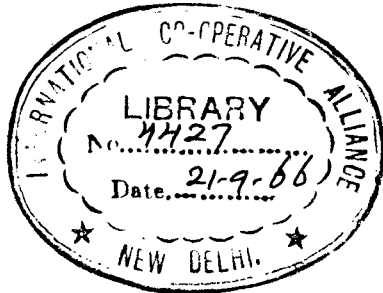


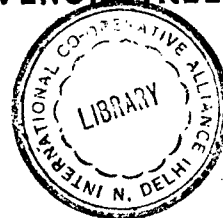


cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W:1



INDEX 1965.



Issue No.

INTERNATIONAL

Appointment for I.C.A. fact-finding survey on cooperative trade development in South-East Asia.....	11
Collaboration in food line - Meetings of expert groups on canned fruit and vegetables and on canned fish.....	11
Computers operated by cooperative organisations in Western Europe.....	5
Cooperative collaboration in Western Europe.....	10
Cooperative Union of Canada contributes to I.C.A. Technical Assistance Fund.....	2
C.W.C. meeting of experts on tea.....	12
Establishment of International Research Centre for Cooperative Rural Communities.....	6
Establishment of Loan Guarantee Fund.....	7
Euro Cooperative.....	1
European Confederation of Agriculture honours Secretary of Plunkett Foundation.....	7
Experts' Conference on Cooperation and Trade Unions.....	2
Fifth anniversary of I.C.A. Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia.....	11
Fifth International Scientific Cooperative Meeting.....	12
Information on computers used by cooperative organisations.....	3
International Conference on Cooperative Assistance to Developing Countries.....	10
International Congress for Public and Cooperative Economy.....	5
International Cooperation Year.....	2
I.C.A. Commission on Cooperative Principles.....	12
I.C.A. Consumer Conference.....	10
I.C.A. Consumer Working Party discussions in Finland.....	6
I.C.A. Consumer Working Party meeting.....	9
I.C.A. Director's oral statement at ILO Conference.....	6
I.C.A. Press Committee meeting at Hamburg, Germany.....	4
I.C.A. Seminar with Asian participants of Swedish Cooperative Centre.....	2
I.C.A. Women Cooperators' Advisory Council meeting.....	3
International Cooperative Bank becomes limited company.....	3
International Cooperative School at Rome.....	10
International Cooperative Training Centre (in U.S.A.).....	1
Meeting of cooperative research officers.....	11
Meeting of I.C.A. Consumer Working Party.....	1
Regional Seminar on Cooperative Housing.....	2
Report of Experts' Conference on Cooperation and Trade Unions.....	6
Third International Cooperative Seminar in Sweden.....	3
UNESCO Meeting of Experts on Educational Exchanges for Workers.....	5
UNESCO study tours for European workers, 1965/66.....	12
UNESCO travel grant for Canadian youth leader.....	6
World Food Programme extension.....	7

A R G E N T I N A

Cooperative education programmes.....	12
Official opening of Cooperative Bank.....	8

A U S T R A L I A

Cooperative Federation's Scheme of Central Accounting and Management benefits member societies.....	9
Cooperators in New Year's Honours List.....	1
Dairy wins export award.....	12
Development of dairy cooperatives praised.....	4

A U S T R I A

Conference of Cooperative Women's Organisation.....	11
Development of consumers' cooperatives in 1964.....	3
High award presented to woman cooperator.....	11
Second woman to preside over Federal Council.....	1
Sixtieth anniversary of Austrian Cooperative Wholesale Society.....	11

B E C H U A N A L A N D

First annual report of Department of Cooperative Societies, 1964.....	11
--	----

B E L G I U M

Euro Cooperative.....	1
-----------------------	---

C A M E R O U N

Coffee cooperatives contribute to country's success of cooperation.....	7
--	---

C A N A D A

Annual report of United Cooperatives of Ontario.....	2
Celebration of Co-op Week.....	11
Conseil Canadien de la Coopération opens office in Ottawa.....	11
Cooperative growth in 1963.....	8
Cooperative Union of Canada contributes to I.C.A. Technical Assistance Fund.....	2

Canada (continued)

Cooperatives' role in war on poverty.....	9
Course in cooperatives for labour students.....	8
Discussions aiming at federal legislation for cooperatives.....	2
Expanded training programme for overseas personnel.....	12
Marketing organisation for Eskimo cooperatives.....	9
Merger with UCO.....	7
Proposed amendments to UCO Special Act.....	6
Structural reorganisation actions.....	12
UNESCO travel grant for Canadian youth leader.....	6

C A R I B B E A N

Termination of Agreement establishing Caribbean Organisation.....	4
---	---

C Z E C H O S L O V A K I A

Central Cooperative College in operation.....	11
Cooperative products exhibited in Austria.....	5
Cooperatives exhibit at Fair.....	11

D E N M A R K*

Cooperative Women's Guild replaced by new committee.....	12
Fortieth anniversary of Cooperative Bank.....	12
Progress made by cooperatives in 1964.....	3
Resolution adopted at Cooperative Movement's Congress.....	12

*See also under "SCANDINAVIA"

E G U A D O R

Establishment of new Cooperative Bank.....	1
--	---

F E D E R A L R E P U B L I C O F G E R M A N Y

Award of distinction to prominent cooperator.....	1
Consumers' Day 1965.....	6
Cooperatives' new competition for non-food trade.....	9
Death of founder of University Cooperative Research Institute.....	7
Euro Cooperative.....	1
Introduction of consultation hour for consumers' cooperative's clients.....	6
New match factory built by GEG.....	3
New service by Consumers' Cooperative Movement.....	3
Sale shares by Bank for Collective Economy Ltd.....	4
Testing institute for consumer goods.....	3
Wholesale Society of German Consumers' Cooperatives takes over "Eklüh GmbH".....	1

FINLAND*

SOK's activities in 1964..... 2

*See also under "SCANDINAVIA"

FRANCE

Changes in cooperative structure..... 5
 Euro Cooperative..... 1
 Fifth National Youth Leaders' Congress of School Cooperatives..... 10
 National Congress of Cooperative Consumers' Movement..... 6
 New hotel built by Workers' Productive Cooperative..... 12
 Picture gallery of Consumers' Cooperative Paris..... 3

GAMBIA

History of Cooperation from its beginning to the present..... 4

GREAT BRITAIN

Big cooperative take-over in Scotland..... 8
 Cooperative Insurance Society extends insurance cover..... 1
 C.W.S. President appointed to Economic Planning Council..... 3
 Cooperative youth in action against hunger..... 12
 Cooperative Youth Movement Work Camp overseas..... 9
 Death of cooperative lecturer..... 12
 Death of former S.C.W.S. President..... 7
 Historical cooperative cradle filmed..... 9
 History made in Cooperative Movement..... 8
 Knighthoods for cooperative leaders..... 1
 New flour mill to be built by S.C.W.S..... 1
 New S.C.W.S. President..... 5
 Nomination of President of 1965 Cooperative Congress..... 1
 Retirement of C.W.S. Director..... 5
 Retirement of S.C.W.S. President..... 3
 Retirement of three top C.W.S. officials..... 11
 Retirement of top C.W.S. official..... 7
 Structural changes in C.W.S. and S.C.W.S. proposed in two
 separate reports..... 11

HOLLAND

Concentration of co-op bakeries..... 1
 Consultant for Dutch Cooperative Movement..... 1
 Euro Cooperative..... 1
 New appointment at "Co-op Nederland"..... 1

HONDURAS

Development of Cooperative Movement..... 7

I C E L A N D*

Annual report 1964 of Federation of Iceland Cooperative Societies.....	8
---	---

*See also under "SCANDINAVIA"

I N D I A

Consumer cooperatives.....	2
National Seminar on Women and Cooperation.....	5
Seminar on Cooperative Training and Education.....	9
Silver jubilee of Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd.....	2

I S R A E L

Establishment of International Research Centre for Cooperative Rural Communities.....	6
Increase in Ophir Cooperative's fleet.....	9

I T A L Y

Euro Cooperative.....	1
Opening of Centre of Cooperative Studies in Rome.....	3

J A P A N

Amalgamation of Consumers' Cooperative Union with Consumers' Cooperative Wholesale Federation.....	5
Children's pictorial art exchange.....	4
Leadership changes in Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives.....	7
Technical aid from Japan (to Mauritius).....	11

L A T I N A M E R I C A

Cooperative education training centres.....	1
Cooperative training course for social workers (in Peru).....	8
Development of cooperative credit system.....	2
Establishment of new Cooperative Bank (in Ecuador).....	1
Official opening of Cooperative Bank (in Argentina).....	8
Scholarships awarded to consumer cooperatives.....	4

M A L A Y S I A

Regional Seminar on Cooperative Housing.....	2
Workers of rubber plantations cooperative owners.....	9

M A U R I T I U S

Technical aid from Japan..... 11

N I G E R I A

Minister extols cooperation..... 1

N O R W A Y *

Congress of Cooperative Women's Guild..... 6
 Expansion of Oslo Cooperative Retail Society in 1965..... 4
 Increased turnover for NKL..... 2

*See also under "SCANDINAVIA"

P E R U

Cooperative training course for social workers..... 8

P H I L I P P I N E S

New head office for National Cooperative Bank..... 1

P O L A N D

More health cooperatives in 1964..... 7
 Training schools for cooperative employees..... 6

S C A N D I N A V I A

New Manager for London Branch of Nordisk Andelsforbund..... 2

S O U T H - E A S T A S I A

Appointment for I.C.A. fact-finding survey on cooperative
 trade development in South-East Asia..... 11
 Experts' Conference on Cooperation and Trade Unions..... 2
 I.C.A. Seminar with Asian participants of Swedish
 Cooperative Centre..... 2
 Regional Seminar on Cooperative Housing..... 2
 Report of Experts' Conference on Cooperation and Trade Unions..... 6

S O U T H P A C I F I C

Cooperative intern attached to South Pacific Commission..... 6

SWEDEN*

Changes in KF's Board of Directors.....	3
Fifty years of Co-op Stockholm.....	12
I.C.A. Seminar with Asian participants of Swedish Cooperative Centre.....	2
New shopping centre to be built in Valbo.....	4
Third International Cooperative Seminar in Sweden.....	3

*See also under "SCANDINAVIA"

SWITZERLAND

Lucerne Cooperative Society's 75th anniversary.....	12
Women's cooperators' gift to VSK.....	6

TANZANIA

First cooperative department store.....	4
Status, aims and activities of Cooperative Union of Tanganyika.....	8

U. S. A.

Appointment of Special Assistant to Cooperative League's President.....	7
"Co-op City" to be built in New York.....	2
Cooperative help given to thirty-nine nations.....	12
Cooperative League official heading 1966 tour to Europe.....	12
Early success of Rochdale Village cooperative supermarket.....	2
Housing and supply cooperatives can help each other.....	10
International Cooperative Training Centre.....	1
Meeting of cooperative editors.....	7
New appointment for General Manager of Midland Cooperatives.....	8
New petroleum cooperative.....	4
New President of Cooperative League.....	4
October proclaimed as cooperative month.....	9
Opening of Rochdale Village cooperative market.....	1
Prompt action on Cooperative League's Congress resolution.....	1
Recommendations of CUNA Planning Committee on future of Credit Union Movement.....	8
Recruiting programme for overseas cooperative projects.....	7
Regional cooperative launches credit card programme.....	10

ZAMBIA

Cooperative Society's social function to spread cooperative spirit and to raise funds.....	9
---	---



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

No.1. January, 1965.



31-3-65
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INTERNATIONAL

MEETING OF I.C.A. CONSUMER WORKING PARTY

Eight members of the I.C.A. Consumer Working Party from France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, together with Mr. W. G. Alexander, Director of the I.C.A., and Mrs. Stettner, I.C.A. Secretary for Research and Statistics, acting as the Working Party's Secretary, held their quarterly meeting at the Alliance's headquarters in London on January 26th and 27th, 1965.

Major items on the agenda for the meeting included a discussion of current developments in the field of consumer affairs in various countries, plans for an I.C.A. Consumer Conference to be held in Basel in October 1965, cooperative efforts in the field of informative labelling, and cooperative practices in advertising and publicity.

Members of the Working Party were guests at a Government reception at Lancaster House, St. James, at which Mr. George Darling discussed the consumer aspects of his work as Minister of State at the Board of Trade and Miss Elizabeth Ackroyd, Director of the British Consumer Council, commented on the current activities of the Council.

EURO COOPERATIVE

The consumers' cooperative societies of the Common Market countries have formed an organisation, the Euro Cooperative, in which the wholesale societies of the consumers' cooperative movement are collaborating, according to a report in the "Genossenschaftlicher Nachrichtendienst" of the "Konsumentenverband" Central Union of Austrian Consumers' Cooperative Societies of December 2nd, 1964. The consumer cooperatives in Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Holland and Italy belong to this new organisation.

AUSTRALIA

COOPERATORS IN NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST

Two Australian cooperators, Mr. Thorley Loton and Mr. Tom Powell, were included in the New Year's Honours List. A knighthood was conferred upon the former and the latter was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Sir Thorley Loton is best known for his voluntary work for the Cooperative Federation of Western Australia and for the agricultural community. For the past 15 years, he has served on the Executive of the Federation and has been its chairman for 11 years. In this capacity, he has attended zone council meetings throughout Western Australia and maintained close personal contact with cooperatives everywhere.

Since 1936, Sir Thorley has been on the Board of Wesfarmers and became its chairman in 1953. Besides being chairman of the Cooperative Federation of Western Australia, he also holds this position in the Westralian Farmers' Cooperative Ltd., the Westralian Farmers' Superphosphates Ltd., the Albany Superphosphates Co. Ltd., the Kleenheat Gas Pty. Ltd., and the Wesfarmers Tutt Bryant. For many years, Sir Thorley has been very active in the agricultural field, having held a number of leading positions and having been a councillor and President of the Royal Agricultural Society and a founder member of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Western Australia. In addition, Sir Thorley has long years' service in local government to his credit.

Mr. Tom Powell, B.E.M., Western Australian Honey Pool Manager, played a leading role in honey organisation and publicity for some 34 years and is the packers' representative for Western Australia on the newly formed Australian Honey Board. Mr. Powell's successful efforts of exporting thousands of tons of honey particularly to Asian and African countries made him the foremost Australian honey marketing expert.

AUSTRIA

SECOND WOMAN TO PRESIDE OVER FEDERAL COUNCIL

Mrs. Helene Tschitschko, Chairman of the Women's South District Committee of the Austrian Consumers' Cooperatives has become Chairman of the Austrian Federal Council from January 1965, it was announced. She thus is the second woman in Austria's history presiding over the Federal Council, Austria's second legislative body. Dr. Johanna Bayer, the present deputy in the National Council, was the first Chairman of the Federal Council.

Mrs. Tschitschko, who also is active in the Town-Council of Klagenfurt, has been closely associated with the Austrian Cooperative Movement. Her father was one of the founders of the Klagenfurt Consumers' Cooperative Society, and Mrs. Tschitschko herself has been an active collaborator in the consumers' cooperative movement since 1938. For her energetic activities which she had demonstrated particularly in consumer cooperative relief actions, she received the Silver Medal from the Federal President for her services to the Austrian Republic.

ECUADOR

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COOPERATIVE BANK

A new Cooperative Bank for Ecuador, the first of its kind in Latin America, was established in November 1964 under the auspices of the Alliance for Progress, reports "Cooperative America" of January 1965. Its beginning goes back to April 1962, when the Ecuadorean Government and the Agency for International Development (AID) signed an agreement to give greater encouragement to the development of cooperatives in the country and in which the need to provide credit to cooperative enterprises at long-, short- and medium-term with low interest rates was specified.

The Bank's main task is to supply financial resources on a loan basis to the cooperative societies belonging to it. Already in November 1964, the Bank had 110 cooperatives as members, which had subscribed U.S.\$85,000. The AID approved a loan of \$1.2 million for the Bank and assigned a technical expert as adviser to it for the first two years of its operations. The Government of Ecuador is contributing an initial allocation of \$25,000 for the first three years to help in the Bank's establishment and to cover any losses it may incur.

The Cooperative Bank of Ecuador will encourage the organisation of federated cooperative bodies and will give preference to these groups in channelling its loan services. It will provide and supervise credits to primary cooperatives and help improve cooperative credit systems and services throughout the country by promoting their greater yield through savings and loan cooperatives or through unions or federations formed by them. Furthermore, the Bank will advise cooperative borrowers on how to take measures for the more effective use of their economic resources and how to insure their funds against improper use.

Primary cooperatives, federations or unions of cooperatives, which are registered and incorporated under Ecuador's Cooperative Law, may be members of the Bank, but individuals, although cooperators, cannot be accepted as members. The Bank is controlled by its member cooperatives through a Board of Directors and a Loan Committee, directing and supervising the administration of its activities.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

WHOLESALE SOCIETY OF GERMAN CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVES TAKES OVER "EKLOH GmbH"

The "Eklöh GmbH", owned by the department stores Hertie, Horten, Karstadt and Kaufhof, has passed into the hands of the Wholesale Society of German Consumers' Cooperatives (GEG) from January 1st, 1965, reports "Der Verbraucher" of January 2nd. This decision was preceded by exhaustive negotiations.

The take-over of the Eklöh company, as a functionally integrated branch enterprise, makes it possible to effectively expand the range of cooperative activity. It took place in full agreement with the consumers' cooperatives. A decisive factor was that the structure of the Eklöh stores with an average sales area of 450 square metres corresponds to the requirements of modern retailing.

The Eklöh company comprises 53 food shops which are located primarily in Cologne, Osnabrück, Hamburg and Kiel. The expected turnover of Eklöh for 1964 is 140 million German marks.

AWARD OF DISTINCTION TO PROMINENT COOPERATOR

The "Raiffeisen-Rundschau" of January 1965 announced that President Lübke of the Federal Republic of Germany bestowed on Dr. Gustav Klusak, a high official of the German Raiffeisen Union, the Grand Cross for Distinguished Service of the Federal Republic's Order of Merit for his outstanding cooperative services. At a ceremony held at the Raiffeisen House on December 18th, 1964, the Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry of North Rhine - Westphalia, Mr. Gustav Niermann, presented, in the presence of high dignitaries, Dr. Klusak with this honour.

In his address, Mr. Niermann stressed that Dr. Klusak's well-deserved distinction was equally a recognition of the great services rendered by the Raiffeisen Union and of the achievements during the long years of its existence.

GREAT BRITAIN

KNIGHTHOODS FOR COOPERATIVE LEADERS

Mr. Leonard Cooke, O.B.E., J.P., President of the Cooperative Wholesale Society (C.W.S.) since November 1960, and Mr. Jack Bailey, who retired in 1962 after 20 years as National Secretary of the Cooperative Party, have been knighted in the New Year's Honours List.

Sir Leonard Cooke is one of the Cooperative Movement's foremost financial experts. A Director of the C.W.S. for 26 years, he was from 1949 to 1960 Chairman of its Finance Committee which, among other things, controls the C.W.S. Bank. His appointments include membership of the boards of the Cooperative Insurance Society and Travco Hotels Ltd., and, since 1950, he has been a member of the Central Executive of the Cooperative Union, the Movement's top policy-making body. In 1963, he was President of the Cooperative Congress. Sir Leonard has served on international committees, particularly those concerned with cooperative banking and wholesaling and is at present Chairman of the I.C.A. Cooperative Wholesale Committee.

Sir Jack Bailey, an outstanding political leader and organiser and political Secretary to the Bradford Society from 1925 to 1936, is the author of "The British Cooperative Movement" and of more than 20 pamphlets on Cooperative Party policy and various cooperative social and political topics. He was Editor of the Party's journal "The Monthly Letter" and still contributes articles to the "Cooperative News". Sir Jack, who has served on the Enfield Highway Society's Management Committee since 1952 and was a member of the National Federation Negotiating Committee, was President of the Cooperative Congress in 1964.

NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT OF 1965 COOPERATIVE CONGRESS

It was announced in the "Cooperative News" of January 23rd, 1965 that Mr. David Shaw, General Manager of the St. Cuthbert's Association in Scotland, is to be President of the 1965 Cooperative Congress to take place at Edinburgh.

Since 1938 with the St. Cuthbert's Association and its chief official since 1953, Mr. Shaw has spent the whole of his working life in the cooperative movement, gaining high esteem as a cooperative official. He has served the movement in many spheres and has been a member of a number of Cooperative Union committees.

NEW FLOUR MILL TO BE BUILT BY S.C.W.S.

The Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society (S.C.W.S.) announced this month that it was going to build a new flour mill and a grain silo at the Western Harbour, Leith, which were to be ready by 1967. Member societies would thus have the most modern milling plant in Great Britain. Wheat would be delivered direct from ocean-going ships as well as by road and rail.

It was planned that the site of two mill units would be on top of a bulk storage building in a structure 180 ft. high. One would fill 90 sacks of flour per hour and the other 35 sacks per hour, giving a total capacity of 375 tons of flour in 24 hours. Delivery of flour would be in sack or box to rail or road transport. The 33,000 ton capacity silo would store imported and native grain and would have grain drying equipment in addition to the normal handling, weighing and distribution facilities.

In reviewing the activities of the S.C.W.S. flour and allied department in 1961, it was found that a considerable advantage would be derived from the centralisation of the flour production in one mill, situated at the site of a port and using the most modern milling techniques and plant. One of the biggest problems was, however, to acquire a suitable site at a port capable of receiving large vessels and equipped with the facilities for a rapid discharge of the grain cargo. Consequently, the Rochdale Committee, recommending in its report a major development at the port of Leith to enable the accommodation of vessels of 40,000 to 50,000 tons dead-weight in all tides, removed that problem.

Meanwhile, the S.C.W.S. Board, in anticipation of such a development, had opened negotiations with the Leith Dock Commission for the acquisition of a suitable site adjoining the Western Harbour which were concluded on January 1st of this year. The site of approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres was secured on the basis of a 99-year lease and will not only provide adequate space for the present project, but will also allow for the future development of the productive capacity of the S.C.W.S. department.

COOPERATIVE INSURANCE SOCIETY EXTENDS INSURANCE COVER

"The Financial Times" of January 6th, 1965 reported that the Cooperative Insurance Society (C.I.S.), Britain's second largest industrial assurance concern, was extending the policy-holders' cover by an average 10 per cent without any corresponding rise in premiums.

The C.I.S. told policy-owners that, besides introducing improved scales of sums assured for new policies issued in the industrial life market from January 1st, sums assured under policies in force at that date, or which were paid up for the full sum assured, would be increased to the level of the corresponding new sums assured.

The new scales, it was stated, would in general be nearly 10 per cent higher than those in force in earlier years, and the rises varied according to the table on which a policy was issued, according to the policy terms and the age of life assured at entry. This development of great importance was in accordance with the principle on which the C.I.S., as a cooperative society, had always operated its life assurance business, namely, that the whole of the profits of the business should be used for the benefit of the policy-owners. Full details of the new scales were to be announced shortly.

The C.I.S. is a jointly controlled department of the English and Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Societies. New ordinary life assurance business obtained during 1964 totalled £97 million, against £78 million in 1963 and £63 million in 1962.

HOLLAND

NEW APPOINTMENT AT "CO-OP NEDERLAND"

Notice was given of the appointment of Mr. B. J. Lequin, Manager of the Co-op flour mills, as Deputy General Manager of "Co-op Nederland", who has taken up his new duties on January 4th, 1965. He is responsible for the entire field of cooperative food production and the wholesale food trade.

Successor to Mr. Lequin as flour mill Manager is Mr. J. de Meij, who has left his post as Chief of the Bakery Advisory Department, and his place is taken by Mr. Bartelsman, first Assistant to Mr. de Meij.

CONSULTANT FOR DUTCH COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

"Co-op Nederland" released the news that Mr. J. Thygesen, former General Manager of the H.B. Cooperative Society of Copenhagen, Denmark, and Manager of the Migros Seminar "Im Grüene" at Zürich, Switzerland, for some time, will spend two months in Holland to advise the Dutch Cooperative Movement on problems of management and organisation, particularly in some recently formed large regional retail societies.

CONCENTRATION OF CO-OP BAKERIES

Co-op Nederland reported that there were 148 Co-op bakeries in Holland in January 1960 and that their number had decreased to 79 at the end of 1963. As a result of continued concentrations and modernisation, there will be less than 30 bakeries in the next 6 to 7 years. During that period, 8 large new bakery plants will replace some 50 smaller and partly antiquated bakeries in various parts of the country. When these 8 plants will be operational, the average weekly output per bakery is expected to rise from 120 sacks (or 50 kilogrammes) of flour to 750 sacks.

The cooperative share in the national production of bread is now 9 per cent, as against less than 8 per cent in 1960, and this notwithstanding a constant decrease of between 1 and 2 per cent in the consumption of bread. In several regions, where the Co-op is relatively strong, the cooperative share in the bakery trade exceeds 20 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION TRAINING CENTRES

According to a report in "Cooperative America" of January 1965, the Executive Committee of the Organisation of the Cooperatives of America (OCA), which met in Caracas, Venezuela, from December 16th to 18th, 1964, gave OCA's official approval to four Cooperative Training Centres in the Americas, recognising them as fully qualified institutions for cooperative education. These are: the Centre of Cooperative Education, Economic Faculty of the University of the Andes, Merida, Venezuela; the Chilean Institute of Cooperative Education, Santiago, Chile; the Campinas Centre of Cooperative Training, Sao Paulo, Brazil; and the International Cooperative Training Centre, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

NIGERIA

MINISTER EXTOLS COOPERATION

In a recent address to farmers, members of the Cooperative Produce Marketing Society and of the Cooperative Thrift and Credit Society at Ibesse near Ilaro, the Regional Minister in the Western Nigeria Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr. Alhaji Z.A. Opaleye, described cooperation as a way of life, reports the "Western Nigeria Cooperative News" for October-December 1964. Mr. Opaleye charged cooperators to encourage others to come into the fold of the cooperative movement and said that seriousness of purpose, holding of regular meetings and savings were the controlling forces of a progressive cooperative society.

Nigerian cooperators took the opportunity of expressing to the Minister their gratitude to the Government for the £2 million grant made to the Cooperative Bank of Western Nigeria and of requesting the Regional Government to extend the Ibesse rural water scheme to the surrounding villages and to establish an integrated rural development scheme in the area.

PHILIPPINES

NEW HEAD OFFICE FOR NATIONAL COOPERATIVE BANK

The Philippine National Cooperative Bank, which has been in existence for five years, was to move its head office to the newly constructed Dona Amparo building in Manila on December 1st, 1964, it was reported in the November issue of the "Philippines Cooperative Advocate".

The Bank, the only cooperative one in the Philippines, was registered with the Cooperatives Administration Office in October 1959 and has grown considerably during its first five years. Its assets have increased and its services and facilities expanded. It has fully operational branches in eight cities and will open some in at least three others in the near future. Its responsibilities as the central bank for cooperatives have grown too, for about 300 new cooperative societies are being added yearly to the register of the Cooperatives Administration Office and to the prospective clientele of the Bank. With a total of more than 1,000 operating non-agricultural societies of various types and the yearly additions, it was hoped that the Philippine National Cooperative Bank would continue to keep pace with the growth of the cooperative movement.

U.S.A.

PROMPT ACTION ON COOPERATIVE LEAGUE'S CONGRESS RESOLUTION

Following up our report on the 24th biennial Congress of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., and with particular reference to the resolution adopted by it on the initiative of the British economist, Miss Barbara Ward, calling for contributions of 10 cents per individual member of all member organisations of the League (see this News, No. 12, December 1964, p.8), we take pleasure in bringing now the news reported in the League's "Cooperative News Service" of December 22nd, 1964, on the prompt action taken thereon by two U.S.A. Cooperatives.

The first Cooperative to act on Miss Ward's suggestion incorporated in the above-mentioned resolution was the Rochdale Credit Union in Chicago, which serves mainly past and present employees of the Cooperative League. The Greenbelt Consumer

Services Cooperative of Beltsville, Md., was the second in the U.S.A. to contribute 10 cents per member to Worldwide Co-op Partners to help establish cooperatives in newly developing countries. A cheque for \$2,500 from this Cooperative was received by the League's Executive Director, Mr. Jerry Voorhis, on December 21st, accompanied by the following lines of the Greenbelt Consumer Services Cooperative's President, Mr. Rosenzweig: "The great unmet needs of the newly emerging countries, coupled with the ability and willingness of cooperators to assist in the development, makes us feel that the American cooperative movement could make a significant contribution by offering the leadership to make such development a reality." And Mr. Voorhis said he hoped "this fine example on the part of the nation's largest consumer co-op will set the pace for similar action by other cooperatives throughout the country in helping carry out Miss Ward's suggestion".

OPENING OF ROCHDALE VILLAGE COOPERATIVE MARKET

The opening of the first permanent cooperative market at the Rochdale Village in Jamaica, New York, in December 1964 has been made public. This market of 25,500 square feet is the first and largest of four structures of the new shopping centre there.

Almost 1,000 families, representing an investment of nearly \$100,000 in share capital, have joined the Rochdale Consumers' Society, and more than 200 persons have purchased notes to help finance the cooperative market which will attract the people from the Rochdale Village and the surrounding neighbourhood. It was hoped that all would become members. Shares in the Society are \$50 and partial payments of \$10 or more may be made until a share was owned.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE TRAINING CENTRE

A well illustrated publication entitled "The International Cooperative Training Center" has recently been issued.

In the introduction to the publication, it is explained how this Training Centre came to be established. In order to meet the needs of people who come every year to the United States from all over the world to find out how to organise and operate successful cooperatives of all kinds, U.S. cooperative leaders drew up a plan for a Centre which would operate the year round at an outstanding American University offering the best available education and training in cooperatives for leaders from other countries. The cooperatives set up the Board for International Cooperative Training, Inc. to put the plan into operation and to advise and assist in the training. The University of Wisconsin agreed to direct the Centre, provide a staff of instructors and make its facilities and resources available, and the United States Government agreed to provide funds to set up the Centre and meet its initial operating costs through the Agency for International Development. This joint effort resulted in the opening of the Centre in August 1962 as part of the University of Wisconsin in Madison; during the first two years of operation, 270 leaders from 48 countries were trained there.

The purposes of the Centre are defined as follows: to train leaders from the world's developing nations in all phases of cooperation so that they can assist their people in organising and operating successful cooperatives to achieve a better economic and social life; to train people who are preparing for work in other countries and who might find a knowledge of cooperatives useful; to conduct research which will assist developing countries in advancing their own systems of cooperatives; to collect, publish and distribute the results of cooperative research; to issue publications and training materials useful to cooperatives in other countries; to assemble and maintain a comprehensive library on cooperatives; and to assist other countries in the establishment and development of their own training centres for cooperative leaders and workers.

Under the heading "Cooperative idealism should result in action", the publication explains the Centre's point of view permeating all of its training activities, giving examples of what is useful and useless to study and of specific practical problems examined and discussed by the trainees in classes. Following a brief outline of the variety and flexibility of the courses held and training methods and materials used, a sixteen-week Cooperative Seminar - the most intensive course offered by the Centre and repeated several times each year - and the in-service field training for cooperative managers, administrative personnel, cooperative organisers, management trainers, specialists in member education and government officials from departments of cooperation, as well as shorter courses for specific groups and special courses for special interest groups are described. It is stated that certificates are awarded for the successful completion of all courses, but that the courses in the Centre do not earn university credits.

Information is also given on group and individual enrolments in the Centre, on qualifications required of trainees, on fees and scholarships, and on housing for the students. A long list of the subjects (with annotations) dealt with in the courses completes the publication.

TWENTY-SECOND CONGRESS REPORT, BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND

14th to 17th October, 1963

THE VERBATIM REPORT OF THE 22nd CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE IS NOW AVAILABLE AT £4 (Sterling). ORDER YOUR COPY FROM THE PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE I.C.A., 11, UPPER GROSVENOR STREET, LONDON, W.1.

BY DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ALLIANCE, THE FULL REPORT IS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH ONLY.

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COMPTE RENDU DU VINGT-DEUXIEME CONGRES, BOURNEMOUTH, ANGLETERRE

du 14 au 17 octobre 1963

LE COMPTE RENDU TEXTUEL DU 22^{ème} CONGRES DE L'ALLIANCE COOPERATIVE INTERNATIONALE PEUT MAINTENANT ETRE OBTENU AU PRIX DE 4 £ STERLING. PASSEZ VOTRE COMMANDE AU SERVICE DES PUBLICATIONS DE L'A.C.I., 11, UPPER GROSVENOR STREET, LONDRES, W.1.

PAR DECISION DU COMITE EXECUTIF DE L'ALLIANCE LE COMPTE RENDU INTEGRAL N'A ETE PUBLIE QU'EN ANGLAIS.

* * * * *

BERICHT ÜBER DEN ZWEIUNDZWANZIGSTEN KONGRESS, BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND

vom 14. bis 17. Oktober, 1963

DER WORTGETREUE BERICHT ÜBER DEN 22. KONGRESS DES INTERNATIONALEN GENOSSENSCHAFTSBUNDES IST NUN ZU 4 £ STERLING ERHÄLTlich. BESTELLEN SIE IHRE KOPIE BITTE VON DER PUBLIKATIONSABTEILUNG DES I.G.B., 11, UPPER GROSVENOR STREET, LONDON, W.1.

GEMÄSS BESCHLUSS DES LEITENDEN AUSSCHUSSES DES I.G.B. WIRD DER VOLLSTÄNDIGE BERICHT NUR IN ENGLISCHER SPRACHE HERAUSGEGEBEN.



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

No. 2, February, 1965.



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INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION YEAR

The following message* was sent by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the non-governmental organisations in connection with the International Cooperation Year:

"In November 1961, Prime Minister Nehru of India suggested that one year should be devoted to emphasise the vast scope of international cooperation, especially for peace and in the interest of peace. Two years later, the General Assembly decided to designate 1965, the twentieth year of the United Nations, as International Cooperation Year. It was envisaged that the non-governmental organisations would play an important rôle in realising the aims and objectives of the International Cooperation Year. In their every-day operations, they are already engaged in implementing the idea of international cooperation and with their world-wide resources they are certain to play an ever-increasing rôle in areas where governments and other official organs cannot perform an adequate function. It is my hope that the non-governmental organisations during this year will seize with enthusiasm the opportunities opened up by the General Assembly action, and further broaden and intensify their activities within their particular sphere of action."

The Committee for the International Cooperation Year, established by the United Nations General Assembly, submitted its report (General Assembly document A/5836 of 17 December 1964) to the Assembly, containing the following relevant statement in its paragraph 45:*

"The Committee has been advised by a substantial number of non-governmental organisations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the activities they have planned and prepared for the International Cooperation Year. The Committee is pleased to note that the response from non-governmental organisations conforms completely with the aims and objectives laid down by the General Assembly. The Committee believes that the combined effect of these activities will contribute significantly to the success of the International Cooperation Year."

*Received at I.C.A. Headquarters as circular letter (65-00979) with enclosures (65-00977) and (65-00978), dated January 25th, 1965, from Charles A. Hogan, Chief, Non-Governmental Organisations Section, Economic and Social Council Secretariat (United Nations Headquarters, New York), to Non-Governmental Organisations in Consultative Status.

COOPERATIVE UNION OF CANADA CONTRIBUTES TO I.C.A.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND

It was announced in the "Co-op Commentary" of January 28th, 1965 that the Cooperative Union of Canada (CUC) has made its first contribution to the Technical Assistance Fund of the International Cooperative Alliance under the new arrangement

by which 10 per cent of the Cooperatives Everywhere Funds are being turned over to the I.C.A. for its technical assistance work in all parts of the world. CUC's first payment of \$715 to the I.C.A. represented 10 per cent of the Cooperatives Everywhere contributions for the period from July to the end of 1964, and it was stated that the government contributions to the CUC for cooperative development work in northern Canada were not included in the calculation.

The decision to participate in this way in the I.C.A. technical assistance programme was made last July at CUC's Congress at Charlottetown when it was generally felt that the Canadian cooperatives should play a part in international efforts of creating cooperatives around the world. Canada's help to the I.C.A. was expected to grow steadily as the Cooperatives Everywhere programme was getting more established.

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON COOPERATIVE HOUSING

A Regional Seminar on Cooperative Housing, organised by I.C.A.'s Education Centre in New Delhi, in collaboration with the Cooperative Union of Malaya and the Federation of Cooperative Housing Societies, was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from November 30th to December 11th, 1964 and attended by 17 representatives of the cooperative housing societies and cooperative departments in the region. Experts from the I.C.A. Housing Committee and Sweden's National Tenants Savings and Building Union (HSB) and Cooperative Union (KF) participated in the Seminar and gave lectures there.

The Seminar, which was opened by Malaysia's Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, reviewed the present position of the cooperative housing societies, discussed the possibilities of their future development, the role and importance of the apex organisations in developing these societies and the difficulties experienced by them, as well as the role of Governments in giving financial and other assistance to housing cooperatives in developing countries.

I.C.A. SEMINAR WITH ASIAN PARTICIPANTS OF SWEDISH COOPERATIVE CENTRE

On the basis of a request from the Swedish Cooperative Centre (previously the Swedish Centre for Cooperative Development), the I.C.A. organised a two-day Seminar at New Delhi, India, on December 21st and 22nd, 1964, for the Asian participants in the nine-months training programme held in Sweden during that year. The discussions in the Seminar were, among other subjects, devoted to the applicability of Swedish experiences to the conditions in South-East Asia.

EXPERTS' CONFERENCE ON COOPERATION AND TRADE UNIONS

The Education Centre of the I.C.A. and the Asian Trade Union College of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (I.C.F.T.U.) jointly organised and Experts' Conference on Cooperation and Trade Unions which was held in New Delhi, India, from January 11th to 18th, 1965 and in which experts from the Cooperative and Trade Union Movements of Ceylon, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Philippines participated. The ILO was represented by Mr. S. K. Jain, Director of its Asian Field Office in Colombo.

The Conference was opened by Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, a member of the Indian Government's Planning Commission, and its purpose was to bring together people with considerable experience in the cooperative and labour fields in order to examine the possibilities of collaboration and joint ventures between the Cooperative and Trade Union Movements. Subjects such as urbanisation in South-East Asia and its effects on the social and economic life of the urban community, the principles and aims of the Cooperative Movement, and the present participation of trade union workers in cooperative activities were discussed and the progress and development of the Trade Union Movement and of the cooperative activities in the urban areas of South-East Asia were reviewed. Specific problems faced by the cooperative thrift and loan societies, housing societies and consumers' cooperatives were analysed, and the role of cooperatives in promoting savings among trade union members and in protecting the consumers' interests in urban areas was discussed. The possible areas of future collaboration between the trade unions and the cooperative societies were also examined.

The Conference received wide press coverage and some of its delegates took part in a discussion on the All India Radio on "Cooperation and Consumers' Protection".

CANADA

DISCUSSIONS AIMING AT FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR COOPERATIVES

During the past year, both English-language and French-language Canadian national associations of cooperatives restated their firm views on the need for federal legislation for cooperatives. As a result, officers of the Cooperative Union of Canada (CUC) and of Le Conseil Canadien de la Coopération (CCC) held a meeting in Montreal on January 16th, 1965, it was reported in the "Co-op Commentary" of January 28th, at which it was decided to bring to a head the question of federal legislation for cooperatives and to make an immediate new approach to the Federal Government in order to see what steps must be taken by the cooperative movement to clear the way for such legislation.

The first efforts of the pioneer cooperators towards federal legislation in Canada were made in 1907 and were supported by Governor General Earl Grey, then the first President of the I.C.A., Mr. William Lyon Mackenzie King, Deputy Minister of Labour at the time, and Mr. Alphonse Desjardins, the famous founder of the Caisse populaire movement in Quebec and of the credit union movement in North America. The Canadian cooperative movement itself has, for more than fifty years, sought federal legislation under which cooperatives operating inter-provincially may incorporate, and it was this issue that brought cooperators in various parts of the country together and that led to the formation of the CUC in 1909. However, throughout the years, federal cooperative legislation had been blocked by various issues and by the opposition of anti-cooperative business and financial interests. The first bill was passed in the Canadian House of Commons unanimously, but it was rejected by one vote in the Senate dominated by business interests. While

cooperatives are restricted to provincial legislation alone, other business enterprises can be incorporated either provincially or federally, and when cooperatives are organised inter-provincially, they have to use the Federal Companies Act and resort to makeshift regulations that are inappropriate to the cooperative method of business.

ANNUAL REPORT OF UNITED COOPERATIVES OF ONTARIO

The 1964 annual report of the United Cooperatives of Ontario (UCO) contains the reports of the Directors and Management, statements of operations and general reserve, balance sheets, patronage returns and financial highlights of the United Cooperatives' member local cooperatives. It is concluded with a brief look ahead into the next 50 years by the General Manager.

Reference is made to the 50th anniversary of the United Cooperatives of Ontario which has grown out of the United Farmers Cooperative Company Ltd. from a loosely-knit group of thousands of individual members to a corporate membership structure of 140 retail cooperatives with 80,000 members in 1964. Among the subjects particularly stressed in both reports are challenges for cooperatives, marketing programmes, a proposal for a plan for direct membership in the United Cooperatives, the utilisation of earnings, operations of the UCO in 1964 with retrospect to the past five years and trends and possibilities for the next five or ten years, gains in hardware and in grain distribution, credit planning, and the increase in personnel requirements.

FINLAND

SOK's ACTIVITIES IN 1964

The following details were supplied by the Finnish Cooperative Wholesale Society (SOK) on its activities and those of its member societies during 1964.

The slackening of sales caused by exceptional circumstances was felt in the activities of SOK's member societies, though to a somewhat slighter degree than in the total trade of the country. Towards the end of the year, the sales grew considerably livelier, to which fact a great increase in the turnover of agricultural products contributed for its part. Further, the development in the sales of the cooperative societies differed from that of the total retail trade in the sense that the sales of business units of non-food lines advanced more than those of groceries. Thus, the cooperative societies continued to strengthen their position in non-food lines. The continuous change in the structure of turnover was also seen in the decrease of the number of groceries and increase in the number of sales units for non-food articles.

Owing to amalgamations, the number of cooperative societies decreased by 8 and was thus 348 at the end of the year. According to advance information, the societies had a total of 5,902 business units, a decrease of 116; 4,944 of the business units were shops, a decrease of 147.

The advance of the number of members was favourable. 34,100 new members were registered. At the checking of the list of members, 19,600 were struck off, whereby the total membership increased by 14,521 and was thus 522,453 at the end of the year.

The turnover of the cooperative societies was £203.5 million, with an increase of £14.2 million or 7.5 per cent. The share of agricultural products amounted to

£25.3 million, an increase of 11.9 per cent, and that of agricultural articles to £34.6 million, with an increase of 1.6 per cent. The share of agricultural articles of the total sales of the cooperative societies was 29.4 per cent, the corresponding figure being 29.9 per cent in the previous year. The cooperative societies employed a total of 29,805 persons, or the same number as in the previous year. The total amount of deposits was £17.1 million, showing an increase of £1.1 million, or 7.2 per cent.

The sales of SOK without purchase tax were £105.5 million. This figure is approximately the same as that of the previous year, in which the purchase tax had been included. Owing to the change in taxation at the beginning of the year, the purchase tax is not included in the figures of the year 1964. The sales of production plants, excluding purchase tax, were £24.5 million, an increase of 11.9 per cent as compared with the previous year. SOK's own production share of the total sales was 23.1 per cent.

INDIA

SILVER JUBILEE OF BOMBAY MERCANTILE COOPERATIVE BANK LTD.

On the occasion of the silver jubilee celebration of the Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd., on February 6th, 1965, two souvenir booklets entitled "25 Years of Cooperative Banking" were issued, one a pictorial with the patrons, founding dignitaries, past and present high officials and staffs of the Bank and its branches, accompanied by text, graphs, statistics and important events over the 25 years of the Bank's existence, and the other with the texts of the welcoming and other speeches at the celebration in Bombay.

The Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd. was established on June 4th, 1939 as a Cooperative Credit Society with only a small paid up capital of Rs.10,600/- to provide credit facilities on a cooperative basis to small traders and artisans. It gained quickly the confidence of the public and, with the whole-hearted cooperation of its members, rose to the status of a cooperative bank within a year.

Apart from its head office in a seven-storey building in Bombay, the Bank has now three branches in that city and one branch in Ahmedabad in the State of Gujarat. The latter is in its own nine-storey building which was opened in 1961 by the then Chief Minister of Gujarat State.

During this quarter of a century, the Bank has made good progress, has been functioning successfully and rendering useful service to its members and clientele and has become a leading urban cooperative bank in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat. It has at present an authorised and fully subscribed capital of Rs.10,00,000/- (10 lakhs; 1Rs. equals approximately £0.1.6). At the end of 1939/40, deposits amounted to only Rs.9,200/-, but in 1963/64, they have aggregated to Rs.3,69,11,700/-. The gross income, which stood in 1939/40 at Rs.2,300/-, has gone up to Rs.18,39,800/- for 1963/64. In the 25 years, the Bank's annual turnover has risen from Rs.2,84,200/- to Rs.62,06,15,000/- and the working capital from Rs.44,400/- to Rs.4,08,70,400/-. The Bank is the only sub-member of the Bombay Bankers' Clearing House among cooperative banks and continues to be in the Government Audit Classification "A" since its inception. For the year ended June 30th, 1964, the Bank paid to its shareholders a dividend of 9 per cent free of income tax, including a Silver Jubilee Bonus.

The Bank's membership, which is open to all communities irrespective of caste or creed, is 10,676 and its clientele numbers 27,245. It is registered at present as a multi-unit cooperative bank occupying a prominent position in the field of cooperative banking in the country and especially in the city of Bombay.

Among the facilities offered both at the Bombay head office and at the Ahmedabad branch are automatic cash counters and up-to-date and air-conditioned safe deposit vaults, as well as the maintenance of a night safe at the head office. There is a scheme of advances for the purchase of utility articles, such as sewing machines, refrigerators, window-type room air-conditioning machines, etc., and advances are given to women members of the Bank on liberal terms against hire purchase of sewing machines to help them augment their earnings and better their economic conditions.

CONSUMER COOPERATIVES

At a meeting with members of the Price Rise Resistance Movement, of consumers' associations and some public men in New Delhi on November 8th, 1964, as reported in "The Cooperator" of December 15th, the Minister for Community Development and Cooperation, Shri S. K. Dey, discussed to what extent the urges released by the Price Rise Resistance Movement in New Delhi and other towns of India could be institutionalised in the form of consumer cooperative stores to provide unadulterated, standard and quality goods to the consumers at reasonable prices.

The Minister informed the participants in the meeting that his Ministry, in cooperation with the Planning Commission, had prepared a scheme to open a chain of cooperative stores in India which would get stocks of grain from growers and consumer goods, including textiles, from manufacturers through marketing societies and wholesale stores with which they would be linked. Although at present, the Minister added, about 220 wholesale and 3,700 primary cooperative stores were doing business worth about Rs.5.5 crores, they could not create a real impact on the price situation until at least 20 per cent of the consumers in urban areas and 10 per cent of the trade were controlled by them.

The tremendous effort needed by cooperators, cooperative institutions and governmental agencies to reach the target of trade and coverage of population outlined by Shri Dey, can be gauged from the fact that the total extent of retail trade in the country had been estimated at about Rs.9,000 crores. Consumer stores in many places had rendered commendable service to the consumers, but their impact on India's spiralling prices was only symbolic. It was not intended, however, that the consumer stores should ever gain monopoly of retail or wholesale trade, but they should function efficiently and effectively in competition with private trade and fair price shops and establish, by their fair and honest dealings, that they could serve the genuine interests of the consumers in a much better way. In order to realise this objective, the organisation of such stores and their number required would need all the support and guidance from cooperators as well as public men.

LATIN AMERICA

DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE CREDIT SYSTEM

A system of banks for cooperatives, which was established last year and is in some ways similar to, and in others different from, that in the United States, is taking form in various Latin American countries, it was reported.

The organising committee of the Inter-American Cooperative Finance Institute which is guiding this development, met in Quito, Ecuador, where, as reported in this News Service of January, a new Cooperative Bank had been established in November 1964. Mr. A. J. Smaby, General Manager of Midland Cooperatives, Inc., Minneapolis, and recently named to fill a U.S. vacancy on the Institute's Board, and Mr. Stanley Dreyer, Assistant Executive Director of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A. and an alternate member of the Board, took part in the Quito meeting.

Mr. Dreyer pointed out that the banks in the Latin American countries were being set up to serve cooperatives of all types, i.e. rural and urban, while those in the United States served only farm cooperatives. Apart from Uruguay, where a bank for cooperatives existed before the institution of the programme for Latin America, and the one already in operation in Ecuador, banks have been chartered in Argentina and Chile, and several other countries have now banks in various stages of development. The incorporation of an Inter-American Bank, in which all of these national banks would be linked together, is at present under study.

The U.S. Government is supporting the establishment of such a stable credit system for cooperative development in Latin America through a grant of \$250,000 from the Agency for International Development (AID) to the Fund for International Cooperative Development, an organisation sponsored by the Cooperative League.

NORWAY

INCREASED TURNOVER FOR NKL

According to a report in "Vart Blad" of January 13th, 1965, the Norwegian Cooperative Union (NKL) shows for the year 1964 an increase in turnover of 53 million kr., a rise of 10 per cent, which brings the total turnover to over 580 million kr. Membership also rose by 5,000 and is now up to 330,000.

The retail trade of societies has also increased by 10 per cent, rising to about 2 milliard kr., a figure such as probably no other organisation in the country can show. These excellent results are mainly due to sales of specialist goods in the chain of Domus department stores which NKL now possesses in Narvik, Moss, Lillehammer and elsewhere, as well as in large shops run by local societies like "Økonom" in Stavanger.

SCANDINAVIA

NEW MANAGER FOR LONDON BRANCH OF NORDISK ANDELSPORBUND

The new Manager of the London Office of the Nordisk Andelsforbund, NAF (Scandinavian Cooperative Wholesale Society), reports the "Andelsbladet" of January 7th, 1965, is Mr. Tor Teian, a Norwegian, who took up his appointment at the beginning of this year. Mr. Teian is a graduate of the Oslo College of Commerce and has worked in the Norwegian National Cooperative Union (NKL) since 1953. He has been head of NKL's Import Department since 1961 and is also the Norwegian cooperative representative on the Imports Board and the Department for Agriculture.

U.S.A.

"CO-OP CITY" TO BE BUILT IN NEW YORK

In the December 1963 issue of this New Service (p.11), we reported on Rochdale Village in Queens, New York, the world's largest consumer cooperative housing development, sponsored by the United Housing Foundation in 1960. This cooperative project for 5,860 families has now been nearly completed.

Once again, the Foundation is sponsoring and getting ready to build the world's largest housing cooperative, reports the "Cooperative News Service" of February 9th, 1965 of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A. This time, it is "Co-op City" which will be built in the Bronx, New York, and will provide moderately-priced flats for 15,500 families. It will be the largest of any private, public or cooperative housing development in the U.S.A.

Mr. Abraham E. Kazan, the Foundation's President, who was joined in announcing this project on February 9th by Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York State and New York City's Mayor Robert Wagner, said that this development would not have been possible without the support of the City and State of New York. Co-op City, he continued, would cost about \$300 million and will provide good housing at carrying charges averaging between \$22 and \$23 a room per month. Part of the construction money will come from the families who will live in the cooperative, and these investments will not exceed \$450 per room. In addition, the Foundation had applied to the New York State Housing Finance Agency for a loan of \$262,964,000, which will be the largest single mortgage ever granted in New York City, as well as to the City for a partial tax abatement made possible by state law. During the abatement period, the cooperative will pay to the City taxes of approximately \$5 million a year.

The buildings, containing one- to three-bedroom flats with central air-conditioning, will stand on a 300-acre site, 90 acres of which will be set aside for public facilities, such as schools, a library, parks and streets, and there will be open spaces for gardens and playgrounds. The community of about 55,000 people will have its own power plant, recreation and shopping centres, and indoor and outdoor parking places for 10,850 cars will be provided.

In addition to Rochdale Village, the United Housing Foundation, which is a non-profit federation of housing cooperatives, labour unions and neighbourhood and civic organisations, has sponsored six other housing cooperatives, providing a total of 15,061 housing units, since its inception in 1951.

E.RLY SUCCESS OF ROCHDALE VILLAGE COOPERATIVE SUPERMARKET

Following up our note in the last issue of this News Service concerning the opening of the Rochdale Village cooperative market in Jamaica, New York, in December 1964, the great success during the first four days of its existence, as reported in the Mid-Eastern Cooperatives, Inc. (Lodi, New Jersey) "Co-op Highlights" of this month, deserves recording here.

On the first day, 3,424 shoppers purchased goods at the supermarket, resulting in total sales of \$25,000, or an average of \$7.59 per person. In the first four days, the number of shoppers was about 12,076 and the sales amounted to a total of \$86,500.

Many of the shoppers visited the "Hospitality Corner" in the market, where they enjoyed a cup of Co-op Premium Coffee with Co-op milk, donated by the Eastern Cooperatives, Inc. Volunteers from more than 30 of the community and affiliated organisations of Rochdale Village staffing the Hospitality Corner served 1,774 cups of coffee on the opening day. Many consumers inquired at the membership desk about the work of a consumers' cooperative society, and, already on the first day, 86 persons bought shares, investing a total of \$1,765. During the first four days, 246 people joined as members, bringing the total number of owners to 1,196.



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1



March, 1965

INTERNATIONAL

I.C.A. WOMEN COOPERATORS' ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

The first meeting of the I.C.A. Women Cooperators' Advisory Council was held at the I.C.A. Headquarters in London on March 16th and 17th, 1965 and was attended by representatives from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Great Britain, Holland, Israel, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. The meeting was opened by the Director of the I.C.A., Mr. W. G. Alexander, who welcomed the delegates, and Mrs. M. J. Russell, of the I.C.A. Secretariat, acted as the Council's Secretary. Mrs. E. Tas-Callo of Holland was elected Chairman and Mrs. M. Lonsdale of Great Britain Vice-Chairman.

A full discussion took place on the Council's work arising out of its terms of reference resulting in the decision to recommend two small amendments thereto to the I.C.A. Executive Committee. With regard to assisting in the cooperative work in under-developed countries, in particular where women needing help are concerned, the Council will recommend specific projects; in the meantime, it was suggested that the Council members might encourage their respective organisations to support the I.C.A.'s Technical Assistance Fund. It was further agreed that women had a great part to play in the field of consumer education and information and that close contact should be maintained with the I.C.A. Consumer Working Party. The interests of women cooperators in agricultural producers' and housing cooperatives were also stressed for consideration by the Council.

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will most likely be held early in 1966.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE BANK BECOMES LIMITED COMPANY

On March 12th, 1965, the news was released that the "Internationale Genossenschaftsbank" (International Cooperative Bank), Basel, which had been founded by various unions of European cooperatives and was legally a cooperative, became a limited company. At the same time, its capital has been increased from 1.37 million to 10 million Swiss francs. These two facts resulted in a much larger number of the shareholders of the International Cooperative Bank Limited which are the following: the Cooperative Wholesale Society Ltd., Manchester; Kooperativa Förbundet (Cooperative Union), Stockholm; Grosseinkaufsgesellschaft Deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften mbH. (Wholesale Society of German Consumers' Cooperatives Ltd.), Hamburg; Verband Schweizerischer Konsumvereine, VSK (Union of Swiss Consumers' Societies), Basel; Zentralkasse der Konsumgenossenschaften (Central Bank of Consumers' Cooperative Societies), Vienna; furthermore, the unions of the consumers' cooperative societies in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Holland, Iceland and Norway. In addition, two insurance companies belonging to the group of the Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company (U.S.A.) are shareholders.

The following banks closely connected with cooperatives and trade unions had a share in the capital increase: the Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft A.G. (Bank

for Collective Economy Ltd.), Frankfurt am Main; Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft A.G. (formerly Workers' Bank Ltd.), Vienna; Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank (Cooperative Central Bank), Basel; Bank Hapoalim B.M., Tel-Aviv; Cooperative Wholesale Society Bankers Ltd., Manchester; Hollandsche Koopmansbank (Dutch Merchant Bank), Amsterdam; Andelsbanken (Cooperative Bank), Copenhagen; Arbejdernes Landsbank (Workers' National Bank), Copenhagen; and Samvirkebanken (Cooperative Bank), Oslo.

Other credit institutions, too, which are outside the cooperative sector, but have business relations with cooperative societies and want to strengthen them, have acquired shares, as, for example, the Bank of America which is represented on the Supervisory Board by its Vice-President, Mr. C. M. van Vlierden of San Francisco.

The International Cooperative Bank Ltd. will provide all of the services of a commercial bank, including the promotion of cooperative institutions and rationalisation of trade and production, and will also function as a general bank making available its services in all sections of the banking business to all branches of the economy and the population. The Bank's business activity will also extend to non-European countries.

Mr. Carl Wiederkehr, Deputy Chairman of the Management of the Wholesale Society of German Consumers' Cooperatives Ltd., Hamburg, has been elected President of the Board of Directors and Mr. Walter Hesselbach, Chairman of the Executive of the Bank for Collective Economy Ltd., Frankfurt am Main, its Vice-President. The following are members of the Supervisory Board: Mr. J. Arduin of Paris; Mr. H. A. Cowden of Kansas City; Mr. E. Groes of Copenhagen; Dr. W. Kehl of Basel; Mr. A. Korp of Vienna; Dr. H. König of Basel; Mr. W. Quincey of Manchester; Dr. A. Schnurrenberger of Basel; Mr. B. Tronêt of Stockholm; Mr. A. Vuilleumier of Basel; Mr. C. M. van Vlierden of San Francisco; Dr. J. Haar of Vienna; and Mr. A. Zabarsky of Tel-Aviv. Directors are Mr. Werner Bleile, member of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative Central Bank, Basel, and Mr. Rolf Wagner, member of the Executive of the Bank for Collective Economy Ltd., Frankfurt am Main.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE SEMINAR IN SWEDEN

The Swedish Cooperative Centre in Stockholm, established by the Kooperativa Förbundet, KF (Cooperative Union and Wholesale Society) and the Sveriges Lantbruksförbund, SL (Federation of Swedish Farmers' Associations) in 1963, arranges annually special international cooperative seminars. Both KF and SL had received visitors from the newly developing countries for many years and had instituted short individual programmes on Swedish Cooperation for them at the then Swedish Centre for Cooperative Development. Because of the increase in their numbers, the need for a longer and more systematic study programme was realised. This and the desire to further develop the mutual contacts already made between the Cooperative Movement in Sweden and several developing countries were the decisive factors for the

institution of the special seminars which, by means of theoretical courses and practical work, offered cooperative officers from these countries an intensive education in cooperation based on Swedish experiences. The Swedish Cooperative Centre is also responsible for contacts with the Scandinavian Cooperative Education Centre in Moshi, Tanzania, and the I.C.A. Education Centre in New Delhi, India, and both these institutions act as agents of the Swedish Centre in the recruitment of participants for the seminars arranged by it.

The first International Cooperative Seminar was held in Sweden in 1963; the second in 1964, with 15 students from Asia, Africa and Europe (6 from Sweden), lasting nine months; the third is planned for six months, beginning on May 5th and ending on October 31st, 1965, with 17 students from East Africa - Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia - including two women from Tanzania, and 3 to 4 Swedes participating.

The Seminar will be preceded by an introductory course in Nairobi from April 22nd to May 3rd, 1965, organised by the Scandinavian Cooperative Education Centre in Moshi, and followed up with a two-weeks' study visit to Israel. It will deal with different aspects of cooperative management, and agricultural and consumer cooperative movements will be studied from the point of view of organisational structure, questions of economics, systems of control and auditing, and selection and education of staff. Special attention will be given to adult and member education and to publicity. As both the agricultural and consumer cooperative movements are integrated from producer to consumer and vice versa, a course on marketing is included in the programme and here, too, special attention will be given to the managerial aspect.

For six weeks, the students will undergo individual practical training, joining Swedish working teams in various cooperative societies, when each student's particular wishes and requirements will be specially taken care of.

Two seminars on Cooperation of three months' duration will be held in Sweden in 1966; students for the fourth seminar will be recruited from South-East Asia and those for the fifth probably from South America.

INFORMATION ON COMPUTERS USED BY COOPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS

The Secretariat of the I.C.A. Auxiliary Committee on Retail Distribution (CRD) in Stockholm, Sweden, issued a list (CRD - Document No. 6 of March 3rd, 1965) in which it compiled information collected from various sources about the number and types of computers used (already or about to be in operation) by cooperative organisations at the end of 1964. The purpose of the Secretariat's action is that, after members of the Auxiliary Committee have checked and completed the information so far obtained, it would establish a list of all the people responsible for computers in order to help them to get in touch with each other for an exchange of experience and information. Should there be sufficient interest for this project, the Secretariat would contemplate the possibility of convening a conference.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Cooperative</u>	<u>Computer</u>
Austria	Konsumgenossenschaft Wien, KGW (Vienna Consumers' Cooperative Society)	IBM 1440/1311
Belgium	Charleroi & Luttre Economic Populaire, Ciney	IBM 1440 IBM 1401/1311
Denmark	Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger, FDB (Cooperative Wholesale Society)	using service bureaux
	Hovedstadens Brugsforening, HB (Copenhagen Consumers' Cooperative Society)	

<u>Country</u>	<u>Cooperative</u>	<u>Computer</u>
Federal Republic of Germany	Konsumgenossenschaft (Consumers' Cooperative Society) Dortmund-Ham	BULL
	Konsumgenossenschaft (Consumers' Cooperative Society) Düsseldorf	IBM 1140/1311
	Konsumgenossenschaft (Consumers' Cooperative Society) Hamburg	IBM 11401/1311
Finland	Elanto	IBM 11401 cards/1311
	Kesco	ICT 1500
	Osuustukukauppa, OTK (Cooperative Wholesale Society)	IBM 305, 11401 (tape)
	Suomen Osuuskauppojen Keskuskunta, SOK (Finnish Cooperative Wholesale Society)	IBM 11401 (cards, tape)
France	Coopérative d'Amiens	IBM 11401/11405
Great Britain	Leeds Cooperative Society	Sweda E3-E48
Netherlands	Co-op Nederland	Electrologica XI
Norway	Norges Kooperative Landsforening, NKL (Norwegian National Cooperative Union)	IBM 11401 (tape)
Sweden*	Kooperativa Förbundet, KF (Cooperative Union):	
	Stockholm	RCA 301; IBM 11460
	Gothenburg	IBM 11410
	Västerås	IBM 11410 (ordered)
	Konsum Stockholm	IBM 11401/1311 (tape)
Switzerland	Verband schweiz. Konsumvereine, VSK (Union of Swiss Consumers' Societies):	
	Basel	IBM 11401
	Wangen	IBM 11401/11405

*The IBM computers in Sweden will be changed to the 360 system as soon as it can be delivered.

Most common is IBM with 16 out of 21 computers, i.e. 76 per cent, and it is said that IBM has 70 per cent of the total computer market. The number of computers used within distribution in Western Europe at the middle of 1964 was at least 120, including those listed in the table above. Since this figure is increasing fast, the number of computers will now be higher.

An exchange of experience, such as work regularly done, costs, programmes, etc., should be fruitful, since what is treated on a computer in a wholesale or retail society will be very much the same in all countries.

AUSTRIA

DEVELOPMENT OF CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVES IN 1964

The "Genossenschaftlicher Nachrichtendienst" of March 19th, 1965 reports that, at the end of 1964, 63 consumers' cooperatives with 1,608 stores, 305 of which are self-service shops, all over Austria belonged to the "Konsumverband" Central Union of Austrian Consumers' Cooperative Societies. The total turnover of the Austrian consumers' cooperatives was 3.2 milliards Austrian shillings, an increase of 8.06 per cent over the previous year. This increase is proof of the favourable development of the consumers' cooperatives and of the confidence of the population in them.

DENMARK

PROGRESS MADE BY COOPERATIVES IN 1964

The I.C.A. Cooperative Wholesale Committee's Information Exchange Service of January 22nd, 1965 reported on a review of the development of the Danish Cooperative Movement in 1964 by the Managing Director of the Danish Cooperative Wholesale Society (FDB), Mr. Ebbe Groes, reproduced in the "Uddelerbladet" of January 1st and entitled "1964 - A Year of Clarification and Progress".

The introduction of structural changes in the organisation had a particular influence on the movement's development. The Danish cooperative societies had strengthened their trading position, resulting in an increase in their turnover on current account by 11 per cent to about 2,365 million Danish Kroner (£120 million). The returns revealed that sales of the urban cooperative societies had increased considerably faster (+14.8 per cent) than those of the rural ones (+8.5 per cent).

With a growth of 13 to 14 per cent to about 1,250 million Danish Kroner, FDB's turnover had increased at a faster rate than in previous years. Factors which contributed to this favourable development included the improvement of the network of cooperative stores and in the planning of central purchases, good results from individual sales promotion activities, such as the instalment of refrigerated display cases, and the adoption of new business connections. Special mention must be made of the growing share of cooperative food produce (margarine, chocolate, tobacco, meat and deep-frozen foods) in the market. In order to satisfy the strong demand for cooled and deep-frozen food, FDB embarked on large investments in 1964 to expand the cool- and deep-freeze facilities, as well as the packaging plant, at the regional warehouses.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

NEW SERVICE BY CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The German Consumers' Cooperative Movement is offering its members a new service in the field of tourist air trips by chartered planes in which, in recent years, a sensational progress has been made. It was reported that, for the first time, the Wholesale Society of German Consumers' Cooperatives (GEG) was offering its members in its 1965 spring and summer catalogue flights to Mallorca and Bulgaria at very favourable fares. The organiser of the "trips for the consumer" is the Verbands-Reisen GmbH, in Frankfurt.

TESTING INSTITUTE FOR CONSUMER GOODS

According to the "Retail News Letter" of February 1965, published by the International Association of Department Stores in Paris, the German Government's

official institute for testing of, and publishing reports on, consumer goods has now been set up in Berlin. The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs has announced that 400,000 German marks have been set aside for equipping the institute which will have an operating budget of 2 million German marks for its first year and 4 million for 1966 and 1967.

The new institute will draw on other institutes in Berlin, as, for instance, the Max Planck Institute, for technical advice and plans to carry out about 70 tests of consumer goods a year; the results of the first ones will be published at about the middle of 1965.

NEW MATCH FACTORY BUILT BY GEG

It was reported that the Wholesale Society of German Consumers' Cooperatives (GEG) has started a new, modern match factory in Lauenburg/Elbe, near Hamburg, at the beginning of this year to replace the old one there which was no longer capable of increasing its production. The new factory's technical equipment includes two complete production lines for two types of matches; the wood work, the manufacture of the matches and the packing are carried out by automation, and extra space has been provided for further technical developments. The production capacity is about 800,000 matchboxes and 35,000,000 matches per working day, and the annual consumption is put at approximately 3,000 cubic metres of poplar wood, about 800 tons of board and about 200 tons of chemicals.

The total cost of the factory is estimated at 11 million German marks (£1 million) and there will be 120 full-time and 56 part-time employees.

FRANCE

PICTURE GALLERY OF CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVE PARIS

It was reported that the Consumers' Cooperative Society Paris opened recently the first cooperative picture gallery in France. More than 200 pictures painted both by eminent amateurs and professional painters were on exhibition in a cooperative furniture store. Realistic, impressionist, abstract and naive pictures of all styles, various genres and subjects, mainly taken from rural life, were represented in the exhibition. The idea and motive behind this exhibition was that the cooperative movement's endeavour was not only to supply the membership with material goods but to promote education and culture in every possible way.

GREAT BRITAIN

C.W.S. PRESIDENT APPOINTED TO ECONOMIC PLANNING COUNCIL

News was released by the Cooperative Wholesale Society (C.W.S.) on February 26th, 1965 of the appointment of its President, Sir Leonard Cooke, as a member of the North West Regional Economic Planning Council, one of five similar advisory bodies set up by the Government, which is composed of people able to play an active part in regional planning in relation to economic and population growth. Council members are drawn from local government, academics, both sides of industry and from the social services.

RETIREMENT OF S.C.W.S. PRESIDENT

The retirement on March 13th, 1965, prematurely by nine months because of ill-health, of Mr. Robert Taylor, J.P., President of the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society (S.C.W.S.) since August 1960 and a Director of its Board for 21½ years, was announced in the British cooperative press.

For almost 40 years, Mr. Taylor has been prominent in the British Cooperative Movement's affairs and the years of his presidency have been marked by an intensive internal investigation into the administration of the S.C.W.S. and the struggle throughout the movement for radical changes in its constitution and set-up. He was an advocate of S.C.W.S. and C.W.S. amalgamation and did not shirk the controversy which that attitude brought. Mr. Taylor was also Director of the joint federations of C.I.S., C.W.S. and S.C.W.S., served on every leading committee of the Cooperative Union, was very active in the Trade Union Movement and was a member of the Central Committee of the I.C.A.

ITALY

OPENING OF CENTRE OF COOPERATIVE STUDIES IN ROME

On the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the Centre of Cooperative Studies (Centro di studi cooperativi) in Rome on February 24th, 1965, in the presence of distinguished guests, the President of the Confederazione Cooperativa Italiana, Dr. L. Malfettani, delivered an address and thanked Mr. Frank Goffio, General Director of CARE (Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc.), and Mr. Wallace Campbell, Vice-President of CARE and President of the Foundation for Cooperative Housing, for CARE's donation to the Confederazione of the premises in which the Centre was housed.

Briefly reviewing the Confederazione's work during its twenty years of existence and stressing its long collaboration with CARE and the latter's aid to Italian cooperators, Dr. Malfettani gave an outline of the Centre's aims as follows: to set up a specialised library of Italian and foreign works on cooperation; to keep an up-to-date, complete collection of cooperative magazines and journals from all over the world; to create up-to-date files of subject matters selected from books and journals, with special regard to "L'Italia Cooperativa", for easy availability; to promote cycles of high-level conferences and lectures, both at the national and international levels; to organise specialised courses for students, managers and cooperators; to organise special courses for people from developing countries, with particular regard to countries of the Mediterranean area; to establish ties with University Cooperative Institutes in other countries; and to edit a periodical information bulletin. Dr. Malfettani concluded by saying that the new Centre will be used for spreading, along with cooperative studies, the most intimate, human essence of cooperation: the tendency for reciprocal aid, social justice and peace in the world.

The ceremony was attended by I.C.A.'s Secretary for Education, Mr. R. P. B. Davies.

SWEDEN

CHANGES IN KF's BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following changes in the Board of Directors of the Swedish Cooperative Wholesale Society (KF), decided upon by the Supervisory Council and effective from January 1st, 1966, were announced:

Mr. Harry Hjalmarsson, succeeding the retiring Mr. Carl Albert Anderson, will become the Board of Directors' Chairman as well as Chairman of the Stockholm Cooperative Society. His responsibility will be to control internal auditing and staffing, and the Swedish Cooperative's Training Establishment "Vår Gärd". Messrs. John Sallborg, Bertil Tronët and Karl-Erik Persson will be new Board Directors. The first-named, Manager of the Central Sales Department, will succeed the retiring Director, Mr. Hugo Edstam, and will take over as head of the Commercial Department B (dry goods) which will also include the Central Sales Department; the second, former chief of the Finance Department, will take over the newly designated separate section "Administration and Finance"; and the third, former chief of the Audit Section, will manage a newly created section dealing with the structural development of the cooperative societies and with questions concerning the cooperation between KF and these societies. It will also include the External Audit Section and "Svenska Hushållsforeningen" (SHF), the mutual aid organisation helping financially weak societies.



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W-1

No. 4. April, 1965.

INTERNATIONAL



I.C.A. PRESS COMMITTEE MEETING AT HAMBURG, GERMANY

At the invitation of the Zentralverband deutscher Konsumentgenossenschaften, ZdK (Central Union of German Consumers' Cooperatives), the I.C.A. Press Committee held its meeting this year in Hamburg from April 6th to 8th. It was attended by Mr. E. Nielsen of FDB, Denmark; Mr. R. Kérinec of FNCC, France; Dr. C. Schumacher, Dr. C. Bock, Mr. H. Sommer, Mr. G. Schweer, Mr. Lesser and Dr. Bredehöft of ZdK, Germany; Mr. Th. Viergever of Co-op Nederland, Holland; Mr. L. Eronn of KF, Sweden; Mr. E. Descoëudres of VSK, Switzerland; Mr. H. Steele of C.W.S., United Kingdom; and Mr. R. P. B. Davies and Mr. J. H. Öllman, Secretary for Education and Editor respectively of the I.C.A. Mr. Kérinec was elected Chairman.

In the absence of Dr. Schumacher from the first meeting, Dr. Bock welcomed the Committee members. He then presented a paper on "The Cooperative Press and the Consumer" giving rise to various points made during its discussion, such as the conception of the consumer; trading interests; distinction between consumer education and advertising; the cooperative movement and the consumers' movement; freedom for editors and the need to supply them with information on the latest thinking of top executives of their movements; and how far cooperative principles should be included in consumer education.

A paper on "Press and Cooperative Principles" was submitted by Dr. Schumacher who stated that, in view of the existing I.C.A. Principles Commission, cooperative journalists might perhaps not comment on the subject until the Commission's report was published. Following his suggestions for the reasons why the Rochdale Principles should now be reconsidered, the paper was discussed and examples were given of the way in which attitudes differed according to prevailing economic circumstances. "The Press and Organisational Structure, especially Vertical Integration" was the title of another paper delivered by Dr. Schumacher in which he outlined the process of structural changes - one of the subjects on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the I.C.A. Central Committee at Helsinki, Finland, in September 1965 and pointed to the part to be played by journalists in keeping lay members informed and in reporting on local policies and actions.

An account was given by Messrs. Schweer, Bredehöft and Lesser of the use of "Der Verbraucher" and of the "Verbraucherzeitung" in furthering consumer education vis-à-vis the cooperative movement, and a discussion took place on the envisaged general Conference for Press and Education which it had been agreed at the Bournemouth 1963 Conference should again be convened at the 1966 I.C.A. Congress in Vienna. Subjects for discussion at that Conference might be: "What are the responsibilities of cooperative education and the cooperative press to the consumer?" or "If democratic control is to remain one of the basic cooperative principles, to what extent does the Movement have to rely on a cooperative press and cooperative education?"

In stressing the need for closer collaboration between journalists and the I.C.A., the Committee members agreed that this could be achieved by means of marking articles of international importance appearing in the national cooperative

press and forwarding these to the I.C.A. Editor and by publicising the Alliance's efforts jointly undertaken for the Cooperative Movement as, for instance, the ICFTU/IFAP/ICA Declaration on the World Food Programme. Member organisations were asked by the I.C.A. representatives to interest a greater number of individuals in subscribing to the Review of International Cooperation. For their part, the journalists present at the meeting agreed to make available in their national press free space for advertising I.C.A. publications, particularly the Review of International Cooperation.

Finally, the history, constitution, membership and possibility of more frequent meetings of the Press Committee were discussed and certain suggestions were made and conclusions arrived at for recommendation to the I.C.A. Executive Committee.

Committee members had the opportunity of visiting ZdK's printing works and publishing house giving them an insight into the technical processes adopted by ZdK.

AUSTRALIA

DEVELOPMENT OF DAIRY COOPERATIVES PRAISED

Under the head-line "Co-ops impress World Authority", the organ of the United Farmers' and Woolgrowers' Association in Sydney, "The Land", of April 8th, 1965, reported Dr. S. K. Saxena, the I.C.A.'s South-East Asian Regional Officer, commenting that the development of dairy cooperatives in Australia was most impressive.

After attending an ECAFE Conference in New Zealand, Dr. Saxena was touring Australia and was guest of honour at a luncheon arranged by the Cooperative Federation of New South Wales. He had meetings with representatives of insurance cooperatives and credit unions there and obtained details from cooperatives of their export potential. Dr. Saxena said that he would list products which Australia was seeking to export in the "Cooperative Trade Directory for South-East Asia" published by the I.C.A. Regional Office in New Delhi and having a world-wide circulation.

CARIBBEAN

TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING CARIBBEAN ORGANISATION

News was received at the I.C.A. Headquarters from the Central Secretariat of the Caribbean Organisation in Puerto Rico - the successor to the Caribbean Commission in 1961 - of the termination of the Agreement establishing it, entered into by the Governments of France, Netherlands, Great Britain and the United States of America.

Since several of the Caribbean Organisation's original members, which were France (for the Department of French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique), the Netherlands Antilles, Surinam, British Guiana, the British Virgin Islands, the Federation of the West Indies (dissolved in May 1962), the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States, had withdrawn from it between 1962 and 1964 and thus ceased to be members, the Organisation's governing body, the Caribbean Council, decided at its meeting held in Curaçao from November 30th to December 4th, 1964, to cease the operations of its Secretariat by June 30th, 1965 and to request the signatory Governments to terminate the said Agreement by December 31st. The Organisation's technical services and publications will, therefore, cease early this year and a small administrative staff will remain on duty until June 30th to wind up its affairs.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

SALE SHARES BY BANK FOR COLLECTIVE ECONOMY LTD.

The Bank for Collective Economy Ltd. (Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft A.G.) at Frankfurt am Main released the news on April 1st, 1965 that it has sold part of its shares in the Investment and Commercial Bank Ltd. (Investitions- und Handelsbank A.G.) to the Union Financière de Paris.

This transaction, which still needs consent by the French authorities, involves only a modest participation for the time being. Within the framework of the Investment and Commercial Bank Ltd. and in close collaboration with the Bank for Collective Economy Ltd., the Union Financière de Paris intends to develop a corporate European or international banking enterprise.

The Union Financière de Paris, a "Société en commandite simple", has at its disposal a capital of 15 million francs. In French financial affairs, the Union is a financial establishment belonging to the commercial banks ("banques d'affaires"). This form of finance institute unknown in Germany could best be defined as a bank with participating shareholders ("Beteiligungsbank"). There are 38 banking and industrial firms participating in the Union Financière de Paris, as for instance: L'Union Française de Banques, Paris; L'Union de Crédit pour le Bâtiment, Paris; L'Union des Mines La Hélin S.A.; Banque Lambert, Bruxelles; Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas (through its subsidiary society Auxom, Paris); BNCI Banque Nationale pour le Commerce et l'Industrie, Paris (through its subsidiary society Banque Auxiliaire pour le Commerce et l'Industrie); Compagnie Financière, Paris (Edmond de Rothschild); One Hundred and Fourteen Investment Holding Ltd., London (Samuel Montagu); Pierson, Heldring and Pierson, Amsterdam; and The Bogdan and Co., Inc., New York.

The managing partners are Mr. Raymond Sacha Gueronik, Count Thierry de Clermont-Tonnerre, Mr. Jacques Barbat du Closel, and Mr. Olivier Renom de la Baume. Dr. Yré Bartfeld, who was elected to the Supervisory Council in connection with the transaction of the Union Financière de Paris with the Investment and Commercial Bank, is the Secretary-General of the Union. Mr. Walter Hesselbach, Chairman of the Executive of the Bank for Collective Economy Ltd., Frankfurt am Main, is Chairman of the Supervisory Council of the Investment and Commercial Bank. Its Deputy Chairmen are Dr. Yré Bartfeld, Secretary-General of the Union Financière de Paris, Paris; Minister of State Albert Osswald, Wiesbaden, Minister of Finance of Hessen; and Minister of State in retirement Dr. Rudolf Zorn, Munich.

GAMBIA

HISTORY OF COOPERATION FROM ITS BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT

The following article entitled "Cooperation in The Gambia, West Africa" by Mr. A. L. Mackintosh, Registrar of Cooperative Societies in The Gambia, appeared

in the December 1964 Cooperative Newsletter, published by the Central Secretariat of the Caribbean Organisation in Puerto Rico. Although written shortly before Gambia's independence, the article reviewing the history of cooperation there is now that the country has attained independence of the greatest interest to the world's cooperative movements which will watch and encourage the further cooperative development in that part of West Africa. For that reason, it was felt opportune to reproduce the article in full here.

"There cannot be many countries in the world where cooperation started later than in this tiny country on the West Coast of Africa, almost exactly due East across the Atlantic from Trinidad. This, in itself, makes a study of the Cooperative Movement in the country of particular interest, since the experience is recent. The problems are those of development rather than of routine as in more cooperatively developed countries and the area of study is so small. The Gambia has been described as having a 'micro-economy' and its Cooperative Movement could almost as well be described as a 'micro-Movement'.

Consisting of a 300 mile strip of land on either side of the River Gambia, the country is at no point wider than 30 miles across. A large part of this consists of mangrove swamp and the rest of typical savannah bush with a few low laterite hills and ridges. The groundnut crop forms 96 per cent of annual exports and the only industrial plants are those connected with the decortication and processing of groundnuts. The population of 300,000 is, therefore, predominantly agricultural, growing subsistence crops and groundnuts by traditional hand methods. £30 is estimated to be the annual average cash income.

Although the first Cooperative Society was registered in 1954, four years after the Cooperative Societies Ordinance became law, there are interesting traces of attempts by a number of public spirited Gambians in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Some of these men were descended from Africans repatriated from the Caribbean area in the early 19th century and their leader, Mr. E. F. Small, made strenuous efforts to interest farmers in a Gambia-wide groundnut marketing cooperative. Part of a register of members listing some 12,000 farmers throughout the country is still in existence. Most of this small band of pioneers are now, alas, dead and the survivors have somewhat hazy memories of their struggle - there can be no doubt that it was a struggle. From the scanty correspondence still available, it appears that their efforts met with official indifference both in The Gambia and in Britain.

They were, however, in correspondence with the International Cooperative Alliance and Mr. Small, with the aid of local subscriptions, visited Britain in 1930 and met the then Secretary of the Alliance, who gave some useful advice and whose letter of advice and encouragement is still preserved.

It is now clear that there was little hope of making adequate marketing arrangements in competition with the interests already established in the trade, although there were whispers of revival right up until the outbreak of the war in 1939. Mr. Small did tell the present writer before he died that he felt the establishment of the wartime Produce Control Board and latterly the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board had gone some way towards achieving his aim in that the farmers, through the Board, were receiving a guaranteed price and the profits of the Board, being devoted to various schemes of development, were at least being used in the interests of the farming community.

This brief excursion into history will show that ideas of modern cooperation had engaged the attention of a few Gambians, but the introduction thereof had to await a more favourable climate of opinion and leadership from people qualified and experienced in cooperative techniques.

The first cooperative officer, Mr. W. L. Ricketts, was appointed in 1948, and his brief period of office was marked by the drafting and promulgation of the Cooperative Societies Ordinance in 1950. This was followed by the formation of a number of small societies in the chief town, Bathurst, composed of weavers, dyers and petty traders. These were subsequently registered and most are still

in existence. There was also a Civil Servants Thrift and Credit Society which operated spasmodically and inefficiently, was never registered and eventually had to be dissolved at some loss to the members.

After Mr. Ricketts left the country, and until 1955, there was little activity, but with the appointment of another cooperative officer in that year, attention was turned to the problems of groundnut farmers rather than to the urban population in Bathurst.

It appeared to be general non-farming opinion that the farmer was adequately safeguarded by the operations of the statutory Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board which purchased groundnuts from licensed buying agents, the large commercial firms, which themselves purchased at a guaranteed price from local licensed traders. The profits of the Board were, in effect, returned to the farmer by the operation of a Farmers Development Fund and a Stabilisation Fund, both of which were used for various government projects of agricultural development. Examples of these were the construction of causeways into remote rice swamps, employment of development officers, poultry improvements, loans to local authorities for capital works, purchase of tractors, forest regeneration, maintenance of the producer price and other projects.

Investigations among farmers, however, very quickly showed that they were not so completely convinced of the security of their position. In some respects, their doubts were unfounded and arose from understandable ignorance of the functions of the Marketing Board, but they certainly believed that somewhere along the marketing chain they were not receiving a square deal. They suspected the local traders of cheating them by scale manipulation, resented the high rates of interest they had to pay for loans from traders to feed their families during the planting season, but felt they could do little about it. In general, their reactions were very much those of the peasant farming community anywhere and their suspicions, though often unfounded, were none the less real.

After extensive investigation among the farming community, it was felt that there was a basis for the commencement of some experimental cooperative marketing in the semi-urbanised area near the capital. Local pundits considered the choice of venue unwise, since it was no longer a real farming community and had a poor farming and credit record. Circumstances, however, dictated the choice and the chief of these was the close proximity to Marketing Board delivery points and the fact that immediate payment could, therefore, be obtained for produce delivered. This was particularly important, since there was no capital available for produce payments and no funds to meet expenses.

An intensive programme of village visits culminated in the agreement of 80 farmers in four villages to market their produce collectively. The Marketing Board agreed to provide storage facilities and equipment free of charge and agreed to pay the group 'traders' commission'. The secretarial work was carried out by the Registrar himself assisted by an interpreter, seconded for the purpose, and the Department of Agriculture provided transport at a reasonable figure.

No attempt was made to register the group, although the main features of a marketing cooperative's bye-laws were taught to the members.

Results were disappointing and only 32 of the enrolled 'members' sold groundnuts from three villages. The total tonnage purchased was $12\frac{1}{2}$, but after meeting all expenses and reserving some of the surplus on the operations, it was possible to pay patronage bonuses totalling £23.2.6d. to the participants. This brief outline omits, of necessity, some of the quite surprising difficulties encountered in such a small operation, but the enthusiasm of the few members who did participate gave the key to future prospects and the payment of the bonus turned all of them into enthusiastic 'missionaries'.

By the next season, in 1956, there were 14 village societies extending to an area within 30 miles of Bathurst and the total tonnage purchased was 461.

Members were compelled to wait for payment until the Marketing Board had verified deliveries and their suspicions were such that the Registrar had personally to visit every village to make payment against produce receipts. This situation continued for a further two years until confidence had been established among members who were then willing to take payment from their own employed staff.

During this period of 'confidence building', the presence of the Registrar and his small staff of two was constantly in demand, either at the increasing number of buying stations, or in the rapidly increasing number of villages. For three to four months of the year, this entailed a seven day 80 to 90 hour week and constant arduous travel by landrover.

To stimulate confidence among members intending to sell the next day, it was sometimes necessary to visit a number of villages, open the cash box and prove that the money was actually there to pay members on the morrow. Deductions of transport fees and levies could not be made directly, as every member wished to see exactly how much he was due before he would hand over his share of the expenses.

Scales had to be constantly checked, sometimes as many as twenty times a day, at the same buying station, and even the 56 lbs. weight used for this was suspect. The only method which received acclaim was for the Registrar personally to weigh himself and confirm that the scale showed his correct weight which, incidentally, by the end of the season was usually considerably less than it was at the beginning. Even loading of lorries was undertaken to prove to members that they could save money by doing the work themselves rather than pay labourers. It was insisted that the society pay government cooperative staff at the standard labourers' rate when this was done and then the total was handed back to the society treasurer in full view of all the members present to prove exactly how much they had saved. The need for this disappeared as societies expanded and found a permanent labouring force essential.

Another surprising aid to confidence was the use of two cash boxes - one for payments for produce and the other for receipts from members for expenses. Though technically useless and now no longer necessary, this proved immensely popular with committees which, although there might be a substantial sum in the receipts box, insisted that this must not be used for payments. This frequently entailed quite unnecessary visits to the same societies the very next day to replenish their payments box, although they often had more than enough money in the receipts box to meet their produce payments for several days.

Valuable lessons were learnt from these experiments, not least of which was the need to provide members with credit facilities. Local traders had, naturally, withdrawn these from cooperative members who would only sell their produce to their society, thus depriving traders of a source of profit and a guarantee of loan repayment. The credit problem was initially met by the Government placing the sum of £1,200 from the Farmers' Fund at the Registrar's disposal for loans to members. From this, loans totalling £966 were made. Repayment, much to everyone's surprise, was 100 per cent and, the following year, £4,200 was made available of which less than £200 was outstanding at the due date and most of which was subsequently recovered.

Since then, progress has been continuous and the Movement now consists of 29 cooperative buying stations throughout the country, covering well over 300 village branches, some of which group three or four small hamlets in one branch. Individual membership is over 21,500 and the societies handled over 21 per cent of the total groundnut crop in the current year. Subsistence credit totalling £150,000 was lent in the current farming season and there was a 96.2 per cent repayment of the 1963 loans. Societies have now tentatively embarked on a policy of more productive loans to assist farmers to purchase simple farming machinery, fertilisers and other aids to better farming. It is confidently expected that the country will be covered by a network of marketing societies by 1966 and the demand from the areas still unorganised is insistent.

The work of raising capital for these societies was greatly assisted by the formation, in October 1959, of the Central Cooperative Banking and Marketing Union Ltd., which, with the assistance of government guaranteed overdrafts from commercial banks, took over the responsibility from the Registrar. The total borrowings of the Union for the 1963/64 season were in the region of £200,000 for subsistence credit and crop finance, all of which were fully repaid well in advance of due date. Overdue loans in the villages in 1964 were 3.8 per cent of the total issued and, despite the misgivings of interested observers outside the Movement, the attitude to loan repayment is very responsible.

With the expansion and diversification of the Movement, it will become increasingly difficult to maintain the present strict supervision over loans, and there is little doubt that the percentage of overdue loans will increase. There is also the drawback that the 'bad old days' are forgotten and members are slow to realise that failure can come more quickly than success.

As is so frequently the case, the 'Doubting Thomases' who considered in the beginning that cooperation had little to offer now seem to believe that it can do much more than it is yet ready to do. Demands for diversification into thrift societies, rice marketing, tractor ploughing and market gardening have, however, been met by 'pilot' projects none of which have operated long enough to indicate their value to the country or prove the wisdom of their expansion.

The Government is no placing great reliance on the Movement to assist in carrying out plans for agricultural development and looks to it to supply a large proportion of the much needed capital investment to progressive farmers.

Such a brief note cannot possibly cover the many problems and difficulties of organisation which arose and have still not been completely overcome, but The Gambia, as it moves into 1965, the year of independence, has a Cooperative Movement with an esprit de corps among its members and a small band of responsible voluntary leaders who can, with wider experience, develop an increasingly competent and efficient cooperative service."

JAPAN

CHILDREN'S PICTORIAL ART EXCHANGE

This year again, as every year since 1955, children all over the world are invited by the Ie-No-Hikari Association in Tokyo to participate in the 10th International Rural School Children's Pictorial Art Exchange and to send their drawings or water colour pictures to the Association (No. 11, Funakawara-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan) by June 30th, 1965. The conditions and rewards for the submissions are the same as for last year's competition (described in the June 1964 issue of this News Service) in which boys and girls from thirteen countries took part.

LATIN AMERICA

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO CONSUMER COOPERATIVES

It was reported in "Cooperative America" of March 1965 that twenty representatives of consumer cooperatives in various Latin American countries have been awarded scholarships to study management and administration of self-service supermarkets.

The 18-week training course to commence next June in England was offered by the Organisation of American States in collaboration with the Department of Technical Cooperation of Great Britain.

NORWAY

EXPANSION OF OSLO COOPERATIVE RETAIL SOCIETY IN 1965

The following details about Norway's largest Cooperative Retail Society, Oslo Samvirke­lag (Oslo Cooperative Retail Society), have been received at the I.C.A. Headquarters from the Norwegian Cooperative Union and Wholesale Society (Norges Kooperativ Landsforening).

On March 18th, 1965, the sixth department store of Oslo Samvirke­lag was officially opened in a building erected by the Oslo Cooperative Housing Society (OBOS) on a new housing site in Oslo. Speakers at the inauguration ceremony were the Mayor of Oslo, Mr. Brynjulf Bull, who is also the President of OBOS, the Retail Society's President, Mr. Sven Svensson, and the Cooperative Union's President, Mr. Peder Söiland.

The new department store, with a staff of 55 and an estimated annual turnover of a minimum of 10 million kroner (about £500,000), has a total floor space of 2,950 square metres and an actual sales space of 2,200 square metres. It is part of an expansion programme of the Oslo Cooperative Retail Society which had a turnover of about 137 million kroner (about £6,850,000) in its shops in 1964. If the Society's own production is included, the turnover amounts to about 206 million kroner (about £10,300,000). Oslo Samvirke­lag has a membership of 31,000 and operates altogether 121 selling points.

One of the older shops of the Society had been entirely renovated and was re-opened on February 24th of this year. A furniture shop of 500 square metres was opened on March 1st in another of Oslo Samvirke­lag's successful shopping centres to replace an old one which became too small for the demand. Later in the year, another department store is going to be opened which will be of the same size as that just inaugurated, as well as two other stores of about 800 to 900 square metres each. Plans for 1966/67 include the opening of a factory for ready-made food in addition to that of new big shopping centres.

SWEDEN

NEW SHOPPING CENTRE TO BE BUILT IN VALBO

News was given in the I.C.A. Cooperative Wholesale Committee's Information Exchange Service of February 17th, 1965 that a Domus department store, owned by the Cooperative Society Alfa in Gävle, and a Tempo department store, owned by the Department Store Company Ahlen and Holm, will constitute the core of a shopping centre to be built in the community of Valbo which is situated between the towns of Gävle and Sandviken in Central Sweden.

Planned by KF's Architectural and Engineering Department, the completed shopping centre will comprise a shopping area of 30,000 square metres and parking space for 2,800 cars. It is expected that the annual turnover will amount to approximately 80 to 100 million Swedish crowns (£5.5 to 7 million) and that the number of inhabitants would increase from 153,000 in 1962 to about 175,000 by 1975.

TANZANIA

FIRST COOPERATIVE DEPARTMENT STORE

The opening of Tanzania's first department store in Dar-es-Salaam by the Cooperative Supply Association was announced recently. The store represents the first

stage in the Cooperative Movement's five-year plan aiming at obtaining 10 per cent of the country's total retail trade by 1970. Known as Cosata, the department store is being managed by personnel recruited in Israel.

U.S.A.

NEW PRESIDENT OF COOPERATIVE LEAGUE

It was announced that Mr. Jerry Voorhis, who is soon to retire as Executive Director of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., has been unanimously elected the League's new President at a Board meeting held last February in Washington. He succeeds Mr. Murray D. Lincoln who, having held the presidency for many years, did not stand for re-election and had also retired as President of Nationwide Insurance Companies last year.

NEW PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE

It was reported that an Inter-cooperative Petroleum Association was formed in the eastern U.S.A. with the help of ICPA to coordinate the needs of consumers for petroleum products and the services of cooperative petroleum producers and suppliers, thereby helping to develop a close relationship between producer and consumer cooperatives in the U.S.A.

Mr. Howard A. Cowden was elected Vice-President of the new Association whose organising members were Agway, Syracuse, New York; the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., Chicago; Mid-Eastern Cooperatives, Lodi, New Jersey; Community Services, Inc., New York; and the Fund for Urban Improvement, New York. Petroleum cooperatives in the U.S.A. have been invited to become members of the Association.

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TWENTY-SECOND CONGRESS REPORT

BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND

October 14th to 17th, 1963

The Verbatim Report of the 22nd Congress
of the International Co-operative Alliance
is now available at £4 (Sterling),

Order your copy from the

Publications Department of the I.C.A.
11, Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W.1.

By decision of the Executive Committee
of the Alliance, the full report is published
in English only.

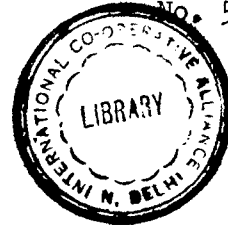
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cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

No. 5, May, 1965



INTERNATIONAL

UNESCO MEETING OF EXPERTS ON EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES FOR WORKERS

The I.C.A. Secretary for Education, Mr. R. P. B. Davies, was recently invited by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to be a member of a Committee of Experts on Educational Exchanges for Workers which met at Marienborg, near Copenhagen, Denmark, from May 20th to 25th, 1965. In addition to the Committee of thirteen, twelve observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations attended the meeting. Mr. Clemens Pedersen, of De Samvirkende Danske Andersselskaber (Danish Cooperative Trading Organisation), Copenhagen, and a member of the I.C.A. Central Committee, was the Alliance's observer. Mr. Aage Bo, Head of the Department of Education of Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger. (Cooperative Wholesale Society), Denmark, was also invited by UNESCO to attend as an observer.

Mrs. Edel Saunte, Mayor of Copenhagen, was elected Chairman of the Committee; Mr. B. Averyanov, Chief of the International Relations Department of the Central Council of Trade Unions, Moscow, U.S.S.R., and Mr. Ramon T. Silva, Director of the International Institute for Social Studies, Caracas, Venezuela, were elected Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Davies was appointed as Rapporteur.

The Committee studied the problems of planning educational exchange programmes for workers; suggested ways of intensifying workers' exchange activities of organisations other than UNESCO; studied the possibility of some form of UNESCO association with groups travelling under such auspices; and made recommendations to the Director General of UNESCO for a six-year programme of workers' education exchanges.

The report embodying the Committee's recommendations will be transmitted to the Director General and will be discussed at the meeting of the UNESCO General Conference in 1966.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR PUBLIC AND COOPERATIVE ECONOMY

The seventh International Congress of Public and Cooperative Economy was held at the Congress Hall in Berlin from May 10th to 13th, 1965, under the patronage of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and having as its general theme: "Public and Cooperative Enterprises in a Free Society". Professor Dr. Maurice Delbouille was the President of the Congress and Professor Dr. Paul Lambert was the Scientific Director. The International Cooperative Alliance was represented at the Congress by its Director and many members of the I.C.A. Executive and Central Committees were present.

After introductory speeches, Dr. Paul Lambert, Professor at the University of Liège and Director of the International Centre of Research and Information on Collective Economy (ICRICE), read a paper on the "Possibilities and Limits of Competition". Professor Lambert was supported by a short paper from Dr. Hans Ritschl, Professor at the University of Hamburg. A number of speakers took part in the discussion on this subject, after which the remaining part of the first day was spent on a bus tour of West Berlin.

On the second day, Mr. Lars Eronn gave a paper, "Report on Practical Experiences of Swedish Cooperation" with the support of a short paper from Mr. Werner Bleile, Director of the Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank in Basle. With such a large cooperative attendance amongst the participants, Mr. Eronn's paper was obviously of great interest and it was particularly well received on account of his easy and informal method of speaking and his decision to introduce the paper by enlarging on its content and developing it rather than reading the paper itself. Mr. Jacques Chevrier read a paper on "Report on Practical Experiences of Electricité de France".

A debate on economic results of public and cooperative enterprise was introduced with a series of brief papers from Dr. A. Mortara, Professor Robert Mosse, Dr. P. Schramke, Dr. T. Thiemeyer and Dr. H. Hagnell, and the discussion was summarised by Professor Dr. G. Weisser.

Participants were received by the Mayor and the Senate of the City of Berlin during the evening of the second day.

The morning of the third day was devoted to a brilliant paper by Mr. Ch.-H. Barbier, Director of the Swiss Union of Consumer Cooperatives, who took as his subject "Cooperative Enterprise in a Growing Economy". Mr. Barbier's method of presenting this subject was to present a brutally keen criticism of cooperatives and their place in the modern economy and then to refute the criticism by a constructive presentation of the facts. Professor G. Lasserre gave a short supporting address and, clearly, the subject was not only of great interest to all cooperators present, but also had many familiar aspects for representatives of other sections of the public economy.

The afternoon of the third day was devoted to visits and, on the fourth day, special time was allocated for completing discussion before proceeding to the last paper by Dr. G. Rittig, Professor at the University of Göttingen, on "Public Enterprise in a Growing Economy" which was complementary to the paper by Mr. Barbier.

Tours to the Havel lakes and to East Berlin were available to participants on the afternoon of the fourth and the morning of the fifth day.

There will be a double issue of the "Annals of Public and Cooperative Economy" which will give full details of this Congress for those who would like to read the papers and discussions and it only remains to say that the Congress was very well organised and was clearly found to be extremely useful to the participants.

Following the Congress, ICRICE held its General Assembly, at which its Director, Prof. Dr. Paul Lambert, was elected President and the retiring President, Prof. Dr. Maurice Delbouille, was unanimously elected as Honorary President.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Cooperative</u>	<u>Computer</u>
Federal Republic of Germany (cont.)	Dortmund	BULL Serie 300
	München Saarbrücken Rhein/Main	BULL Serie 300 BULL Serie 300 Zuse Z 25
Finland	Osuustukkukauppa, OTK (Cooperative Wholesale Society)	IBM 305; IBM 1401/tape, will be replaced by IBM 360/E 30/ disc & tape
	Elanto	IBM 1401/cards; IBM 1440/1311
	Suomen Osuuskauppojen Keskuskunta SOK (Finnish Cooperative Wholesale Society)	IBM 1401/1311 (cards, tape)
	Osuuskauppa Mäki-Matti (Cooperative Society store) at Jyväskylä and Kymnlaakson	using service companies
Osuusliike (Cooperative Society store) at Kotka		
France	Amiens	IBM 1401/1405
	Caudry	IBM 1440/1311
	Château-Thierry	IBM 1460/1311
	Paris	IBM 1401/1311
	Strasbourg	IBM 1440/1311
	Coudekerque Saintes	BULL gamma tambour BULL ET
Great Britain	Cooperative Wholesale Society (C.W.S.): Head Office, Manchester Outerwear Division, Leeds Data Processing Bureau, Liverpool	Honeywell 400 ICT 1900 (delivery in Oct. 1965) Honeywell 200 (delivery in July 1965)
	Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society (S.C.W.S.): Head Office, Glasgow	IBM 1401/305 Ramac; IBM 360/30, disc (delivery in 1966); IBM 360/30, tape (delivery in 1966)
	Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society	IBM 1440, will be replaced by IBM 360 (delivery in March 1966)
	Birkenhead and District Cooperative Society	ICT 1900 (delivery in March 1966)

<u>Country</u>	<u>Cooperative</u>	<u>Computer</u>
Great Britain (cont.)	*Leeds Cooperative Society, Leeds	Sweda E3/E431
	*Clydebank Cooperative Society, Clydebank	Sweda E3/E481
	*St. Cuthbert's Coopera- tive Association, Edinburgh	Sweda E3/E431
Netherlands	Co-op Nederland	Electrologica XI
Norway	Norges Kooperative Lands- forening, NKL (Norwegian National Cooperative Union)	IBM 1401/tape
Sweden	Kooperativa Förbundet, KF (Cooperative Union):	
	Stockholm Västerås Göteborg Malmö Konsum, Stockholm	RCA 301; IBM 1460 IBM 1440 IBM 1440 (ordered) IBM 1440 (ordered) IBM 1401/1311 (will be replaced by IBM 360)
Switzerland	Verband schweiz. Konsumvereine, VSK (Union of Swiss Consumers' Societies):	
	Basel Wangen	IBM 1401 IBM 1401/1405

*These societies have devices used for optical reading of cash register audit rolls and the transcription of the information onto magnetic tape. These tapes are then sent to a service company, where they are processed in order to provide total figures of members' purchases and dividend entitlement.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

COOPERATIVE PRODUCTS EXHIBITED IN AUSTRIA

Unicoop, the export and import enterprise of the Central Cooperative Council, has recently opened an exhibition of Czechoslovak cooperative products in one of the best-known department stores - Gerngross - in Vienna, Austria, it is reported in the April 1965 issue of the "Czechoslovak Co-op News".

The cooperative exhibits displayed represent the production of Czechoslovak folk art. The largest collections were sent by the artisan-producer cooperative societies "Vamberk Lace", "Chodovia" of Domazlice, "Slezská tvorba" of Opava, "Zadruha" of Prague and "Moravska ustredna" of Brno. The Vamberk Lace Cooperative Society has also sent one of its workers to Vienna to demonstrate the actual production of the famous hand-made bobbin-lace for the duration of the exhibition.

FRANCE

CHANGES IN COOPERATIVE STRUCTURE

It was recently reported in the I.C.A. Cooperative Wholesale Committee's Information Exchange Service that a developing committee in France was, with the assistance of several working groups, intensely working on a plan for a country-wide expansion and renewal of the structure of the cooperative societies to ensure the cooperatives' ability to meet competition in the decades to come,

Compared with the actual structure of 7,675 traditional service shops, 445 self-service shops, 12 supermarkets, 152 special shops and 613 mobile shops (status at the end of 1965), the Secretary-General of the Cooperative Federation of Lorraine, Mr. Jean Lacroix, foretold for 1980 the following network of cooperatives which will require substantial investments: a nation-wide chain comprising approximately 50 department stores and one mail-order company; approximately 15 large regional retail societies with 30 to 50 supermarkets, each supplemented by a network of smaller superettes and special shops (including service enterprises); and an effective buying centre with technical service facilities for the whole organisation.

GREAT BRITAIN

RETIREMENT OF C.W.S. DIRECTOR

The Cooperative Wholesale Society (C.W.S.) announced the retirement of Lord Peddie, one of its Directors since 1945, due to his appointment in April of this year as one of four full-time members to Economics Minister Mr. George Brown's National Board for Prices and Incomes.

Lord Peddie was one of the Cooperative Movement's most forceful leaders and speakers, travelling widely in the U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Europe and the Middle East. As a Director of C.W.S., he served on its Finance Committee and has been for many years directly involved in wage negotiations with the many trade unions covering the 55,000 employees of the C.W.S. He is a member of the National Council of Labour and the Consumer Council, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Cooperatives to the Minister of Overseas Development, and has been Chairman of the Cooperative Party for eight years.

NEW S.C.W.S. PRESIDENT

The election of Mr. Tom Taylor as President of the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society (S.C.W.S.) was announced at the end of this month.

Mr. Taylor, having made his mark in the Cooperative Movement as an outstanding manager and administrator as well as one of its best public advocates and speakers, began his career in the S.C.W.S. as an office boy at the age of 15. Three years later, he became a S.C.W.S. exchange student with a German wholesale society, won subsequently a S.C.W.S. scholarship for full-time study at the People's College, Elsinore, Denmark, and then became furnishing committee clerk and manager of the developing Contracts and Exports Department of the S.C.W.S. Before his election to the S.C.W.S. Board eight years ago, Mr. Taylor had gone, with the Society's approval, to Puerto Rico where he assisted in forming consumer cooperatives. At present, Mr. Taylor is a member of the Cooperative Union's Central Executive and serves on the Advisory Committee on Cooperative Overseas Development under the Ministry of Overseas Development.

INDIA

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON WOMEN AND COOPERATION

A report was received last month from the I.C.A.'s Regional Office in New Delhi on a Seminar on Women and Cooperation, which was organised by the National Cooperative Union of India and held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, on March 25th and 26th, 1965.

The Seminar, which was opened by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, and presided over by Mrs. Achamma Mathai, Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board, was attended by about 100 participants from various States in India representing State Cooperative Unions, women's organisations, the Central Social Welfare Board, interested Indian Government Ministries and State Cooperative Departments. The I.C.A. and the Cooperative League of the U.S.A. were represented at the Seminar.

The following topics were discussed: Why is it necessary to involve more women in the Cooperative Movement? What is the effective role they can play in its promotion? What types of activities are best suited for women's cooperatives? Is it desirable or necessary to have cooperatives exclusively for women? What is the role that voluntary women's organisations can play in promoting cooperation amongst women?

The leader of each State delegation read a report on the cooperatives in her own State, and talks were given by experts on: the role of women in the Cooperative Movement in India, and the various fields in which women can play an important role through cooperation; the role of women in consumers' cooperation, and lessons from the Price Resistance Movement; the pilot-project of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) at Delhi on creating consumers' consciousness amongst women; and how to promote increasing participation of women in the Cooperative Movement, with particular reference to cooperative education for women. These talks were followed by discussions and questions.

On the second day of the Seminar, panel discussions were held, followed by questions and answers, and the following subjects were introduced by experts: the creation of women's sections at the state and national levels; the role of the Social Welfare Board in the promotion of cooperative societies among women; the role of women's organisations in promoting cooperation among women; and a suggested action programme for the women's sections.

In the course of the discussions, the participants in the Seminar agreed unanimously that it was necessary to involve a larger number of women more actively in the Cooperative Movement. One of the speakers said that the Movement was part of the bigger picture of democratic growth and economic development and that these ideals could not be realised unless women, who constituted half the country's population, took a greater interest in it. References were made by some speakers to the active role which women play in the Cooperative Movements of the West and in Japan in order to raise their economic, social and cultural status there. It was felt that social and cultural activities should form an integral part of women's cooperatives.

Some delegates felt that it would perhaps be better to concentrate first on imparting cooperative education to the more literate. However, statistics were given to show that illiteracy was no bar to the promotion of cooperation. Thus, Kerala, with a literacy rate of 46.2 per cent, has only 7 women's cooperatives, whereas Uttar Pradesh, with a literacy rate of only 17.2 per cent, has about 150 women's cooperatives.

The general opinion prevailed among representatives that separate women's cooperatives should be formed only in certain cases and under special circumstances.

There were fields as, for instance, handicrafts, tailoring, embroidery and similar activities, which were particularly suitable for women; in the fields of consumer and credit cooperation, however, mixed cooperatives would be more advantageous.

It was felt that the voluntary women's organisations, which already enjoyed the confidence of large numbers of women, should try to interest women increasingly in the Cooperative Movement.

Over the past 10 months, the NCUI Women's section had been conducting a pilot project in Delhi to promote consumer consciousness among women which was financed by the Cooperative League of the U.S.A. and was now being assessed in order to see whether it was worthwhile to have similar projects also in other States of India. It was unanimously agreed that women's sections should be set up at the district, state and national union levels, that they should be staffed by full-time, qualified personnel and be financed by the Government of India for the first five years. The Minister for Community Development and Cooperation, Mr. S. K. Dey, assured the delegates that his Ministry would be prepared to give financial assistance and requested that clear-cut plans and budgets for setting up women's sections in each State be submitted through the NCUI to it for consideration. A model programme for the establishment of women's sections in all States of India was then approved, and it was decided to set up women's advisory committees in each State to assist them. Besides the organisation of women's cooperatives in specialised fields, the active participation of women should also be secured in cooperatives of various types in which women were not yet involved. It was, therefore, necessary for women to be represented at the primary, district, state and national levels in all cooperative societies.

Furthermore, the Seminar participants recommended that women cooperative educational instructors be appointed in each district and that all programmes of cooperative education for women be integrated with that of the NCUI.

Finally, it was felt that seminars similar to the present one should be held annually in different States of India.

JAPAN

AMALGAMATION OF CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVE UNION WITH CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVE WHOLESALE FEDERATION

The Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union released recently the news of its amalgamation with the All Japan Consumers' Cooperative Wholesale Federation, a decision taken by resolution adopted unanimously at the Extraordinary General Meeting of both organisations held on January 30th and 31st, 1965.

According to the resolution, the new Central Organisation would have started on April 1st under the name of "Nippon Seikatsu Kyodokumiai Rengokai - Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union". It consists of four departments - general affairs, financial administration, organisation and wholesale - with five regional offices in Hokkaido, Kanto, Tokyo, Kansai and Kyushu.

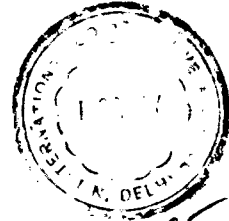
Mr. Takeshige Ishiguro was elected the new Union's President, Mr. Shunsuke Tanaka, former President, as Honorary President, Mr. Sadao Nakabayashi as Vice-President, Mr. Yasuo Kinoshita as Managing Director, and Mr. Kiyoshi Inaba, Mr. Kinichi Katsube and Mr. Shigeru Fukuda as Directors.



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

No. 6. June, 1965.



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INTERNATIONAL

I.C.A. DIRECTOR'S ORAL STATEMENT AT ILO CONFERENCE

Supplementing the written statement of the International Cooperative Alliance and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (for the text, see I.C.A. Press Release No. 4, 1965) on the Role of Cooperatives in the Economic and Social Development of Developing Countries presented to the International Labour Organisation's Conference at its 49th session, held in Geneva from June 2nd to 24th, 1965, in connection with its agenda item 7, the I.C.A. Director, Mr. W. G. Alexander, made the following oral final statement on the subject at a plenary session on June 22nd.

"If the ILO needed any further confirmation of the importance of this item 7, it has been provided by delegates during their statements to the plenary sessions of this Conference, and the extent to which there is agreement on the subject has been evident in the work of the Committee whose report is now before the Conference.

Although almost all newly developing countries have cooperatives, it is clear that their development and increased efficiency will result in social and economic progress, with a greater degree of personal involvement, of larger numbers of individuals, than will be found in any other sector of the economy.

Where cooperatives are helping cooperatives across national boundaries, both the parties to such help are learning that there is no monopoly of wisdom in this world. A cooperative has to be fashioned from available materials and develop characteristics according to local conditions. Lessons are learned on both sides and a cooperative which sends a good man to help others gains something on his return from the new experience which he has acquired.

The ILO staff, with their expert collaborators, Mr. Colombain and Miss Digby, made an excellent preparation for this item and, although the conclusions contained in the appendix to this report are only in draft form, they would seem to go as far as is necessary and reasonable at this stage. I believe that the proposed instrument will be really useful, if and when it may be approved, and that it leaves much in the way of further useful action which may follow, both generally and for each special type of cooperative.

The International Cooperative Alliance, in the furtherance of its role as the international promotional body, of the cooperatives, for the cooperatives, endeavours to strike a balance in its activities between consideration of the essential characteristics and principles of cooperatives which enable them to be recognised from other enterprises and consideration of the structural changes, and standards, techniques, and training of management which can be developed for efficient conduct of cooperatives under conditions appertaining today and in the future. We will study these draft conclusions and will continue to maintain close liaison and collaboration with the ILO in this and other cooperative matters."

I.C.A. CONSUMER WORKING PARTY DISCUSSIONS IN FINLAND

During its third Country Review in Helsinki on June 14th and 15th, 1965 (previous reviews took place in Great Britain and Sweden), the I.C.A. Consumer Working Party discussed with officials of the Cooperative Union (KK) and of the Finnish Cooperative Wholesale Society (SOK) the ways in which the Finnish Cooperative Movement works towards the objectives put forth in the Consumer Working Party's Outline Programme of Action in the Interest of Consumers. Issues discussed included quality control, contacts with consumers, stock assortments, consumer education, informative labelling, advertising and publicity, and legal protection for consumers.

The Consumer Working Party was also given an opportunity to inspect a number of cooperative food stores, a saw mill, a biscuit and furniture factory.

Members of the Working Party include consumer experts from Belgium, Finland, France, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

REPORT OF EXPERTS' CONFERENCE ON COOPERATION AND TRADE UNIONS

An Experts' Conference on Cooperation and Trade Unions, jointly organised by the I.C.A. Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia and the Asian Trade Union College of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, was held in New Delhi, India, from January 11th to 18th, 1965. A full report, issued on June 11th, was received at the I.C.A. Headquarters from its Regional Office.

The Conference was opened by Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Member of the Indian Government's Planning Commission, and the participants were welcomed by Dr. S. K. Saxena, Director of the I.C.A. Regional Office, and Mr. V. S. Mathur, Director of the Asian Trade Union College. The inaugural session was presided over by Mr. Chaudhary Brahm Perkash, General Secretary of the National Cooperative Union of India. The Conference was attended by experts of the cooperative and trade union movements in Ceylon, India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and the Republic of Korea, and by Mr. S. K. Jain, Director of ILO's Asian Field Office in Colombo. The main theme was the relevance of the cooperative movement to the trade union workers and the possibilities of collaboration between the trade unions and the cooperative movements in South-East Asia.

The report gives detailed accounts of: the trends of rapid urbanisation in South-East Asia (including the causes and the problems involved); the growth of trade unions (their activities, the social milieu in which they function in South-East Asia, their common features in the various countries, and the need for their

support to cooperatives); the aims and principles of cooperation (nature of cooperative organisations, and main and subsidiary principles); thrift and credit societies (their activities and promotion of savings among trade union workers); consumers' cooperatives (adulteration of commodities, rise in prices, credit buying and other aspects, and role, activities and problems of consumers' cooperatives); cooperative housing (housing problems, progress of cooperative housing, structure and problems of housing cooperatives, and the role of the Government in cooperative housing); State assistance to cooperatives; participation of trade union workers in trade union activity; member education (need for and objectives of member education, education methods, contents of member education, training of employees, and agencies for workers' education); and, finally, the possibilities of future collaboration between the trade union movement and the cooperative movement.

UNESCO TRAVEL GRANT FOR CANADIAN YOUTH LEADER

The "Co-op Commentary" of the Cooperative Union of Canada (CUC) of June 3rd, 1965 announced that a UNESCO travel grant has been allocated to the CUC for a three-month study tour in Europe for a leader in youth activities to be selected from the Canadian Cooperative Movement. The award, which was given by UNESCO through the I.C.A., is available during 1965-66.

The CUC is contacting member organisations to assist in the selection of a suitable leader for the award of the study tour who will visit the Scandinavian countries and one other European country to be chosen.

This travel grant programme of UNESCO for young leaders is intended to help youth and student organisations to intensify their efforts on behalf of developing regions and to support the work of the United Nations and its specialised agencies.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR COOPERATIVE RURAL COMMUNITIES

At a Conference held in Israel, "Cooperation" and "Agrarian Reform" were two of the subjects among the items on its agenda discussed. As a result, the decision was taken to hold an International Symposium on "The Role of Cooperation in Rural Development" in Israel which subsequently took place in March 1965 and was attended by 23 scientists and leading functionaries of the Cooperative Movements of 16 countries, as well as by a delegation from Israel representing the country's various types of cooperative settlements, and by representatives of the United Nations and of the FAO. At the last meeting of the Symposium, a resolution to establish an International Research Centre for Cooperative Rural Communities was adopted.

Following this decision, a Foundation Meeting was convened in Tel-Aviv on March 18th to prepare for the initial steps to be taken in organising the setting up of the new International Research Centre. Fifteen experts from Brazil, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Nigeria, Poland, Senegal and Sweden, and one representing the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) participated in the meeting, a summary of which, together with other relative documentation, has been received from the Israel Cooperative Research Centre in Jerusalem at the I.C.A. Headquarters.

The Israel Cooperative Research Centre has declared itself prepared to centralise the International Centre's secretarial work at its headquarters (Hakiryah, 17 "D" Street, Tel-Aviv, Israel). The latter's temporary secretariat will be composed of the participants who attended the Foundation Meeting and of those having taken part in the Symposium and wishing to join it. A three-member

ad hoc Organising Committee will be formed with the mandate to make the necessary preparations for the official Founding Meeting of the International Research Centre for Cooperative Rural Communities in September or October of this year to which the members of the temporary secretariat and other participants in the Symposium will be invited.

The secretariat will prepare a draft budget, draft regulations and a draft programme of work for the Centre and present these to the members of the Organising Committee who will draw up draft resolutions to be brought before the official Founding Meeting, and the latter will meet the participants in the Symposium and contact organisations and institutions likely to be interested, and to assist, in the activities of the International Centre.

The following basic lines to guide the preparatory work were proposed: Among the active members of the International Centre, cooperative research institutions, universities with a unit or department for cooperation, and scientists engaged in agricultural cooperative research (particularly of cooperative movements) should be included; there should also be a supporting membership of legal persons interested in the Centre's aims; finally, the Centre should conduct research and comparative studies in rural cooperative communities and in certain forms of agricultural cooperation directly connected with such communities; it should further the establishment of new research centres, develop the exchange of information in the field of research, and organise regional and international meetings to discuss special problems relating to the Centre's objectives.

In addition to the FAO, it was decided to approach the ILO and other international organisations likely to become interested in the International Centre for their support in its activities and to induce their members to participate in its various sub-organs envisaged in the future.

CANADA

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO UCO SPECIAL ACT

It was reported from the United Cooperatives of Ontario (UCO) that final reading by the Provincial Legislature and Royal Assent has been given to the proposed amendments to the UCO Special Act.

Since March 1964, when the UCO Board first proposed the changes in the Act, meetings had been held in the province to outline the plans and allow full discussion by the cooperative members, and, at the annual meeting last December, voting delegates of cooperatives which are members of the UCO approved by a large majority the changes.

Local cooperatives wishing to do so are now in the position to discuss their merger with the regional cooperative; some have already indicated interest in it and several others have communities working on such possibilities. Local services would operate as retail branches of the Ontario organisation, and local members would become direct members of the UCO.

In planning for this change in corporate structure, the UCO Directors proposed three objectives: to build a strong effective future programme of cooperative business in Ontario and in local committees; to arrange for the early development of modern and adequate services for members; and to protect the present investment of local people as well as possible.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

CONSUMERS' DAY 1965

It was reported in "Der Verbraucher" of May 8th, 1965 that the German consumers' cooperatives organised for the first time a Consumers' Day at Bad Nauheim on May 3rd. About 130 delegates of consumers' cooperatives attended and took an active part in discussing important issues concerning consumers everywhere and in collectively endeavouring to find solutions to the many problems involved. As representatives of 2.5 million member families, their main aim was to rouse the public's awareness of the consumers' justified and far too long neglected desires and to remedy the prevailing situation.

Mr. F. W. Dörge and Mrs. M. Gründer were unanimously elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively of the Consumers' Day assembly, and the temporary committee established to do the preparatory work was appointed as a standing committee.

After an introductory talk given by Mr. Dörge on the theme "The Consumer as a Partner with Equal Rights in Economy and State", the delegates divided into four working parties and discussed this subject and related problems in greater detail and depth. Several decisions unanimously approved at the Consumers' Day meeting were the outcome of the work undertaken, one of which was a demand for an "Economic Council" emerging from the fact that the idea of a Federal Economic Council had been shelved and that the hitherto envisaged solutions were in no way an adequate substitute for the desired economic representation. A loose union of group representatives of consumers, producers, the trade and of cooperatives, in which all partners would be given equal rights to their claims, should have an opinion-forming effect on the public and should stimulate state legislation.

The Consumers' Day participants further requested the Federal Government for a more positive consumer-oriented attitude at the agro-political negotiations in the EWG (Common Market) Ministerial Council as well as for the legitimate improvement of the consumer demands in Europe. With regard to the testing of goods, it was suggested to de-centralise the work of the state testing institute and a plea made for the early provision of informative labelling of goods on a voluntary or legal basis supervised by a standardisation institute to be established. Perhaps, the most important demand was for a Secretary of State for consumer problems in the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry. This, however, was considered to be the minimum demand, since the delegates felt in fact that nothing less than the establishment of a federal ministry for consumer affairs would be the ultimate solution to strive for.

The consumers' cooperatives gave proof once more on that special day that, as a consumers' organisation, they were capable of speaking and acting in the interests of all consumers and of defending their rights and needs. In order to ensure that the voice of the 2.5 million consumer families was heard and taken notice of also in the future, the delegates resolved that the work so far accomplished should be further pursued and developed by the appointed standing committee. It was hoped that the next Consumers' Day in 1966, at which probably less fundamental if not less important matters would be dealt with, would constitute the logical follow-up to the auspiciously started work for the consumer in the Federal Republic.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSULTATION HOUR FOR CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVE'S CLIENTS

A note in the "Pressdienst" of the Zentralverband deutscher Konsumentgenossenschaften, ZdK (Central Union of German Consumers' Cooperatives), Hamburg, informed members and customers of the largest German consumers' cooperative, the Hamburg "Production", of a new service for their benefit which started in April of this year.

Regularly twice a month - every second Monday - a consultation hour has been set aside for clients, both members and other customers, when members of the management and leading collaborators of "Production" are endeavouring to lay the ground for personal contact, relationship and discussion with them, all of which was not easily possible to achieve in the traditional member assemblies. The main reason and purpose for this innovation was to enable members and customers alike to make suggestions regarding their needs and wishes in meetings with the competent authorities which would then take immediate and appropriate steps to consider these and comply with them. Fifteen persons took part in this first individual consultation.

FRANCE

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF COOPERATIVE CONSUMERS' MOVEMENT

The 48th National Congress of the Cooperative Consumers' Movement, with an attendance of 500 delegates representing 3,500,000 families, held at Nice from June 8th to 11th, 1965, was opened by the President of the National Consumers' Committee, Mr. Maurice Colombain, who, in his address to Congress, introduced the two main subjects for discussion dealing with new cities and the plan of the cooperative movement. Among the principal speakers were Mr. Pierre Naudeau, Secretary of the Regional Cooperative Federation of the South-East; Mr. Marcel Brot, President of the National Federation of Consumers' Cooperatives (F.N.C.C.); Mr. Marcel Degond, F.N.C.C.'s Vice-President, who presented the Federation's report; Mr. Maurice Denuzière, introducing a special report on life in new cities; and Mr. Roger Kérinec, F.N.C.C.'s Secretary-General. Statements and interventions during the discussions were made by a great number of other French cooperators and representatives of many European countries as well as of Israel. Mr. André Vuilleumier, representing the I.C.A., read a message of greetings and good wishes to the Congress, at which the ILO was also represented.

A general resolution, adopted by the Congress, records its satisfaction with the progress made by the Cooperative Consumers' Movement in 1964, with the recruitment of 300,000 new families, the renewed spreading of cooperative thinking achieved through joint action with other cooperative movements, the increase in turnover of about 11.5 per cent as against that in 1963, and the modernisation of the network of stores and the diversification of their sales, particularly in the non-food sector. It notes that these results had been obtained in spite of the organisation, in the distribution sector, of strong financial coalitions and of the development of an insufficiently controlled publicity making the exercise of the consumers' free choice more difficult; that a national expansion plan embracing all aspects of cooperative life was in operation placing supplies, information and appropriate services at the disposal of the consumers and thereby permitting them to assume full responsibility of their economic and social life. It further stresses the inadequacy of actions taken by the Public Authorities in favour of the consumers and regrets the lack of the latter's representation in the commissions concerned with regional economic development. Misgivings are expressed about the incompleteness of the realisations of the Fourth Plan and the weak prospects of the expansion offered by the Fifth Plan, therefore confirming the belief that the protection of the consumers can only be ensured if they themselves are largely associated with a strong, organised and responsible movement.

Finally, the Congress desires that humanism, which constitutes the most significant basis of the cooperative doctrine, should contribute to the establishment of a peaceful civilisation in the world where justice and efficiency could be united in a harmonious synthesis for the benefit of expansion of mankind.

In another resolution concerning life in new cities, the Congress declares that it cannot remain indifferent towards the serious deficiencies affecting adversely the level and way of life of millions of families called upon to live in new cities and deploras the presently inadequate fight against land and building speculation, the negligible account taken of the real needs of life in town-planning and construction projects as well as the lack of consultation with the users of housing facilities. Regretting that the terms of financing collective equipments increase the cost price, the Congress recommends the establishment of reciprocal information and systematic aid between housing cooperatives and consumer cooperatives, thus manifesting the unity of the cooperative sector which has always stated its interest in the housing problem. Cooperative construction and allied activities should be extended resulting in the building of 1,000 to 2,000 housing units and cooperative shopping centres increased.

Finally, the Congress emphasises the important human role of the cooperative societies in helping to create a true cooperative spirit, unity and a democratic way of life for and among the people being called upon to live in new cities.

Two other resolutions, dealing with television publicity and representation of consumers in the commissions concerned with regional economic development respectively, were passed by the Congress.

NORWAY

CONGRESS OF COOPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD

Discussion at the Congress of the Norwegian Cooperative Women's Guild (Norges Kooperativt Kvinneforbund) in Bergen on June 20th and 21st, 1965 centred largely on two closely connected issues, namely, the relations between the Guild and the Norwegian Cooperative Union (Norges Kooperativt Landsforening, NKL), and the activities of cooperative women with respect to consumer questions.

A decision as to whether to replace the Guild by a Women's Committee within the NKL or, alternatively, to intensify the interest and participation of the Guild Women in the activities of the NKL, and particularly in the operations of its Housewives' Department, was deferred until the next Congress.

Consideration of consumer affairs was based on papers on "The Cooperative Movement's Responsibility towards Consumers" delivered by Mrs. Turid Strøm, Chief of the Consumer Information Department of Kooperativa Förbundet (Cooperative Union and Wholesale Society), Sweden, and on "Informative Labelling" by Mrs. Astrid Aure of the Norwegian Committee for Informative Labelling and Quality Marking.

A message of greetings from the I.C.A. Secretary for Women Cooperators was read to the Congress.

POLAND

TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEES

The first number of an Information Bulletin, issued by the Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Cooperatives (CAU) in April of this year, contains a description of the various schools run by CAU for the training of prospective cooperative employees. There are 121 professional schools, 88 of which are for youth and 33 are non-residential ones for working people. They comprise

economic primary and secondary schools, trade and agricultural preparatory, and advertising schools. Students going to these schools receive the same education as those in public ones, and many having completed a CAU secondary school can continue their studies at high schools in any part of Poland.

The Central Agricultural Union also maintains 28 boarding establishments to enable young people living in far-off villages to attend school. Priority of admittance to CAU schools and boarding institutions is given to children of cooperators, and about 25 per cent of these pupils receive scholarship grants.

The CAU organises further a series of professional and training courses for employees of supply and marketing cooperatives to improve their qualifications, as well as preparatory courses for qualification examinations and conference courses. For 1965, it is planned to organise 336 professional courses, 1,502 for the improvement of qualifications, 62 preparatory ones for entering qualification exams, 20 for commodity expert analysts, and about 4,000 conference courses for employees, members of cooperative self-government and active cooperators collaborating in the education of the youth.

SOUTH PACIFIC

COOPERATIVE INTERN ATTACHED TO SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

In a recent letter to the Editor at I.C.A. Headquarters, Mr. R. H. Boyan, a cooperative specialist in Suva, Fiji, reported on the institution of an internship system by the South Pacific Commission, providing in-service training for selected Pacific islanders, nominated by the Governments of the area, by attaching them to specific sections of the Commission.

One of the selected interns is Mr. Memafu Malara, an official in the Registry of the Cooperative Societies of Papua and New Guinea, who is assisting the Commission's cooperative specialist in a variety of tasks to further his professional knowledge and competence. During the period of April to July 1965, Mr. Malara is working, in association with the specialist, as administrative officer in Fiji, where a regional course on cooperatives is being held.

This type of training, carrying with it the intern's full responsibility for his specific tasks, is believed to have great advantages over study tours limiting the student only to observing and discussing ways of cooperative operation. If this experimental scheme should prove successful, it was hoped to extend it.

SWITZERLAND

WOMEN COOPERATORS' GIFT TO VSK

Members of the Swiss women cooperators' organisations presented a large tapestry to the Union of Swiss Consumers' Societies (VSK) on the occasion of its 75th jubilee celebrations. Woven into its modern art design in wool and silk are symbols representing the origin of retail shops located in basement premises and their contemporary counterparts centrally connected with VSK. All the rainbow colours in pastel shades were used in the tapestry on which forty women members worked for over 500 hours.



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

No.7. July 1965.

INTERNATIONAL

ESTABLISHMENT OF LOAN GUARANTEE FUND

For the second time in 1965, the I.C.A. Insurance Committee convened in a country outside Europe, holding its meetings in Regina and Banff, Canada, from June 15th to 18th, which were attended by the Committee's seven members, Mr. Henri Lemaire, General Manager of La Prévoyance Sociale, Brussels, Belgium; Mr. G. Lloyd Matheson, General Manager of the Cooperative Insurance Services Ltd., Canada; Mr. Robert Dinnage, General Manager of the Cooperative Insurance Society, Manchester, England; Mr. N. A. Kularajah, General Manager of the Malaysian Cooperative Insurance Society, Kuala Lumpur, Federation of Malaysia; Mr. Seved Apelqvist, President of Folksam Group, Stockholm, Sweden; Mr. Willy Maurer, Manager of Coop-Leben, Basle, Switzerland; and Mr. Bowman Doss, President of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Companies, Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.

An account of the Committee's decision to approve the establishment of a Loan Guarantee Fund, which will be used to assist in the development of cooperative insurance companies in newly developing and other countries where cooperative insurance was not yet existing, was published in the "News" of the Canadian Cooperative Insurance Services of July 5th. The Loan Guarantee Fund will be capitalised at \$300,000, with \$100,000 of this amount to be raised immediately from cooperative insurance companies throughout the world, and will be used to guarantee bank loans of sponsors lending funds to new cooperative insurance companies, but not as a direct investment in new companies. Loans will be made through banks in the country involved and will be guaranteed by the Fund. It is hoped that the financial assistance through this Fund, along with technical and personnel aid from members of the I.C.A., will enable the newly developing countries to create their own insurance facilities.

An example of such assistance was given by one of the members of the I.C.A. Insurance Committee who is a representative of the Malaysian Cooperative Insurance Society. Cooperative insurance in the Federation of Malaysia was started with the assistance of the Cooperative Insurance Society of Manchester, England, only nine years ago. Since then, this insurance company has become the third largest in the Federation of Malaysia and is the only important company owned by the people of the country, all others being foreign-owned. The investments made by the Malaysian company are entirely devoted to the country's development. Thus, the success of the cooperative insurance programmes in countries such as Malaysia has led to the setting up of the Loan Guarantee Fund in order to help the people in the developing countries to help themselves. Apart from offering technical assistance and personnel, the I.C.A. members will also accept trainees from the new companies and give them on-the-job training in established cooperative companies.

Interest in setting up cooperative insurance companies has been shown in South America and the new countries of Africa, as well as in Greece, Peru and the Philippines. Not all new companies in some of these areas may need financial backing, but they would benefit from the technical assistance offered.

The I.C.A. Insurance Committee also discussed the exchange of re-insurance between member companies throughout the world. Last year, re-insurance premiums exchanged were valued at \$10 million. This is a reciprocal exchange of insurance coverage between companies in order to spread the risk. A major share of the re-insurance - amounting to over 30 per cent in 1964 - comes from Canada.

The I.C.A. Committee now represents 56 companies in 22 countries. The combined annual premiums exceed \$1 billion from 60 million policy-holders and assets amount to \$3 billion.

EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE HONOURS SECRETARY OF PLUNKETT FOUNDATION

The Agricultural Central Cooperative Association reported on the 9th of this month that, on the occasion of a lunch given by the Association to the Executive Committee of the European Confederation of Agriculture, meeting in London for the first time since its reconstitution in 1948, the Confederation's President, Mr. Piette, announced the decision taken to appoint Miss Margaret Digby, Secretary of the Plunkett Foundation for Cooperative Studies in London since 1934, to be a Counsellor of the Confederation. The honour was conferred on Miss Digby in recognition of her distinguished services to the development of agricultural cooperation in the international field.

The European Confederation of Agriculture, having succeeded the International Agricultural Congress formed in Paris in 1889 and having been reformed after the Second World War, has more than 500 member organisations interested in various aspects of agriculture, and a strong Agricultural Cooperative Committee, of which the Agricultural Central Cooperative Association and the Plunkett Foundation are members.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME EXTENSION

The FAO World Food Programme is likely to be continued for another three years with an increase in its programme from \$100 million to \$275 million, reports the News of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers of June 1965.

The future of the World Food Programme has already been considered at the FAO Council meeting in June, is being studied by the United Nations Economic and Social Council this month and the final decision will be taken by the FAO Conference, and the United Nations General Assembly in the autumn of this year.

The programme was started in 1963 with a target of \$100 million, of which about \$94 million was pledged by 70 countries and \$73 million has been committed in 50 different nations. Current recommendations made by the 24-nation FAO Intergovernmental Committee are to continue the programme through 1966, 1967 and 1968, with pledges of up to \$275 million in commodities, cash and services. The United States has indicated that it would continue to provide its share of 40 per cent of the total pledges in cash, ocean freight services and farm commodities.

CAMEROUN

COFFEE COOPERATIVES CONTRIBUTE TO COUNTRY'S SUCCESS OF COOPERATION

In the April 1965 issue of the "Bulletin d'Informations Coopératives", published by the State Secretariat for Rural Development of the Department of Cooperation and Mutuality in Yaounde, its Registrar, Mr. Jérémie Obam Mfou'ou, wrote about the Western Union of "Arabica" Coffee Cooperatives (Union des Coopératives de Café Arabica de l'Ouest, UCCAO) as an example of cooperation in the Cameroun.

Formed in 1958, the Union has now become a cooperative organisation of tremendous economic importance, due to its export monopoly and direct coffee sale to European and American consumers, and has made great progress in its development since 1961/62, when it produced only 3,778 tons of "Arabica" coffee for trade. In 1962/63, the production of UCCAO's member societies has been increased to 8,432 tons, thus having almost trebled the tonnage of coffee exported during the previous year. This unexpected success in production, which increased the Union's turnover from nearly 800 million to 1,700 million C.F.A. francs, resulted not only in the return of 250 million to the cooperators in that year, but also in the Board of Directors' decision to erect a two-storey building with six flats and offices at Bafussam at a cost of 40 million francs. In spite of a set-back in 1963/64, when the quantity of exported coffee had dropped to 7,651 tons, UCCAO's ambitions were directed to the purchase of electronic colorimeter sorting machines in order to conquer difficult markets and combat the "dumping" price of the Colombian "Arabica" coffee.

The Cameroun, with a record production in 1962/63, was able to place 6,606 tons of its coffee, representing 78 per cent of UCCAO's exports, on the French market with 36 importers. Other foreign markets, where UCCAO had sold a total of only 1,838.72 tons, or 22 per cent, to 27 importers, included the United States (657 tons), the Federal Republic of Germany (442 tons), Italy (270 tons), Yugoslavia (100 tons), Belgium (179.88 tons), the Saar (84.84 tons), Morocco (82.50 tons), Algeria (15 tons), and Ivory Coast (7.50 tons). Among these, Germany, Italy and the Saar are difficult, but profitable markets for the Camerounian coffee; the discriminating taste of the consumers of these countries is the reason for UCCAO's endeavour to equip itself with electronic sorting machines in order to conquer the market by supplying a superior quality.

Colombia, with an annual production of 450,000 tons of "Arabica" coffee for trade, is about to conquer, by way of a "dumping" price, the French market which is the Cameroun's preferential market. The exporters of Colombian coffee are using a method of intense publicity costing them nearly 32 million francs per year.

Next to the problem of the Colombian "dumping" price, that of developing the West Camerounian cooperators' standard of living has still to be solved. Thanks to wide cooperative support, in the whole of the Western Cameroun, the farmers' standard has shown a steady upward trend since 1960. In fact, the average annual income per inhabitant was raised from 16,000 francs in 1960/61 to 30,000 in 1961/62 and to 46,000 in 1962/63, and it is anticipated that it will increase from 52,315 francs to 60,000 during 1963/64. By way of comparison, the average annual income per head in the Republic of the Ivory Coast, which is one of the rich countries of Africa, is 55,000 C.F.A. francs.

The UCCAO, as consumer of chemical fertilizers, has used about 3,400 tons of fertilizers in 1963 for all of its cooperatives, and the Cooperative of Industrial Plantations (Coopérative des plantations industrielles, COOPAGRO) has used nearly 2,500 tons of fertilizers. A new stimulant for the individual efforts of growers is a welcome subsidy of 50 per cent of the fertilizer price, having resulted in

UCCAO's production of 8,650 tons of coffee and COOPAGRO's 1,500, or a total of 10,150 tons, with expectation of a considerable increase in the years to come. The UCCAO views, therefore, the future with optimism. Its member cooperatives spent 56,456,093 francs for the purchase of fertilizers in 1963/64.

Seven coffee growing and producing cooperatives, most of which are managed by competent European directors tackling the various agricultural and cooperative problems and supervising the functioning of the processing machines, are member societies of UCCAO. Since their formation and proper functioning in 1959, they redeemed an amount of about 71 million francs and accumulated reserves of 120 million. These figures speak eloquently for the success of cooperation in the Western Cameroun. Together with its cooperatives, UCCAO started with joint stocks of about 20 million francs and has today its own capital of not less than 100 million, part of which is invested either for the enlargement of its factories or for increasing its fleet of motor vehicles.

In his concluding summary, Mr. Obam Mfou'ou expresses his appreciation of the Camerounian Government's confidence in the Union by granting it the export monopoly of its coffee. To give emphasis to the importance which the Government attaches to UCCAO, the Minister for National Economy presided on November 14th, 1964 over the committee entrusted with the distribution of 350 million francs of returns to the West Camerounian cooperators. In spite of all that UCCAO has paid to its cooperators, the price of one kilogram of "Arabica" coffee paid to the grower is about 195 francs, a profitable price made possible through cooperation.

CANADA

MERGER WITH UCO

The news was released by the United Cooperatives of Ontario (UCO) of a major decision made on June 24th, 1965 by a group of farmers in Woodstock, Ontario, which could have far-reaching effects on the farm people in that province. At a special meeting, the shareholders in the Oxford Farmers' Cooperative voted by 119 to none to surrender their charter and merge their organisation with the UCO. This is the first large cooperative to merge with the UCO in a direct membership programme which was inaugurated earlier this year. The reorganisation and consolidation programme was initiated because of the increasing demands for service created by the rapid changes in farming and modern business techniques.

The Oxford Farmers' Cooperative is one of the oldest and largest local farm cooperative organisations in Ontario and has an annual volume of \$2.8 million, mainly from farm services. The main plant, consisting of a feed mill, large cold storage facilities, a chick hatchery, fertilizer, hardware and farm supplies, grain handling facilities, farm machinery sales and service, and livestock trucking, is located in the city of Woodstock, and branches are in Embro, Medina and Mount Elgin. The Cooperative has succeeded in building assets of over \$1 million and has paid back to its members well over \$1 million in patronage dividends. It is in a strong financial position, but was faced with major expansion requirements and a reorganisation was therefore felt to be the best solution.

The UCO has functioned as the supplier for the local cooperatives and is a major manufacturer of feed and fertilizer, a handler of grain, a marketer of livestock and poultry, a wholesale for hardware, appliances and farm supplies, and a distributor of petroleum products. It is owned by 135 local cooperatives and individual shareholders of such, who have become shareholders of the UCO when their local cooperatives merged.

An additional ten local cooperatives are engaged in studying the advantages of merger and could become direct members in the near future if the members approve. As the programme of reorganisation and consolidation progresses, the Ontario cooperatives will become large and strong enough to provide the services that are demanded by modern farm operators.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

DEATH OF FOUNDER OF UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Professor Dr. Georg Weippert, one of the founders in 1947 of the Cooperative Research Institute at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, died, after a long illness on July 13th, at the age of 66.

Professor Weippert was widely respected and liked among cooperators in many countries, not merely through his writings, but also through his active participation in the International Conferences of Cooperative Science organised triennially by the Institutes of Cooperation of the universities of Western Germany and Austria. A master of different branches of sociology, economics, technology and political science, his contributions were distinguished by his powers of synthesis and correlation, no less than by his clarity and wit. His courage and resolution in overcoming his severe physical disabilities were the marvel of all his friends and colleagues.

GREAT BRITAIN

DEATH OF FORMER S.C.W.S. PRESIDENT

The death on July 7th, 1965 was announced of Mr. John M. Davidson, President of the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society (S.C.W.S.) from 1946 until his retirement in 1956.

Mr. Davidson came to the S.C.W.S., whose Board of Directors he had joined in 1932, from Kinning Park (now the Glasgow South Society), on the Board of which he had served on several occasions as well as having been President from 1926 for some years. He took an active part in various cooperative auxiliaries as, for instance, in the Men's Guild and the Cooperative Party and established for himself a national reputation as a far-sighted and keen cooperator.

In addition to his work in the S.C.W.S., Mr. Davidson served on the Boards of the joint federations, the committees of the Cooperative Union, and was elected to the I.C.A. Central and Executive Committees in October 1946, from which he retired in August 1957. The culmination of Mr. Davidson's cooperative career was his election as President of the Cooperative Union's Congress at Edinburgh in 1955. Then, as on previous occasions, he made a forthright speech urging the movement to come closer together through amalgamation and to cement the relations between retail societies and the federations.

RETIREMENT OF TOP C.W.S. OFFICIAL

The Cooperative Wholesale Society (C.W.S.) announced that its Secretary and Executive Officer, Mr. Harold Buckley, on reaching the age of 65, will retire on October 30th, 1965.

Since 1917, with a great concern for consumer interests, Mr. Buckley devoted his life to the cooperative movement in which he strongly believes. He began his cooperative career in the Secretary's office of the C.W.S. at Manchester under Sir Thomas Brodrick and became personal assistant to his successor, Sir Robert Lancaster. His subsequent duties included acting as committee clerk to the General Committee of the C.I.S., of the Health Insurance Sub-Committee and other committees of the Board. In April 1938, Mr. Buckley was appointed Deputy Secretary of the English and Scottish Joint C.W.S., succeeding as Secretary a few months later; in January 1946, he became Deputy to the then C.W.S. Secretary and Executive Officer, Sir Arthur Macdonald, and the latter's retirement in October 1952 brought him to the top C.W.S. administrative post. Mr. Buckley has been joint Secretary of the joint Standing Committee of the Cooperative Union and the C.W.S., and first acted as clerk and later became Secretary to special committees of inquiry into C.W.S. functions and methods. More recently, he has been Secretary of the joint Reorganisation Committee appointed by the C.W.S. shareholding societies last year.

Mr. Buckley travelled to West Africa, the Soviet Union, the United States and to most European countries on C.W.S. business.

He will be succeeded by his Deputy since 1953, Mr. Alfred Wilson, whose responsibilities will be concentrated in the office of Secretary because of the possible reorganisation within the Society and some re-alignment of top administrative duties.

HONDURAS

DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

According to a report received at the I.C.A. Headquarters, the Cooperative Movement in Honduras, as in many developing countries, has to contend with acute problems and is trying to overcome severe handicaps in order to survive. There have, nevertheless, been some encouraging individual achievements which may provide a basis for real expansion.

The most noticeable characteristic of the Cooperative Movement in Honduras is the multiplicity of effort both by official bodies and individuals, whose different methods of approach were successful to a certain degree. Thus, apart from the official Institute of Cooperative Development (Instituto de Fomento Cooperativo), trade union leaders interested in creating closed cooperatives for their members, personnel on loan from outside organisations as, for instance, the Antigonish Extension and the Cooperative Union of North America (CUNA), and the occasional local individual are also active in the cooperative field.

The following are examples of the successful formation of cooperatives in Honduras: In San Pedro Sula, the local representative of the Institute of Cooperative Development has built up five transport cooperatives serving as models for that type of cooperatives; a great personal effort was made by British-Canadian priests from Antigonish who created a few successful agricultural and producer cooperatives; the CUNA representative, planning to establish 250 credit unions in five years, has set up 15 in different areas so far, each of which is under the supervision of an experienced person, usually a French-Canadian priest or a Peace Corps worker; the most prominent among those individuals devoting their time to cooperative development is Mrs. Elizabeth Pinel of Choluteca, an Anglo-Honduran lady, who organised an exceptionally successful cooperative society for unemployed building trade workers and, more recently, a savings group; and the industrial unions of the North Coast have established effective closed consumer cooperatives and are now expanding into the fields of housing cooperatives and credit unions.

In the field of international cooperative activity, the Economic Sciences Faculty of the University of Honduras has been selected as the location of the Department of Cooperative Development of the Central American Institute of Social and Economic Investigations. This Department has convened a meeting of Central American cooperative directors in San Pedro Sula from August 7th to 15th, to which observers from all the American countries and all international cooperative bodies have been invited and the purpose of which is to develop a programme for the training of cooperative leaders in Central America.

JAPAN

LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN CENTRAL UNION OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

It was announced that Mr. Y. Mori from Nagoya and a Member of the Upper House of the Japanese Diet has been elected the new President of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan at a meeting of its Board held on June 12th, 1965. The Board also elected two Executive Directors, one of whom is Mr. K. Yanageda, formerly Managing Director of the National Marketing Federation, and the other, Mr. S. Yasui, formerly Managing Director of the National Purchase Federation of Japan.

POLAND

MORE HEALTH COOPERATIVES IN 1964

In No.2 for June of its Information Bulletin, the Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Cooperatives published statistical data for 1963/64 concerning health cooperative societies existing in Poland.

It was reported that the number of health cooperative societies had increased by 48, or 27 per cent of the total number of cooperatives, in 1964 and that, at the end of that year, 213 were in full operation and 12 were trying to obtain the necessary medical staff. Whereas there were 55,506 members in 1963 and the average number of members per society amounted to 238, the total membership had increased to 71,794 and the average one per society to 337 in 1964.

This progressive development of the societies brought about an equally proportioned increase in the number of employed physicians and auxiliary personnel. There were 182 doctors in 1964 against 136 in 1963; 180 dentists against 148; 39 medical assistants against 34; and 175 nurses against 139. The physicians employed in the health cooperative societies belong to the younger generation, about 80 per cent of them being under 35 years of age and showing great initiative in organising consulting rooms and developing medical treatment as well as prophylactic activity. Through stability and adaptability among the medical staff, the population gained great confidence in them and appreciated their care and work which involved considerable sacrifice. This is proved by the number of persons who consulted the physicians and dentists of the health cooperatives. Among the total of 1,122,667 patients in 1964 (as against 784,187 in the previous year) were 127,066 cooperative members, 829,772 persons under national insurance and 165,829 other people. Many protective inoculations had been carried out, more than 5,000 lectures given and 20,000 medical analyses made.

The Central Agricultural Union agreed with the Ministry of Health on a development programme for 1966-1970, during which period it was planned to increase the number of health cooperatives to 400.

U.S.A.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO COOPERATIVE LEAGUE'S PRESIDENT

On July 9th, 1965, Mr. Jerry Voorhis, President and Executive Director of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., announced the appointment of Mr. Thomas B. Keehn as his Special Assistant for International Programmes. In that capacity, he will assist Mr. Voorhis in the planning, implementation and coordination of the League's international programmes and will perform his tasks at its Washington office. Mr. Keehn spent eight years in India as the representative of the Cooperative League and of the American International Association and had a two-year tour in Zambia, Africa, with the Agency for International Development (AID) before re-joining the League's staff a few months ago.

Over a period of twenty years, the Cooperative League had developed a variety of programmes reaching a large number of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It also has close links with cooperative organisations in Europe and with the I.C.A. and is providing assistance for the development of democratic cooperatives in many parts of the world through its Worldwide Co-op Partners Programme, through contacts with the AID and the Peace Corps, and through I.C.A.'s Technical Assistance Programme.

RECRUITING PROGRAMME FOR OVERSEAS COOPERATIVE PROJECTS

The Cooperative News Service of June 1st, 1965 reports that a programme to recruit persons with skills and talents for cooperative projects overseas is being conducted by the International Cooperative Development Association (ICDA). The Acting Director, Mr. Earl H. Brockman, said that many of those recruited or who had requested to serve on projects were retired cooperative managers, directors and organisers, and others were employees being able to take leave of absence and university professors with cooperative backgrounds.

The ICDA was also seeking obsolete or surplus farm tools, feed mills, poultry equipment and other items which could be used overseas. Both projects are being conducted under a contract with the Agency for International Development (AID), and Mr. Jack T. Jennings, Assistant Director of the Cooperative League's Washington Office from 1950 to 1963, is in charge of them for the ICDA.

It was announced that Mr. H. C. Fledderjohn, formerly associated with the Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, was to become President and Administrative Director and Mr. Brockman Assistant Director of the ICDA from July 1st, 1965.

MEETING OF COOPERATIVE EDITORS

Ninety editors of newspapers, magazines and newsletters published by cooperatives attended the annual meeting of the Cooperative Editorial Association held in Chicago from May 16th to 19th, 1965, which was briefly reported on in the "Co-op Commentary" of the Cooperative Union of Canada of June 3rd. The meeting was addressed by Mr. J. K. Stern, President of the American Institute of Cooperation, Mr. Jerry Voorhis, President of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., and Mr. F. V. Heinkel, President of the Missouri Farmers Association.

Experts in printing and publishing offered advice on "getting the most for your printing dollar", on design and typography, and on the use of photographs. Editors had the opportunity of getting an individual critique of their publications from a consultant and visited the Chicago Hyde Park cooperative supermarket and the printing press of the University of Chicago.



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

No.8. August, 1965.

ARGENTINA

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF COOPERATIVE BANK

News was given in "Cooperative America" of this month, published by the Organisation of the Cooperatives of America, of the recent announcement by the Board of Directors of the Argentine Agrarian Cooperative Bank that the legally required capital to commence operations had been subscribed by Argentine cooperatives and that, therefore, the Bank was to open officially for business on June 18th, 1965.

The capital subscriptions by the Argentine cooperatives total 601,666,000 pesos (\$4,011,100), exceeding the legal requirement of 600,000,000 pesos by 1,666,000.

CANADA

COOPERATIVE GROWTH IN 1963

According to the Economics Branch of the Canada Department of Agriculture, as reported in the "Co-op Commentary" of the 12th of this month, the country's cooperatives had reported a remarkable growth in 1963.

The 2,705 cooperatives, with 1,648,000 members and \$839 million in assets, reporting their business activities for the first time on a calendar-year basis (previous annual reports were based on a crop year), had a combined business volume of \$1.68 billion in the year ended December 31st, 1963, which was \$ 2.8 million more than the 1962 total. The most significant gains were in the handling of grain and the sales of livestock and livestock products. Grain handling and sales of seeds accounted for a turnover of \$525.8 million compared with \$386 million in the previous year; next came dairy products (\$257 million), livestock sales (\$216 million), feed (\$130 million), and petroleum (\$83 million).

Fishermen's cooperatives numbered 82, nine less than in 1962, but there was a slight increase in membership, totalling 10,000, and the volume of business amounted to \$25 million, up \$2 million from the previous year.

Service cooperatives recorded a volume of business totalling \$30.4 million, a 20 per cent increase over 1962. The turnover of cooperative wholesales showed an overall increase of 5.7 per cent, largely accounted for by sales of supplies.

COURSE IN COOPERATIVES FOR LABOUR STUDENTS

It was reported in the "Co-op Commentary" of the 12th of this month that 41 representatives of labour organisations in 20 countries of the Caribbean, Africa and Asia had completed a two-weeks course in cooperatives at Club Whitesands on Lake Catchacoma, near Peterborough, Ontario, an adult education and training centre owned by the International Chemical Workers Union, on August 6th.

This course, which was the final part of a larger training period at the Labour College in Montreal, was organised by the National Labour-Co-operative Committee for the Canadian Labour Congress and was conducted by six lecturers from cooperatives, credit unions and government departments. Mr. Jim MacDonald, the Committee's Executive Secretary, acted as director and programme coordinator. Group visits to cooperatives and credit unions in Ontario provided some practical training for the students who were trainees under the Canadian External Aid Office.

GREAT BRITAIN

BIG COOPERATIVE TAKE-OVER IN SCOTLAND

A development in the City of Perth Society, which is unique in cooperative enterprise in Scotland, was reported in the "Scottish Cooperator" of July 24th, 1965. The Society, which has taken over the distribution of milk for the city of Perth and for much of the surrounding district, will thus control over 95 per cent of it, the remaining less than 5 per cent being milk sent into the city by a few farmers. This outstanding development in food distribution for the Society has been brought about by taking over (through the purchase of the entire share capital) the Perth Creamery Company. The merger was accomplished on June 18th, when the Society also became responsible for all liabilities and assets of the Company which is now being operated as a separate organisation and subsidiary of the City of Perth Society.

It can be claimed, says the Scottish Cooperator, that Perth is the first city in Scotland - if not in Britain - which will eventually have a completely zoned milk distributive service under the control of the cooperative and thus the first large centre to have such a fully cooperative service owned by cooperative members. Overlapping and duplication of costly van services will be minimised, as the delivery fleets of the Society and the Perth Creamery Ltd. will be merged.

Explaining the new arrangements, Mr. William Aitken, the Society's Managing Secretary, said that, while its members receive a dividend on their milk purchases at the Society's standard dividend rate of 1s.2d. in the £, this is not, meantime, being paid to the "customers" who still wish to receive their milk from the Perth Creamery Ltd. vans. It is hoped that these will eventually become members of the Perth Society and will then get the full benefits of cooperative trading. The employees of the Creamery Company taken over have been or will be offered jobs on the same terms as those of the City of Perth Society. The finance involved has in no way adversely affected the Society, particularly since it already had the major share of the local milk trade; its weekly gallonage was almost 32,000 against 13,000 for the Perth Creamery Company. With 15,600 members, the Society has an annual trade of over £2,200,000 and weekly purchases per member of £2.15s.7½d.

Because of the Society's position in the milk trade in Perthshire, there is now more than the nucleus for the setting up of a cooperative federal milk scheme for the whole area. The Society has two creameries, storage depots and delivery fleets which can ensure a complete cooperative service for a large area. Apart from being one of the most striking developments in the Society's long trading operations since 1871, its new enterprise is a "shot in the arm" to the entire cooperative movement in Scotland.

HISTORY MADE IN COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The "Cooperative News" of the 21st of this month reports about a £40,000 venture, the first of its kind in the British Cooperative Movement, which made history.

Five societies - retail and wholesale - combined to open a coal concentration depot at Middleton, Manchester, last week in the presence of the Chairman of the National Coal Board, Lord Robens. The new federal organisation, Cooperative Fuel Services (Middleton) Ltd., is made up of Oldham, Middleton, Royton and Failsworth Societies, South East Lancashire branch of the Cooperative Retail Society (C.R.S.) and the Cooperative Wholesale Society (C.W.S.).

The Middleton "Straight" concentration depot is designed for an annual throughput of about 50,000 tons and was accepted at a total cost of approximately 15s. per ton.

The civil contractor was the C.W.S. Building Department, and the C.W.S. Engineers' Department took charge of technical liaison, electrical and ancillary equipment.

ICELAND

ANNUAL REPORT 1964 OF FEDERATION OF ICELAND COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

At the annual general meeting of the Federation of Iceland Cooperative Societies, held at the Cooperative Centre for Education and Recreation at Bifröst on June 11th and 12th, 1965, and attended by about 100 delegates from 56 cooperative societies representing some 32,000 individual members, as well as by the Board of Directors, the Executive Directors and guests, an account was given of the Federation's activities during 1964.

A brief outline of the Federation's background history at the end of its annual report for 1964 recalls that the first cooperative society in Iceland, based on the Rochdale Principles, was created in 1882 in the north-eastern district of the country and was followed by the establishment of a number of other cooperatives. Twenty years later, i.e. in 1902, three of these societies formed the Federation of Iceland Cooperative Societies (Samband Islenskra Samvinnufélaga), commonly known as Samband. Its rather limited commercial activity during the first years of its existence was concentrated on marketing the agricultural products of the member societies which were producers' as well as consumers' cooperatives, and since there was no staff available then, the business was entirely conducted by the pioneers in their spare time. It took fifteen years before the Federation set up its permanent headquarters in Reykjavik in 1917, when it was active in the import and wholesale of consumer's goods as well as the marketing of agricultural products. By 1920, it had a staff of 23 and 32 member societies, and its total sales reached 12 million kronur. In 1930, there were 38 member societies with 7,600 members and in 1940, 47 societies with 16,000 members, over 400 employees and a sales total exceeding 40 million kronur.

The Federation's biggest expansion occurred after the Second World War having extended its hitherto limited manufacturing operations, branching into shipping and operating three cargo vessels of its own. Furthermore, an affiliated mutual insurance company and various other enterprises had been established.

The report records a good production year in Iceland for 1964. Compared with the previous year, the fishing fleet's catches had increased by 24 per cent, agricultural production had grown and the dairy production was up by 6.3 per cent. There was, however, a slight decrease in the meat production, but the value of the total exports had increased by 18 per cent and imports by 19 per cent.

Due to a shortage of operating capital, which was the more severely felt as the country's credit market was becoming tighter, the sales of the Federation's import branches were lower than in 1963; nevertheless, its total sales in 1964 had increased by 10.5 per cent, amounting to more than 2,000 million kronur. (The value of the Icelandic krona has decreased considerably during the past two decades; currently, the equivalent of 130 kronur is £1 sterling.) The net profit amounted to 7,785,000 kronur after payment of 6 per cent dividends had been made to the societies on their capital and fixed assets had been depreciated by 22,779,000 kronur.

The Federation's seven principal departments are concerned with the export of agricultural products, such as frozen lamb, salted lambskins and wool; the export of fisheries products, as frozen and salted fish, stockfish, fishmeal, fishoil and fishroe; the import, warehousing and wholesale distribution of groceries, feedstuffs, household utensils, tools, textiles, footwear and building materials; the import of farm machinery, electrical appliances and cars; the operation of 8 vessels (a new one was acquired in 1965), of a summer hotel at the Cooperative Centre of Education and Recreation at Bifröst, and of 11 factories in the fields of textiles, cloth-making, skin curing and tanning, shoe-making, coffee roasting and packing, soap and detergents, paint and varnishes, and electrical appliances, employing 654 people. Export markets had lately received special attention by offering them woollen blankets, knitted woollen sweaters and dressed lambskin as Icelandic specialities. The Federation also runs a wool scouring establishment, self-service shops and a book publishing firm. Its Education and Public Relations Department is engaged in the educational activities of the cooperative movement, i.e. the Cooperative School at Bifröst and the Correspondence School, handles the publishing of the monthly cooperative magazine, Samvinnan, as well as of the monthly employee magazine, Hlynur, of the cooperative movement, and is in charge of general public relations work consisting of educational meetings all over the country, of film shows and courses for housewives.

The Federation of Iceland Cooperative Societies has branch offices in Hamburg and London and a subsidiary marketing company in Steelton, Pa., and is a member and co-owner of the Scandinavian Cooperative Wholesale Society (NAF) in Copenhagen.

PERU

COOPERATIVE TRAINING COURSE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

According to the "Cooperative America" of this month, a six-weeks' training course, organised by the Organisation of the Cooperatives of America (OCA), in collaboration with Peru's National Cooperative Institute (INCOOP), was held from June 7th to July 16th in Lima for social worker students connected with the Programa de Barriadas de Cáritas del Perú (a programme of social assistance for underprivileged neighbourhoods).

The students, who were greeted at the opening session of the course by Mr. Humberto Barandiarán and Mr. Homero Santander, OCA's Director and Regional Representative respectively, as well as by Mr. Victor Camacho, the Director of INCOOP, gained a practical working knowledge of cooperatives and will use the cooperative techniques of helping others to help themselves in which they had received instructions.

TANZANIA

STATUS, AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF COOPERATIVE UNION OF TANGANYIKA

A brochure on "The Cooperative Union of Tanganyika: Its Status, Aims and Activities" was published by the Union in Dar-es-Salaam in March 1965 to make known its functions and activities during its three years of existence as well as its role in promoting and developing cooperation in Tanzania.

The origin of Tanzania's Cooperative Movement dates back to early 1933, when the Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union Ltd. and its eleven affiliated primary societies were registered under the newly promulgated Cooperative Societies Ordinance of 1932. By the end of 1940, 48 societies had come into existence, rising to 127 at the end of 1950, when a Cooperative Development Department had been established under a Commissioner for Cooperative Development. Again, ten years later, the number of registered societies had risen to 691 and, by May 1964, it had increased to 1,275, inclusive of 52 unions of societies. At the end of 1960, the Movement's membership stood at 326,211, its share capital amounted to £249,195 sterling, reserves and other funds had accumulated to £3,091,811 and the value of the produce marketed by the cooperatives during that year was £13,035,504.

Since the country's independence and subsequent advance to Republican status, new forms of cooperative enterprise had emerged in the fields of banking and credit, wholesale and retail distribution, transport, and small-scale and handicraft industry. There are five national cooperative institutions existing in Tanzania: the Cooperative Union of Tanganyika, the supreme organ of the entire Cooperative Movement; the National Cooperative Bank of Tanganyika, responsible for financing a large segment of the Movement; the Cooperative Supply Association of Tanganyika (Cosata), engaged in the wholesale and retail distribution of all kinds of goods and commodities required or produced by the country's cooperatives; the Tanganyika Cooperative Trading Agency, Moshi, marketing its member organisations' coffee, handles insurance and supplies their agricultural requirements; and the Tanganyika Coffee Growers' Association, Moshi, also marketing its members' coffee, is a co-owner with the Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union of the Tanganyika coffee curing works at Moshi.

Tanzania's seven leading regional cooperative federations and unions are: the Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union, Moshi, engaged in the marketing of coffee; the Victoria Federation of Cooperative Unions, Mwanza, the largest African cooperative organisation in East Africa, engaged in the marketing of cotton for its member organisations and owners of the major cotton ginneries; the Bukoba National Cooperative Union, Bukoba, engaged in the marketing of coffee and owners of BUKOP, the second coffee curing works in the country; the Mtwara-Ruvuma Cooperative Union, Mtwara, marketing cashew nuts and other agricultural produce; the Rungwe African Cooperative Union, Tukuyu, concerned with coffee marketing; the Matengo Native Cooperative Union, Mkiuga, Ruvuma Region, also concerned with the marketing of coffee; and the Ngoui-Matengo Cooperative Marketing Union, Songea, engaged in the marketing of tobacco and owners of a tobacco curing factory at Songea.

At a meeting of representatives of the Cooperative Movement held in Dar-es-Salaam towards the end of 1961, the proposal to establish a national cooperative organisation was unanimously endorsed and, on November 27th of that year, the new organisation was formally registered as the Cooperative Union of Tanganyika, with eleven founder member organisations. The Union's inaugural meeting took place on February 16th and 17th, 1962, at which Mr. A. M. Shiha, President of the Victoria Federation of Cooperative Unions, was elected as its first President and Mr. W. R. Kapinga, Manager of the Matengo Native Cooperative Union, as its first Secretary-General. With a small secretariat, consisting of the Secretary-General, a Treasurer and clerk, the new Union started to function in its headquarters at Dar-es-Salaam.

Today, the Cooperative Union of Tanganyika has 52 affiliated cooperative organisations representing all the seventeen regions of the country (these are listed in the Appendix at the end of the brochure), and its secretariat has a staff of thirteen. Membership is open to all regional cooperative unions in the country and such primary cooperative societies as are not affiliated to any regional union. The member organisations contribute yearly 3 per cent of their gross earnings towards the revenue income of the Union.

The Union's affairs are managed by a Central Committee, from whose members the President and Vice-President are elected at the Union's annual Convention. The Central Committee has the authority to constitute an Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Vice-President and one other of its own members. The Union is a member of the I.C.A. and is represented on the Alliance's Central Committee by its Secretary-General, who, in October 1963, attended the I.C.A. Congress at Bournemouth and, earlier that year, the Central Committee meetings at Stuttgart. It is also a member of the African Cooperative Alliance, whose first President is the Union's Secretary-General.

The general aim of the Cooperative Union of Tanganyika is to encourage the growth of the Cooperative Movement in Tanzania in all possible ways and to promote the well-being of its affiliated cooperative societies. Thus, it has actively concerned itself with promoting new and important developments in the cooperative field and was largely instrumental in the emergence of the Cooperative Bank and the Cooperative Supply Association of Tanganyika. It has also been interested in the promotion of cooperative insurance and housing. In the field of publicity, the Union launched in July 1964 its official organ "Ushirika" ("Cooperation"), a monthly paper with a circulation of 25,000 copies. It also publishes every year an attractively illustrated calendar featuring cooperative activities and personalities and an annual report.

Among its educational activities, the Union organised short-term training courses for secretaries of primary societies and committee members, held the first Cooperative Managers' Seminar at Dar-es-Salaam in March 1964 (intended to become an annual event), and arranged overseas visits and study tours as well as the attendance by representatives of Tanzania's Cooperative Movement of training courses and seminars in a number of countries. The Union is represented by its Secretary-General on the governing bodies of the Cooperative Training College and the Cooperative Centre in Moshi and collaborates with the latter in its member education activities. He conducted a ten-week course on the Role of the Cooperative Movement in Economic Development at the Dar-es-Salaam University College's Department of Extra-Mural Studies (now the Institute of Adult Education) in 1964.

The last section of the brochure deals with the Union's future programme, of which the erection and establishment of a National Cooperative Centre in Dar-es-Salaam is the biggest project ever undertaken. The foundation stone was laid on September 24th, 1964 by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the construction of the building, which will also house the headquarters of the Cooperative Union, the Ministry of Cooperatives, the National Cooperative Bank, the Cooperative Supply Association of Tanganyika, the Dar-es-Salaam Consumers' Cooperative

Society, a cooperative supermarket and a cooperative department store, is expected to take 16 months. The estimated cost of the project is £495,000, of which the Movement will contribute £200,000 through the Cooperative Union; the remainder will be made up through a loan of £150,000 from the Tanganyika Development Finance Company Ltd. and another of £145,000 from the philanthropist Sir Isaac Wolfson of the United Kingdom.

A comprehensive programme of member education and of cooperative publicity and propaganda will be executed by the Cooperative Union of Tanganyika in collaboration with the regional unions. The services of an ILO Expert on cooperative education and training have been placed at the Unions disposal by the Government to assist with this education programme, and a Cooperative Education Centre has been set up at Moshi by a Consortium of the Nordic Cooperative Movements (a confederation of the national organisations of consumer and agricultural cooperatives in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden), under agreement with the Government of Tanzania, as a field organisation for the training and education of cooperative personnel. The Union intends to acquire and operate a modern offset printing press, and provision has been made in its 1964/65 budget for three trainees to study graphics and lay-out, the mechanism of the press and photo mechanics.

U.S.A.

NEW APPOINTMENT FOR GENERAL MANAGER OF MIDLAND COOPERATIVES

The appointment of Mr. A. J. Smaby, General Manager of Midland Cooperatives, Minneapolis, and a Director of the Farm Credit Board of St. Paul, Minn., as well as of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., to the Federal Farm Credit Board by the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Orville L. Freeman, was announced recently. Mr. Smaby succeeded Mr. Murray D. Lincoln, former President of Nationwide Insurance Companies and of the Cooperative League, who had resigned from the Board for health reasons.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CUNA PLANNING COMMITTEE ON FUTURE OF CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT

A report of the Planning Committee of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), based on the social and economic structure of North America and outlining the Committee's views on, proposed long-range plans and recommendations for, the future of the Credit Union Movement, was presented in San Francisco in May 1965 and approved by the Board of Directors of CUNA International.

The nine-member Committee's approach to its task was to look at the Credit Union Movement under three broad headings, namely, Philosophy, Techniques and the Law, but did not proceed much beyond the first two. Exploring the ways open for the expansion of savings, sources of new capital and future fields of lending, as well as looking into the concept of "common bond" as the basis for credit union organisation and discussing other financial services, the Committee visualised a system for the Movement consisting in improving the liquidity situation of the Movement and retaining its control in the hands of credit unions; enabling credit unions of various sizes to offer uniform services; providing for continuity of membership; pooling the total cash resources of the Movement for inter-lending; coordinating the Movement's investment policies; enabling the entry of the Credit Union Movement into long-term lending such as housing; and, finally, enabling the participation of credit unions at the point of sale.

The Planning Committee concluded its report recommending that the Executive Committee of CUNA International be given authority to ask it to study and recommend in detail the actions that should be taken in each of the following areas:

1. Future methods of capital acquisition, or, in other words, ways in which the Movement may acquire the savings dollars of members in competition with such emerging compulsory savings methods as pension plans and social security.
2. Ways in which credit unions can be involved in providing credit facilities at the "point of purchase" of goods and services.
3. The future services which credit unions may have to offer, in addition to the traditional functions of saving and lending, in order to retain their usefulness to the people they serve.
4. The extent to which credit union operations may have to be re-structured in order to attain maximum efficiency in service and practices while retaining democratic control and participation by the membership.
5. The emerging needs of people which require credit facilities and how they can be served by credit unions.
6. The coordinated operational facilities which CUNA and the Leagues will be required to establish in the future, and ways in which these facilities may be organised and directed.
7. The development of "transaction" facilities which are gradually replacing money, such as travellers' cheques, credit cards and money orders, and in which credit unions can adapt their operational methods and services to encompass these trends.
8. An examination of liquidity on a local, regional and national basis, with the object of recommending improvements where necessary and of developing ways in which the control of liquidity sources can be retained within the Movement.



co-operative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

No.9. September, 1965.

*Managerial
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11/12*

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INTERNATIONAL

I.C.A. CONSUMER WORKING PARTY MEETING

The I.C.A. Consumer Working Party held its tenth meeting in London on the 8th and 9th of this month, with members present from Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Great Britain, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to reports from various countries on current developments of interest to consumers; a review of plans for the Consumer Conference to be held in Basel from October 12th to 15th; a brief discussion of the work of the I.C.A. Women Cooperators' Advisory Council; consideration of relations between the I.C.A. and the International Organisation of Consumers' Unions; and plans for the next Country Review of the Consumer Action Programme which will take place in Paris next April. Most of the second day's session was taken up with a lively discussion on the subject of cooperative advertising.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Consumer Working Party will be in London on January 19th and 20th, 1966.

AUSTRALIA

COOPERATIVE FEDERATION'S SCHEME OF CENTRAL ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT BENEFITS MEMBER SOCIETIES

During his visit to Australia, Dr. S. K. Saxena, I.C.A.'s Regional Officer in New Delhi, was greatly impressed by a scheme of Central Accounting and Central Management operated by the Cooperative Federation of Western Australia in Perth for the benefit of cooperative societies. Feeling that this might be of interest to other movements, he circulated a note giving a brief description of how the scheme works.

The Federation utilises the services of its largest member organisation, Wesfarmers, to avoid duplication of staff and machinery. A unit requiring such services enters into an agreement with the subsidiary of Wesfarmers implementing them, for which the primary requirement is that the applicant unit is in a position of meeting its creditors' accounts on the date due, that the stock is realistically valued and that management accommodation is of an adequate standard. The cooperative unit undertakes to post daily to the central office duplicate copies of all sales invoices, receipts, credits, purchase invoices, cheques and all other data required to record the dealings with customers and creditors, and the cost of conducting the business. From this information, the following records are maintained centrally: a cash book (including monthly bank reconciliation); a purchase journal; sales and credit journals; a debtors' ledger (including preparation of monthly statements); a creditors' ledger (including payment of creditors'

accounts); and a private ledger. The central office, in its turn, provides the unit with a monthly debtors' report showing age analysis of each account and a report giving a monthly trading, profit and loss and balance statement.

A further service available on request is the preparation by the central office of a budget of trading for the accounting period. The cooperative unit supplies stationery and pays the cost of cheques and postage. The fee at present agreed for this accounting service is 1 per cent of the total turnover of the cooperative unit, with a fixed minimum.

The Federation requires the initial agreement to be a minimum period of two years and, under the Central Management Agreement, the central authority undertakes the responsibility of engaging and dismissing the cooperative unit's local manager and secretary and enters into all contracts and engagements on behalf of the cooperative unit in the ordinary course of business.

Matters of policy remain the function of the directors, but they are required to have regard to the recommendations of the managing authority, as well as those emanating from the Federation's conferences. Full reports are prepared and submitted to the directors in respect of trading of the cooperative unit at monthly intervals. For this responsibility and control of a unit's affairs, a fee is charged which, at present, is 1 per cent of the unit's turnover in respect of goods sold, and this is additional to the central accounting fee.

CANADA

COOPERATIVES' ROLE IN WAR ON POVERTY

The "Maritime Cooperator" of the 15th of last month reported on an interview of cooperative leaders in Winnipeg with the President of the Cooperative Union of Canada (CUC), Dr. Ralph S. Staples, when he stopped there during a cross-country tour, the main purpose of which was to make a survey of a "Cooperatives Everywhere" project among the Eskimos at Fort Resolution in the North-West Territories.

During that interview, Dr. Staples said that cooperative development projects may prove a major key to success in Canada's "War on Poverty". Many requests, he continued, had been received at the CUC office in Ottawa from groups in under-developed areas across the country for assistance in establishing various types of cooperatives and were discussed with officials of the "Company of young Canadians" - an organisation set up by the Federal Government mainly to fight this particular

war - who agreed to pay full attention to the requests of these groups. The most important first step was, however, to create the necessary efficient machinery for an effective assistance to the people in need of it.

In reply to a question about the response of cooperatives and cooperative members to the CUC-sponsored "Cooperatives Everywhere" programme aimed at assisting Indians and Eskimos in the Canadian North to help themselves through the development of local cooperatives, Dr. Staples said that, as far as their initiative to raise funds was concerned, the response was satisfactory, but that, in order to achieve the aims of the task in hand, many more cooperatives, members and employees would have to give financial assistance. While the CUC looked to individual cooperative members throughout Canada as the main source of funds, lump-sum donations from individual cooperatives, perhaps based on a fixed amount per member, and contributory cooperative employees' funds would also be of great help. As examples to be copied, Dr. Staples quoted the contribution of one hour's wages a month by the employees of cooperatives in Switzerland to the Cooperative Marketing Programme project sponsored, financed and staffed by the Swiss Cooperative Movement in Dahomey, and the financing and staffing of a training school institute in India by Swedish cooperatives.

At the end of the interview, the CUC President explained that the aim of the "Cooperatives Everywhere" project at Fort Resolution was to establish a multi-service cooperative. A cooperative sawmill had already been set up and plans were underway for a cooperative plant to manufacture boxes in which to ship fish caught in the area. The feasibility of operating a handicraft cooperative was also being studied at present. All these activities had the desired good effect on the Canadian population in the North and gave them the satisfaction of doing something towards helping themselves.

MARKETING ORGANISATION FOR ESKIMO COOPERATIVES

The formation of a central marketing cooperative to serve cooperatives in the North of the country was favoured by the delegates attending the first Conference of Arctic Cooperatives which was held in Frobisher Bay in March 1963. Since there are Eskimo cooperatives in Quebec and the North-West Territories, marketing, reports the "Co-op Commentary" of August 26th, has been the subject of three meetings, involving the English and French cooperative movements and the Governments of Canada and Quebec, at which it was suggested that a practical recommendation should be prepared for consideration at the next Conference of Eskimo Cooperatives to be held in the spring of 1966.

It is expected at present that two federations of Eskimo cooperatives - one for Quebec and the other for the North-West Territories - will emerge which will jointly establish a coordinating committee at the national level. However, some cooperatives in the North are already faced with a marketing problem, since the production of art work and handicrafts is growing at a considerable rate, but it may be several years before an adequate central marketing agency could be established. For this reason, the Cooperative Union of Canada, working in close collaboration with the Federal Department of Northern Affairs, has undertaken a programme which, it is hoped, will meet the existing need.

The Canadian Arctic Producers Ltd. (CAP), an organisation under the control of the Cooperative Union of Canada, has recently been incorporated as a separate legal entity and will serve as a marketing agency for the Eskimo cooperatives pending the formation of a second-level marketing organisation to be owned by the Arctic cooperatives. In its early stages, the Canadian Arctic Producers Ltd. will operate on a rather modest scale, and its financing will be provided by government grants and by the Eskimo cooperatives, each of which will pay it a commission of 10 per cent on the value of the product marketed. It is hoped that CAP's operations will, in due course, be taken over completely by a central marketing cooperative which will have the local cooperatives of the North as its members.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

COOPERATIVES' NEW COMPETITION FOR NON-FOOD TRADE

Through its Information Exchange Service, the Cooperative Wholesale Committee of the I.C.A. in Copenhagen, Denmark, acquainted readers earlier in the year with one of the biggest projects embarked on since the Second World War by the German Cooperative Wholesale Society (GEG), which began with the stone-laying ceremony at the new "Non-food Centre" at Kamen in Westphalia, in November of last year. The Society invested 26 million DM in the scheme.

This "Non-food Centre" will, it is said, facilitate an expansion of the non-food trade within GEG and in the German cooperative societies in order to meet modern demands. A change of policy was made necessary by the altered competitive conditions within the retail trade, marked by the ending of any clear limits on the range of stock. The department stores are expanding sales to a large extent through food departments similar to supermarkets. On the other hand, the big enterprises and combines in the retail food trade are adding to their range more and more by stocking non-food goods or by working together with mail-order firms.

Although German cooperatives had been engaged in the non-food business on a large scale until 1933, its re-establishment after the war was hampered because they had to concentrate first their limited investment resources on re-establishing their food shops. Only in 1953, GEG opened up the way for developing the non-food trade - without adding to sales space or drawing on investment funds - by taking up the mail-order business within its activities.

After the restoration and modernisation of the network of cooperative shops, the wholesale business rapidly assumed greater importance, and the German cooperatives now sell in their 8,300 shops more than 250 million DM (£23 million) worth of dry goods a year. There is a total turnover of 3,600 million DM (£330 million). The share of non-food goods in the turnover is now 7 per cent within the cooperative societies and 10 per cent within the Wholesale Society GEG (i.e. mail-order business, furniture).

According to surveys made by market research institutes, a rise in consumption cannot be expected within the traditional range of food, a fact which is apparent in all the Western industrial countries. The GEG and the cooperative societies have, therefore, made the necessary arrangements to intensify their competition for the non-food trade. In common with the Central Union of German Consumers' Cooperative Societies, GEG has prepared directives for the expansion of this line of business, including recommended stock-lists for different sizes of shops, measures for the improvement of mail-order business, and for the establishment of "cooperative markets" which are supermarkets with a broad non-food range.

Besides doing mail-order business, GEG actually trades through 31 furniture stores with a total sales area of 44,000 square metres and a turnover in 1964 of about 50 million DM, two supermarkets at Frankfurt with a broad non-food range, as well as several cooperative markets.

The entire supply of dry goods to the cooperatives will take place from the head office at Kamen on the completion of the Non-food Centre early in 1966. It will serve both the wholesale and the mail-order trade. Dry goods are now distributed from four separate departments. Thus, the wholesale and mail-order trade will be closely coordinated both for sales and range of stock, and it will not matter to GEG which type of business in the future attracts most customers. The Non-food Centre will be able to equalise any change and adjust its activities in accordance with current demand.

GREAT BRITAIN

HISTORICAL COOPERATIVE CRADLE FILMED

Toad Lane in Rochdale, where the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers had opened the first cooperative store in 1844, is the scene of a film being made by one of France's largest documentary film companies for the French National Federation of Consumers' Cooperatives (F.N.C.C.), according to an announcement made in the "Cooperative News" of the 11th of this month.

The film in Eastman-Colour, which will be generally released in France and is expected to be ready by January 1966, will have as its theme consumer protection and will depict the world-famous Toad Lane setting, enacting and recalling life as it was in the nineteenth century. Shooting of the film has already begun under the direction of Mr. Jean Leduc of Son-et-Lumière, Paris, and actors were provided by the Curtain Theatre in Rochdale. General arrangements are being coordinated by the Cooperative Union, the Cooperative Wholesale Society and the Rochdale Society.

COOPERATIVE YOUTH MOVEMENT WORK CAMP OVERSEAS

In our Cooperative News Service of September 1964, we reported about an experiment initiated by the British Cooperative Union's Education Department and organised by the Union's National Youth Officer. This was a Cooperative Youth Movement Work Camp started in England at Losehill Hall which proved to be such a success that, this year, a nine-day visit to Belgium (reported on in the "Cooperative News" of the 4th of this month) had been arranged at the end of August for fourteen young cooperators, who had participated in last year's venture and had worked on the Losehill Hall project.

The emphasis of this first cooperative youth movement's pioneer overseas work camp at "De Kollembloem" Children's Centre in Huesden, near Ghent, was, as last year, again placed on democracy and the freedom of the individual.

Under the supervision of their work leader, Mr. David Fairbanks, the Education Secretary of the London Society, and his Assistant, Mr. John Copeland, a University student, the work allocated to, and undertaken by, the young cooperators - both boys and girls - at the Children's Centre consisted in the laying of a grass verge around a recently built concrete volley ball pitch, which, in spite of a shortage of tools, they completed in only four days. During the remaining five days, they helped to entertain the 400 children at the Centre and organised an end-of-holiday party for them. Every evening, meetings were held at which the participants exchanged views on, and made suggestions about, the work project and the social side of the work camp life. An evaluation made at the end of their experience resulted in full agreement that both the work accomplished and their relations with the Centre's workers and children had been a great success.

Trips and excursions for the young pioneers were arranged to Bruges, along picturesque canals, to the Gruuthuse Palace, to Dinant in the Ardennes, to Brussels and to Ghent, where they visited the Cooperative Society's headquarters and the offices and works of the socialist daily newspaper "Vooruit".

"De Kollembloem" Centre is quite unique, providing play facilities for local children, most of whom come from poor homes. It has been in existence for fifteen years with all services given voluntarily, and no worker had ever asked for or received any payment. In addition to adult workers, there are eight junior helpers between the ages of 15 and 18 who live at the Centre during their school holidays and look after the children, serve their meals and carry out any other duties assigned to them. In the winter, they attend lessons in socialism at the weekends and receive a diploma from the Belgian Government after successful completion of their studies.

The Centre, which is completely free of any government control and is supported by cooperative societies and socialist organisations, is used by the children only during their holidays. Their parents are paying a small amount, the equivalent of 10s., per week.

The British Cooperative Youth Movement's undertaking was praised by the Centre's officials and the work and other activities of the young cooperators were greatly appreciated by them and thoroughly enjoyed by all children.

The experience gained from the two experimental work camps in England and Belgium might be helpful not only in making this project a regular annual event in these countries but also in encouraging the cooperative youth movements in others to institute it on similar lines.

INDIA

SEMINAR ON COOPERATIVE TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The Committee for Cooperative Training of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) organised a four-day Seminar on the Integrated Programme of Cooperative Education and Training for the South Zone, it was reported in "The Cooperator" of August 15th, 1965. The Seminar, which was held at Bangalore from July 28th to 31st, was attended by about 75 delegates from Mysore, Kerala, Andhra and Madras, inaugurated by the Finance Minister of Mysore and presided over by the Minister of Cooperation. The President of the State Cooperative Union welcomed the participants.

The General Secretary of the NCUI and Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Cooperative Training, Mr. Brahm Perkash, paid a tribute to the Minister of Cooperation for his great services to the Cooperative Movement and Shri P. R. Dubhashi, the Committee's Member-Secretary, explained the objects of the Seminar. Shri B. S. Murthy, Union Deputy Minister for Cooperation, in delivering his address at the conclusion of the Seminar, appealed to the cooperators to be "effective and purposeful ambassadors of hope in the Indian villages" and said that socialism can be brought about only by a social revolution. He also appealed to the delegates for their united, composite and integrated action in safeguarding the interests of the weaker sections of the community.

The delegates formulated the following recommendations resulting from their deliberations during the seminar sessions. District cooperative unions or, in their absence, ad hoc district committees should be organised. Cooperative banks should give over-draft accommodation to the state cooperative unions to the extent of the approved quarterly grant, wherever necessary, so as to avoid inconvenience which is now being caused in some cases by delay in the release of the grant. The Committee for Cooperative Training should start an information service in respect of new publications for the use of the cooperative and allied training centres. The national and state unions should promote and organise problem-oriented research projects through the cooperative training centres and educational and research institutions in their respective areas. The collection of an education fund should be made imperative, and the existing statutory ceiling on such a collection should be removed. Candidates qualified in the subject of cooperation from universities should be given preferential treatment at the time of recruitment in the cooperative department institutions. The National Cooperative Union of India should keep the universities posted with the latest developments in the policy and programmes in the movement.

Another very important recommendation made by the Seminar referred to the pay scales of cooperative educational instructors, namely, that two cadres of these - junior and senior - should be created in the scale of Rs. 180-10-320 and Rs.250-15-460 respectively, with the usual allowances admissible to government servants in the respective states, and that a travelling allowance of Rs. 75 per month should be fixed. The ratio of senior to junior should be kept at 1 to 2. The educational instructors should be brought on time-scales of pay allowed to lecturers of the junior training centres and their posts made permanent with a provident fund and gratuity benefits on a contributory basis.

ISRAEL

INCREASE IN OPHIR COOPERATIVE'S FLEET

It was reported in the "Israel Cooperative Newsletter" of June 20th, 1965, issued by the Cooperative Societies Department of the Ministry of Labour, that the Ophir Ltd. Shipping Company had acquired the new freighter "Nachshon", with a capacity for 3,500 tons cargo, 16 knots speed and a refrigerating power in the store-rooms reaching 35 air currents per hour, making it especially suitable for shipments of citrus fruit and agricultural produce.

The new ship's facilities for the crew include spacious staterooms, reading and play rooms, a conference hall and a swimming pool. These favourable conditions led the Ministry of Transport to establish a floating school on the "Nachshon" for about 12 apprentices and cadets who will attend lectures and receive instructions in practical work from the ship's officers.

The addition of the "Nachshon" to Ophir's existing fleet brought the number of ships operated by the Cooperative in June up to six, the five others being the S/S "Ashkelon" with a capacity of 1,600 tons, S/S "Hashlosha" with 2,000 tons, S/S "Ophir" with 1,900 tons, and two foreign ships with a total capacity of 5,000 tons. In July, the Cooperative was to operate one more ship, a special depot-vessel for the transport of oils and chemicals, built for Ophir in a German shipyard and the only one of its type in the Israeli merchant fleet. Until then, oils and chemicals were transported by foreign vessels. Ophir regarded therefore its pioneering step undertaken in this respect as essential to the national market.

The crews assigned to the new ships are trained as Israeli seamen and most of them belong to the Cooperative which now has sixty captains, officer and seamen of various ranks. The managers of Ophir hope to complete the process of absorbing new members before the end of the year, when the Cooperative will have 100 members in the Cooperative Sea Association which was founded in 1949 by seven men discharged from the Israeli Navy.

With a gradually widening circle of clients, Ophir has developed Israel's import and export and its transport means to and from foreign ports. At present, it operates regular lines in the Mediterranean and its vessels carry approximately 40 per cent of the total consignments between Israel, southern France and western Italy. Following the purchase of the new ships, Ophir will be extending its activities to West African ports.

MALAYSIA

WORKERS OF RUBBER PLANTATIONS COOPERATIVE OWNERS

Returning from his South-East Asian trip as special representative of the International Department of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., Mr. Thomas B. Keehn

reported that some of the rubber plantation workers in Malaysia are now the plantation owners, a development which has come about through cooperation.

Malaysia, which became an independent country in 1963, has about 12 million people, of which 9 million are Malays, 2 million Chinese and 1 million Indians, and it is these last people who are involved in the cooperative. They came to Malaysia from India to work on the rubber estates. In recent years, a number of formerly British-owned plantations had come up for sale and were bought by the Chinese, who broke them up and put the land to other use. The rubber workers, however, formed their own organisation, the National Land Finance Cooperative Society, whose president is Dato V. T. Sambanthan who is the only Indian holding a cabinet position in the Malaysian Government. The Society has 37,000 members, each of whom paid 100 Malaysian dollars for his membership. With this capital, the cooperative has been able to borrow money and bought six rubber plantations. In view of the extensive use of the machine-made product, the future of natural rubber is a subject of much discussion among the Indian cooperative owners, as it is among all Malaysians, since natural rubber is a big item in their export.

Out of the cooperative earnings, these plantation owners have set up a life insurance programme for themselves and an educational scholarship programme for their children. They are considering to turn the latest bought estate partially into an experimental station to try to grow various other crops.

U.S.A.

OCTOBER PROCLAIMED AS COOPERATIVE MONTH

The "Cooperative News Service" of the 7th of this month brought the news that the Governors of the thirteen States of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin have proclaimed October as "Cooperative Month".

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which had first observed a cooperative month last year, announced that it will mark the event with a series of programmes between October 4th and 8th, beginning with a keynote address by Secretary Orville L. Freeman. The Department will sponsor two seminars, one on "Financing U.S. Cooperatives" and the other on "Closing the Gap in Cooperative Communications", the latter being addressed by the author and columnist Marquis Childs, to be followed by a panel from commercial and cooperative media exploring the effectiveness of cooperatives' information programmes.

This time, other government departments and agencies will also take part in observing the cooperative month by sponsoring seminars dealing with the relations of cooperatives to their work, namely, the Departments of Health, Education and Welfare, Interior and Labour and the Agency for International Development (AID), the Housing and Home Finance Agency and the Office of Economic Opportunity. In addition, a group of non-governmental organisations with overseas responsibilities, including the International Cooperative Development Association (ICDA), will sponsor a seminar.

During October, cooperatives across the U.S.A. will sponsor meetings and radio and television programmes, put special advertisements into local newspapers, pay share dividends and patronage refunds to their members, and will celebrate their achievements in many other ways. Tributes will be especially paid to the cooperatives' contribution to the economic life of the nation.

At a recent meeting in Chicago, the 40-member Board of Directors of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., representing cooperatives of all types across the nation, has urged, on the recommendation of its President and Executive Director, Mr. Jerry Voorhis, that its member organisations take a leading part in the "Cooperative Month" activities in their respective areas. A folder being prepared by the League for its members' use will say that "Co-op Month is 30 million Americans giving themselves a hand".

ZAMBIA

COOPERATIVE SOCIETY'S SOCIAL FUNCTION TO SPREAD COOPERATIVE SPIRIT AND TO RAISE FUNDS

In "The Voice" of the Eastern Province Cooperative Marketing Association Ltd. (E.P.C.M.A.) - a Press Release issued by the Public Relations Officer, Mr. D. A. Banda, - the description of an example of how to further and achieve better understanding among the Association's member societies aims at encouraging other Zambian cooperatives to follow it. Thus, history was made on August 7th, 1965, when the Vulankoko Producers' Cooperative Society had the idea of organising a dance at Vulankoko, the first ever held by any cooperative society.

Opening this "social get-together", the Society's General Manager, Mr. N. N. Tembo, welcomed the people of Vulankoko and of Katete, as well as those who had come from a distance as far as 15 miles away to join the gathering, and told them that, since there was a great need for cooperation in the province, any attempt in that direction would contribute to the final aim of achieving cooperation all over the country and be of considerable benefit to the entire Zambian nation. Mr. Tembo then turned to the need for cooperative schools in the province and hoped that these would soon be established by the E.P.C.M.A., adding that the Association, whose functions would not in future be confined to social activities only, should become instrumental in raising money for this purpose. He finally appealed to all 61 cooperative societies to follow the initiative and example of the Vulankoko Producers' Cooperative Society. Also explaining the purpose of the social gathering, Mr. Bernard Phiri, the Society's Chairman and organiser of the dance, said that it was threefold, namely, to emphasise the importance of spreading the cooperative spirit among the people, to raise funds for the Society and to advertise its activities.

The Assistant Branch Manager of Katete, Mr. Willison Mwale, and Mr. A. Mwale of the E.P.C.M.A. Head Office were present among about 750 people attending the dance.



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W-1

No.10, October, 1965.

INTERNATIONAL

20-1-66
P.M.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL AT ROME

The 34th International Cooperative School was held by the I.C.A. at Rome from September 29th to October 8th. This was the first occasion on which the International Cooperative School had been held in Italy. The School was directed by the I.C.A.'s Secretary for Education, Mr. R. P. B. Davies, and was attended by 59 participants from 29 organisations in 15 countries. Participants came mainly from Europe, but representatives were also present from Cyprus and Japan.

A distinguished platform party presided at the opening session. The Minister of Labour in the Italian Government, l'Onorevole delle Fave, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Italian Government and spoke of the interest of his Government in the Cooperative Movement and of his Department in particular. Dr. Livio Malfettani, Chairman of the Cooperative Commission in the Ministry of Labour, welcomed the School on behalf of the Italian Cooperative Movement. Dr. Bonow, President of the I.C.A., gave the official I.C.A. welcome. Dr. G. St.Siegens conveyed greetings from the Food and Agriculture Organisation and Mr. P. P. Fano those from the International Labour Office. Both representatives stressed the close working relationship which their organisations had with the Cooperative Movement and of the valued help they received from the I.C.A. as an organisation in category 'A' consultative status with both FAO and ILO. Mr. Hewlett conveyed greetings from the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, speaking of the joint activities of the I.F.A.P. and I.C.A. and of the I.F.A.P.'s close working with the I.C.A. through its own cooperative committee.

President's Address

Dr. Bonow delivered an address dealing with the work of the I.C.A. in the world today. He stressed the great changes which had taken place in the world since 1945, making the milieu in which the I.C.A. had to function a very different one. There was more need than ever for exchange of information on practice, on structure, on rationalisation, and the auxiliary committees of the I.C.A. fulfil a real function in this field. He spoke of the work of the Commission on Cooperative Principles which would be expected to report to the next I.C.A. Congress at Vienna in 1966. He also dealt with the needs of the newly-developing countries, pointing out that there could well be a global famine in twenty years unless the lag in food production was overcome. The international agencies, such as FAO, ILO, UNESCO and AARRO (Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation), national governments, non-governmental agencies, such as the I.C.A., and national cooperative movements must increase their efforts to the developing countries. He well knew that national cooperative movements had great problems to face in their own economies, but unless the richer countries helped the developing world, catastrophe would ensue.

Theme of the School

The theme of the School was the problems of cooperatives in differing economic and political systems. The three contrasting systems were: a market or mixed economy; a planned or socialist economy; and the economies of newly-developing countries.

Cooperatives in Market (mixed) Economy Countries

Mr. W. P. Watkins, formerly Director of the I.C.A., presented a paper on this subject, concentrating on the place of the cooperatives in the national economy; the problems of structure and organisation; and the problems affecting cooperatives in the application of the Rochdale Principles today. Lively discussion preceded and followed Mr. Watkins' talk.

Cooperatives in Planned Economy Countries

Professor Blank, of the Cooperative Institute at Moscow, presented a paper on cooperatives in planned economy countries. He gave an outline of the cooperative movement in the U.S.S.R. and stressed the sectors in the economy which were catered for by the State shops and by the cooperative consumers' societies. Mr. Henryk Tomiczek, of the Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Cooperatives in Poland, spoke on the same subject from the point of view of the cooperative movement in Poland, also a planned economy country.

Cooperatives in Developing Countries

Dr. St. Siegens, Chief, Cooperatives, Credit and Rural Sociological Branch of the Rural and Services Division of FAO, spoke of the problems of cooperators in developing countries. The subject was divided between Dr. St. Siegens and two senior members of his Department, Mr. R. H. Gretton and Dr. A. F. Braid. The problems were discussed under the heading of institutional ones, stress being laid on the transition via government control to voluntary control; on problems of finance - loan capital, capital investment, the difficulty of establishing cooperative financing institutions; and staffing problems - the need and difficulties of attracting and training adequately qualified personnel.

Italian Cooperative Movement

Accounts were given of the work of the three Italian Cooperative Movements: the Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue by Dr. G. Banchieri; the Confederazione Cooperativa Italiana by Dr. M. Maggiore; and the Associazione Generale delle Cooperative Italiane by Professor Gaetano Pottino. Visits were paid by the School to a number of cooperative organisations, namely, to wine growing and processing cooperatives, a building workers' cooperative, a tobacco growing and processing

cooperative (established under the Italian Government's land reform programme) and to a rural cooperative bank serving a small community of about 6,000 inhabitants.

Cooperatives and International Agencies

Mr. P. P. Fano, Director of the Italian Bureau of the ILO spoke of the work of the ILO in the field of cooperatives, and participants were particularly interested in his account of the last General Conference when, for the first time in the history of the ILO, cooperatives featured on its agenda. His talk was supplemented by Mr. V. Shabanov from the Cooperative Department of the ILO in Geneva (who also attended as participant throughout the School) giving an account of some of the cooperative projects of the ILO in developing countries.

The School was also received at the Headquarters of FAO where an account was given of the work of the FAO in general and its work in the field of cooperatives in particular.

The students divided into discussion groups after each main lecture and the standard of work done in these groups was extremely high. Final reports were presented by each group, summarising their conclusions and some of this material is likely to be of interest to the I.C.A.'s Principles Commission.

The final session of the School, at which Mr. W. G. Alexander, Director of the I.C.A., was present, attempted to synthesise the reports and to offer constructive comments on the points put forward. Mr. Alexander was able to give many examples from his recent visit to Moscow and the meetings of the Central Committee at Helsinki relevant to the subject-matter of the School.

I.C.A. CONSUMER CONFERENCE

More than 130 cooperators participated in an I.C.A. Consumer Conference at Basle, Switzerland, from the 12th to the 15th of this month. The fourteen countries represented were Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The theme of the Conference, "Consumer Orientation in Cooperative Trading: Obstacles and Achievements", was developed through the presentation of 22 papers plus lively discussions during plenary sessions. The topics covered included the Action Programme of the Consumer Working Party, Consumer Information in the Shop, the Cooperative Press, Informative Labelling, the Consumer Role of Technical Research and Market Research, Cooperative Advertising and Organisational Problems involved in Consumer Orientation.

The large Festival Hall of the Stadt Casino, in which the Conference took place, and also the Foyer were decorated with an impressive exhibition of posters, brochures, photographs, charts, labels and packages illustrating the Conference themes.

The Conference was organised by the I.C.A. on the initiative of the Consumer Working Party. Mr. Ch.-H. Barbier, Director of VSK, acted as Chairman for the first day; Mr. Marcel Brot, President of FNCC was Chairman for the second day; and Dr. Mauritz Bonow, I.C.A. President, presided over the third day's sessions. The Conference was followed by a Press Conference attended by a large number of Swiss and foreign correspondents. On October 15th, the participants were invited by VSK to visit either the new Fashion House of A.C.V., the Basle Cooperative Society, or the regional warehouses at Wangen and Coop Bützberg.

In his closing statement on the third afternoon of the Conference, Dr. Bonow summarised the basic issues which had emerged from the discussions. He pointed out that "structural improvements, greater efficiency, integration, centralisation and larger but fewer units inevitably eliminate many of the administrative tasks currently involving active members: there will be fewer managers and directors. On the other hand, the greater resources made available through rationalisation and the greater need than ever before for consumer-orientation will open up an almost unlimited field of exciting and challenging activities for more dynamic cooperators - the whole field of consumer research, education, information and group activity."

With regard to the problem of adequate member control over management "which tends to become bureaucratic and unresponsive to member needs in the absence of appropriate machinery and channels for supervision by members and expression of their views", Dr. Bonow stressed that this "merely underlines the necessity of educating and informing consumer members and providing channels of communication so that they are able to ensure that managers are aware of, and respond to, consumer demands".

Referring to the alleged conflict between the interest of member consumers in higher patronage refund on the one hand and in lower prices on the other, Dr. Bonow stated that "this is not an obstacle to consumer orientation. It is not a new problem. It was always, and will continue to be, incumbent on managers to adapt price policy to the requirements of the market, i.e., to meet the competition, and only after this to distribute the surplus: we must bear in mind that the consumer orientation argument is directed at serving the consumer-member not only by giving him the goods and services he wants at reasonable prices, but also by making cooperative activity more efficient, and thus maximising 'divi'."

The President stressed that cooperative advertising can be both informative and effective; "no one denies that cooperative advertising must aim at selling. But it has been emphasised in this Conference that cooperative advertising can be more effective if it highlights the ways in which the cooperative form of distribution can meet the needs of consumers better than any other form of distribution. Consumers can be attracted by advertising the fact that the cooperative gives better service, better quality, more information, a better buy in terms of price and/or patronage refund."

In answer to the question whether cooperatives can compete with other consumer organisations, private and governmental, as a champion of the consumer, Dr. Bonow pointed out that "the cooperative movement was not only first in the field, but it has definite advantages in terms of contacts with consumers via trading, to say nothing of its basic philosophy. Thus it should press its claim as the champion of the consumer, but in this capacity should also seize every opportunity to collaborate with other consumer organisations in advancing the consumer interest."

Should cooperatives aim at making a choice for the consumer - e.g. via quality labels, grades, advice on "best buys", protective legislation, etc. - or should the objective be rather to train and equip the consumer himself to make a wise choice? On this, Dr. Bonow's view was that "the latter is obviously the more 'modern' approach and the sounder one. The very concept of cooperation is based on 'self-help' and the assumption of a rational consumer equipped to defend his own interests. Hence, in addition to all kinds of safeguards and protection, consumers must be provided with a maximum of information and be trained to make intelligent use of this information in their buying. We cannot subscribe to the notion that the consumer is passive or stupid or lazy: 'he' is your wife, or your husband, or your son or daughter."

Another fundamental issue that arose from the discussion related to whether or not the consumer in an affluent society really needs to be protected and catered for. On this, Dr. Bonow made the following comment: "If not, he also doesn't

need cooperation. It has been stressed here that we no longer make an appeal exclusively to the under-privileged, the lower income group. True, it is in times of economic adversity, and in under-developed countries, that the purpose and rationale of cooperation are best understood, because it is in such situations of distress that people best grasp the possibilities of self-help through working together. But the same purpose and the same rationale prevail in highly developed, prosperous industrial economies. Not only is affluence very unevenly diffused in such economies: there is also the overriding fact that the individual in such an economy is, if anything, more rather than less, interested in material goods, in maximising the satisfaction derived from disposition of his income; we feel that cooperation can be an important instrument for helping him to use that income for a better life, and therefore for a better society. Cooperation is not an end in itself: it is a means to an end, and that end, in the last analysis, is a way of life."

From the discussion of basic issues, Dr. Bonow then turned to an inventory of the specific instruments for consumer orientation which had been discussed in the various papers. These included labels, packages, exhibits, demonstrations, brochures, social functions, lectures, discussion groups, home economists, suggestion boxes or telephone booths or forms, recipes, newsletters, the cooperative press and other communication media, cooperative advertising, laboratories and test kitchens for quality control, market research, various "feedback" devices, collaboration with other consumer groups, and cooperative organisational machinery for articulating and communicating the voice of the consumer.

Dr. Bonow stated that "each national movement, and each level within a movement, must adapt that combination of measures most appropriate to its structure and the temperament of its members. It is flexibility we want; the Action Programme of the Consumer Working Party is not designed to impose a uniform, standardised solution for every organisation. No single measure in the inventory will suffice. It is essential that the full arsenal of approaches should be fully utilised: the task is too big to be accomplished with one weapon alone. Consumer-orientation must be infused at every level. It must become part of the philosophy and the commercial policy of the local society, of the regional society, of the national apex organisations, and even on an international level."

In conclusion, the President pointed out that "when we talk about consumer-orientation, we are not talking about an isolated aspect of cooperation, one corner of cooperative activity. On the contrary, I feel that regardless of which of these basic issues (outlined above) or of these specific instruments we take as a spring-board, in no time at all we are right back to the fundamental policy problems with which national movements all over the world are wrestling today: the problem of structure, and the problem of principles. It has been said over and over again that any single commercial activity - or any single instrument of commercial activity, such as the press, or the advertising department, or any activity in the shop, or training of shop assistants, or educational activities, or activities of auxiliaries can only reflect policy at the top level and at every other level: and policy in turn is a reflection of, and dependent on, structure. But policy and structure, in turn, depend upon orientation. Unless your orientation - your philosophy, your conception of the 'raison d'être' of cooperation - is right, no amount of restructuring will yield results. And everything I have heard in the last three days from this rostrum convinces me that the only orientation which will yield results is consumer-orientation."

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

On the initiative of the Danish Board for Technical Cooperation with Developing Countries and of the Danish cooperative organisations, an International Conference on Cooperative Assistance to Developing Countries was held at Fredensborg, Denmark,

from September 6th to 10th, 1965 and officially opened by Denmark's Prime Minister, Mr. J. O. Krag.

Participants invited to the Conference had been selected from international organisations, government aid agencies and cooperative organisations with a view to getting an adequate representation of the main types of interest and experience in the subject-matter under consideration. Their number had, however, to be limited, not only to keep the Conference within a manageable size but also because it constituted a new venture and was in a way considered as an experiment. Of international organisations, delegates from the I.C.A. (represented by the President, Dr. M. Bonow; the Director, Mr. W. G. Alexander; and the Secretary for Education, Mr. R. P. B. Davies), the FAO, ILO and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) and, of national government agencies and/or cooperative organisations, representatives from Canada, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Israel, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States were present at the Conference.

The following conclusions were arrived at concerning the possibilities of collaboration and better coordination in the field of cooperative technical assistance.

It was generally agreed that early information or planned activities was a prerequisite for coordination of action. The present machinery for information was not found efficient enough, which was true on the national level as well as internationally. In several countries, the need was felt for one national centre of information on the cooperative technical assistance activities undertaken by various governmental and non-governmental agencies in the respective country.

Some countries were also in need of a reception centre for cooperative fellows and other visitors from developing countries; such a centre could be made responsible for the planning of studies and shorter visits and could make the best use of existing facilities.

Discussing the methods of collaboration between Governments and cooperative organisations in a donor country, the Conference's particular interest was focused on the long-term contracts between the United States Agency for International Development (AID) and cooperative organisations in the U.S.A.

On the international level, much interest was aroused by the suggestion that the I.C.A. publish before the end of 1965 a calendar covering cooperative seminars and other events in the cooperative technical assistance field in 1966. Even if such a calendar could not be complete, especially as regards cooperative experts and projects, and even if it would have to state in many cases that plans reported were only provisional, it was felt to be much needed. Though it would not in itself solve the question of coordination, it would in a case where overlapping might arise give the parties concerned the possibility of better coordination through direct mutual contact. This might be useful not only to prevent overlapping in time, countries invited and subjects chosen, but might also facilitate the exchange of seminar programmes, teaching materials, etc.

Information for the I.C.A. calendar would have to come mainly from its member organisations and from the ILO and FAO. It could not be expected that government aid agencies would report directly to the I.C.A., but this would not impair the value of the calendar, provided there was a close liaison in each country between these and the I.C.A. cooperative member organisations. It was, however, recognised that it would often be difficult to give advance information on bilateral government projects in the cooperative technical assistance field in the calendar. Requests from a certain developing country could not always be publicised, and a donor country might, for financial and various other reasons, be unable to disclose its plans for technical assistance projects until these were too far advanced to allow changes for reasons of coordination. Several speakers suggested that the

Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, being a governmental organisation, might act as information centre and coordinating agency for governmental projects in the cooperative field, undertaken by governments members of the Committee.

It was also suggested that lists of qualified lecturers for cooperative seminars should, on request, be issued by the international organisations sponsoring such seminars. It would be useful to have survey articles written in the Review of International Cooperation and/or elsewhere on the existing arrangements for training and briefing of cooperative experts in various countries and organisations. There was also a need for central information on audio-visual aids, films, etc.

It was noted with satisfaction that a glossary of cooperative terms was being prepared in four languages by the government agencies in Germany as well as by a working group of the I.C.A., and attention was drawn to useful surveys and information on technical assistance in general, offered by the European Council, the OECD and others, whereas useful background information on economic and social conditions in specific countries could be found in the reports of the World Bank, UNESCO and the other specialised agencies of the United Nations. An inventory of research in the cooperative field in universities and institutes might be of interest, and new research was needed on how to give instruction applicable to conditions in developing countries.

The Conference also touched on the question of specialisation between donor countries as to recipient regions and types of cooperative aid. Apart from such coordination, which might be achieved in the future through the O.E.C.D., it would appear that steps in this direction must be left to ad hoc arrangements. In a few cases, cooperative projects were already undertaken jointly by two or more countries, and the Scandinavian countries had plans to develop a common scheme for the training of cooperative experts. Other possibilities for regional collaboration might be the creation of a common agency for directing the flow of fellows from the developing countries or to plan seminars in common.

There was general agreement that the Conference had served a useful purpose in creating a forum for a free exchange of experience and ideas between representatives of international organisations, governments and cooperative organisations in important donor countries in the field of cooperative technical assistance, and that a similar one might be held in one or two years. It was suggested that, at that time, some experts who would present the relevant view-points prevailing in the developing countries and in their cooperative movements be invited.

COOPERATIVE COLLABORATION IN WESTERN EUROPE

The "Genossenschaftlicher Nachrichtendienst" of the "Konsumverband" Central Union of Austrian Consumers' Cooperative Societies of September 2nd, 1965 gave examples of the fruitful results of the cooperative efforts extending beyond the national frontiers in Western Europe. Thus, for instance, the intention of the wholesale societies of the Belgian, Dutch, French, Italian and Western German consumer cooperatives, joined together in the "Euro Cooperative" (the formation of which was reported on in our News Service of January of this year), was recently made public to start the joint manufacture of biscuits in a Dutch factory specially enlarged for that purpose. The Norwegian and Swedish "Luma" factories, producing articles ranging from electric bulbs to radio and television sets as well as electric cookers, have worked together for the last two years. Cooperative soap factories of most countries in Western Europe, including Austria, got together a few years ago for the purpose of exchanging their experiences and of keeping each other informed of the progress in the field of research, and a regular, genuine and most intensive collaboration exists among the chief chemists of the factories in the various countries concerned.

As a result, this close international cooperation made the manufacture of top quality products in all these factories possible.

FRANCE

FIFTH NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERS' CONGRESS OF SCHOOL COOPERATIVES

An account of the Fifth National Youth Leaders' Congress of School Cooperatives, termed as an "unusual" Congress at which young male and female cooperators - the youngest were 10 years of age and the oldest 18 - participated and which was held at Limoges at the beginning of May of this year, was given in the July-September 1965 issue of the "Revue de la Coopération Scolaire", the official organ of the Central Office of School Cooperatives. Thirty-seven French Departments were represented by 313 delegates, and, for the first time, there was also a delegation of young Germans present. The Congress participants were cordially welcomed by the Secretary-General of the Federation of the School Cooperatives of Haute-Vienne, Mr. Gladelle, and the Secretary, Mr. Vignaud. The boys and girls were taken to the Lycée Gay-Lussac and the Lycée Auguste-Renoir respectively, the latter having been chosen as the place of assembly and meetings.

A press conference had been called at which, in the absence of the President of the Central Office of School Cooperatives, Mr. R. Aveline, the Vice-President, gave the journalists a broad outline of this national youth assembly, and Mr. J. Morvan, who is the national Secretary of the Central Office's youth congresses, spoke of the concepts guiding the organisation of these meetings. The teen-age President of the departmental section of Haute-Vienne also addressed the journalists.

At the beginning of the work and debating sessions, the young Congress participants were divided into two groups: the first, composed of pupils of elementary classes, studied the subject of the school journal and the second, the more adolescent pupils, discussed the topic of the journal of the secondary school. These study themes had been proposed by the Central Office of School Cooperatives at the beginning of the school year to enable all school cooperatives to consider them, and the delegates attending the Congress, chosen as spokesman for their school fellows at home, were authorised not only to present their personal replies but to make them known to the entire French cooperative community. Each of the above-mentioned two groups was sub-divided into four smaller ones in order to facilitate their deliberations, and adults were excluded from these debates. They could, however, give some assistance without, of course, having the right of intervening.

It was reported that the quality of the debates, as well as of the questions and answers, was of a high level in all the groups and that their thirst for knowledge was all inspiring. The school journal, as an activity of great interest to the young cooperators, produced many advantages to them. Through their exchange of views, one of the main sources of acquiring and increasing knowledge and understanding, they found the means of developing a spirit of brotherhood, but, in addition, they also provide an important link between family and school, and between the town (or village) in which they live and their school. The presence of their foreign guests made the young cooperative pupils not only aware of the importance of these new contacts, linking them with the cooperative youth movement of another country, but the experience of exchanging views with them also widened their horizon in the international sphere.

As a result of the exchange of views in the discussion groups of the older boys and girls, a text was prepared and adopted for presentation to the full assembly, recording the questions put and answers made in connection with the journal of the

secondary school, the subject which was allocated to them for consideration. Their thorough study covered their concept of the journal and all possible aspects of its role (for instance, as a means of cooperative and other information, of education, individual and collective expression, and as a bond between the pupils). Other details given in the submitted text dealt with the creation of the journal (initiative, authorisation of its publication), its administration and management, production and editing, distribution, outside contacts, profits and disadvantages resulting from its realisation and distribution, and censorship. Finally, various subjects for study at the 6th Congress were suggested.

The young Congress participants were given an opportunity of visiting historical and archaeological sites in Limoges, an exchange of stamps had been arranged for them, and they saw a spectacle of folklore with songs and dances from the Limoges province, as well as Yugoslav and Israeli dances.

In the farewell speeches at the close of the Congress, both city and cooperative dignitaries and the young school cooperators expressed their thanks to the organisers who had made this gathering possible. The young cooperators were congratulated on the work they had accomplished and were specially praised for their grasp of the meaning of cooperation which they were putting into practice in their schools by developing a sense and relationship of equality, thus trying to overcome the antagonism often existing between the young and the adult. The youngsters, in turn, appreciated the recognition and encouragement they had received from the adults in this forum for their cooperative activities and the responsibilities they had assumed. No higher tribute to the success of the Congress, however, could have been paid than that by the Mayor of Limoges who said that many of the adult participants would do well to imitate the spirit, seriousness of thought, enthusiasm and discipline displayed by these young boys and girls present.

U.S.A.

REGIONAL COOPERATIVE LAUNCHES CREDIT CARD PROGRAMME

A programme to find a satisfactory answer to the hitherto insufficiently explored advantages or disadvantages of a credit card system for cooperative purchases of goods has been launched by the Utah Cooperative Association, according to last month's issue of "Co-op Report" of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A.

The Association is providing its local member cooperatives with a credit card system that enables them to extend credit to their members and, at the same time, to maintain and enforce policy about such extension. It offers IBM equipment for record-keeping, as well as trained personnel to handle other details and attorneys to enforce collections. Failure to obtain such credit resources was the main reason why cooperatives had encouraged members to seek credit from outside sources rather than extend it themselves. The Association's terms include $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent interest on all unpaid accounts after the 15th of the month following purchase.

In some cases, the individual members of the local cooperative retain the actual cards through which they obtain credit, but usually the cards are kept on file in the local cooperative office which eliminates the need for a number of administrative tasks in handling delinquent credit, or lost or stolen credit cards. Each individual cooperative member seeking credit completes a form showing his present source of financing (most members are farm operators) and authorises his lending agency to make available to the Association pertinent information on operations and financial conditions. The applicant is asked to estimate his total annual purchases from the cooperative for the forthcoming year and his top credit limit needed from the Association to finance them. He is further asked to list his real estate holdings

with mortgage and liens, if any, his crop programme on both owned and leased land, his balance sheet of assets and liabilities, including livestock, buildings, machinery, cars and other property, and his cash on hand or in the bank.

There was some resistance on the part of some borrowers to divulge this required information, but those who did comply had their applications reviewed by the local cooperative managers, the cooperative board and the credit manager of the Utah Cooperative Association. Each credit account was discussed with local bankers and other financing sources. At present, members of one cooperative cannot use credit cards of a neighbouring cooperative, but the development of an inter-related state-wide credit plan may be the next step.

A monthly report indicates to local cooperative managers the status of each account to which his cooperative has extended credit and the part of his total extension that is current, 30, 60 and more than 90 days past due. The managers use this report to discontinue additional credit extensions on questionable accounts and in collection procedures of their own.

HOUSING AND SUPPLY COOPERATIVES CAN HELP EACH OTHER

Under this title, "The People's Business" of August 25th, 1965, brought the news of a staff meeting recently held by the FCH Company, a nationwide cooperative housing development agency, in the Consumers' Cooperative Association (CCA) School at Kansas City, which could signal a new day in cooperative development in the U.S.A. Officials of the CCA, including its President, Mr. Homer Young, representing the largest farm and rural supply cooperative in the world, participated in the FCH Company's meeting.

Attention had been drawn to the fact that most farm supply cooperatives provided building supplies and materials and also supplied fuels, and it was therefore felt that there was no reason why housing cooperatives and housing cooperative development organisations should not obtain such supplies from the supply cooperatives. A start towards that goal had already been made in the Inter-cooperative Petroleum Association, organised in the north-east, with all the major housing cooperative organisations and the supply cooperatives Agway and Midland as members.

Cooperative housing on the other hand, which had proved to be the best single key to the development of all kinds of cooperatives in U.S. cities, could be of great benefit to their employees and officials, including those of supply cooperatives. Furthermore, it could be made a focal point for community development programmes in smaller, rural communities which are in need of cooperative housing, especially for older people, and where farm and rural supply cooperatives have their roots.

The hope was thus expressed at the FCH Company's staff meeting that the initiative taken there would result in bringing together the housing and supply cooperatives to their mutual benefit.



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

No. 11, November, 1965



INTERNATIONAL

APPOINTMENT FOR I.C.A. FACT-FINDING SURVEY ON COOPERATIVE TRADE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Complying with the request made in paragraph 13 of the report resulting from the I.C.A. Conference for Cooperative Ministers in South-East Asia on "The Rôle of Cooperation in Social and Economic Development in South-East Asia", held in Tokyo, Japan, in April 1964 (reported on in our News Service of April-May 1964), the International Cooperative Alliance has taken appropriate action. At this Conference, all participants had expressed the hope that the I.C.A. might collect sufficient data about the barriers to the development of cooperative trade beyond national boundaries to enable a conference of appropriate representatives of national cooperative movements and national governments to be called to consider possible action which should be taken throughout the region to effect a more rapid development of such cooperative trade (ref. to Conference report, para. 12 dealing with "Some Barriers to the Growth of International Cooperative Trade and Possible Cooperative Action for their Elimination" and para. 13 with "A Cooperative Trade Conference for South-East Asia").

Therefore, after consultation with the International Cooperative Wholesale Committee, the I.C.A. has made arrangements for the appointment for the period of one year, beginning on November 1st, 1965, of Mr. Walter Eisenberg, who is being seconded by the English Cooperative Wholesale Society. Mr. Eisenberg's task is to carry out a fact-finding survey concerning the possibilities of increased cooperative trade across national boundaries. His survey will also cover, as a background, an analysis of government policies in the countries concerned, including special trade agreements which govern the flow of trade between one country and another. Any barriers to the growth of cooperative trade and possible cooperative action for their elimination will be analysed, and possibilities indicated, and concrete action recommended, for the holding of future cooperative trade discussions under the auspices of the I.C.A. Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia or of the United Nations, according to the actual needs and the authorities most suitable to meet such needs. Advice and help in the compilation of the Trade Directory, for which the I.C.A. has already collected some material, will also be given.

After a two-weeks working and briefing period at the I.C.A. Headquarters in London, Mr. Eisenberg proceeded to India, arriving at the I.C.A. Regional Office on the 15th of this month, where he will study the material available there and write to governments and cooperatives for information he will need for his survey. In February 1966, he will attend, as an observer, the 3rd Asian Agricultural Cooperative Conference on "Commercial Cooperative Development" in New Delhi, after which he will tour India and then Australia, Ceylon, Hong Kong, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand and visit their governments and cooperative organisations in order to complete the material for his fact-finding survey report covering all these countries. This report is expected to be submitted to the I.C.A. Director by the end of October 1966.

Mr. Eisenberg, an experienced Research Officer in the Cooperative Wholesale Society in Manchester, England, is accustomed to working with cooperatives in the commercial field and has served as Personal Assistant to the Chairman of the International Cooperative Wholesale Committee.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF I.C.A. REGIONAL OFFICE AND EDUCATION
CENTRE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

As a result of discussions at various I.C.A. Congresses, dating back as far as 1948, and of a study of the cooperative problems in South-East Asia sponsored by the I.C.A. in 1955, its Regional Office and Education Centre started functioning as two separate offices in New Delhi, India, in November 1960. Three years later, however, they were merged, with the intensification of I.C.A. relations with the cooperative movements in the region, the supply of information and of technical assistance, collaboration with international organisations, and education and research being the main activities. An Advisory Council, consisting of eminent co-operators from all regional member countries, assists in programming the Office's activities and reviews annually its work done during the preceding year.

This year's 6th meeting of the Advisory Council coincides with the 5th anniversary celebrations of the Regional Office and Education Centre during the last week of this month. The programme prepared includes a Press Conference, cocktails and receptions and, most important of all, a special anniversary celebration meeting of the Advisory Council, with the chief guest, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, India's Minister for Information and Broadcasting, the meeting's Chairman, Mr. S. K. Dey, Minister for Community Development and Cooperation, and the Advisory Council's Chairman, Prof. D. G. Karve, as the principal speakers.

The I.C.A. Headquarters in London received a telegram from its Regional Office reporting the great success of the special meeting in which Mr. Dey and the Advisory Council's South-East Asian members offered congratulations on the five years of successful work, best wishes for the Office's future work and special thanks to the Swedish Cooperative Movement for its contributions to the Regional Centre.

MEETING OF COOPERATIVE RESEARCH OFFICERS

With the Central Union of German Consumers' Cooperatives (ZdK) as host, research officers from the Consumers' Union (Konsumverband, Austria), the Cooperative Wholesale Society, FDB (Denmark), ZdK (Federal Republic of Germany), Cooperative Union, KK (Finland), the Cooperative Union Ltd. (Great Britain), Co-op Nederland (Holland), the National League of Cooperatives and Mutualities (Lega, Italy)

and the Cooperative Union and Wholesale Society, KF (Sweden) held a three-day meeting at the Waldhotel in Friederichsruhe from the 9th to 11th of this month. The Research Officer of the I.C.A. acted as Secretary.

Discussion papers were presented by KK's Dr. A. M. Salonen on Consumption Forecasting, by Zdk's Dr. H. Pelster on Adaptation of Assortment to Prospective Development of Consumption, by Co-op Nederland's Mr. C. J. Schulze on Structural Adaptation of Shop and Store Networks to Future Demands, and by KF's Mr. O. Moback on Cooperative Development.

COLLABORATION IN FOOD LINE - MEETINGS OF EXPERT GROUPS ON CANNED

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AND ON CANNED FISH

In its Circular Letter No. 14 of October 28th, 1965 to Cooperators, the I.C.A. Cooperative Wholesale Committee (C.W.C.) sent out invitations to commodity experts on canned fruit and vegetables to attend a meeting to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on December 15th of this year, and to experts on canned fish to participate in another one planned for December 16th in the same city.

These proposed meetings are a follow-up to the resolution on the common utilisation of the C.W.C. members' buying agencies in foreign countries as well as on joint purchasing, adopted at the C.W.C.'s annual members meeting at Helsinki, Finland, on September 17th. In implementing it, agreements had been made with the Scandinavian Cooperative Wholesale Society (Nordisk Andelsforbund, NAF), as well as with the Wholesale Society of German Consumers' Cooperatives (GEG) and the Norwegian National Cooperative Union (NKL) to initiate and call expert conferences in the food line.

The C.W.C. requests managements to appoint as soon as possible prospective participants in the two experts meetings in Copenhagen and to forward to it their names.

AUSTRIA

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRIAN COOPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY

On the occasion of the 1965 meetings of the "Konsumverband" Central Union of Austrian Consumers' Cooperative Societies, held in Vienna on October 8th and 9th, the Austrian Cooperative Wholesale Society's (GÖC) sixtieth anniversary of its existence was remembered in special messages and in addresses of some of the participants in the meetings.

In his opening address, Dr. Andreas Vukovich, the Konsumverband's Director, reviewing the development of the consumer cooperatives during the past two years, recalled the beginnings from which the consumers' movement grew to the formidable size of the present day and said that it was with pride that cooperators can look back to the sixty years of activities of the Austrian Cooperative Wholesale Society. Representing the I.C.A. and speaking in its name, Dr. Carl Schumacher, Chairman of the Central Union of German Consumers' Cooperatives (ZdK) and a member of the I.C.A. Executive Committee, took great pleasure in transmitting the Alliance's greetings and best wishes to the GÖC on its sixtieth anniversary. He assured the audience that the I.C.A. was indeed indebted to the Austrian Movement for being host to its 23rd Congress in 1966 in Vienna and felt certain that, with its help and services, great success will be ensured.

To commemorate its anniversary, the G&C distributed to the delegates to the Konsumverband meetings and illustrated booklet depicting impressively the development of the central cooperative sector in Austria's economy during the last ten years.

CONFERENCE OF COOPERATIVE WOMEN'S ORGANISATION

The 10th Conference of the Cooperative Women's Organisation, held in Vienna on October 7th, 1965 was attended by all members of the "Konsumverband" Central Union of Austrian Consumers' Cooperative Societies and of the Austrian Cooperative Wholesale Society, G&C, which was a sign of the new recognition of the part played by women in the affairs of the Cooperative Movement. The I.C.A.'s Secretary for Women Cooperators was also present.

Important changes made in the rules of the Organisation, which were subsequently confirmed at the Conference of the Konsumverband following on during the next two days, will ensure the collaboration of women cooperators in the implementation of policy at all levels of the Movement. In every society, a group will be established involving all women members and women representatives already elected to the Boards of Management. Their activities will be organised with the help of paid organisation leaders. The women presidents of each area plus representatives of the Boards will form a National Cooperative Women's Council which will meet at least once a year, thereby ensuring a direct contact between the women and the central organisation of the Movement.

HIGH AWARD PRESENTED TO WOMAN COOPERATOR

Mrs. Anna Waldeck, a Councillor in the town of Lienz and a member of the Central Council of the Cooperative Women's Organisation, was awarded a gold medal for service to the Austrian Republic. Mrs. Waldeck, who has been active in public life for 36 years, was presented with the medal by Mr. A. Korp, Chairman of the Austrian Cooperative Wholesale Society, on behalf of the Austrian Home Secretary, at the Conference of the Konsumverband held in Vienna on October 8th and 9th.

BECHUANALAND

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES, 1964

In the Introduction to the first annual report of the Department of Cooperative Societies for 1964, which was recently received at the I.C.A. Headquarters, a brief survey was outlined of Bechuanaland's cooperative development. This has only started when a provision for the establishment of the Department of Cooperative Societies in the territory had been included in the Development Plan for 1963/64. Although a Cooperative Agricultural Societies Proclamation had been introduced as far back as in 1910, no societies were registered, and it was only in 1962 that this Proclamation had been replaced by a more appropriate Cooperative Societies Law as the first step in a more positive approach to cooperative organisation in line with the country's development needs. This Law provided for the appointment of a Registrar of Cooperative Societies, resulting in the subsequent approval of financial provision and the Government's assumption of responsibility for their promotion and organisation.

The Cooperative Department, incorporated in the Ministry of Agriculture and with a staff of the Registrar as its head, one senior cooperative officer, one cooperative officer, four assistant cooperative officers, one clerk and one messenger, takes the initiative in promoting and organising societies, conducting cooperative education and propaganda, providing a service of advice and guidance on

trading matters as well as liaison between the societies and other government agencies or private commercial interests.

In November 1964, a cooperative technical expert was seconded by the Government of Canada to the Department, who, as temporary Assistant Registrar, brought much needed technical know-how to the Department's activities at its crucial development stage. He is stationed at Lobatsi, is in charge of development work in the Barolong, Bangwaketse and southern Bamalete areas and assisted by a cooperative officer stationed at Kanye. Two field officers were appointed in 1964, and other district postings were to be made early this year as officers were recruited and trained.

Funds available to the Department during the financial year 1964/65 amounted to £13,900, including a grant of £3,000 from Oxfam (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief).

The Department's policy is directed to the creation of a vigorous, independent cooperative movement capable of effective response to the country's needs. Its main effort has, first, been directed to a programme of education and propaganda and, second, to the promotion of a few societies in areas where there was both particular need and good prospects for success.

The report registers reasonable progress in the building up of the country's cooperative movement. Careful assessments had been made of the possibilities and priorities for cooperative development so that scant resources could be efficiently employed. Priority was given to the organisation of a group of crop marketing and agricultural supply societies in the southern part of the territory with the result of one cooperative marketing society already registered, two others well advanced and a fourth being established. These societies are initially capitalised by share contributions from their own members. No loan funds for capital purposes are available.

Preparatory work for the organisation of thrift and loan societies had been undertaken and it was hoped to establish about twelve in 1965. One cooperative consumer society with over 500 members had been registered and plans went ahead for the formation of societies in other branches.

With regard to education and training, two and three weeks' residential courses for committee members (11 students attending) and secretaries (21 students attending) had been organised at the Bechuanaland Training Centre, Gaborone. Twenty-eight students had enrolled in a second course for committee members organised for January 1965. A number of publications and training manuals had been prepared and issued in the English and Tswana languages, and a draft syllabus on cooperation was prepared for the Department of Education for inclusion in the latest edition of the primary schools' syllabus. Finally, a cooperative library had been established and arrangements made for the loan of books to individuals concerned with the organisation of societies.

CANADA

CONSEIL CANADIEN DE LA COOPERATION OPENS OFFICE IN OTTAWA

An event of great importance and interest was reported in the "Co-op Commentary" of the 4th of this month of the Cooperative Union of Canada. It was the opening on that day of an office of the Conseil Canadien de la Coopération in the national capital Ottawa to serve French-language cooperatives in Canada. The announcement of the opening of this office and of the appointment of Mr. Hector Yelle as its full-time Managing Director was made by the Conseil's President,

Mr. Martin J. Légère. The presence of the Managing Director in Ottawa was particularly expected to contribute to the further strengthening of the already close relationship between the Conseil Canadien de la Coopération and the Cooperative Union of Canada. Both national organisations, with a membership of most Canadian cooperatives, are members of the I.C.A.

Mr. Yelle, a native of Lefavre, Ontario, and graduate of Ottawa University, has had long experience in business, education and cooperatives.

CELEBRATION OF CO-OP WEEK

It was announced in last month's "Co-op Commentary" that the country's Cooperative Movement celebrated a Co-op Week from October 17th to 23rd. This is one of the few features uniting all sections of the Cooperative Movement in Canada and was originally sponsored by the movement in French-Canada. However, since 1958, it had been sponsored jointly by the Conseil Canadien de la Coopération and the Cooperative Union of Canada.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

CENTRAL COOPERATIVE COLLEGE IN OPERATION

The Czechoslovak "Co-op News" of last month reported that the newly established Central Cooperative College, a specialised institution of the Central Cooperative Council, located at Jiloviste, near Prague, began functioning in September.

The College, which forms part of the comprehensive system of education and training of members, officers and employees of the country's cooperative organisations as well as of foreign cooperative movements, aims particularly to ensure the education and training of cooperative senior officers and managerial staff according to the needs of the Central Cooperative Council and the two Central Co-operative Unions. These educational and training schemes are also offered to co-operators from abroad, especially from the developing countries.

Other activities at the College include research work in the basic spheres of cooperative theory and suitable forms of publicising the results and conclusions of such research; theoretical work dealing with topical problems of the Czechoslovak Cooperative Movement; promotion of the publication of popular scientific handbooks explaining special issues of interest regarding Czechoslovak and foreign cooperatives; and organisation of scientific and theoretical seminars and conferences according to the need. Furthermore, appropriate subjects for the basic education and training of members and newly-elected officers will be proposed, instructional courses and seminars for lecturers and teachers at the regional level held, and the general public informed of the Czechoslovak and foreign cooperative organisations' most important issues.

COOPERATIVES EXHIBIT AT FAIR

Unicoop, the export and import corporation of the Central Cooperative Council, exhibited this year again its products at the International Fair in Brno, Moravia, which was visited by cooperators from many different countries. Great success of this exhibition, due to the high quality and standard of the products and their commercial value as well as to the new contacts made with foreign cooperative traders, was reported in this month's issue of the Czechoslovak "Co-op News".

The biggest pavilion was that of the "Elektrodruzstvo" Cooperative of Prague showing, among other exhibits, a new type of rectifier with remote control and fluent regulation of tension and electric ovens for heating laboratory flasks. Another big display of a variety of products was contributed by the Cooperative "Delba".

GREAT BRITAIN

STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN C.W.S. AND S.C.W.S. PROPOSED IN TWO

SEPARATE REPORTS

Within three weeks during this month, two important reports were issued, one by the Joint Reorganisation Committee of the Cooperative Wholesale Society, set up by a decision of C.W.S. shareholders at meetings held in October 1964, and the other by the Board of Directors of the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society, summaries of which appeared in the "Cooperatives News" of the 6th and 27th and the "Scottish Cooperator" of the 27th of this month.

C.W.S. Changes

In a referendum, retail societies accepted by 13,598 votes to 2,404 the main proposals involving closer relationships between wholesale and retail societies contained in the report of the C.W.S. Joint Reorganisation Committee. Of thirteen amendments submitted to the report, only one by the Long Eaton and Norwich Societies, removing the "entitlement" of existing directors to an executive appointment and allowing them "to apply" for such an appointment, was approved by a small majority.

The most important principal innovations consist in (1) an entirely new relationship between the C.W.S. and the retail societies in which "buying for" will substitute for "selling to"; (2) the existing full-time elected Board will be replaced by a part-time body of 30 elected by societies, and this Board will appoint a Chief Executive, three Deputy Chief Executives and eleven Group Executives with individual responsibility for prescribed sections of the C.W.S. organisation; and (3) the appointment of a Trade Auditor whose function will be to act as a kind of "ombudsman" in any disputes which might arise out of the new relationship between the C.W.S. and retail societies.

Going into more details, the various recommendations made by the C.W.S. Joint Reorganisation Committee set out the obligations of the C.W.S. and retail societies to coordinate purchases through the C.W.S. and the duties of the Trade Auditor; propose a new Board consisting initially of 30 part-time members, who shall be retail society directors, chief officials, general manager, secretary or managing secretary of the nominating society, and of present C.W.S. directors wishing to serve on it; fix the age limit for nomination to the Board at 62 years, except for a retiring member; stipulate that part-time directors shall be nominated sectionally and elected nationally, that their period of election be three years - one-third to retire annually and, if renominated, be eligible for re-election - and that part-time members are to retire at the age of 65; furthermore, that all vacancies shall be filled at elections held immediately prior to the annual meeting and that part-time members shall not receive any fees, but will be allowed expenses and reimbursement for loss of earnings; propose that the Directors' and Auditors' Remuneration Committee be discontinued and its responsibilities revert to the C.W.S. general meetings, that the C.W.S. management be vested in a Chief Executive Officer, three Deputy Chief Executive Officers and eleven Group Executive Officers and (as amended) that each of the present directors may apply for an executive appointment; cover terms and duties for present directors who will serve as full-time members of the new Board; and, finally, provide for present directors appointed to an executive position who do not complete their full term of contract to be offered an alternative appointment on the same terms as full-time members of the Board.

Since the next steps for carrying out all the changes, namely, the required drawing up of amendments to the C.W.S. rules needing a two-thirds majority, the then following elections of the 30 part-time lay Board members and the appointment of the officers on the recommendation of a small panel to be chosen, will take a considerable time, it is expected that the whole of the new set-up will be brought into being by January 1967. In the meantime, the full-time members of the Board will act as an Executive Committee to carry on the Society's business.

S.C.W.S. Changes

The first major changes in the internal structure of the S.C.W.S. since its formation almost 98 years ago were proposed in the reorganisation report of the S.C.W.S. Board of Directors which was submitted to Scottish retail societies. It arose from a resolution which was passed at the shareholders' meeting in December 1964 and in which the Board had been instructed to review administration, control and relations with the retail societies. The structural changes came about by the necessity of altering many aspects of the federation to give it a modern commercial operating executive and directorial control which will enable it to compete successfully in the twentieth century commercial world.

The main proposals and recommendations contained in the report are a new management structure for the S.C.W.S.; the reduction of the Directorate from twelve to nine elected persons; the appointment of a General Manager as the chief business executive of the federation; closer relationships with retail societies, especially those in financial difficulties; and contractual relations between the federation and its members.

The first basic change proposed is that of a General Manager who would be responsible to the Board for the growth and profitability of the federation and for putting into effect the policy laid down by the Board. Then there would be five divisional managers in charge of the food, dry goods, services, works and mills, and retail development divisions, a financial controller (deputy to the General Manager), and a secretary who would be responsible to the Board under the rules, but would also carry out other administrative functions for which he would be responsible to the General Manager. There would be a further development in the creation of divisions and the appointment of specialist officials responsible for their success.

The report also deals with financial policy and explains the new rôle of the Board. If the shareholding societies agree and vote for the necessary alteration to the rules, a reduction will be made in the number of the Board from twelve to nine elected members which will be secured by normal retirements and the suspension of elections until the reduced number is obtained. A new system of committees is being proposed in which the present three committees of drapery and furnishing, finance and grocery will be superseded by a society executive committee, a personnel committee and a property committee. The General Manager would be a member of the first two committees and the finance controller of the first and third ones.

In dealing with the relations of the S.C.W.S. to the retail societies, the report seeks to provide the conditions for closer working arrangements and asks the Scottish societies to accept the principle of contractual obligations.

The reorganisation report will be submitted to the S.C.W.S. shareholders' meeting in Glasgow on December 11th. It was indicated by the Board that the new management structure will be proceeded with immediately, but the whole operation is expected to take about two years to complete.

Similarities and Differences of Proposed C.W.S. and S.C.W.S.

Organisational Changes

Whereas the recommendations made to the Scottish societies emanate from the S.C.W.S. itself, those made to the English societies come from a joint body representing wholesale and retail. The Scottish proposals do not go as far as those of

the Joint Reorganisation Committee in that they do not replace the full-time Board by a part-time lay Board, although they suggest a reduction of its membership from twelve to nine. Both, however are suggesting a new managerial set-up. As far as wholesale-retail relationships are concerned, the term "contractual obligations" used by the S.C.W.S. was carefully avoided in the Joint Reorganisation Committee report, but what was meant by it is that societies should undertake to give 100 per cent support in selected commodities, and this is virtually what was asked for by that Committee.

RETIREMENT OF THREE TOP C.W.S. OFFICIALS

At the last half-yearly meeting of the Cooperative Wholesale Society, tributes were paid to three of its top officials who retired at the same time: Mr. W. Quincey and Mr. H. H. Flynn, Directors, each with 18 years' service in the Society, and Mr. Harold Buckley, Secretary and Executive Officer, having completed 48 years of service.

Mr. Quincey, a former member of the I.C.A.'s Executive and Central Committees, had first served on the C.W.S. Drapery Committee and later on continuously on the Finance Committee whose Chairman he was for the last five years. Mr. Flynn, a member and twice Chairman of the Dry Goods (formerly Drapery) Committee, has, for seventeen years, also been a member of the Board of the National Cooperative Chemists and, for the last ten years, its Chairman. Mr. Buckley's retirement, announced in July of this year, and his career in the C.W.S. has already been reported in our News Service of that month.

MAURITIUS

TECHNICAL AID FROM JAPAN

Acting on a request made to the I.C.A. by the Mauritius Cooperative Union Ltd. for urgently needed technical equipment, the Japanese Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives and UNICOOP Japan, through the intermediary of the Alliance, responded with their decision to help promoting the cooperative movement in Mauritius by donating a tape-recorder together with some reels of tape as a gift.

This generous, direct aid from the Japanese cooperative movement to that of Mauritius is greatly appreciated by the latter as well as by the I.C.A. Technical Assistance Committee. The tape-recorder, which has been dispatched from Japan in October, will be put to good use in the educational activities of the Mauritius Cooperative Union.



cooperative news service

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE 11 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

No. 12. December, 1965.

INTERNATIONAL



I.C.A. COMMISSION ON COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

The I.C.A. Commission on Cooperative Principles held its third meeting in London from the 12th to 17th of this month under the Chairmanship of Professor D. G. Karve. Professor I. Kistanov was unfortunately prevented by illness from attending, but had arranged to be represented by Professor G. Blank whom he had briefed to attend the meeting on his behalf.

The Commission reviewed the evidence received and instructed the Secretary and Rapporteur on the form and content of its proposed report. The future time-table of the Commission was confirmed and it is anticipated that the whole of the draft report will be in the hands of the members of the Commission at least one week before its next meeting which is scheduled to take place in London from February 14th to 18th, 1966. That meeting is expected to be the final one at which the report of the Commission will be approved for translation and issue to members of the I.C.A. Central and Executive Committees for their meetings in Copenhagen at the end of March.

With this time-table, it is hoped to have the report, together with the comments of the I.C.A. authorities, included in the documentation for the I.C.A. Congress in September 1966 with sufficient time for national representatives to prepare themselves before the Congress.

UNESCO STUDY TOURS FOR EUROPEAN WORKERS, 1965/66.

The I.C.A. was represented by Mr. Ch.-H. Barbier of the Union of Swiss Consumers' Societies (VSK), and Mr. R. P. B. Davies, Secretary for Education, at a meeting of representatives of non-governmental organisations in Category "A" status with UNESCO, held in Paris last November, for the purpose of making recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO for awards under the above scheme.

The sum available for the workers' study tours programme was \$13,000, and 105 applications had been received from 22 countries. These included 28 applications from 24 European member organisations of the Alliance in 14 countries. The Committee recommended that the Director-General should approve awards to 49 groups of 22 countries, of which 15 were in respect of cooperative study tours. A supplementary list was made recommending reserve groups which might receive awards if funds become available.

The year 1966 will be the last one in which European study tours will operate, for in the future a new structure is envisaged, whereby all study programmes will be within the framework of one global study tour programme. The Committee expressed the hope that something of the same nature as the European study tours scheme would be included for the rank-and-file workers in the new programme.

C.W.C. MEETING OF EXPERTS ON TEA

Attention was drawn by the I.C.A. Cooperative Wholesale Committee (C.W.C.) in its Circular Letter No. 15 of the 10th of this month to the first meeting of a group of tea experts, which is to be held in London on January 27th, 1966 and for which arrangements were made with the English and Scottish Joint C.W.S. in accordance with the resolution on joint purchasing in certain fields, adopted at the C.W.C.'s annual members meeting at Helsinki, Finland, on September 17th, 1965.

The proposed agenda for the meeting is as follows: To note the Helsinki resolution and its emphasis on experts studying the possibilities of mutual aid and coordinated buying; to consider the statistical statement setting out the needs and present practices of the participating societies and to explore ways and means of coordinating their requirements; consideration of the possibilities of using joint trade marks incorporating a study of the packs employed by the participating societies; and a special review of the possibility of coordinating trade in tea bags, in respect of the tea, the packing materials, etc.

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATIVE MEETING

The Institute for Cooperation attached to the University of Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany, announced that its fifth International Scientific Cooperative Meeting will take place at that University from September 12th to 15th, 1966. The general theme to be discussed will be the planning in cooperatives. English, French and German simultaneous translation facilities will be available and invitations, together with a detailed programme, will be sent in due course to all interested in the meeting.

ARGENTINA

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

An account was given in the November 1965 issue of "Cooperative America" of two important educational programmes spreading theoretical and practical cooperative knowledge effectively among young people and adults throughout Argentina.

As a result of laws passed by the National Congress of Argentina and implemented by the National Council of Education, cooperative training was offered in public schools, and students were gaining practical cooperative experience through

the organisation of their own consumer and credit societies. Two purposes of this school cooperative programme were fulfilled. On the one hand, children and adolescents were given the opportunity for personality development, acquiring a sense of individual and group responsibility as well as of an interest in community problems, and developing administrative abilities. Adult cooperators, on the other hand, gave this cooperative youth movement, for which they saw a promising future, their full support.

The second programme instituted was the Mobile Cooperative School, established and operated by the Argentine Cooperative Association (ACA), bringing by this direct and most successful method cooperative education to adults. Teachers, top level cooperative educators, experts and technicians were thus brought to the adult students in the far corners of the country and, since the inception of the travelling school in 1963, twenty cooperative training courses in cooperative principles and philosophy, management techniques and business administration were held for 1,755 adults.

The ACA, founded in 1922, is the oldest of all cooperative federations and one of the leading exporters of agricultural products in Argentina. Its membership consists of 221 agricultural cooperatives which have more than 157,000 individual members.

AUSTRALIA

DAIRY WINS EXPORT AWARD

The "Wesfarmers News" of November 11th reported that the Masters Dairy Ltd., a subsidiary of Wesfarmers Co-op, won a national award for an outstanding contribution to Australia's export drive. It was among fifty-two companies throughout the country competing for sixteen awards made jointly by the Commonwealth Department of Trade and Industry and the Associated Chambers of Manufacturers of Australia.

Submitting an entry for the first time, Masters Dairy won its award with a written account of how it had gone about marketing dairy-fresh milk in "Tetra-Pak" cartons and in bulk in Singapore and Malaysia. ||

CANADA

STRUCTURAL REORGANISATION ACTIONS

An outline of a new organisational structure for the Cooperative Union of Canada (CUC), providing for the membership of regional and central commercial cooperatives alongside the provincial cooperative unions, was approved by the Union's Directors at a Board meeting held in Ottawa from November 29th to December 1st, 1965.

The main feature of the new structure, as reported in the "Co-op Commentary" of the 2nd of this month, is a shift of direct control and financing from the provincial unions to the business organisations. Under the proposed plan, control of the CUC would be in the hands of about thirty inter-provincial and central cooperatives instead of eight provincial unions as at present, and funds contributed to the provincial unions would remain in the provinces for work at that level. The

proposed reorganisation leaves the way open for regional cooperative unions where an amalgamation of provincial unions might take place, as long as the commercial cooperatives are in direct CUC membership.

A paper outlining the recommended set-up has been circulated for study and discussion in preparation for the CUC Congress to be held in Regina at the end of March 1966.

In addition to the CUC reorganisation, other similar actions taken in the Canadian Cooperative Movement were also briefly reviewed in a special paper entitled "Cooperatives in Canada - 1965" issued by the CUC. Thus, attention was drawn to the most far-reaching proposal for reorganisation made by Mr. C. W. Gibbings, President of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Canada's largest cooperative, at its annual meeting, to the effect that the grain-marketing cooperatives and the consumer cooperative wholesale serving the Prairie region should amalgamate to form one giant organisation. A committee had been established in Saskatchewan to consider centralisation of the retail cooperatives of the province. There, too, the central cooperative organisations had continued an examination of educational and extension activities from the standpoint of coordination of services, based on a research study conducted by the Centre for Community Studies of the University of Saskatchewan.

In line with the province-by-province integration of wholesale services begun in Western Canada ten years ago, discussion continued on the possibility of the future merger of the Federated Cooperatives Ltd. and the British Columbia Cooperative Wholesale Society, but it was decided to defer amalgamation for another year. The United Cooperatives of Ontario (UCO) had amended its structural set-up to permit member cooperatives to become UCO branches and individual persons direct members. It was reported that some forty cooperatives were in various stages of integration with the provincial central.

As part of the general reorganisation of structure and functions, there were further moves by the larger central cooperatives to assume direct control over educational and promotional services.

EXPANDED TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR OVERSEAS PERSONNEL

It was announced by the Canadian External Aid Office, and reported in the "Co-op Commentary" of November 18th, that Canada will offer in 1966 a reorganised and expanded training programme in cooperatives and related fields for leaders from overseas countries by providing training courses for 90 students. Once this new programme is fully operative, it is expected that the number of students will be increased to 120 in 1967.

The programme aims at providing training facilities in Canada on a year-round basis, greater flexibility in meeting individual requirements of overseas personnel, more specialised training in certain fields in which Canadian experience has been significant, and supplementing formal training with "on job" attachments. The field of agricultural marketing, accounting, credit unions, fisheries, farm supplies, insurance and food production, being those in which the Canadian cooperatives had acquired considerable experience, were suggested for the specialised training courses.

The Coady International Institute, Antigonish, and Western Cooperative College, Saskatoon, will continue to be the main training centres for English-speaking students. In 1966, the first special course will be given in agricultural marketing at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, from May 9th to June 22nd, and two others in credit unions and relations between cooperatives and trade unions respectively, at dates and locations to be arranged.

The Canadian Government is meeting the cost involved in the programme for students nominated by the Governments of countries in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean included in the Colombo Plan and other aid programmes.

DENMARK

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT'S CONGRESS

It was reported in the I.C.A. Cooperative Wholesale Committee's (C.W.C.) Information Exchange Service of the 10th of this month that, at the first Congress of the Danish Cooperative Movement, held in Copenhagen from November 30th to December 2nd, in accordance with the 1963 rules of the Danish Cooperative Wholesale Society (FDB), an important resolution for the future was adopted.

Regarding the future tasks of the cooperative societies, the resolution states that "the coordination into Co-op Denmark is definitely approved as a goal and all the decisions and dispositions are to be adjusted accordingly already at this stage. Furthermore, the retail societies shall be affiliated, on the broadest possible scale, to the voluntary chain or be united with the biggest Danish Cooperative Society 'HB', while the Wholesale Society FDB and the Retail Society HB make agreements regarding a suitable division of work with a view to the coordination into Co-op Denmark."

The Congress requested the Government to change the shop hours taking into consideration the consumers' working hours and family circumstances.

COOPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD REPLACED BY NEW COMMITTEE

Information has been received at the I.C.A. Headquarters from the Secretary of the Danish Cooperative Wholesale Society (FDB) that the Cooperative Women's Guild in Denmark had decided to discontinue its activities and that these will be taken over by the recently established Danish Cooperative Housewives' Committee which, therefore, replaces the Guild. A statement to that effect, dated November 1st, 1965, had been sent to various cooperative women's organisations in Europe.

Taking over from the former Chairman of the Guild, Mrs. Carla Poulsen, as Chairman of the new Committee is Mrs. Karen Appelt, who is the Danish representative on the I.C.A. Women Cooperators' Advisory Council. The Danish Cooperative Housewives' Committee, located at FDB, Roskildevej 65, Albertslund, is represented on the Danish Government Home Economic Council and the non-governmental Consumer Council.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF COOPERATIVE BANK

On December 1st forty years ago, Andelsbanken, the Cooperative Bank was opened under the title of Dansk Andels- og Folkebank (Danish Trading and People's Bank).

Although its 25th anniversary was celebrated with the publication of a magnificent book, the bank's leaders wished the 40th anniversary to pass quietly. Only in those branches which had actually been in existence for that length of time - Vejle, Alborg and Silkeborg, as well as the Head Office in Axeltorv, Copenhagen - was the birthday marked by a gathering of the personnel.

There is, nevertheless, good reason to look back over the forty years and for gratitude in remembering the people who, soon after the first Cooperative Bank collapsed, saw the need to open a new one. They found capable leaders and staff, and now the Cooperative Bank is a strong and influential factor which strengthens and protects the economic democracy in Denmark - a proof that they were right in their enterprise.

FRANCE

NEW HOTEL BUILT BY WORKERS' PRODUCTIVE COOPERATIVE

The paper "La Coopération de Production" of November 1965 of the General Confederation of the Workers' Productive Cooperative Societies reported that the "Hilton of Orly", the first hotel built in the Paris area (near the airport) since over 35 years, was officially inaugurated on October 29th, but had already been in operation for several months.

The American Hilton Company, which owns or manages more than eighty hotels throughout the world, entrusted the building of the modern hotel with every facility for comfort and a total space of 11,000 square metres for rooms as well as 7,000 square metres for restaurants, bars, conference and ball-rooms, kitchens, etc., and basements, to the Workers' Productive Cooperative "L'Hirondelle" in Paris. Using the most modern techniques with great efficiency and overcoming all difficulties involved in the building of a hotel of this size and class, L'Hirondelle has achieved a new great success in its activities.

GREAT BRITAIN

DEATH OF COOPERATIVE LECTURER

The sudden death at the age of 58 of Mr. Charles Ernest Lansdell, lecturer at the C.W.S. London Countercraft Centre for the last four years, has been announced. While serving as a trade research officer of the C.W.S. Market Research Department in the London and Northampton areas, Mr. Lansdell was well known to southern societies as a lecturer on trade subjects. He was a former member of the Ipswich Society's Management Committee and served on one of the London Society's district committees and as Vice-Chairman of its members' Association.

On two occasions, Mr. Lansdell's services were made available to the United Nations for advisory missions under its Technical Assistance Scheme.

COOPERATIVE YOUTH IN ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

In an article on this subject which appeared in the November 1965 issue of the "Cooperative Review", the official journal of the Cooperative Union Ltd.,* the National Youth Officer, Mrs. R. Mongredien, reviewed in the context of international youth action that taken by the British Cooperative Youth Movement on the "Youth against Hunger Appeal" launched in the autumn by the FAO as part of the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

*We take this opportunity of notifying readers of the decision made at the last Congress of the Cooperative Union that, with the December 1965 issue, the "Cooperative Review" is being discontinued as a separate publication. It will be published, however, once a month from January 1966 onwards within the pages of the "Cooperative News" as a distinctive and independent section.

The British Cooperative Movement, said Mrs. Mongredien, had always understood and advocated that the peace and happiness of mankind was conditional upon international cooperation and, in calling on the cooperative youth to support wholeheartedly the Appeal, the latter was offered the opportunity of giving practical expression to the cooperative principles of mutual aid and international brotherhood. The Appeal had been adopted as the theme of the year for the Movement's youth club programmes on a national scale and, in order to make the young club members understand the problems facing the developing countries, they were invited to choose any one of these and make a detailed study of the prevailing economic, historic and geographical conditions and of the people and the cooperatives there. National competitions were to be held for handbook and wall chart work depicting these aspects of the life of the country as well as a national public speaking competition on the same theme, the finals of which were to take place at the annual national conference of youth club members. Cooperative Youth Movement groups had also been asked to take positive action by raising money which would go to a fund assisting young cooperative volunteers to work in developing countries for about one year.

Mrs. Mongredien recalled in this connection that the Cooperative Youth Movement had, during the past two years, prepared the training ground in its work camps in Britain and overseas (for reports on these, see our News Service issues for September 1964 and 1965), from which it was hoped to recruit members for further training which would equip them for voluntary cooperative service in the developing countries. The Movement aimed at sending a small team of such present and past members to one of these countries by the autumn of 1966, provided a suitable project was found, as the culmination of British efforts in support of the "Youth against Hunger Appeal".

In Mrs. Mongredien's words, this was the first occasion to her knowledge on which the cooperative youth throughout the world had been called upon to link together in joint action, and here was an appeal that could unite them in action for a common ideal.

SWEDEN

FIFTY YEARS OF CO-OP STOCKHOLM

Konsum (Co-op) Stockholm - the cooperative society with a turnover of more than 900 million Swedish crowns per year, according to the I.C.A. Cooperative Wholesale Committee's Information Exchange Service of the 10th of this month - is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with a jubilee programme extending from October this year to April next year, each month providing a special topic. In October, the programme was initiated with the distribution of a placard indicating 57 especially advantageous offers of various kinds - 50 for the Konsum's age and 7 for the number of the jubilee months - to all 220,000 members. For the final programme in April, the big ice stadium at Stockholm has been rented for the purpose of entertaining 8,000 member families at each performance.

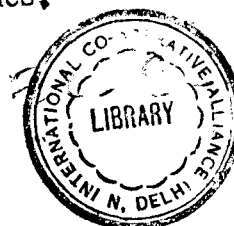
SWITZERLAND

LUCERNE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

On October 9th, 1965, cooperators in Lucerne, together with a great number of guests, celebrated the 75th anniversary of their Cooperative Society. Thirty-nine years after the foundation of the first Swiss Consumer Cooperative, the railway and post-office personnel of Lucerne got together in 1890 to launch the first cooperative shop there, followed only one year later by the opening of three others yielding a turnover totalling 230,000 Swiss francs.

In 1915, the Lucerne Consumer Cooperative Society had 12,000 members and 33 stores. When the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary, the number of stores had increased to 51, and since then expansion was rapid. A new bakery was opened in 1958 and the first supermarket operated in 1962 with the idea of "bringing everything under one roof". At present, the Society's reported turnover of 58 stores (13 of which have self-service) amounts to 33,341,000 francs.

U.S.A.



COOPERATIVE HELP GIVEN TO THIRTY-NINE NATIONS

United States cooperatives, in partnership with the Agency for International Development (AID), were helping to develop cooperatives in 39 countries, according to a report in the "Cooperative Consumer" of September 30th, 1965, issued in Kansas City, Mo.

The AID-supported cooperative projects for this year involved \$7.5 million for technical assistance and \$56 million for direct foreign assistance loans. In addition, U.S. cooperatives spent the equivalent of about \$1 million of their own resources.

Examples of such projects are, for instance, the assistance given in organizing 1,700 credit unions with 500,000 members and establishing 88 savings and loan associations in Latin America. In the first case, families saved \$24.6 million and loaned a total of \$60 million to each other, and \$25 in new capital has been developed for each \$1 of technical assistance; in the second case, the savings of 300,000 families have provided \$81.5 million and financed about 32,000 new homes. Another assistance project was the organization of a central finance institution, the Inter-American Cooperative Finance Institute, and of cooperative banks in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Nepal. To develop markets abroad for Indian and peasant artisans in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, an artisan handicraft project has been instituted, with the result of \$1 million sales during the first year and the aim of reaching \$10 million annually within five years.

In other fields, training of young Latin American farmers in agriculture, cooperatives and community life has been provided on farms in the United States, and classes and training programmes were organized in various countries. In Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela, electric cooperatives have been formed or expanded, and similar projects in Colombia and Costa Rica as well as a feasibility survey for pilot installations in Vietnam are under way. Loan commitments for all rural electric cooperative developments are \$14 million.

COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OFFICIAL HEADING 1966 TOUR TO EUROPE

Mr. Dwight Townsend, Head of the office of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A. in Washington and a member of the I.C.A. Central Committee, will lead about 25 League officials on their two-weeks' tour of some European countries in September 1966, states the Cooperative News Service of the 7th of this month. The tour will include the I.C.A. Congress in Vienna, Austria, and meetings with cooperative leaders and visits to cooperatives there, in Berlin, Stockholm and Copenhagen. Some of the participants might extend their stay in Europe by one week and go to Britain touring the country as well as various cooperative societies. Among the different types of cooperatives to be visited, those dealing with housing will receive special attention.

Mr. Townsend was Assistant to the Federal Housing Commissioner for Cooperative Housing from 1955 to 1960, President of the National Association of Housing Cooperatives for three years and is now Chairman of its Board.