passive approach and a more aggressive line by the international co-operative community to challenge opposition and unite co-operatives to succeed.

Mr E. COETTE, France, speaking as a consumer and manager of a consumers' co-operative in the province of Normandy, expressed the hope that commercial relations between co-operatives would continue to develop on an international level, a wish expressed at the Vienna Congress in 1966 by the former director of his society. A great deal had to be done in the field of trade between nations, particularly between co-operatives.

The ICA must facilitate friendly relations between co-operatives and trade relations with all types of co-operative associations. INTER-COOP was established in 1970. Today it grouped together 28 consumer co-operatives in Europe, Israel and Japan which had an annual turnover of 100 billion French francs. However, this was not sufficient and so far not all its aims had been



achieved. A large number of obstacles made exchanges difficult, but could not co-operators achieve what multinationals had achieved?

The ICA today had a membership of 326 million co-operators of all races, creeds and religions and most of them were consumers. They all had to feed and clothe themselves. Among the many countries represented here, many were producers. Co-operators must help those who still had insufficient means to supply themselves. Under the auspices of the ICA a solution to extend trade between the various co-operative movements had to be found.

Co-operatives could have an influence on all economic sectors. The ICA should promote activities in this field and assistance should be given by co-operators to those who needed it. The ICA should also promote co-operative production in countries in membership with the ICA and try to encourage commercial exchanges.

In order to compete against multinational companies, it was necessary that national co-operatives should find in the ICA an organisation which enabled them to achieve their objectives by peaceful means. Despite achievements so far, a great deal still remained to be done. Mr Coette expressed the hope that the ICA would become even more powerful. The President of the ICA was a forceful person who would try his best to see that these aims were achieved. Roger Kerinec must be given the means whereby he could implement the ideals on which co-operators pride themselves.

The exports of national co-operatives must not go to private enterprise but must remain in the co-operative sector. This would enable co-operatives to give

their members a better deal, to become more efficient and on an international level.

The problems facing co-operators today, particularly the problems of the Third World, must be attacked together so that a peaceful society could be created where all might profit from their labour.

Mr S. A. BÖÖK, Sweden, referred to recent developments in the field of collaboration between different types of co-operatives in his country.

The co-operative sector had developed independently in many branches. In the consumer sector there were six different branches—consumer co-operation in general, co-operative insurance, oil co-operatives, housing co-operatives, co-operatives in the field of finance and the travel and holiday co-operatives, all with their own central unions and local societies. There was no apex organisation covering all these aspects. Instead, a network of various forms of collaboration between the various branches of the consumer sector and closely related organisations had been developed for some considerable time. But more needed to be done. During the 1970s, there had been an increasing demand for even closer collaboration. For this there were many reasons which had already been mentioned.

Discussions between the various partners had been held during the first part of the 1970s and the following conclusions had been reached: the social and economic developments of the 1960s and 1970s demanded a strengthening and economising of resources within the co-operative movement, utilising untapped reserves and possibilities, by means of closer collaboration both between the

various parts of the consumer co-operative sector and between the various parts of closely connected organisations.

Two examples should be cited which were of recent practical consequence, two examples of steps taken to further the development of collaboration: the formation of the Swedish Co-operative Institute and the Second Swedish Consumer Congress which would take place in the autumn. The Institute had been a long-standing idea within the Swedish co-operative movement, but it needed the discussions of the early 1970s to come to life. The Institute started its activities in September 1975. It was owned by all sections of consumer co-operatives and its whole aim was to achieve greater collaboration and to extend joint ventures between the consumer co-operatives and organisations closely connected with them. The Institute was not an apex organisation, but was an organ where discussions could be held and various forms of collaboration and common problems elaborated.

The Institute took the initiative and supported research into consumer co-operatives and the community. In this research the Institute collaborated with universities. Although the Institute had only existed for one year, it had had a very busy time. Amongst other things, an investigation into the various forms of existing local collaboration between co-operatives and other popular movements had been undertaken. But another part of the Institute's work was of more general interest.

During Congress mention had been made of the fact that the knowledge of co-operatives had been poorly developed in Malaysian schools. A similar

situation existed in Sweden. The Institute had examined textbooks used in schools on subjects where a mention of the co-operative movement could have been expected. The results of this survey were rather alarming. Many books made no mention of the existence of the co-operative movement or co-operative enterprises. Others mentioned co-operatives, but often very briefly and in a wrong and misleading way. Some books contained negative judgments about the co-operatives. It was well known that economics textbooks especially were too much dominated by the capitalist way of thinking and living. There was a strong co-operative movement in Sweden and there were various informative activities in schools, but obviously these were not enough.

The co-operatives were not alone in this experience. It was shared with closely connected organisations, such as the trade unions and parts of the popular movements. The situation had to be changed. Capitalist values and ways of thinking could not be permitted to have free publicity through school textbooks.

As far as the Second Swedish Consumer Congress was concerned, this time it would deal with different aspects of collaboration within the consumer co-operative sector; between consumer co-operatives and closely related organisations, and with the State and local authorities. The Congress was being prepared by members and non-members in their study circles. The participants in these study circles had put forward many proposals on increased collaboration which would be dealt with by the Congress. This time it was arranged in collaboration with the various branches of the consumer co-operative movement

and organisations closely connected with it.

Mr G. VECCHI, Italy, said that the report on collaboration between co-operatives was the fruit of one of the best initiatives which had been taken by the ICA in recent years. The report presented a good analysis of what could be done on the basis of the available structures. It was an excellent basis, but it was only a starting point.

The Report recommended the Executive to set up the means of examining constantly the question of the extension of collaboration between co-operatives. One of its means already existed and had been used by the Alliance in 1969. This was a meeting that brought together the chairmen and secretaries of the auxiliary committees. If this were done every year it would provide, without a reform of structures and with no particular difficulties, a means of permanent co-ordination of the multiple activities of the ICA and of encouraging new joint action as recommended in the Report.

Paragraph 6.7(b) of the Report recommended that more joint scientific research should be undertaken. It was most important to direct this research towards the elimination of the arbitrary opposition between producers and consumers, which was one of the worst things inherited from the classical liberal economy. The tendency towards consumerism could make matters worse. It was man as a whole that Co-operation should serve. Therefore, a valid substitution for the market, which in classical theory was presented as an instrument of adjustment of countervailing forces between the consumer and producer, had to be proposed.

In any case, this no longer worked. It

had been destroyed by the necessary demands of economic and social planning and by the uncontrolled actions of the great national and international monopolies. Only the World Co-operative Movement could initiate and carry on objective research in order to define a new means of distributing products and providing for the needs of mankind; of truly serving the interests of consumer and producer; and of regulating the situation. This would be one of the best replies to the difficult situation in which mankind found itself. It would be the end of the suffocation of the market and the global difficulties confronting all people. It would be a decisive contribution. It could only come from the co-operative movement on an international scale by setting up a New World Economic Order.

Mr A. ANTONI, France, stated that during this Congress it had been stressed many times that co-operatives and co-operators should continue to contribute effectively to the building of a new and better world. In order to attain this it was necessary to ensure that co-operators went beyond micro-realities; they should try to solve the macro-economic problems. In order to do this co-operators would have to try to mobilise themselves and go beyond their group egoism which was difficult to combat—just as difficult as individual egoism.

Weaker social groups which had decided to join together by using the co-operative way should consider their fellow co-operators and should try to meet the needs of mankind more efficiently. This should be done within countries and through inter-sectoral collaboration between workers' productive societies, agricultural co-operatives,

housing co-operatives and consumer co-operatives helped by credit co-operatives. This collaboration should also be carried out at the international level. This was the only valid reply co-operators had to offer as a counterweight to the multinationals. This action could only prove efficient if co-operative enterprises tried to attain their objectives not only for profit but to demonstrate an alternative to private or State enterprise. State enterprises were not democratic organisations. As far as private enterprises were concerned, co-operators could show that they supported a fairer distribution of profits between partners, whatever the economic and contractual circumstances.

The time of unco-ordinated action in the co-operative movement had surely passed. An organisation was now needed which could adapt itself to new circumstances. Within each country structures and planning authorities linking different sectors should be set up.

Mr B. CSERESNYES, Romania, referred to some aspects of collaboration between the co-operative organisations in Romania, both at national and international level. Romanian co-operatives were strongly linked with the social and economic structure of their country. All the activities of the co-operatives formed part of its development plan. Thus co-operatives were able to make their contribution towards the realisation of the economic aims of the Romanian Government by raising the spiritual and economic level of its people.

As members of the Socialist Unity Party of Romania, co-operators were helping the internal and external policy of the Communist Party of Romania. They had an important role to play in the

economic development of the country, and, on the international level, in promoting collaboration between countries of differing social and economic systems and in strengthening peace throughout the world.

In order to attain these aims, Romanian co-operatives had very good relations with the other Socialist countries. With some countries they had long term agreements on the basis of which attempts were being made to promote the economic, technical, scientific and cultural lot of the people. They also had relations with co-operatives in other European countries and in countries of Asia, Africa and America.

As far as aid to developing countries was concerned, Romanian co-operatives were giving grants for the education of management personnel. The movement aimed to develop and strengthen collaboration between co-operatives at national and international level and through such action assist the Alliance in helping co-operatives throughout the world.

The PRESIDENT interrupted the discussion, saying that he wanted to tell Congress what he thought about the deliberations so far. They had been very interesting, as was shown by the number of people in the audience. As Congress met only every four years it was easy to understand that people wanted to tell each other of their achievements during this time, but as the average speaker took eight minutes instead of five it was difficult to keep to a timetable.

There were two topics under discussion bearing on future activities. That might be one topic too many. The Alliance had a Central Committee which was very representative. Perhaps it should be given the chance of being



more active and Congress should devote its energies to common problems of co-operators, and inter-cooperative problems on which the whole future of the co-operative movement depended.

The President announced that a letter had just been received containing a cheque of 8,000 Canadian dollars as a contribution towards the Bonow-Fund from the Co-operative Union of Canada and the Conseil Canadien de la Coopération.

## **Seventh Session**

**Friday, 1st October 1976**  
(morning)

### **Election of Executive Committee**

The PRESIDENT announced the result of the election for the Executive Committee: Y. Daneau (Canada), S. Dreyer (USA), V. Galetti (Italy), N. Hämäläinen (Finland), T. Janczyk (Poland), R. Kohler (Switzerland), L. Kovalcik (Czechoslovakia), A. Miyawaki (Japan), J. J. Musundi (Kenya), O. Paulig (Federal Republic of Germany), A. Rauter (Austria), N. Thedin (Sweden) and H. W. Whitehead (United Kingdom).

### **DEBATE ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN CO-OPERATIVES (resumed)**

Mr R. N. ELLER, USA, said that he was the president of a group of co-operative insurance companies in St Paul, Minnesota, and was serving currently as Chairman of the Board of the Cooperative League of the USA.

The Cooperative League felt that the subject of collaboration between co-operatives was very timely and most appropriate for discussion at this meet-

ing. This concept had been strongly recommended to the ICA Co-operative Principles Commission by Howard Cowden of the USA.

In this era of big government, multinational corporations and big business, collaboration between co-operatives was necessary to keep co-operatives strong economically for the benefit of their members. The organisation that he represented, Mutual Service Insurance, was a living example of collaboration between co-operatives, as it was owned and controlled by over 500 co-operatives from various sectors — producer co-operatives, marketing co-operatives, agricultural co-operatives and the like.

The Cooperative League of the USA was a national federation whose members covered a broad spectrum of co-operatives throughout the United States, joined together by a common interest in issues affecting them all.

Another example of collaboration was the Inter-Regional Service Corporation, owned by six large federated co-operatives including Mutual Service Insurance, located in the Mid-West of the USA. Through this organisation all transport facilities were purchased and then leased back to its members. This venture had brought about substantial savings and it had been possible to release capital for use in other worthwhile joint ventures.

There were also a variety of opportunities in education and training where collaboration could take place. Canadian and US co-operators had for many years conducted joint programmes in the area of educational and professional improvement in the field of insurance and finance. In the field of management training there had been collaboration for

the past 25 years in a top-level management institute. There were many other examples of collaboration among co-operatives in the areas of fertilizer production, refineries and oil drilling.

People might wonder where all the capital for this expenditure, involving billions of dollars, came from. It was all raised from American co-operators and sympathetic American investors. Not a single dollar for this expenditure had come from the US Government. The co-operative insurance organisation he represented had over 20 million dollars invested in the furtherance of co-operative enterprises.

American co-operatives were owned by people and controlled by people. They were financed by the same people and they served the needs of those people. Many of the co-operatives that collaborated with each other were competitors in the market place. Competition was the way of life in the United States. It was part of its philosophy and it helped to make the economy dynamic.

*Mr Y. DANEAU, Canada, asked that his comments be included in the Report of Congress even though, to save time, he had not presented them:*

Solidarity among co-operators within the organisation to which they belong and which they maintain in order to satisfy their needs, is an unavoidable necessity. However, this solidarity must not show itself only inside the small worlds of scattered co-operatives with no relation between them.

Co-operatives must apply themselves to strengthening the ties which link their own members at national and international levels, in the most suitable forms. Such inter-cooperation occurs quite naturally among co-operatives in the same sector, because this is a means of increasing or improving the services they are called upon

to provide for their members. But this inter-cooperation would appear equally important among co-operatives of different types and functions.

The emergence of a genuine co-operative movement depends on the conscious awareness of solidarity founded on adherence to an economic organisational formula where those in need see themselves, through their personal and collective efforts, as able to satisfy it. The co-operative framework can also be considered particularly favourable for the development of the spirit of collaboration and mutual help at international level.

Co-operatives frequently declare their wish to collaborate with all the other bodies which work in the interests and for the promotion of the whole international community. Such collaboration on common aims does not imply that we should not differ on other points which may engender neutral or even opposing attitudes.

Liberty, solidarity, democracy, the equitable distribution of wealth, the sense of individual and collective responsibility, respect for human dignity, the positive and responsible working towards an economy inspired by the values inherent in co-operation and favouring its development—that is what co-operators should aim for! Co-operation can do much, in those sectors in which it is active, to realise such objectives. And it is in this sense that Co-operation can be seen as an instrument for development, as an agent for ordered change aimed at improving the quality of life.

If there is often a tendency to insist on the ideological characteristics of Co-operation, perhaps one should also insist on Co-operation as an instrument of social and economic development. Seen in this perspective, we are well aware that the State will have a greater role to play; also we ourselves will be called upon to collaborate in order better to achieve our own objectives; in some cases we may have a share in achievements which go beyond our own objectives to embrace those of the community.

This is a positive attitude which will

stimulate the development of the movement and avoid sterile, long and often useless disputes with other types of organisation. It appears more desirable to the Canadian delegation to organise collaboration between co-operatives than to carry on long discussions on multinationals.

In this connection, I would not like us to be misunderstood: in no way do we want to give moral support or make apologies for the multinationals.

We simply formulate the wish that inter-cooperation should take place, that the mechanism for inter-cooperation should be set up, that we should go into action together rather than make long speeches which essentially achieve very little.

Mr B. KHOSTOV, USSR, pointed out that mention had been made in the Report of the wide-scale and mutually advantageous economic collaboration between consumer co-operatives and agricultural co-operatives in the Soviet Union. The success of this collaboration was based on the socio-economic situation in his country where there was social ownership of the means of production. Either they belonged to the State and thus to the people as a whole or they were owned by co-operatives, thus belonging to a group of the population joined in a co-operative.

Socialism had been introduced after the October Revolution of 1917. The first sector to be socialised was the productive sector through the nationalisation of industry, transport, energy resources and many other parts of the economy. In the agricultural, trade and artisanal sectors advantageous credit terms were extended. The opportunity was given to the peasants to come into the socialist form of agricultural organisation. This was done voluntarily. They also joined co-operatives. This change of society brought about with the help of

co-operatives transformed the backward economy of private small producers into the modern dynamic agricultural and social economy known today.

Lenin had elaborated a plan for the development of co-operatives which had been completed at the end of the 1930s with the help of the Government. This meant that peasants were unified first of all in the simplest forms of co-operatives—credit, consumer, and consumer and producer co-operatives. These were the primary schools for peasants to learn about co-operatives and about applying their ideas to their own economy.

Later there was an intermediate form, i.e. the move towards the pooling of land and the common use of machinery. After that came common ownership of the land and the means of production.

Therefore even at the beginning of the development of the socialist society co-operatives had played a key role: They provided housing and they also organised education and management training for members.

Over the years there had been fruitful collaboration between co-operatives and socialist enterprises which had proved important, both in the productive and the agricultural sector. The State farms produced the agricultural goods and the consumer co-operatives took the goods from the State farms and distributed them to the people. However, consumer co-operatives also supplied the peasants with their daily needs.

Co-operatives continued to assist in improving the standard of living of the people in rural areas which must not lag behind that of people in urban areas.

Mr H. N. OSAKWE, Nigeria, referred to the positive development of the co-operative movement in his country

and offered assistance to less fortunate co-operative organisations, particularly in the field of co-operative education. This concession had already been extended to co-operators in other West African countries.

But the co-operative movement in Nigeria which desired to increase its tempo of development still needed assistance from the more advanced and more privileged movements. Appeals would shortly be made for assistance in the training of co-operative trainers and the training of co-operative insurance personnel.

Mr MICHAELIDES, Greece, pointed out how much the moral support of the Alliance and of co-operators in other countries during the time of the military junta had been appreciated. Every attempt was being made by Greek co-operators to wipe out the bad economic and social consequences to the co-operative movement during those years.

Collaboration between co-operatives was very desirable. The co-operative form of enterprise could help the Greek economy. Collaboration between consumer and producer co-operatives at the local, national and international level could make a contribution towards solving the economic problems facing them and towards creating the essential preconditions favourable to economic development.

Producer co-operatives needed to distribute and sell their produce. In Greece, however, the consumer co-operative movement was very weak compared with the agricultural movement. The agricultural co-operatives could be much more efficient if there were consumer co-operatives in urban areas. Without consumer co-operatives

the development of agricultural co-operatives was hampered. This difficulty had to be overcome. It could only be done with the help of co-operators who had experience in this field and who could advocate practical steps which could be taken to improve the position.

Mr A. MIYAWAKI, Japan, referred to international co-operative trade between agricultural co-operatives.

Looking at the world grain trade, it was very obviously dominated by the multinational grain corporations which had a strong influence on price formation and grain distribution. If the interests of producers and consumers were to be protected from the despotic actions of multinationals, the ways and means of competing with them must be seriously considered.

The Japanese agricultural co-operative movement had been engaged in the importing of feed grains through its national federations, Zen-Noh and Unicoop Japan for more than 10 years, from grain producers' co-operatives in the United States. Trade relations existed with agricultural co-operatives in Argentina, Australia and Thailand. Zen-Noh operated seven grain bulk carriers to make this trade more efficient and successful. FEC had recently established a branch office in Tokyo in collaboration with its Japanese counterpart. This would strengthen the competitive power of co-operatives against the monopoly of multinational grain traders in the Asian region.

The trade collaboration with the Thai agricultural co-operatives had been expanded into various assistance programmes and joint ventures. The Japan International Co-operation Agency had approved a special loan of 1 million

dollars last year for the development project worked out between the Thai and Japanese co-operative movements. The Japanese movement also planned to start collaboration with the agricultural co-operatives in Vietnam in their corn development project with help from the Japan International Co-operation Agency.

The Japanese agricultural co-operatives had made deliberate efforts to collaborate with agricultural co-operatives in various countries in order to establish a long-term and stable export-import business for feed grains. From these experiences the following advantages had been gained in the feed grain business through co-operatives.

First, a strong partnership and mutual reliance between co-operatives in exporting and importing countries, which had enabled them to make long-term contracts and to ensure stable supply and marketing outlets.

Secondly, this had enabled Japanese co-operators to acquaint themselves with the complicated systems and mechanisms in the marketing and price formation of feed grains, through the exchange of useful information, which had contributed much to the stabilisation of prices.

The necessity to expand such international co-operative trade in the field of grains in general, was an important area for agricultural co-operatives to consider if they were to strengthen their competitive power against multinational corporations. Mr Miyawaki expressed the hope that these problems would be further studied in the Agricultural Committee and that practical steps would be taken to deal with these matters.

Mr M. KITA, Japan, said he wished

to comment on his special field, i.e. forestry.

A great deal had to be done at the level of the ICA to protect the environment as well as forests. Forests must be protected because they provide wood, an important industry in Japan. 65 per cent of the total wood produced which was 100 million cubic metres a year was being exported. Ten large private companies were involved in the timber trade which exerted pressure on the whole field of forestry and also on the importers and exporters of wood products. Rational trade between exporters and importers of wood and wood products had to be encouraged.

Close collaboration of co-operatives was very important. Inter-cooperative activities should not only be promoted in the field of wood and wood products, but also in other fields. International collaboration would be one of the major tasks in the future development of the ICA. The ICA should study the situation and promote the establishment of forestry co-operatives.

The Japanese National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-operatives had in its membership 46 associations with an individual membership of 1,000,800 members. They had strong ties with the Swedish co-operatives and they hoped to extend these to other parts of the world.

Mr G. CINTOLO, Italy, said that he was speaking on behalf of the three Italian co-operative movements which collaborated in a spirit of solidarity.

The experience in Italy was of a specific nature. There was close collaboration between various sectors, facilitated by the fact that Italian co-operatives covered various co-operative sectors. The Italian experience had

shown that inter-sectoral activity at the national level was not only important but absolutely essential, and profitable as well. There was co-ordination on a national level and such co-ordination should be promoted at international level. Economic integration in order to increase the competitiveness of co-operatives confronted by multinationals should be encouraged. There was a need to set up multinational co-operatives which would lead co-operators along the path previously outlined.

INTER-COOP had shown good results in the consumer field. Such collaboration should be extended to other sectors—housing, agriculture, workers' co-operatives—on an international level, particularly in the present economic crisis.

Within the EEC, EUROCOOP was maintaining good relations with the authorities of the Community. In November a meeting of three directors of EUROCOOP with members of the EEC Commission would take place. However, there was not yet full collaboration between the co-operatives of various countries and the institutions of the EEC. It was essential to have inter-sectoral collaboration on an international level.

The three Italian co-operative movements requested that the co-operative movements within the EEC organise a conference under the auspices of the ICA to study ways and means of helping co-operatives in developing countries.

Miss L. OVESSEN, Norway, pointed out that Congress had adopted the ICA's Programme of Work for the next four years and had thus accepted that the co-operative movement must be ever alert to recognise new challenges.

The imbalance of the distribution of food and energy, and the over-population in a number of countries, had led to the demand for a New International Economic Order. Those who lived in what might be termed the over-developed part of the world were now being asked by the developing countries to direct their economic and technological advance in a different way. They were being asked to share their good fortune with the population of the developing countries.

Co-operators all knew—but it might be necessary to underline it again lest it be forgotten—that this was not a question of charity. It was a question of necessity.

It was fairly easy to adopt resolutions and declarations on a number of important and sometimes even rather difficult questions. Agreements in principle posed in general no particular problems. The problems arose when practical implementation of good intention was demanded, as experienced by UNCTAD earlier in the year. Obstacles must be overcome before agreement on the realistic programme of action on the establishment of a New International Economic Order was reached. However, as long as deliberations were going on, it was possible to cherish the hope of tabling realistic proposals at the next UNCTAD conference.

Developments in the past few years had shown that there existed a close interdependence between all the nations of the world. In fact, collaboration between nations was a prerequisite for survival. The Report gave some examples of successful international collaboration. Nevertheless, if one considered the huge membership of the Alliance, it must be admitted that the results

achieved were very modest. If serious and concerted efforts were made to solve existing difficulties, surely an expansion of co-operative collaboration on the international level would be possible, collaboration that would give—as the Report pertinently emphasised—a clear commercial advantage to the co-operative movements in both developing and industrialised countries.

There was a crying need today for collaboration between all nations with regard to a well-planned and rational exploitation of global resources. To those who liked to consider themselves as militant co-operators, the demand for a New International Economic Order represented a great challenge. As co-operators, they were working to create more social and economic equality among nations and individuals. Co-operators had a moral obligation to work for a new and more just global economic and social strategy and thus implement the true essence of Co-operation.

Mr A. PASKO, Poland, spoke of collaboration at the international level in the field of education. This activity should be promoted, particularly in developing countries. The Polish co-operatives had taken part in a number of activities in this field. Seminars in developing countries should be jointly organised by co-operatives from Socialist and capitalist countries. They would enable participants to learn to understand more about each other's ideas and they could form the basis for an exchange of information.

The Central Union of Peasant Self-Aid Co-operatives had collaborated with the ICA and the Hungarian co-operatives in producing a directory of organisations engaged in research on co-

operatives in developing countries. A great deal of biographical data had been recorded and this was available to all co-operative movements.

Educational activities should not only be made more extensive but should also be improved through new methods. Education of co-operators in developing countries required co-operatives in the developed countries to work more closely together on different levels. This required new finance for educational activities and support from the United Nations, UNIDO, UNESCO and other organisations, such as the International Bank for Development, and the extension of educational institutions.

One of the major tasks was the training of teachers and the production of manuals, in particular for agriculture. New methods of educational techniques must be found to extend activities. Education in developing countries was one of the main activities of the Alliance.

Mrs M. RUPENA, Yugoslavia, said that great efforts were being made in Yugoslavia to develop agricultural production in order to provide enough food for all the people with, if possible, sufficient for export, and to improve food processing, transport and distribution. All these were contained in the so-called Green Programme which was being realised through co-operatives and general self-management systems.

Many delegates had spoken about educational problems. Co-operatives in Yugoslavia were developing many kinds of education to increase the knowledge of their members. The groups of women and young people were doing well. In this framework extension work was also included. Without the appropriate knowledge things could not be improved. An

example was being made to involve as many co-operators as possible in various self-governing responsibilities and at the same time to unify their forces at community, republic and federal levels, because experience had shown that this was necessary.

There had been many discussions in the Yugoslav Parliament about improving the control of co-operatives at all levels. Their importance was also stressed in the new constitutional law at federal, republic and community level. Efforts were directed towards the overall socio-economic progress of the country.

Co-operators in Yugoslavia understood quite well what poverty and under-development meant, because they had to overcome both, with internal difficulties and external pressures of all kinds. They remembered the War and the post-war years when they had to do without the necessities of everyday life. Therefore, they supported all the ideas in the Report and the protests against excessive expenditure on the arms race. It would be much better to devote more resources to research to help resolve problems which were important to all mankind.

Collaboration of the ICA and the auxiliary committees with other international organisations, governmental as well as non-governmental, should be promoted. Experience showed that this was very good at the national and international levels. The Yugoslavs supported all efforts to change the world social and economic order and the decisions which developing countries were taking at their meetings, including the efforts to implement the Colombo conference.

Yugoslav co-operators were trying to develop collaboration with other co-operative movements in Europe and

other parts of the world. In this way they were following the spirit of the Helsinki Conference, as had been mentioned in the discussion and stated in the motion, which it was hoped would be accepted.

Good collaboration existed with Italian co-operators. Visits had been arranged to Italian co-operative enterprises and Italian co-operators had visited co-operatives in Yugoslavia. This had made an exchange of ideas and experience between co-operators possible. They got to know each other better and thus were able to understand better the problems and needs of others, as well as their successes.

Mr ROMANOWSKI, Poland, pointed out that the Polish co-operative movement had given a great deal of attention to collaboration between co-operatives in the field of cultural and educational activities and had forged links with different types of co-operatives through joint meetings and conferences. A commission for social questions had been in existence for several years and they had also the apex organisation, the Supreme Co-operative Council.

There was a central fund which was at the disposal of all the different types of co-operatives. There were educational programmes in management training for all co-operatives and exchanges of managers between the different sectors of the co-operative movement. Co-operatives and trade unions collaborated on tourism and leisure activities to help working people to enjoy life more fully.

There were centres where economy was taught and clubs where housewives received instruction. Members could also attend courses and participate in cultural exchanges.



The co-operative movement had many secondary schools financed by the Supreme Co-operative Council. Co-operative education programmes were also carried out in State schools. The different co-operative sectors also collaborated on educational programmes: Polish co-operators believed that it was very important to pool information and experiences in different sectors. The success of collaboration had proved its importance, because it ensured the improvement of the standard of living and the happiness of the members of co-operatives in Poland.

Mr J. BIHARI L. KHACHI, India, stated that the dark clouds of the multi-national threat, attacked way back in 1972 at the Congress in Warsaw, continued to lower. There was, therefore, a need to develop greater cohesion among co-operatives. The idea was not merely to collaborate on training programmes, but to take collaboration further into the larger sector of industrial collaboration. The idea was also that co-operators should build up an international community free from exploitation.

Even today people thought in terms of "poor relations", even among the co-operative community. This concept of poor relations, inherited from the big power rivalry and the concept of diplomatic manoeuvres, continued to guide the deliberations of institutions like the Alliance. This trend must not be perpetuated.

There was a new resurgence in the developing world. Only the previous month in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 86 nations from the non-aligned world had resolved to set up a New Economic Order. The developed nations should be warned that the developing and non-

aligned world would not be taken for a ride. In Mexico City a centre had been set up for the development of economic and other links among the developing world. By the end of this year it was hoped to establish a solidarity fund.

A seven-point programme had been adopted at the Colombo summit. One of the major recommendations had been the restructuring of the entire apparatus of international trade which would involve the setting up of an international bank for the developing world. If the world was to be a happier place, co-operatives must involve themselves with a much greater spirit of co-operation. What was needed was the identification of the areas where there should be collaboration. This would be the responsibility of the ICA Secretariat.

Mr Khachi expressed the fear that there might be some developed countries, even some co-operatives in the developed countries, which would like to use the developing world only for the supply of raw materials. This should be resisted. A spirit of collaboration was needed. Know-how and expertise were needed.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations had said in Mexico City that the developing world should not merely look to the developed world for money and assistance in financial matters, but it should try to develop its own huge manpower resources. People in the developing countries were conscious of their responsibilities and of the role of the developing world in the New Economic Order.

The Report on Collaboration between Co-operatives was a useful and forward looking document, but it was not complete. It was a good basis, but it would

need closer study and scrutiny at the national level for collaboration to take place. When formulating a plan of action for years to come in the co-operative world, it should not be forgotten that there were some poor relations who did not want to be treated poorly. There were some poor relations who were determined to throw off the yoke of poverty.

That must be done not through the benevolence or generosity of the developed world, but as equal partners sharing the same ideals and goals. In the co-operative sphere, with co-operative principles and ideology, the spirit of neither side winning or losing should prevail. Co-operators must work for the good of the movement and its growth. The impact of the ICA was growing steadily, but a great deal of work remained to be done. Its financial limitations were well known, co-operators must look forward to a spirit of mutual respect. Any form of collaboration should not only be above suspicion but foolproof. There should be no further exploitation.

Under the umbrella of co-operative principles various spheres could be covered by this new concept of international trade. They could be tourism, pharmaceutical, agricultural or other prosperous industries, but caution was needed when choosing spheres of activity for international collaboration. There was a need for the humanisation of international trade through co-operative channels.

Dr H. FAHRENKROG, German Democratic Republic, said that the consumer co-operatives in the German Democratic Republic were in agreement with the ideals expressed in the Report.

They thought that collaboration between co-operatives could contribute towards the dissemination of the ideals of the Alliance and help to make co-operatives more efficient. The concept of national and international collaboration must be stressed. Close collaboration between the co-operatives in all economic sectors and the social field existed in his country in order to strengthen the economy as a whole. It would be valuable to exchange positive experiences.

The preliminary requirements for intensifying collaboration at the international level had been created by the Helsinki Conference last year. For the first time in the history of this continent a plan for long-term and effective co-ordinated action had been elaborated. This would promote Co-operation in many fields and strengthen economic ties. It was essential to have regular exchanges of opinions and experiences on the basis of the principles established in Helsinki.

With reference to consumer co-operatives in the Democratic Republic, during the last year there had been more than 80 official delegations from 40 countries and 5 international organisations. Exchanges of opinions, experiments and experience made a valuable contribution to co-operative activities and were a means of solving economic and social problems. Close collaboration between co-operatives provided better possibilities for them to carry out their work more effectively.

Mr W. W. RAWLINSON, Australia, told Congress that he wished to speak on trade between co-operatives, and international co-operative trade. The Director's remarks concerning more collaboration with international co-operative

service organisations in such fields as agricultural co-operation and finance in rural areas were most welcome.

With regard to the Report from the Central Committee on action resulting from the Warsaw Congress resolutions, particularly the item dealing with "Trade", Mr Rawlinson felt the role of the ICA had been underplayed. On the initiative of the ICA Council for South-East Asia, the International Co-operative Trading Organisation had been set up in Singapore, with detailed practical administrative assistance from the Regional Office in New Delhi, to whose staff tribute should be paid for their excellent work in this respect.

The object of ICTO was to assist co-operatives and people in the Asian region through collaboration by trade rather than aid, and also to promote international co-operative trade. The organisation had been established and its future was now entirely dependent on collaboration between co-operatives everywhere.

Mr Weeraman, Director of the Regional Office, had reported on the ICTO and it might be useful to repeat his statement:

"The International Co-operative Trading Organisation, started in Singapore by eight national co-operative movements of South-East Asia, has had some business in its first year of operations. However, it must be said that the pace is slow. It will take time for co-operatives in developed countries which buy consumer goods in the South-East Asia markets to switch over from their already well-established contacts to the new organisation. But, in the interests of the developing countries, the developed co-operatives must give their sympathetic consideration to buying from the producer co-operatives of the developing countries, and the International Co-

operative Trading Organisation can help to establish this collaboration. A certain amount of patience with inexperienced co-operatives trying to come into the picture has to be exercised by developed co-operatives, remembering that they too only 50 years ago were struggling for recognition in the same way. A very simple way of extending their sympathy is to give ICTO an idea of the requirements of co-operative buying in South-East Asia as they would be two years hence. The International Co-operative Trading Organisation members can then get the required supplies ready by 1978."

A warning had been given by the Chairman of Nordisk Andelsforbund on the problems of developing this type of trading operation. This warning should be heeded. However attention should be drawn to the Report of the Working Party, which stated, amongst other things: "Important purchases of knitwear and tools and other things have been made in the Far East," as an indication of collaboration between co-operatives, although no reference was made to the possible utilisation of the services of this organisation, set up specifically for this purpose.

An example of the frustration which might be expected in the formative stages of this organisation had been the enquiry received by the Organisation earlier this year from a European co-operative trading organisation about certain activities in Singapore. The enquiry had been answered, but the co-operative concerned had then sent its own representative to Singapore, bypassing ICTO and thereby failing to give business and support to this new organisation.

Mr Rawlinson appealed for understanding and support for ICTO from such ICA associate organisations as

EUROCOOP and INTER-COOP and the trading co-operatives of both socialist and mixed economy systems, by putting business through it, thus demonstrating practical collaboration between co-operatives.

Mr F. VYCHODIL, Czechoslovakia, stated that collaboration between co-operatives on the national and international levels was a very important subject which corresponded to the principles and interests of the ICA. The Alliance, the movement as a whole and the member organisations should continue to contribute more actively to the idea of Helsinki. The basic ideas underlying the documents produced by this conference should be introduced into our day-to-day life, because the Helsinki Conference supported true collaboration and determined the principles of peaceful co-existence of countries with different social and economic systems.

However, the task of Congress would not be fulfilled if it limited itself to approving the Report and voting for the Resolution on Collaboration between Co-operatives. Words needed to be matched with action in order to make the public more familiar with the tasks and aims of co-operators, to mobilise all members of co-operatives, their federations and other co-operative organisations in order that they might take positive action to implement the decisions of the Helsinki Conference. The development of Co-operation contributed to the deepening of knowledge and understanding of each other, knowledge of what had been achieved and the problems that confronted different co-operative movements. This would strengthen understanding and mutual comprehension and thereby help peace

and the security of nations. All of these things were essential for co-operative development.

Better collaboration between the co-operative organisations within the ICA and throughout the movement were due to the better atmosphere which existed in international relations at present. The co-operative organisations of the Socialist countries had always done all in their power to create such a favourable climate. However, even today it was not a simple task, when human rights were trampled upon—as, for example, by the Fascist regime of Chile, and as long as there was racialism in South Africa and other parts of the world.

It was right that the ICA, with all men of progressive and democratic spirit, should try to attack these phenomena and struggle continuously against them. Czechoslovak co-operators strongly supported any initiatives taken by co-operative organisations operating under different economic and social systems to affirm comprehension of other people as well as collaboration and progress. It was good to know that the ICA was playing an active role in setting up more favourable conditions to achieve these ends.

Mr WAWRZEWSKI, Poland, indicated that he wanted to speak about collaboration between housing and other co-operatives in Poland. The basic aims of this collaboration and common action were defined in agreements between the representatives of the housing co-operatives and other co-operatives.

This collaboration was defined in programmes of action, and was concentrated in two sectors. The first was the preparation of investments in trade and services in the housing schemes. The

second dealt with a whole range of measures for cultural, educational and leisure activities. In particular, young people and the children who lived in these co-operative housing projects benefited from them.

Regarding the first area, there was an exchange of information and constant consultation dealing with problems and how best to manage the housing and commercial services offered in these schemes. Co-operators were convinced that consultation was essential when investment was being considered. A service infrastructure had been set up which could take maximum advantage of the situation. It offered a whole range of services to co-operators and those who lived in these housing schemes.

Regarding the second area, collaboration depended on a number of common actions to help families in educating their children and running their households. A wide range of cultural and youth activities were being carried out. The self-governing bodies of these co-operatives were in constant consultation. This was essential if the programmes were to be implemented successfully.

New elements could be added to these programmes, as there were no rigid schemes. Given that the housing co-operatives had a greater role to play in the years ahead, especially in urban areas, a number of measures would have to be taken to promote greater collaboration between housing co-operatives, agricultural co-operatives and the peasant self-aid co-operatives. The principles of collaboration were always in the minds of those managing the co-operatives. They constantly analysed those principles and the programmes of work and there were joint meetings of the govern-

ing bodies of the different co-operatives.

Mr A. HIRSCHFELD, France, pointed out that collaboration both at the national and international level was indispensable if the co-operative movement was not to be merely an extension of the private sector in many different fields. It was essential that links between the different sectors of Co-operation be increased. Different attempts at collaboration between co-operatives had been made in France. Considerable difficulties had been faced, including economic difficulties. When such difficulties arose co-operatives tended to withdraw into themselves and forget their obligations with regard to collaboration with other co-operatives. However, such problems might best be overcome through collaboration, rather than by each acting for himself. It had been proved that in the educational sector and in management training it was better for experiments to be carried out jointly.

In France fortunately this problem had been understood. For example, there was a co-operative college supported by many of the national federations, and there was the French Institute for Co-operative Studies also supported by inter-cooperation. The study of co-operative education was an area where teachers and students could express their ideas and write articles on Co-operation—its past, present and future. These efforts should be pursued with patience and developed in the years ahead.

But collaboration at the national level was no longer sufficient. Co-operators had for a long time felt that the ICA was a very useful organisation to help in international Co-operation. In the difficult world in which we lived, and with the selfishness which unfortunately domi-

nated the behaviour of many men and women, efforts had to be redoubled to develop in every sector an indispensable solidarity.

Co-operation would triumph only if throughout the world, in all sectors, co-operators went beyond their own interests and their own successes and tried to become truly international. They should join together to create a truly co-operative world.

### **REPLY TO THE DEBATE ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN CO-OPERATIVES**

Mr J. HARRISON, Chairman of the Working Party, said that his first duty was to express thanks to the Congress for the number of contributions to the debate which indicated the tremendous interest in the subject of collaboration and its importance to the international co-operative movement. He also wanted to thank every contributor, because this was again an acknowledgment of the practical nature of the subject and the importance attached to it; also the members of the working party, who had without exception contributed so much to the success of this document, particularly in the course of its preparation, and Dr Saxena, Mr Davies and members of the staff of the ICA who had at all-times patiently and helpfully contributed to making it so informative and readable. Thanks should also be expressed to Dr Bonow, the former President of the ICA, who had supported in the Executive the idea of setting up this working party. In addition there had been long dialogues with various members of the British and the international co-operative movement on the subject between meetings of the working party, which

had also contributed to its success.

Two comments had been made which indicated disappointment in the Report. The first had been that not very much mention had been made of the developing countries. Delegates should refer to item 1.1.6. in which it was stated that the subject was so broad that some ideas had to be excluded, namely inter-cooperative aid and technical assistance by co-operatives in industrialised countries to those in the Third World. But at all times the problems of co-operatives in developing countries had been foremost in the thoughts of the Working Party, as had the activities of the co-operative movements in the Socialist countries. There was no doubt that the experience and challenge of all these countries had been very important in the final shaping of ideas.

Thanks should be expressed to the Canadian delegate for making the correction about Japanese investment in the herring roe industry.

It had been said that this was a compromise document, but that was not so, for two reasons. First, the document stood four-square with the Alliance's policy document on principles which the Working Party had before it and which enunciated the sixth principle, which was collaboration between co-operatives. Secondly, the document demonstrated the infinite variety of the practical collaboration that was taking place in the international co-operative movement and the contribution that collaboration was making not only to the strengthening of the co-operative movement, but to meeting the challenge of forces, in the capitalist world particularly, such as the multinational corporations. Every speech to Congress had demonstrated this

point, and it was hoped that the experiences described had been well noted.

However, two questions had to be asked. The first was the practical question as to what could be learnt from the experiences recounted in this debate, and how they could be used to develop collaboration in practical ways when delegates returned to their own countries. If some practical results could be achieved, there was no doubt that collaboration between co-operatives would become a stronger idea and something which would not only cement but also contribute to the greater strengthening of the international co-operative movement and the co-operative movements in the individual countries.

In his view, collaboration would develop and grow. Co-operators were always attempting, as was done in the Working Party, to find the bases of common agreement and to see how one could build on them. There was no doubt that it was the great merit of the international co-operative movement that, no matter what the differences might be between the various economies and the infinite variety that existed in the forms of Co-operation, there was in the essence of the co-operative philosophy the need to find agreement and act on these bases.

The Report had stressed what co-operatives were collaborating for. Right at the forefront, they collaborated for things which were socially desirable. They wanted to serve the consumer better. They wanted to bring more people into co-operative forms of employment. They wanted to increase the strength of the co-operative sector in capitalist countries. They wanted to ensure that in all forms of economy there

was greater and more constructive collaboration between the State and the co-operative forms of organisation. If this was done, co-operatives would make an excellent contribution not only to improving the material life of people but to enriching their outlook and their contribution to culture, education and so on.

Mention had also been made that there should be more collaboration between the apex organisations and private organisations. At the international level, the importance of inter-cooperative relationships, particularly those in joint buying, production and financial assistance had been stated.

What the Working Party had done was to recognise and show the infinite varieties of co-operative forms, the differences in the co-operative forms in the various economies, and the contributions that these were making. It had been recognised that co-operative collaboration between all these forms was a practical possibility. What had been said in this debate indicated that the co-operative movement at the national and international levels was working very hard to make a success of collaboration and to strengthen the international co-operative movement. The Alliance recognised and demonstrated this in its work for the co-operative movement, not only in practical ways but also in the development of the basic co-operation philosophy.

It was now time to turn to the future. The new Central Committee and the Executive Committee had to ask the auxiliary committees and working parties in the Alliance to report fully not only to the next Congress, but to the next meeting of the Central Committee on the work they were doing to improve col-

laboration in those spheres of activity for which they were responsible. This was democratic accountability. It was something that had to be introduced much more purposefully in this organisation.

There were aspects of the study on collaboration which had to be examined, because action upon them was very important. For instance, one had to look at the relationship between producer and consumer co-operatives. There was no doubt that this had been and still was a problem. If greater collaboration could be achieved here, there was no doubt that the worker in the producer organisation would benefit, as would the consumer who was finally going to buy the goods.

On the question of East-West trade, the difficulties in approach as to why more trade was not being done had at times been over-emphasised. But there were other difficulties which had to be examined. Perhaps these were difficulties which could be solved by co-operators themselves. They were practical difficulties, often arising out of the quality of goods, problems of packaging, labelling and so on. What should be suggested here was that the organisations operating in the developed countries, such as INTER-COOP and Nordisk Andelsforbund and the appropriate organisations in the Socialist economies should get together in a market research exercise to try to find out how to develop trade on the basis of agreed commodities, packaging and other things, so that there could be greater liberalisation of trade between these forms of economies. These were practical matters, but nevertheless matters which were important. On this basis, it might be possible to report at the next Congress that there had been a great development of trade between co-

operatives in these two types of economies.

It had been suggested that INTER-COOP and the Agricultural Committee of the Alliance should attempt to work more closely together. There was a sense of urgency here and consideration should be given to asking these two bodies to meet to see whether it was possible to get greater collaboration.

Mr Harrison said he had been impressed by some of the contributions made during Congress, which should be looked at very closely, particularly as it was hoped that there would be greater and more extensive practical collaboration in future. The Bulgarian contribution in this respect had been very interesting: Mr Kostow had stressed the importance of economies of scale and especially the need for meeting the challenge of the multinational corporations.

The establishment of the Co-operative Institute in Sweden was an interesting development. Where such organisations existed in a country there was a renewed opportunity for co-operators to get together to discuss co-operative philosophy. What was needed in any case, wherever co-operators met, was to encourage a dialogue where co-operators could be frank with each other, and to ensure that what was said found practical expression.

Mr Harrison did not think that another report on collaboration was needed. But it might be that the Central Committee or the Alliance would invite those who had been associated with this Report to meet at some stage in between Congresses, in order to assess the practical gains that had come out of this Report and to see whether any recommendations



could be made for further implementation of the recommendations made by the Working Party.

There were important aspects for further consideration. And in this context the relevant passages from the proposal in the name of the Central Committee should be quoted. It requested "the Central Committee of the Alliance, in consultation with the ICA Auxiliary Committees, further to explore ways and means of expanding collaboration between co-operatives through conferences and seminars and to consider whether new arrangements should be made to ensure that collaboration is kept closely under review in the ICA". That need would be acknowledged by all and all the people assembled there would demonstrate that practically when the Congress was over.

The motion called upon member organisations "to do all they can to collaborate with other co-operative organisations to compete more effectively with monopolies and multinational corporations". Again this would be acknowledged by all.

Finally it asked "the Central Committee to report to the 27th Congress of the ICA in 1980 on progress made". At that Congress the debate would probably be entirely different, showing that on the international level collaboration had been raised to a much higher degree of activity, and it would be possible to record greater satisfaction than had been possible at present.

If co-operators acted in this way the job of the Working Party would have been fruitful. The speeches indicated an acute interest in the subject. They acknowledged responsibility and Mr Harrison felt sure that if the debate was

anything to go by, greater progress would be reported at the ICA Congress in 1980.

The PRESIDENT then moved the adoption of the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## **RESOLUTION ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN CO-OPERATIVES**

The 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance:

**REAFFIRMS** its belief in the principle of Collaboration between Co-operatives proclaimed at its 23rd Congress in Vienna in 1966;

**RECOGNISES** the progress made in collaboration between co-operatives, nationally and internationally, during the last ten years as indicated in the report of the ICA Working Party on Collaboration between Co-operatives;

**EMPHASISES** the importance of closer collaboration for the expansion and development of the international co-operative movement through seeking out increased trade and other opportunities, organising joint ventures in developing and other countries, promoting contacts through exchange visits, improved communications, greater exchanges of publications, publicising examples of successful collaboration, thus contributing to the cause of social progress and strengthening of world-wide peace;

**RECOMMENDS** that research should be undertaken by co-operative organisations and academic institutions into ways and means of expanding such collaboration;

**REQUESTS** the Central Committee of the Alliance, in consultation with the ICA Auxiliary Committees, further to explore ways and means of expanding collaboration between co-operatives through conferences and seminars and to consider whether new arrangements should be made to ensure that collaboration is kept closely under review in the ICA;

**CALLS UPON** member-organisations to

do all they can to collaborate with other co-operative organisations to compete more effectively with monopolies and multinational corporations;

**ASKS** the Central Committee to report to the 27th Congress of the ICA in 1980 on progress made in the promotion of increased collaboration between co-operatives.

The **PRESIDENT** thanked Mr Khmov and Mr Harrison for their introduction to the debate and Mr Harrison for his very clear and constructive summing up. He also offered his thanks to the other members of the working party and others who had assisted them in their task.

## Motions Proposed by Central Committee

### **Peace**

The **PRESIDENT** said that the Central Committee had asked him to make a short comment on this motion. A great deal had already been said about Peace and it had been mentioned at each of our Congresses. This Congress was no exception. Mauritz Bonow had expressed everybody's opinion on this subject with courage and skill, and his speeches had been translated and published by the Alliance. There was no need to go over the arguments he had developed to show that without peace there could be no progress of any kind, particularly in the co-operative movement. It was well known that co-operative ideas were in themselves peaceful in intention, that they created the necessary conditions for long-term peace, and that without co-operation there could not be peace. The Alliance which grouped together millions of members from East, West, North and South had shown that it was possible to co-operate, to build together and to co-exist on a world-wide scale. It had shown that there was an alternative to systems based too much on competition and which promoted the wellbeing of the "haves" and discriminated against the "have nots". Through their daily work, co-operatives could set up a cli-

mate for mutual understanding in the field of international relationships. The world needed our co-operative spirit in order to survive, therefore co-operative voices must be heard. It was well known that through Co-operation economic and social relationships between nations could be developed in a peaceful way.

Peoples and governments throughout the world must be made aware that co-operatives wanted to build and not to destroy. This was the reason why at each Congress a motion on peace was proposed.

In the motion before Congress, the Central Committee had emphasised the dangers confronting the world, drawing attention especially to "countries practising policies of racialism, apartheid and fascism" as well as to the "great inequalities of wealth". The motion also requested that the Central Committee should "consider discussing what the UN had declared as the new social and economic order". Finally, it urged the United Nations "to convene urgently a World Disarmament Conference".

The motion thus faithfully reflected the desires of people throughout the world who had heard the United Nations urge disarmament upon the nations. Unfortunately, the people of the

world had been disappointed once again. Co-operators were also disappointed. But once again it had to be stated that peace must be earned and that co-operatives could create the necessary basis for peace. A philosopher had said that the ideas which changed the world had been born on small territories, and co-operators had to help the dove of peace in its flight.

Mr B. O'CARROLL, Irish Republic, pointed out that peace was the most important part of the co-operative movement and it should be put in the forefront of all co-operative activities. Ireland had a particular interest in its implementation: for over eight years there had been a conflict in part of the country which had resulted in thousands of deaths and maimings and thousands of people being imprisoned. There had also been millions of pounds worth of damage. This was still going on. It was now over seven years since the United Nations had shown any open interest in this conflict. In view of the Alliance's close collaboration with the UN, Irish co-operators would like to suggest to this Congress that the UN consider the possibility of setting up a commission to inquire into the origins and causes of the conflict, in the hope that it might put forward some suggestions for bringing it to an end. They did not blame anyone for this conflict or make any suggestions, but they wanted to state categorically that it was not a fanatical religious feud, as many had been informed.

It was hoped that this suggestion would be passed on to the UN showing the practical interest of co-operators in the establishment of peace. It would also help the co-operative movement in Ireland.

Mr N. THEDIN, Sweden, then asked that the question be now put, as there was a tradition in the ICA that at Congresses peace resolutions were adopted unanimously without discussion.

The PRESIDENT then moved the adoption of the proposal.

**The proposal was carried unanimously.**

## RESOLUTION ON PEACE

The 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance, representing 325 million co-operators in 65 countries with varied economic, social and political systems:

**RECALLS** that its Rules call upon member-organisations to work for the establishment of lasting peace and security;

**REAFFIRMS** the calls for peace adopted at previous Congresses as well as the resolutions adopted by the Central Committee in 1973 and 1975 in which the urgent need for a World Disarmament Conference and the dangers of the arms race were strongly stressed;

**WELCOMES** the decisions of the Conference on Security and Collaboration in Europe which created an atmosphere favourable to the promotion of economic, scientific, technical and trade collaboration between countries, independent of their socio-economic system;

**BELIEVES** that the implementation of steps to relax international tension is one of the most important conditions for the development and consolidation of friendly and business relations between national co-operative movements, irrespective of their social systems;

**DECLARES** that rivalry between countries for markets and investments and the growing power of multinationals to bring pressure on governments to enhance their own profit seeking interests constitute a potential source of conflict and threat to peace;

STATES that there continue to be regions of the world in which the seeds of tension exist, and that the threat to the peace and security of nations exists in a number of countries practising policies of racialism, apartheid and fascism;

NOTES with great concern, the existence of great inequalities of wealth;

EMPHASISES that co-operative forms of enterprise which serve the interests of the community, and a wider application of co-operative principles, with their emphasis on service, have a vital role to play in the development of a more equitable social and economic order;

#### REQUESTS

- (a) its member-organisations to mobilise public opinion in support of government policies aimed at reducing tension, caused both by the arms race and economic exploitation by the few, and the conclusion of a worldwide agreement to refrain from the use of force in international relations;
- (b) the ICA Central Committee to consider discussing what the UN has declared as the new international social and economic order, and to pursue this aim with the appropriate UN bodies;
- (c) the United Nations to convene urgently a World Disarmament Conference so that the massive resources for armaments could be diverted into constructive programmes of economic and social development.

#### **The Tasks of the Co-operative press**

Dr R. KOHLER, Switzerland, said that support should be given to the expansion of the co-operative press.

The Press Working Party under the excellent chairmanship of Mr Boniface had done a good job. A number of resolutions and suggestions had emanated from it and these corresponded with the motion now under discussion. What caused concern, however, was that there

were a number of organisations which, for reasons of economy, recessions and so on, had to reduce their budgets. It was unfortunate that in looking for economies they had cut down on expenditure on the co-operative press.

All those involved in the promotion of economic policies in the field of politics knew well that they could not work effectively without newspapers. An active press was essential to the co-operative movement. That was why he wished to appeal to all concerned with the co-operative movement not to eliminate the press from their budgets. He also wanted to appeal to those dealing with questions of finance: without good fertilisation one could not expect to have good crops; without sufficient funds the co-operative movement could not have a valid press.

Addressing journalists, editors and all who were concerned with the production of the co-operative press, Dr Kohler said that if this motion were adopted, co-operative journalists would be given the green light. This should motivate all concerned to be more effective.

Mr J. BIHARI L. KHACHI, India, pointed out that the dissemination of knowledge and of the good work done by co-operatives was very important, as such knowledge should be shared by their counterparts in other parts of the world. It was equally desirable that co-operative press and publications should not only aim at the higher levels but also percolate down to the regional level. Co-operatives could not afford merely to sit in an ivory tower.

The Indian delegation believed that news was of such great importance that an international co-operative news pool would be of great value. When the President of France inaugurated this 26th

Congress the story had been ignored by most of the world's press. The reason for this was that the monopoly press all over the world was not prepared to project news about the co-operative movement.

With co-operatives emerging as an economic force in the world in their own right, close neither to capitalism nor to State monopoly, it was only natural that there should be jealousies and acrimonious hesitation on the part of the world's monopoly press.

Mr Khachi appealed to Congress to decide on the setting up of an international news agency. It would then be possible to disseminate news of development and the good work done by co-operatives to other parts of the world through periodicals and daily newspapers.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the idea of a co-operative news agency had been discussed at previous Congresses and it was likely to feature on future agendas. He then moved the adoption of the motion.

**The proposal was carried unanimously.**

## **RESOLUTION ON THE TASKS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE PRESS**

The 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance:

WELCOMES the resolution of the Conference on Security and Co-operation held in Europe with, *inter alia*, the aim of facilitating the freer and wider dissemination of information of all kinds, of encouraging co-operation in the field of information and improving the working conditions of journalists;

STATES that the co-operative press carries out its activity on all levels—local,

national and international; that organs of the co-operative press publish a vast range of information on co-operative matters and that there is a mutual exchange of co-operative periodicals and literature;

CONSIDERS that the co-operative press can play an important role in the development and consolidation of the international co-operative movement, in the improvement of ICA activity and in the promotion of social and economic progress;

DEEMS it necessary to make full use of the publications of the ICA and of the national co-operative organisations which are members of the ICA, in order to propagate the aims and methods of the co-operative movement, to define the place which the movement occupies in present-day social and economic life, and its role in the work for economic and social justice;

COMMENDS the constructive work of the ICA Working Party on Co-operative Press;

APPEALS to the ICA member-organisations to promote the publication of material which will acquaint co-operative members and the populations of their countries with the international co-operative movement, and with the activities of the International Co-operative Alliance.

## **Amendments to ICA Rules (1)**

Dr A. RAUTER, Austria, introducing the Amendments to Rules stated that the Central Committee had considered these changes at length. He asked Congress to accept the amendments to the Rules and Standing Orders. The object of the amendments was to make the aims of the Alliance quite clear and to provide for more rapid decision making. The changes would allow Congress to work more efficiently than hitherto.

**The proposal was carried unanimously (For text see page 299).**

## Motions Proposed by Member Organisations

### **Standards for non-food products**

*Proposer:* Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union, Japan.

Ms F. TAKEI, Japan, said that she was a member of the Board of the Consumers' Co-operative Union, chairman of the Women's Council and also a member of the Union's National Food Development Committee.

The motion had been designed to give additional weight to the Declaration of Consumers' Rights adopted at the 24th ICA Congress in Hamburg in 1969. Many people had pointed out the harmful substances contained in such things as detergents, drugs, shampoos, etc. and had shown that the environmental pollution caused by them had a bad effect on the human body. The FAO and WHO had jointly set up a Food Safety Standards Commission which had done fruitful work, such as defining safety standards. But for non-food items, such as those mentioned above, there were no international safety standards. Japanese co-operators were well aware of the risks involved when such items were being used, and they endeavoured to persuade manufacturers to make goods for sale in co-operative shops strictly to their own specifications.

Some detergents had caused eczema and rough skin on hands and had also caused pollution of underground rivers. Because of this a new "Co-op" detergent for laundry and kitchen use had been produced, as well as a shampoo of very high quality.

The tests necessary to establish harmful matter were costly in time and money and they could hardly be carried out by

one co-operative movement. In order to protect people's health, such tests should be undertaken at the international level or at the highest level in the respective countries. More information about the results of such tests should be exchanged.

An amendment to the motion had been proposed by KK, Finland, which had the support of the proposers of the motion.

Mr F. CUSTOT, France, pointed out that the fact that the motion had been presented by the Japanese consumer co-operatives was especially valuable in view of the Japanese experience of environmental problems. It was well known that the monopolistic capitalist industry had put enormous obstacles in the way of dealing with this matter, and had been responsible for mercury pollution in Minematta Bay.

There was one point which should be stressed in this context and that was that all consumers should have access to all information concerning not only goods and services, but also what was being done to ensure consumer protection. In many countries there was a policy of administrative secrecy which prevented people from having access to vital information which might be of interest to them. The Alliance could make a useful contribution towards stopping this policy of secrecy, especially by stimulating an exchange of information. Co-operators of every country should be able to acquire the means of influencing economic life and of participating in a democratic way in the decision-making process.

**The proposal was carried unanimously.**

## RESOLUTION ON STANDARDS FOR NON-FOOD PRODUCTS

The 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance:

RECALLS the declaration of consumer rights adopted at the 24th Congress of the ICA in 1969, in which it was declared that consumers have a right to:

- (i) a reasonable standard of nutrition, clothing and housing
- (ii) adequate standards of safety and a healthy environment free from pollution
- (iii) access to unadulterated merchandise at fair prices and with reasonable variety and choice
- (iv) access to relevant information on goods and services and to education on consumer topics
- (v) influence in economic life and democratic participation in its control;

REGRETS that more progress has not been made in implementing this declaration;

VIEWS with alarm the increasing use of toxic substances in non-food products such as detergents, drugs, shampoos, etc; the increasing pollution of the environment by the discharge of poisonous substances all of which are harmful to mankind;

INSISTS that such use should be strictly controlled;

COMMENDS the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) which, in the field of food products have established a Food Safety Standards Commission, in order to develop adequate safeguards which will protect consumers;

REQUESTS the World Health Organisation, International Standards Commission, and International Electrical Commission to set up a similar commission for non-food products in order to establish uniform safety standards;

URGES ICA member-organisations to pioneer consumer safety in their own production and trade, and in collaboration with appropriate consumer groups, to influence their national governments to support the introduction and strict application

of safety standards regarding toxic substances in non-food products, and generally to support measures on consumer protection;

REQUESTS the Organisation for Co-operative Consumer Policy and member-organisations to pursue more vigorously the implementation of the ICA's declaration of consumer rights;

ASKS member-organisations to ensure greater exchange of information concerning the results of tests in this field in co-operative laboratories.

### Technical Assistance and Co-operative Housing

*Proposer:* HSB:s Riksförbund and Svenska Riksbyggen, Sweden.

Mr A. JOHNSON, Sweden, stated that the ICA Housing Committee since its inauguration had been representative of housing consumers and had tried to make the public and the various United Nations agencies at all levels aware of the deeply felt need for good housing.

Although the motion had been proposed by the two Swedish housing organisations, it had the full support of all the members of the Housing Committee, now numbering 26 national movements. However, an auxiliary committee was not entitled to present any motions on its own behalf.

It was deeply felt within the co-operative housing movements that higher priority should be given to the provision of housing, particularly in the developing countries. This process was a very complex one, because it dealt not only with housing, but also with the infrastructure of society as such, as had been manifested at the United Nations World Conference "Habitat" held in Vancouver, referred to earlier.

Mr W. J. CAMPBELL, ICHDA,

informed Congress that the motion presented by the national Swedish housing organisations, and adopted by the Central Committee at its meeting in Sofia, had been presented to the UN Conference on Habitat in Vancouver as part of the ICA statement made to that 134-nation conference. It had been received favourably and was now in the machinery of the UN programme.

It was of very great importance that co-operators urged higher priorities for housing programmes within national organisations and also that co-operative housing be given a higher priority in the United Nations programmes. It was also important to note that a large number of co-operative housing organisations had formed the International Co-operative Housing Development Association (ICHDA) and that housing programmes were under way in a number of countries. It was particularly pleasing to know that the Government of Finland, at the request of the co-operative housing organisation in Finland, had provided funds to send a full-time adviser on co-operative housing to be attached to the Economic Commission for Africa.

It was also important to note that the first grant from the United Nations Capital Development Fund had been used to finance a full-time adviser for a pilot project in Lesotho, South Africa, and that other programmes were moving forward rapidly. There was one additional item which should be brought to the notice of Congress and that was that the Board of Directors at its recent meeting had decided to re-locate the offices of ICHDA at the ICA headquarters in London.

**The proposal was carried unanimously.**

## **RESOLUTION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING**

The 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance,

NOTES THAT a recent world housing survey shows that housing conditions particularly in the developing countries, are deteriorating alarmingly and that problems of overcrowding and intolerable sanitary conditions are acute and that related services are unsatisfactorily provided, if they at all exist;

STATES that the new production of houses, quantitatively and qualitatively, as well as modernisation of the old stock of housing are not given proper priority in the national economies in which the building industry, being labour intensive, plays a vital role;

WELCOMES the convening by the UN of a World Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver, Canada, and

ACCEPTS the principles and recommendations of the conference requesting governments to give increased attention to the problem of Human Settlements, particularly in the developing countries;

REAFFIRMS that the provision of housing for the great majority of people has not been met satisfactorily;

DECLARES that co-operative methods have proved to be most beneficial for the solution of the housing problem in the developed countries, involving the betterment of the quality of housing and the application of democracy in the provision of housing, and

EMPHASISES that co-operative methods should be extensively applied in the housing programmes of both developed and developing countries;

ASKS governments to make available funds for housing co-operative programmes and that in bi-lateral assistance programmes countries with experience in co-operative housing make this available and devote a bigger share of their assistance funds for development of co-operative housing;



REQUESTS the UN to give a high priority to the solution of the housing problem throughout the world particularly in the light of the recommendations of the conference on Human Settlements; and to that end,

FURTHER REQUESTS the UN to set up a special division to handle co-operative housing development in its Human Settlements programme.

### **Co-operatives and Multinational Corporations (Motion withdrawn)**

Mr V. MAGNANI, Italy, informed Congress that the representatives of the three Italian co-operative movements had discussed the proposed motion on Co-operatives and Multinational Corporations, as well as the amendments, with the Congress Committee.

The ICA had appreciated the spirit behind this proposal, because it was essential that a conference of the co-operatives within the EEC should be held. However, it had been decided to withdraw the proposal, although the proposers hoped that their initiative would be taken up at an opportune moment, and that the governing bodies of the Alliance would see that such conference took place.

### **Tourism and the Co-operative Movement**

*Proposers:* Fédération des Coopératives Chrésiennes, Belgium; Fédération Belge des Coopératives, Belgium.

Mr A. HAULOT, Belgium, pointed out that it was in 1936 that European workers had obtained for the first time a week's holiday by legislation. They had fought hard for this. Forty years later, in 1976, tourism had become an integral part of the lives of the great masses of people in the industrialised countries.

The week's holiday of 1936 had now become a month's holiday. Hundreds of millions of people, including vast numbers of co-operators and consumers throughout the world, spent a tenth of their time travelling for pleasure. It had become a necessary outlet for each one of them.

Despite economic problems and inflation, tourism had continued to increase in 1976. It had involved the sum of \$35 billion, as millions of people had travelled throughout the world.

But how had this need been met? It had to be remembered that young people and senior citizens did not have much money at their disposal, and their needs had been met first and foremost by co-operatives and trade union movements, together with educational organisations. Too often, however, people were involved in a betrayal of tourism because of the emphasis on profit by private operators. When badly understood and badly organised, tourism could destroy the environment and basic human values. Developing countries were also at risk. They became the victims and did not benefit from tourism, which was often only organised for the benefit of financial speculators.

It was well known that the co-operative movement in many countries was deeply involved in tourism. One could cite Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, France and the Eastern European countries. But what had been achieved was very little when one considered the size and nature of the problem as it developed from year to year. An attempt should be made to deal with this problem at the international co-operative level. There must be co-ordination and co-operatives must ensure that consumers were helped

in every possible way. The needs of consumers must be studied in the true spirit of international Co-operation. A great deal had already been done and was being done by the International Bureau of Social Tourism which Mr Haulot represented.

The International Federation of Popular Travel Organisations was world-wide and had 14 years experience in the field of tourism, of which Belgian co-operators had been able to take advantage. They hoped that the Alliance would become fully aware of the importance of tourism and leisure activities and become a dynamic force for the encouragement of tourism at the international level.

Mr H. IDEI, Japan, said that it was unfortunate that in many of the ICA's member countries the tourist business was in the hands of private enterprise and was run on commercial lines.

The National Travel Association of the Japanese agricultural co-operatives had been established in 1967, with the aim of providing tours at reasonable cost and raising the cultural standards of member farmers. It was obtaining excellent results, and attempts were continuously being made to improve its services and make its work more successful. Further studies were required on how tourist organisations could be set up by co-operatives.

**The proposal was carried unanimously.**

## **RESOLUTION ON TOURISM AND THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT**

The 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance,

AWARE of the growing tourist needs of the population and concerned that this need will constantly increase during the next decades;

CONCERNED about the results that could follow in certain countries if this vital sector of the economy is left to private capitalist type organisations;

DELIGHTED that co-operative achievements in many countries confirm the ability of the co-operative movement to engage in such activities;

CONVINCED of the essential role that the co-operative movement plays in taking the interests of the consumer into consideration and of the solutions it offers to the problems now facing the development of social tourism at the international level;

UNDERLINES the great benefits which could result from a closer collaboration between co-operatives in this field;

APPEALS to all co-operative movements to contribute to the development of popular tourism by working as closely as possible with all organisations (trade unions, mutual societies, etc.) wishing to develop a high standard of tourism available to all;

RECOMMENDS that all the movements at present active in tourism better co-ordinate their activities within the ICA by setting up as a first stage, a working party, which could study methods of collaboration, first inter-cooperative and then with the International Bureau of Social Tourism (BITS) and the International Federation of Popular Travel Organisations (IFPTO).

## **Conference on European Security and Co-operation held in Helsinki**

*Proposer:* London Co-operative Society Limited, United Kingdom.

Mr J. LAYZELL, United Kingdom, introducing the motion said that it was evident that the agreements reached by the governments at the Conference on European Security and Co-operation in Helsinki in 1975, now known as the Helsinki Declaration, were brought about by the pressure of millions of ordinary people upon their governments.

The urgent need now was for people to

become aware of the agreements made in their names. The co-operative movement throughout the world had to accept the responsibility of making sure that at least the members of its own organisations were made aware of their content. Despite the pledges given in the Final Act—"The text of this Final Act will be published in each participating state, which will disseminate it and make it known as widely as possible"—many governments had only printed a few thousand copies of the Act. Others, particularly the governments in the Socialist countries, had printed millions. In Britain the English edition of the Moscow News had printed more copies of the Final Act than the government.

The London Co-operative Society had published for free distribution a pamphlet giving the main details of the agreements, and had issued posters for display in its shops and at members' meetings drawing attention to the Helsinki Declaration. But this was only a very small contribution. Many people were still unaware of the main points. They had a right to know the pledges given in their name and a duty to see that they were carried out by their respective governments. The implementation of the Declaration would open the way for resources to be diverted from huge armaments budgets to peaceful and trust-creating forms of international Co-operation.

Even today there were people who had committed their interests and political careers to keeping alive the Cold War, who demanded bigger arms budgets, sought to stir up mistrust and disagreement instead of seeking agreement and promoting trade to the mutual benefit of all. For the sake of the children of all

countries, whatever their creed or colour, the Cold War warriors must be defeated.

The words of friendship contained in the historic Helsinki Declaration must be made to ring out all over the world. Only when the ordinary people of all countries understood the Helsinki agreements could one be sure that steps would be taken by governments to implement them, so that at long last the resources of the world might be used for construction instead of destruction.

**The proposal was carried unanimously.**

#### **RESOLUTION ON THE CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION HELD IN HELSINKI**

The 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance,

**WELCOMES** the agreements reached by governments at the Conference on European Security and Co-operation held in Helsinki in 1975;

**CALLS** on member-organisations of the International Co-operative Alliance and all interested public bodies to take all steps to publicise these important agreements and to work for their implementation.

#### **Women and the Co-operative Movement**

*Proposers:* Union Centrale des Coopératives, Bulgaria; Ustredni Rada Druzstev, Czechoslovakia; Verband deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften, German Democratic Republic; National Council of Consumers' Co-operative Societies, Hungary; National Council of Industrial Co-operatives, Hungary; National Co-operative Council, Hungary; National Council of Agricultural Co-operatives, Hungary; Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives, Poland; Central Union of Building and Housing Co-operatives, Poland; "Spolem" Union of Consumer

Work Co-operatives, Poland; Supreme Co-operative Council, Poland; Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor de Consum, Romania; Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor Mestesugaresti, Romania; Uniunea Nationale a Cooperativelor Agricole de Productie, Romania; Centrosoyus, USSR.

Ms H. LEMBKE, German Democratic Republic, pointed out that the motion dealt with the problems confronting women in the modern world and outlined the contribution the Alliance could make in this respect.

During International Women's Year a World Congress had been held in Berlin. In order to support the work of the Women's Auxiliary Committee of the ICA the consumer co-operators of the GDR wished to present two films, one in English and the other in French, depicting the activities of women throughout the world.

Ms P. PROWSE, Canada, referred to a story which had been told to her by one of the Swedish co-operators. His mother, one of the prime movers in the establishment of the first co-operative in her community over half a century ago, had been visited by some of the local men who wanted to recognise *her* services by trying to get *her husband* elected to the board of directors.

Looking around this assembly one would be tempted to think that things had not changed in the past half century. Women co-operators had paid their own way in order to come to Paris to attend the Women's Conference and sit in the visitors' gallery during Congress. These were dedicated co-operators—women who were making a fine contribution to the co-operative movement. Why were they not sitting in the body of this hall among the delegates? Why was it that,

had been made in the emancipation of women and their integration as equal partners in the political, economic and social life of their countries, they had still not penetrated in any significant way into the real power bases of business, of the civil service, of government, or even of co-operatives? This was true of every country in the world, including those who claimed to have achieved complete equality of sexes.

If one considered the reason for this situation, it was easy to see that if there were 50 per cent representation by women, half the gentlemen would not be here! This was the crux of the problem. Neither men nor women liked to step aside to give others the opportunity to share power and responsibility. Those who were on the wrong side of 50 were not anxious to step aside to give youth a chance to participate in executive positions. The people of the developed nations, particularly in North America, did not willingly take less in order to share power and resources with the developing nations.

It was easy to pay lip-service to sharing and to pass resolutions, but even co-operators were not always ready to face the fact that a greater degree of sharing inevitably entailed a giving up on someone's part, a stepping aside to achieve the goal of an equitable sharing of power and resources.

Ms Prowse said that she supported the motion with some reservations, because there was a danger that women might be building for themselves a parallel organisation to the Alliance. Some men might be content with this development, because it would give them a chance to remain entrenched in their policy-

making and handling of the basic important decisions of the Alliance and its member organisations, without reference to the aspirations of women. That would be a great tragedy. If we were to mobilise the energies of the people for the development of joint co-operative action for the benefit of the community in all the countries of the world, men and women together must build up the co-operative movement in a spirit of harmony and sharing.

Ms C. RYFFEL, Switzerland, said that as a member of the Women's Committee she was particularly interested in this problem, which was still a very obvious one, based on historical development and on the development of society throughout the world. Women were being discriminated against everywhere. They did not get the same wage for the same work. There were obvious differences between men and women and their capacity for work, but these were determined by society. It was difficult to bring about change. Therefore a new awareness had to be promoted, because a struggle for the recognition of new values and for a more equal society was going on. A more co-operative society had to base itself on a new reality, which would mean a complete transformation of the sense of values.

The time was now ripe for such transformation, because the historical development had reached a point where people had control over their environment. The old methods of repression had become obsolete and were no longer required in order to maintain society.

Women must participate in this new reality. Therefore she welcomed the motion, because co-operatives had a great task facing them, and a great many

discussions would have to take place. It was valuable that the Alliance should make a contribution towards gaining equality for women and the full integration of women in the decision-making policy of the ICA. Women should commit themselves to these new realities and prepare the road for their sisters. Everything women co-operators do must be seen as something of great value in the interests of women. All of us wanted to see women becoming equal in all countries and, in particular, in all decision-making bodies of the ICA. The task of the Women's Committee was to achieve these aims.

*Mr N. MIHAI, Romania, did not speak to the motion due to shortage of time, but requested that his comments be included in the Report.*

The great success achieved during the 32 years since the liberation of Romania is the result of the self-sacrificing efforts of the Romanian people, among which millions of women in the country are making an important contribution.

It must be borne in mind that more than 80 per cent of the female population represent an active work force. Amongst those who have completed middle-grade studies half are women, and they form one third of the people who have completed higher education.

In the three co-operative organisations, women make an important contribution towards the consolidation of co-operatives and towards increasing their revenue. It is for this reason that more and more women are elected to managing bodies and other responsible offices. Within agricultural production co-operatives, 28 per cent of the members of boards of management are women and in 98 per cent of agricultural co-operatives the post of vice-president is occupied by a woman; in 199 co-operatives a woman has been elected President.

Various problems concerning the work and life of women in Romania have been

solved satisfactorily, for example: salaries are the same as for men, there is paid maternity leave, paid leave for temporary incapacity to work, child allowances and free medical and hospital care.

These are some of the concerns of the Romanian co-operatives with regard to the Resolution under discussion. We shall do all in our power to make women aware that they can and should participate in the management of co-operatives, in more intense activity in the economic and social fields.

In future the three co-operative organisations in Romania will increase their activities for the education of women co-operators in the spirit of internationalism, in the spirit of the principles of equal rights, to teach them respect for independence and national sovereignty and to renounce the use of force and the threat of force, the principles which form the basis of party policy and of the Romanian Government.

**The proposal was carried unanimously.**

## **RESOLUTION ON WOMEN AND THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT**

The 26th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance,

NOTES that the International Women's Year proclaimed by the United Nations for 1975 has created a growing awareness all over the world of the fact that the difficulties facing mankind—hunger, injustices, threats to environment and peace—cannot be overcome without the participation and contribution by women;

EMPHASISES that in a number of countries, discrimination against women still remains one of the most acute problems, preventing women's active participation in all spheres of life in society, and in the co-operative movement;

STRESSES the importance of fact-finding research into the situation of women as basis for action;

EMPHASISES the need for co-operative organisations to participate in the struggle

for full equality for women in the political, economic and social life of all countries;

URGES co-operative movements to increase activities aimed at attracting women into both the economic and social activities of the co-operative movement, including the development of co-operative education, family planning, cultural activities, etc.;

DRAWS ATTENTION to the necessity of revising legislation and bye-laws in countries where these hamper women from full membership and participation in the management of societies;

CONSIDERS it necessary for national co-operative movements to expand their activities by the exchange of delegations of women co-operators, and by holding national, regional and international seminars, conferences and symposia;

RECOGNISES the important role of the ICA's Women's Committee in promoting actions of women and for women, including working relations with other ICA bodies and international organisations; and therefore,

RECOMMENDS strengthened support for the committee in its work for equality, development and peace.

### **Amendment to Rules (2)**

*Proposer:* Organization of Cooperatives of America.

The PRESIDENT introduced the amendment concerning the use of Spanish as an official language of the ICA.

Dr M. R. DOMPER, OCA, wished to emphasise the important contribution to the world-wide co-operative movement that could be made by the co-operatives of Latin America where Spanish was the language of the people. There were millions of co-operators in organisations in Latin America, of which more than 20 were members of the Alliance. By making Spanish one of the official languages of

the ICA the importance of this contribution would be recognised, and the ICA would have a more universal character as the voice of the world-wide co-operative movement. It would be unfortunate if the millions of Spanish speaking co-operators were to continue to be limited in their opportunity to participate in the work of the ICA. It was clearly time to establish the increased integration of Latin American co-operators with the ICA. This would, of course, mean additional cost to the ICA in the provision of translation and interpretation, but this additional cost should be more than covered by the additional revenues which would accrue to the ICA from an increased membership.

Mr A. VAINSTOK, Argentina, explained that his delegation was supporting the motion because they had very rarely come across a motion which had more impact than the one under discussion. Spanish was spoken by a vast number of people in the world—some 4,000 million. The *Review of International Co-operation* was already being produced in Spanish and was being distributed from Buenos Aires to all Spanish-speaking countries. For more than 20 years co-operators in Latin America and other Spanish speaking countries had asked that Spanish be adopted as an official language of the ICA.

This 26th Congress in Paris had the historic opportunity of adopting this Resolution. It would be a great step forward for the ICA. It would ensure greater justice and a greater membership for the ICA in a large part of the world.

Dr L. SCHUJMAN, Argentina, expressed the hope that Congress would agree to give Spanish official status in

the ICA. If the motion was adopted it would help to put more life into the ICA's long-term programme of work which had already been adopted here.

Many of the Spanish-speaking people were at present going through very difficult times, with obstacles in their way, as they tried to obtain economic development within the framework of independence and social justice. There was general concern about human rights. In places such as Peru and Panama, new forms of co-operatives and social ownership were being tried. The Spanish-speaking people needed to be able to express themselves within the world co-operative family and to create conditions for economic progress, solidarity and collaboration between co-operatives. If the motion was adopted it would be a real contribution towards peace and human understanding.

Mr R. MORROW, United States, who was working in Latin America, pointed out that there were more than 50 million co-operators in Latin America who wanted to be in a position to share in the experiences of their fellow co-operators. There was a very lively co-operative movement in Latin America.

He strongly supported the use of Spanish as an official language of the ICA, but realised the budgetary consequences. It was, however, essential for the ICA and for the future of the co-operative movement that Spanish be named as one of the official languages. From a business point of view, it would be like a sales promotion, because over a period of years the additional membership which would be brought into the ICA would much more than meet the extra cost.

Mr G. R. GAY, United Kingdom,

said that it seemed to him, without being completely against the proposition, that the Central Committee and this Congress were entitled to a more detailed examination by the Executive Committee of the implications, particularly the financial ones, before perhaps too lightly accepting this motion. Dr Saxena, at the meeting of the Central Committee, had given the impression that, even if the motion was carried, there were practical difficulties of one kind or another which might put back the implementation of the motion for some considerable time.

In view of the motion already adopted by Congress concerning the long-term programme and its financial implications, it would have made more sense to ask the Executive Committee to look at this matter after the ad hoc committee on ICA finances had reported at the next meeting of the Central Committee.

Drawing attention to the paragraph dealing with the *Review of International Co-operation*, Mr Gay pointed out that in the interests of economy, the publication of the Review in German had now ceased. The Review was being published in English, French and Spanish. The Spanish edition was now in its ninth year. It was rather peculiar to argue, on the one hand, that the demands of economy forced the ICA to drop one language, and on the other to undertake additional commitments language-wise.\*

He regretted to say that the Executive Committee and perhaps the Central Committee were not being as responsible

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\*The Spanish edition of the *Review* has always been produced by INTERCOOP Editora Cooperativa (Buenos Aires) without cost to the ICA. During its first four years, production was partly subsidised by the Austrian Co-operative Movement. — Edit.

in this matter as they should be. In view of the present financial position, this matter should have been thoroughly researched and an authoritative statement issued from the Executive Committee explaining exactly what all this implied. Mr Sjøiland had pointed out how very limited were the ICA resources in comparison with what needed to be done. Dr Saxena when summing up at the end of the discussion had said that unless the financial basis was put right, what had been said there the previous morning could turn out to be so much hot air.

The accounts made clear that, if it were not for the magnificent special financial contribution of the Swedish co-operative movement, the Alliance would be in very serious financial trouble.

If the motion was accepted, those who supported it should do so with their eyes open and be prepared to meet this additional commitment. But it might be more sensible if the motion were remitted to the Executive for a full report.

Mr S. DREYER, USA, presenting the point of view of the Executive Committee, said that the Committee had recommended this amendment. While it was for Congress delegates to decide whether Spanish should be an official language of the ICA, Article 5 of the Rules stated that "it shall be for the Central Committee or the Executive Committee to decide to what extent each language shall be used".

The Executive Committee did not intend to spend resources unless it secured them. The cost factors involved in all the ICA's programme had to reflect a cost benefit analysis. The Executive Committee felt that the potentials in adopting Spanish as an official language



of the ICA might advance the purpose and cause of the ICA in the Latin American and Spanish-speaking countries to a greater extent than any costs which might be incurred. The Executive Committee had made its recommendation after sober reflection on the consequences of the overall long-term programme.

Through the contribution of the Spanish-speaking movements themselves, the proceedings of this Congress were being interpreted in Spanish—at no cost to the ICA. This was a major factor in the record attendance at Congress from Spanish-speaking countries, and it was a very good example of how the financial problems might be overcome in regard to this amendment.

A great deal had been done to date by the ICA and its affiliated members to improve communications. The Austrian co-operative movement had inaugurated the translation of the ICA Review into Spanish. Other movements might be willing to add to this possibility. But the passage of the amendment would place responsibilities on the Spanish-speaking co-operators as well, including vigorous financial support of the ICA which would hopefully more than cover the cost of any language efforts. There was also the responsibility of promoting support for the ICA throughout the Spanish-speaking world. It would fur-

ther require Spanish-speaking friends to have patience in limiting their requests for the use of Spanish until such time as the cost benefit was significant in regard to the ICA's goals.

A number of people here did not speak any of the official languages of the ICA but through their own efforts made it possible to report to Congress on their activities. Those who spoke Spanish should on most occasions bear this same responsibility.

Mr Dreyer expressed the hope that Spanish-speaking friends would appreciate the interest and support expressed by the Executive Committee in urging support for the amendment. The ICA was extending the hand of Co-operation in this gesture in a sincere desire for improved communication and association with over 50 million Spanish-speaking co-operators. How much it would be possible to do would depend on the finances of the ICA and on what additional resources might become available, but the Spanish-speaking co-operators must meet the challenge to work effectively with and within the ICA, to become vigorous partners for progress in the Alliance through their participation in the Auxiliary Committees and through their own financial support.

**The proposal was carried.** (For text see page 299).

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## VOTE OF THANKS

Mr P. SØILAND, Norway, said that this was not the time to evaluate the Congress and its work. Very many difficult issues had been dealt with. Very many good speeches had been heard and there had been some long debates. Not

everything that had been said could be agreed by everybody. Nevertheless he had the strong feeling that the 26th Congress of the ICA had been an inspiring event and a positive one.

During the Congress it had been demonstrated that there was a growing

interest in collaborating in the promotion of Co-operation all over the world.

Thanks were due to the French co-operative movement for all it had done. It was well known what a burden it was for any movement to take upon itself an arrangement such as this. It was not only a considerable financial burden, but also a great deal of practical work had to be carried out. Thanks were also due to the French Welcome Committee under the chairmanship of Mr Antoni and to all their French colleagues who had contributed in making the previous evening such a magnificent success.

Then there was one special person whom all wished to thank—the President. He had been sitting on the platform from the beginning of the proceedings in the morning until the very end in the evening. All assembled here would agree that he had conducted the Congress in an excellent way.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE 27TH CONGRESS**

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr Klimov had extended an invitation to hold the next Congress in Moscow in 1980.

**The invitation was accepted with acclamation.**

Mr A. P. KLIMOV, USSR, expressed his thanks to the Director of the Alliance, the President of the Alliance, to all members of the Secretariat and all others who had helped to make this Congress a success.

When one evaluated what had been said in these past days, it seemed that the deep conviction could be shared by all that some very useful work had been done at this Congress. It was most important for all those who were working

for the future of mankind to remember that co-operators had to continue to collaborate. This Congress had shown the importance of collaboration over and over again. There was need to collaborate in a practical way.

The Congress had been a useful one for the co-operative movement as a whole. Consideration had been given as to how the co-operative movement could become a more useful instrument in present-day society and more effective in a complicated world. It had to be realised that there were some deep economic, political, national and international conflicts to solve.

The ICA had been able to perform a noble role as an international organisation throughout the world. Co-operators had met here in order to promote actively the aims of Co-operation. They would continue to work together shoulder to shoulder against the threats which menaced mankind today. This was the spirit which had emanated from this Congress. Delegates must have the determination to match their words with actions, so that the cause of the ICA could be helped. In a spirit of unity and collaboration co-operators must defend the economic and social rights of the common people. This was surely their aim. They could so easily be exploited by monopoly capital. It had been evident in this Congress that “united we stand, divided we fall.” Co-operators must work together to further the aims of democracy and to make a better future for mankind.

The Congress had stressed the importance of the social progress of mankind. It must be our aim to try to improve the lot of all the working people in the world, and to this everyone would make his own

particular contribution. Co-operators were prepared to defend their interests and the Congress had shown this.

Co-operators had also in an inspiring way made their contribution towards the struggle of all people for peace in the world. This struggle must be continued. A great deal of work had been done, but much remained to be done. The co-operator's burden was never a light one. He had to overcome many obstacles. It was a great task in which they must work together. He expressed the hope that the ICA would not waste its energy but would instead unite its forces so that it might prove equal to its great task.

The success of the Congress had been of great help to the national organisations represented here and to delegates. He once again paid tribute to all those who had helped to make this Congress a success, in particular to the President, Mr Roger Kerinec.

Co-operators might have their differences, but in general they represented a great united force in the world working for democratic principles. The Soviet co-operators would continue to make their

contribution. At times it was difficult to reconcile different views, but resolutions had been adopted even unanimously. They had been good resolutions and now it remained for all to put them into action.

Mr Klimov called on delegates to play their particular part in implementing the activities of the ICA as set out in the Programme of Work and he expressed the hope that by the time Congress was held in Moscow they would all have played their full part in realising these aims.

The PRESIDENT paid tribute to the members of the Executive Committee who were leaving, Mr W. B. Melvin, Mr M. Marik and Prof. P. Lambert. He thanked the official interpreters and the verbatim reporters for their efficient services throughout Congress. He further expressed his thanks to the Director and General Secretary of the ICA for their collaboration and all the delegates for having facilitated his task as President of this Congress.

**The President then declared the Congress closed.**



## AMENDMENTS TO THE ICA RULES

### Article 1. Name

Delete second paragraph, parts of which are incorporated in amendment to Article 3 below.

### Article 3. Objects

Insert new first paragraph, being the former second paragraph of Article 1, with additions, as follows (new text in italic):

The International Co-operative Alliance, *uniting co-operative organisations of various social and political orientation and of differing socio-economic systems*, in continuation of the work of the Rochdale Pioneers, and in accordance with Co-operative Principles, seeks, in complete independence and by its own methods, *and in collaboration with organisations which pursue aims of importance to co-operation*, to substitute for the profit-making regime a co-operative system organised in the interest of the whole community and based upon mutual self-help.

Existing text of Article 3 to become new second paragraph.

### Article 5. Official Languages

After the word "Russian" in line 1, insert "and Spanish".

New text to read:

English, French, German, Russian *and Spanish* shall be the official languages of the ICA. It shall be for . . .

### Article 9. Applications for Membership

Second paragraph to read (new text in italic):

Organisations of the types mentioned in sub-sections (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of Article 8 shall apply through *their appropriate* national union or federation of their respective country, if such union or federation is already in membership with the ICA.

### Article 24. Motions

In paragraph (a) delete the word "six" and substitute "seven".

Paragraph (a) to read (change in italic):

All motions and resolutions of affiliated organisations to be included in the Provisional Agenda issued under Article 19 shall be sent in writing to the Executive at least *seven* months before the date of the Congress.

### Article 27. Central Committee

Delete last paragraph and substitute:

The Women's Auxiliary Committee, having superseded the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council, shall be entitled to one representative and one vote.

**Article 28. Duties of the Central Committee**

After sub-paragraph (f) insert new paragraph (g) as follows:

- g. To discuss reports and problems of interest to the international co-operative movement, and to adopt resolutions, declarations and appeals on them.

Re-number existing sub-paragraphs:

- (g), (h), (i), (j), (k) as *(h), (i), (j), (k), (l)* respectively.

**Article 31. Executive**

At the end of the first paragraph, add "by secret ballot".

First paragraph to read (new text in italic):

The Executive shall consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents, and thirteen other members elected by the Central Committee from amongst its members during or immediately after each Congress *by secret ballot*.

## Obituary



### LORD RUSHOLME

The "grand old man" of the Co-operative Movement of the United Kingdom, Robert Alexander Palmer (Lord Rusholme) died on Thursday, 18th August 1977, aged 86.

Lord Rusholme served the International Co-operative Movement at a most critical time in its history, carrying the burden of ICA Presidency; when communications between the then President Mr Tanner of Finland and the ICA membership were cut during the war, Lord Rusholme, as Vice-President, was elected Acting-President during the dark years of World War II. At the ICA Congress in Zurich in 1946, Lord Rusholme was elected ICA President, but in consequence of his appointment to the British Transport Commission, he was not available for re-election after the ICA Prague Congress in 1948. From 1930 to 1948 he was a member of the ICA Executive and Central Committee. A life-long co-operator, a General Secretary of the British Co-operative Union, he served his country and his country's co-operative movement with distinction. Also, as a publicist for world co-operation his pamphlet of that title in 1937 helped greatly to make the ICA's Work and Objects known.

He chose as his motto, on entering the British House of Lords (as one of the first Co-operative Peers) "The World is my Province", and the co-operative world has always been that for him, and it is with profound thanks for his life that we at the ICA pay our great respect with affection and mourn his passing.

J.H.O.

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**Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Consumo**, Avda. Suárez 2034, Buenos Aires. Tel. 28-5381/3.

**Intercoop Editora Cooperativa Limitada**, Alberti 191, Buenos Aires. Tel. 47 21 49.

**Asociación Argentina de Cooperativas y Mutualidades de Seguros**, Avenida de Mayo 1370, Piso 1°, Buenos Aires. Tel. 33-0222/7138.

**Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Crédito Ltda.**, Pueyrredon 468, 2° Piso, Buenos Aires (RC 24). Tel. 86-6283.

**Asociación de Cooperativas Argentinas**, 25 de Mayo 35, Buenos Aires. Tel. 30-8741. Telex BA 012-1876.

**Confederación Cooperativa de la República Argentina Ltda. (COOPERA)**, Moreno 1729, Buenos Aires.

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**Österreichischen Raiffeisenverband**, Hollandstrasse 2, 1020 Vienna. Tel. 26 360.

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**L'Economie Populaire**, 30 rue des Champs, 5300 Ciney (Namur). Tel. 228-01.

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1212

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Tel. (202) 872-0550.

**YUGOSLAVIA**

**Glavni Zadružni Savez FNRJ, Terazije**  
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30-947/9.

**ZAIRE**

**Centrale Générale des Coopératives  
Angolaises,** B.P. 602 Kinshasa 1.

**ZAMBIA**

**Zambia Co-operative Federation Ltd.**  
P.O. Box 3579, Lusaka.

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Organization of the Cooperatives of  
America,** Baltazar La Torre 1056, San  
Isidro, Lima, Peru (POB 4657 Correo  
Central).

**Nordisk Andelsförbund,** 3 Axeltorv, 1609  
Copenhagen V, Denmark. Tel. 15-15-33.

**International Co-operative Bank Co. Ltd.  
(INGEBA),** Aeschengraben 12, P.O.B. 243,  
CH 4010 Basle, Switzerland. Tel. 23-58-27.

**International Co-operative Petroleum  
Association,** 28 West 44th Street, New  
York, N.Y. 10036, U.S.A. Tel. LA 4-4455.

**Sociedad Interamericana de Desarrollo  
y Financiamiento Cooperativo  
(SIDEFCOOP),** Casilla de Correo 4311,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**International Co-operative Housing De-  
velopment Association (ICHDA),** 11  
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UK. Tel. 493 1137.

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