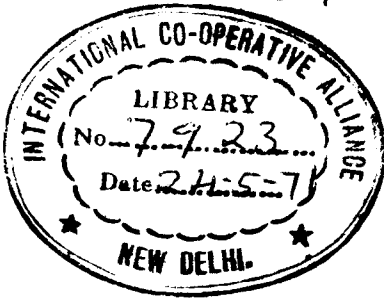
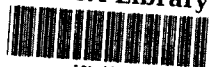


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Review of International Co-operation

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THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

was founded in London in 1895 as an association of national unions of co-operative societies, which seek to promote a non-profit system of production and trade, organised in the interests of the whole community and based upon voluntary and mutual self-help.

It comprises organisations in every continent, and its total affiliated membership through national organisations exceeds 255 million. The consumers' movement accounts for about half the membership, the other half consisting of agricultural, credit, workers' productive, artisanal and fishery societies.

Its purpose is to propagate co-operative principles and methods and to promote friendly and economic relations between co-operative organisations of all types, both nationally and internationally.

It promotes, through auxiliary trading, banking and insurance organisations, direct commercial and financial relations between co-operative enterprises in different countries so as to enable them to exert on the world market, as well as at home, an influence beneficial at once to consumers and primary producers.

It convenes international congresses, furthers the teaching and study of co-operation, issues publications and research data, and collaborates closely with the United Nations as well as with voluntary and non-governmental international bodies which pursue aims of importance to co-operation.

Within the United Nations, it enjoys the right to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council as a Category "1" member.

Its official organ is *The Review of International Co-operation*, published bi-monthly.

The study of International Co-operation takes place under the auspices of the 'Henry J. May Foundation', the Permanent Centre of International Co-operative Study.

The ideological work of the Alliance also finds expression in the annual celebration in July of International Co-operative Day.

Review of INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The official Organ of the International Co-operative Alliance

Vol 63 Nos 1-2

1970

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The ICA is not responsible for the opinions in signed articles

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President's Message

Last year's outstanding event within our international co-operative movement was the 24th Congress. When assessing the work of the Hamburg Congress, one finds some especially encouraging features.

The first point to be made is the fact that practically all decisions were taken unanimously. This illustrates two things. First of all, that the preparations for Congress had been made with great care, not only by the ICA Secretariat itself, but also by those who presented papers and statements on the main subjects. Secondly, there was a great amount of mutual goodwill manifest amongst the various national co-operative delegations, with the intention of making the Congress a success.

This leads me to a second point which ought to be underlined. The Congress was characterised by a very full and thorough discussion of all the main themes. The contributions were well prepared and dealt strictly with the topics under discussion. This meant that there was very little time wasted, if any, on non-co-operative problems which have earlier in the post-war history of the ICA taken up much valuable time. There is a clear trend discernible in recent Congresses, especially since that in Bournemouth in 1963, to minimise discussions on highly controversial world political issues.

The third point I should like to make concerns the main subjects dealt with by Congress and their importance for our future work. Since the Lausanne Congress in 1960, great and growing attention has been devoted to the structural reform programmes rapidly being implemented to streamline the co-operative

Review of International Co-operation, Vol. 63, Nos. 1-2, 1970

E R R A T A

1. On page 57, top left-hand column, the text against Art. 3(g) is erroneous and should read as follows:

"card vote taken (325 for and 285 against);
not carried, as the necessary two-thirds
majority was not obtained."

2. Consequently, in the last line of page 83, the last three words in italics should be deleted and the sentence should now read:

"(g) To work for the establishment of
lasting peace and security."

These corrections apply only to the English version of this issue of the Review; the texts in the French, German and Spanish issues are correct.



Dr Mauritz Bonow

for 1970

forms of enterprise. The time and effort invested in elucidating general trends in this continuous reform activity, based on experience gained within our national movements and in different socio-economic systems, have paid us all a good dividend. There is no doubt that papers and discussions at the Congress, Central Committee and within the various Auxiliary Committees of the ICA have contributed significantly towards, and stimulated, progressive national action. The deliberations on the main theme at this Congress, "Contemporary Co-operative Democracy", embodied in a resolution which was unanimously adopted, will no doubt also act as an incitement to similar reform activities within our member movements. The close link between structural changes now taking place and an adaptation of our methods for democratic leadership and control, member participation, and so on, was clearly demonstrated at Congress. The content of the resolution was generally commended as containing valuable guide-lines for future development in this important field.

The statement on national and international consumer policy, prepared by the Consumer Working Party in consultation with the ICA Secretariat, was also, after a valuable discussion, unanimously approved by Congress. This declaration embodies a number of important principles and guide-lines for action on both the national and the international plane to protect consumer interests in modern society. It illustrates fields of activities for collaboration with state and semi-official organs, but highlights also direct co-operative action by all our own different forms of enterprise working in various regions of the world and within

different socio-economic systems. This statement widens very considerably the scope of consumer interests to embrace not only what is traditionally thought of in this context, for it has broadened the concept to include the vitally important problems of human environment.

It is quite obvious that international peoples' organisations like our co-operative movements have a duty to take into account the human environmental problems of our time, not only in their own commercial activity; they have also to act as a pressure group nationally and internationally. The preparations for the World Conference on Human Environment Problems, recommended by the UN Assembly to take place in Stockholm in 1972, will offer the co-operative movement new opportunities in this respect.

The third main theme at the Congress, "Promotion of Co-operation in Developing Countries", also aroused great interest. Comprehensive discussions took place, giving many valuable viewpoints. The resolution, passed unanimously, stresses the importance which ought to be attached to co-operative methods within the framework of the planning for UN's Second Development Decade.

The ICA has already acted energetically to support proposals to strengthen the co-operative services within the ILO and FAO. In order that the ILO and FAO implement the recommendations made by the UN Assembly and the Economic and Social Council regarding the promotion of co-operative development, the ICA looks upon it as a necessary prerequisite that these important UN Agencies can call upon a sufficient number of co-operative specialists, both at their headquarters and in their field programmes. The same applies to the joint secretariat in the process of being established by the FAO, ILO, ICA, IFAP and IFPAAW (International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers).

It has been most encouraging to note the strong support several member organisations of the ICA have given to our Secretariat's activities concerning practical methods to implement fully the UN Resolution about the role of co-operation in the Second Development Decade. Let us hope that our member organisations will act just as energetically by intensifying and extending their own technical assistance programmes and efficiently implement the Resolution adopted by Congress, asking for considerably increased contributions to the ICA Development Fund.

The action which has hitherto been taken by the ICA Secretariat in collaboration with our member organisations has no doubt been inspired by the constructive work performed by the Hamburg Congress and the atmosphere of goodwill and mutual understanding which was its foremost characteristic. This augurs very well for our international co-operative work, not only this year when our world organisation is to celebrate its 75th anniversary, but also for years to come. If we were to mobilise and co-ordinate present and potential resources, especially human and economic, of our world movement, we could make a worthwhile contribution to the global development strategy now being planned by the UN and all its Specialised Agencies for the 'seventies. We ourselves could and should now plan for a Co-operative Development Decade.

DR MAURITZ BONOW



TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
of the
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE
held in
The Rathaus, Hamburg
Federal Republic of Germany
1-4 September, 1969

Congress in Brief

A Short Summary of the Proceedings

First Session:

Monday, 1st September (morning)

Four hundred and fifty-nine delegates from forty-four countries, representing eighty-two co-operative organisations throughout the world, and some five hundred observers and visitors attended the opening of the 24th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance in the Festsaal of the Rathaus (Town Hall), Hamburg, on Monday, 1st September, 1969.

Dr M. BONOW (Sweden), President of the Alliance, was in the Chair and the Vice-President, Mr R. SOUTHERN (United Kingdom), Dr S. K. SAXENA, ICA Director, and Mr R. P. B. DAVIES, ICA Secretary for Administration, occupied the platform with the President.

Dr BONOW opened the Congress proceedings by recalling that the Alliance had last held its Congress in Hamburg nearly sixty years ago, and stated how glad the members of the international co-operative movement were to see, after the set-back of two world wars, the excellent fresh start the movement of the Federal Republic of Germany had made, and how its invitation to the ICA in Hamburg under-

lined its willingness to co-operate internationally in the fullest possible way. The President welcomed the presence, on the occasion of the opening of the Congress, of the Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and extended on behalf of the ICA heart-felt greetings to Mr O. Paulig, President of the Bund deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften, and invited him to open the 24th Congress officially.

Welcome by Mr O. Paulig

In welcoming participants to the 24th Congress in the name of the host organisations, Mr Paulig acknowledged the great debt his country's economy owed to co-operation. He stressed the importance of the ICA Congress, not only as a place of international co-operative work and common action, but also as an instrument showing co-operation as a working reality to the public at large. He also thanked Mr W. P. Watkins, a former Director of the ICA and present at the Congress as its Guest of Honour, for his work in the dark days of the early years of peace following



the Second World War, when, as a member of the then military government of Germany, he was able to help greatly in the rebuilding of the German Co-operative Movement.

Address by the Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

The Mayor of Hamburg, Prof Dr H. WEICHMANN stressed the difference between the 1969 opening of the Congress and that of 1910 when no City Official of Hamburg was present. Co-operation then was not thought to be respectable; however, Hamburg in 1969 was proud to be the host City of the Congress and, with pride, he recalled the economic and social achievements of the Co-operative Movement in the Federal Republic of Germany, three of whose national co-operative organisations have their headquarters in Hamburg.

The Mayor especially recalled the selfless services of Henry Everling, Pioneer of Hamburg's local consumer co-operative society "Produktion", who later, as Managing Director of the Grosseinkaufsgesellschaft, gave nearly five decades of his working life to the success of Co-operation. He also mentioned the work of Gustav Dahrendorf who, in spite of his constant arrests by the Nazi Régime, could, at the end of the Second World War, hand on the torch to the new generation of co-operators in the Federal Republic.

The Mayor stressed the importance of the consumer movement pioneered by the co-operatives at a time of shortages, social injustice and oppression and also the need for such protection to continue in our age of Western affluence; he congratulated World Co-operation on having found a fruitful answer to the needs of the "Third World" through applying co-operative methods in the developing countries.

Professor Weichmann welcomed the fact that, throughout the existence of the ICA world co-operation had continuously demanded Peace, a peace that is founded on the strength of international economic and ideological collaboration across national

frontiers: "this is the greatest of our hopes and is expressed by the existence of the ICA".

President's Inaugural Address

Dr M. BONOW stressed the continued existence of the ICA during three-quarters of a century (since August 1895) as a fully representative body of the World Co-operative Movement. In taking stock of some of the fundamental trends in respect of the Alliance's activities to promote world co-operative development, he summarised its activities since the end of the Second World War.

The President pointed to the forward-looking and constructive thinking forming the basis of the 1946 Congress in Zürich, which put the main emphasis on the participation of co-operation in post-war economic and social reconstruction. Resolutions from that Congress formed guidelines concerning the future policy of the ICA on methods to promote increased international trade and outlined the prerequisites for co-operative development within different socio-economic systems. Co-operative non-profit principles had to permeate the economy of profit—and free collaboration between the State and voluntary co-operative organisations had to be established. The decisions of early post-war Congresses provided the key to important decisions taken in Prague (1948), Copenhagen (1951) and Paris (1954).

On the work of the important Auxiliary Committees of the ICA, the President reported that the work accomplished by these various committees had revealed that gradually an efficient framework had been created for the systematic exchange of experiences between the different forms of co-operative enterprises interested in common activity.

This development had been strengthened by the practice of taking up at Congress, and also at certain Central Committee meetings, problems of common significance for several types of co-operative enterprises, as in the discussions at the Lau-

sanne Congress (1960), in the Central Committee at Helsinki (1965), and at the Vienna Congress (1966).

The President mentioned another aspect, namely, the most profound changes which had been witnessed by the rapid decolonisation process in the post-war years and the changes in the political structures of Africa and Asia. The strategy to tackle the problems of the Third World had to be a global one, and "global" in this context meant collaboration and co-ordination within and through the United Nations and its various Specialised Agencies. The ICA had itself also laid down guide-lines for co-operative development through its successive Congress decisions, and the role of Co-operation in promoting economic and social development in the Third World had been a theme of all Congress deliberations. The role the Co-operative Movement is playing internationally had gained general acknowledgement.

The Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, passed unanimously, on "THE ROLE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT", which mentioned the ICA by name, was a landmark in the history of the World Co-operative Movement. The critical element, however, in the whole process of co-operative development—the "know-how"—could be provided only by the co-operative movements in the donor countries in closest collaboration with co-operators in recipient countries. The President asked for more practical involvement of affiliates and for increased support for the ICA Development Fund.

The President reminded delegates that co-operation was a means to promote important economic and social interests of vast strata of the population of all countries and to protect, nationally and internationally, the consumer interests in the widest sense, as illustrated in the International Declaration of Consumer Rights (which was later to come before Congress). He pointed to the fact that the Co-operative Movement, owned and controlled demo-

cratically by large groups of citizens, had unique possibilities of achieving and maintaining increased efficiency to the benefit of its members and the community as a whole. This democratic control, inherent in our system and based on Principles inherited from the Rochdale Pioneers that still hold good, shows the co-operative movement as one that must provide a unique appeal to all those who think the real issue today is *one world* or none.

Fraternal Delegates and Distinguished Guests

Fraternal Delegates and Distinguished Guests were then introduced by the President: Mr J. B. Orizet, International Labour Organisation; Dr A. F. Braid, Food and Agriculture Organisation; Mr K. Chand, Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation; Mr A. Mukherjee, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; Mr W. H. Wilkins, International Chamber of Commerce; and Professor P. Lambert, International Centre of Research and Information on Public and Co-operative Economy (CIRIEC).

The guests of the Alliance included Miss G. F. Polley, former General Secretary of the Alliance; Lord Rusholme, a past President; Mr W. P. Watkins and Mr W. G. Alexander, former Directors, and their wives.

The President informed Congress that amongst the guests invited to Congress were also the former Secretary of State, the President of the German Raiffeisen Verband, Dr T. Sonnemann, whose Organisation, with approximately 3½ million individual members, had decided to apply for ICA membership.

Address by Mr J. B. Orizet, ILO

Mr ORIZET, as representative of the ILO and envoy of its Director General, brought greetings and best wishes to the Congress. He thanked the Alliance for its message to all co-operators on the occasion of the International Co-operative Day 1969 by drawing attention to ILO's 50th anniver-

sary. Mr Orizet surveyed ILO's history of co-operative work, stressing the many years of fruitful collaboration between the ILO and the ICA from the days of Albert Thomas in 1922 to the present collaboration in co-operative matters. He pointed to the importance of the Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly which would have beneficial effects on the international strategy of development, and stressed the similarity between the ILO and ICA in their fields of activity, both resolutely tackling new features by decentralising their activities through the setting up of Regional Offices, and both seeking to develop research directed towards practical activities. He outlined ILO's work in technical assistance projects that had now been replaced by larger projects with greater scope, often covering the co-operative activities of a particular country, in that way aiming to establish a true co-operative development plan, with education and training the principal components. These projects, of four to five years' duration, had a real impact on the economic and social development of countries such as, for example, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Tunisia. Mr Orizet also told Congress of the work of the Liaison Committee of the ICA/FAO/IFAP/ILO/IFPAAW (International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers). This would allow scope for undertaking tasks which each organisation alone would have been unable to embark upon.

Address by Dr A. F. Braid, FAO

Dr BRAID brought to the Congress the best wishes of the FAO and its Director General. He stressed the satisfaction of the FAO that the bond between the two organisations was such a close one that they were working partners in the promotion of economic and social justice—a partnership which also includes the ILO and IFAP.

The decisions of the ICA, ILO, FAO and IFAP in providing technical assistance was indeed timely, as it coincided with new challenges to the co-operative

movements in the developing countries, particularly in the field of agriculture. For example, by 1985, credit requirements of agriculture in developing countries, according to the FAO estimates of expanding farm production and investment, will be five times higher than in 1962. This would require, in monetary terms, 40 billion US Dollars annually.

Dr Braid spoke also of the significant break-through in the production of high-yielding varieties of cereals and thought that the prospects for technological advances in other areas of agriculture were promising.

After bringing to the attention of Congress the forthcoming Second World Food Congress of FAO, to be held in The Hague in June 1970, Dr Braid thanked the ICA for its assistance in the running and organising of FAO seminars, and paid tribute to the work of the ICA Agricultural Committee and its constructive contributions to the development of the FAO activities in the agricultural field.

Appointment of Congress Committee

The DIRECTOR reported to Congress that the Central Committee had recommended that the Congress Committee should be composed of the President and Vice-Presidents of the ICA, as well as the following *Members of the Central Committee*: J. Podlipny (Czechoslovakia); V. N. Puri (India); F. F. Rondeau (USA); *Congress Delegates*: W. B. Melvin (Canada); R. Kérinec (France); and T. Janczyk (Poland). Congress approved the appointments.

Debate on the Report of the Central Committee

Mr L. REV (Hungary) stressed his Organisation's great interest in the report of the Central Committee and the statement that the Alliance was able to contribute to the general raising of standards of the poorer populations by enabling them to help themselves in the most effective way. The report spoke of the great potential energies in "hidden reserves" waiting to be utilised

for millions of people—human labour and ability have to be recognised as basic hidden reserves. These existed all over the world, especially in the developing countries and were far from being made use of to their utmost. One of the most effective ways of doing this would be by association, and particularly by the foundation and development of producers' co-operatives. It was hoped the Alliance would watch the problems of these co-operatives to a greater extent. Developments in Hungary had shown producers' co-operatives to be in step with modern thinking with the aim of raising the standard of living of the worker. Mr Rev hoped the ICA would support these aims of the producers' co-operatives and they, for their part, would do their best to share in these development efforts.

Mr T. JANCZYK (Poland), referring to the ICA's 75th anniversary, pointed to the fact that the Alliance had proved in the course of that time its valuable role played in relation to the work of all the various co-operative movements, and Polish co-operators especially consider the UN Resolution as a great recognition of the work of the Alliance. They urged the Alliance to open membership to all co-operative organisations which based their work on the co-operative principles, and help must be given especially to those co-operative movements in the developing countries. Furthermore, it was important to effect the implementation of the ICA Resolutions and to develop international trade between co-operative organisations. In conclusion, Mr Janczyk thanked the President for the work undertaken by the ICA.

The PRESIDENT, in thanking Mr Janczyk, pointed out to Congress that the UN Resolution on the Role of the Co-operative Movement resulted from an initiative taken by the Polish co-operators and the Polish Government, supported by others in the United Nations. The President expressed his thanks to the Polish affiliated organisations for this important initiative.

Mr A. I. KRASHENINNIKOV (USSR) stated that in the work of Centrososyov

great attention had been paid to the achievement of the aims as set out in the Rules of the ICA, one of the most important being the struggle against monopolies. Work had been carried out concerning the abuses of private enterprise and steps had been taken in regard to the struggle for peace and security throughout the world. If resolutions were taken as directives for action, the ICA, uniting millions of co-operators, could have a very important influence on peace, against monopolies, in the struggle for better conditions, and in the defence of workers' interests.

Mr Krasheninnikov regretted the absence of an analysis in the Report of the Central Committee of the programmes of, and references to, future activities of national affiliates. He hoped future reports might contain such information.

Second Session:

Monday, 1st September (afternoon)

Mr V. K. JAKOVENKO (USSR) felt the increase in membership of the ICA of major importance, yet not one major European co-operative organisation had been accepted into membership since the 1966 Congress. African members of the ICA formed only 19 per cent of the countries affiliated, Asia 33 per cent and Latin America 29 per cent. It seemed to him that the situation did not reflect the new relationship of the power and forces in the world co-operative movement; the rights of all members must be secured to promote the expansion of ICA membership, and national organisations in the developing countries will then see the ICA as a truly international organisation solving contemporary problems in accordance with the democratic principles enshrined in the ICA Constitution. They will then take an active part in deliberations, putting forward their

problems and also having decision-making power.

Mr M. MARIK (Czechoslovakia) was sorry to find that the memorandum on the Structure of the ICA had not been given a larger place in the Report of the Central Committee and he hoped the Executive and Central Committees would take up the question of the ICA structure in the near future and that Congress should also discuss the memorandum.

The PRESIDENT explained that the study had not been shelved and that, as there was a definite procedure for Congress according to the Standing Orders, the proposed Congress discussion could not take place.

Mr F. D. KOLESNIK (USSR) said the ICA Central Committee had decided at its Oslo meeting to raise the ICA subscriptions by 10 per cent in 1970 and a further 10 per cent in 1971. There had been repeated increases; with some members in arrears already, he asked what would happen to those who experienced difficulties. New ways should be found to balance the budget of the ICA.

The PRESIDENT pointed to Article 18 of the ICA Rules and 29 (f) Duties of the Central Committee "to confirm the budget of the ICA drawn up by the Executive". The Rules also provided in the case of less developed countries that the Executive might make a discretionary assessment and reduce the membership subscription for those who could not afford to pay the whole, without impairing their rights.

Mr C. BARDSLEY (United Kingdom) hoped all would agree that the "Review of International Co-operation" was a good publication, giving a very wide prospectus of the co-operative movement in many countries. But as the publication appeared in only the four languages of the Alliance, it did not cover all areas of ICA membership. He suggested that a résumé of the articles contained in the "Review" might appear in an international language, such as Esperanto; alternatively, could articles in the "Review" be made available in

Esperanto to people requesting it?

Mr P. KUOPPALA (Finland) spoke also on the "Review of International Co-operation" and his concern to increase circulation, bearing in mind the small number of people who spoke the languages in which it appeared. He thought the publication had often too long and heavy texts; abbreviated articles would be helpful.

Mr S. SYULEMEZOV (Bulgaria) thought the Report reflected well all ICA activities, but felt the need for a more detailed analysis of the situation obtaining in some co-operative movements, which could promote co-operation within the International Co-operative Movement. He agreed that ways must be found, without increasing subscriptions, to balance the ICA budget.

Mr J. PODLIPNY (Czechoslovakia) expressed thanks to the Alliance for choosing his country as the venue for the 38th International Co-operative Seminar of the ICA. He assured representatives that the Seminar would rank among the successful ventures of the ICA.

Mr Ch.-H. BARBIER (Switzerland) pointed to the deliberations at the Education Conference held in Hamburg and its conclusion that only efficiency would allow democracy to prevail in the co-operative movement. A co-operative movement which was democratic but not efficient could not be visualised; but conversely, only democracy would allow it to be efficient. All had heard Mr Orizet tell of the extent of collaboration between the ILO and ICA in the strengthening of the co-operative effort throughout the world. Recently, the United Nations and UNESCO had asked the ICA, in connection with the International Education Year, to demonstrate its ability to be realistic educators. Only by its reply and follow-up action to the recommendations made could the Alliance increase its influence in those organisations. Mr Barbier requested all to read the documentation of the Conference, sent to the member organisations, and to put UNESCO's suggestions into effect during 1970.

Mrs A. WALDECK (Austria) referred to the "soul" of Co-operation—democracy, expansion, solidarity and humanity—all prerequisites for the peace of the world. She referred to the conditions of women in parts of the world where they were slaves of the political and economic conditions to a much greater extent than men, and assured the Congress that the Austrian Co-operative Movement would use the 75th ICA anniversary to launch a special appeal for additional assistance in the field of literacy and education. Mrs Waldeck also stressed that the Austrian Movement was now considering ways and means of how to give new impetus to the Co-operative Movement in Latin America.

Mr N. THEDIN (Sweden), referring to the financing of the ICA work, stated that the ICA received £39,636 from eleven countries between 1966 and 1968 for its Development Fund, which averaged £1,200 per country per year—an inadequate sum indeed. For example, 80 per cent of the total costs of the ICA activities in South-East Asia and Africa, amounting to £200,000 per annum were borne by one member organisation alone; the total annual budget of the ICA is £120,000. Mr Thedin pleaded not to go backwards, but to mobilise the interests of members with a view to strengthening international co-operation for the benefit of the developing countries.

Mr S. DREYER (USA) thanked, on behalf of the USA delegation, the Swedish movement for its excellent support of international co-operative work, and, considering the balance in the Development Fund being £64,000, he recommended the Fund to be spent on worth-while projects rather than left to accumulate. He suggested that it was in the interests of the Alliance that representatives from developing areas should be members of its Executive and that the Fund should assist in financing half the fare of Executive members from each of the three developing regions of the world: Africa, Asia and Latin America. This suggestion, if undertaken by the

Development Fund for three or six years, would enable the Secretariat and the Executive to be alert and informed of all opinions in the developing countries.

Mr M. ESHREF (Cyprus) congratulated the ICA on its activities in all spheres of international co-operation, but felt that a case for direct international financial assistance exists, above technical aid, in places where resources are inadequate.

Mr J. B. ORIZET (ILO) was glad to hear of the views expressed in Congress for larger contributions to developing countries. He also would like the President's views on a matter discussed at the ILO, namely, the possibility of sub-contracting certain important projects; the benefit of such sub-contracting would go to the ICA. The projects previously mentioned at Congress would apply to an entire country with a view to helping it to get off the ground economically. The ILO felt it would be desirable to allocate a proportion of its resources to the ICA so that it could bring the projects to fruition. Steps in this direction had already been taken, since the ILO had asked the ICA to study the problem of the role of co-operation in industrialisation. Perhaps the members of the Liaison Committee could set up a study group to examine the feasibility of launching an international banking mechanism for financing co-operation.

Mr Ch.-H. BARBIER (Switzerland) told Congress that it was also possible to work in a similar way, as that suggested by Mr Orizet, with one's own government. In Switzerland, the Department of Technical Co-operation has placed its finances at the disposal of Co-op Schweiz and is working through the co-operative organisation, being concerned with the co-operative development in Dahomey. It was now possible to develop consumer co-operatives, in addition to other activities, in Dahomey. The financial sacrifices had been made by the Technical Co-operation Department of the Swiss Confederation which had charged the Swiss co-operatives with the responsibility of seeing the project

through. As to the ICA tasks, these were immense; and what was being asked of Congress was to allocate 10 per cent of members' resources in favour of the developing countries through the channels of the ICA—a sum which, in all truth, was but a minimum.

The PRESIDENT, in thanking Mr Orizet, mentioned contracting arrangements between government agencies in various countries, e.g., Switzerland, United States, sub-contracting arrangements with the Co-operative League of the USA with other organisations, arrangements within the Nordic countries and in some ways also in Great Britain. But what was new was the sub-contracting with international agencies, the FAO and ILO in particular. The ICA indeed would be pleased to take on a co-ordinating role for both the systematic training of personnel serving in developing countries and for sub-contracting from the ILO and FAO, if this materialised.

Mr C. MATEESCU (Roumania) felt that the Report of the Central Committee represented in a positive way the activities of the Executive and Central Committees, but he considered the international effect of the ICA deliberations insufficiently expressed. As far as the Resolutions adopted at the ICA meetings were concerned, no record showed that the ICA representatives at United Nations meetings used them in addressing UN bodies, nor was there a record of how such Resolutions were received by world public opinion.

Mr H. G. SCHAFFER (United Kingdom) referred to the military dictatorship in Greece, whose victims were the organisations of the people. The ICA had officially made its protest, so had the individual member organisations, but more should be done. This Congress should declare its confidence that the Greek Co-operative Movement would be restored and that democracy would be re-born in the country that gave it birth.

Mr J. J. MUSUNDI (Kenya) transmitted greetings on behalf of the co-operators of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya and their

thanks for the opening of the ICA Office for East and Central Africa at Moshi. He stressed the important role co-operation played in the economy of these countries and that co-operation was thought of as the best tool for attaining Africa's ideals. It was hoped other African countries in Central Africa would join the Office, and he paid a special tribute to the Office's first Director, Arne Holmberg.

Dr W. SOMMERHOFF (Chile), representing also the Organization of the Co-operatives of America (OCA), recalled the visit of the former ICA Director, Mr W. G. Alexander, to Chile and the close relationship with the ICA arising from this visit. Since then, an Integration Institute had been created and the "Review of International Co-operation" published in Spanish. The OCA had at present 300 co-operatives as members, grant funds had been secured for its work and an improvement of Co-operative Law was expected from an OCA-sponsored meeting of the American Institute of Co-operative Law. SIDEFCOOP, OCA's sister organisation, uniting the co-operative banks of Latin America, had become a member of the International Co-operative Bank. He hoped assistance, so much needed for Latin America, would come through international co-operative institutions.

Mrs Z. STAROS (Poland), in drawing attention to the role to be played by women within the ICA said that she would welcome co-operation between the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council and the ICA Housing Committee. She felt the Statutes of the WCAC inhibited its members from co-operating with other advisory bodies of the ICA. More description of the role of women in the co-operative movement was needed, and more should be done to enlist women's co-operation in order to achieve the ICA aims.

Mrs K. MAKSIMOVA (USSR) pointed to the role of youth in all sectors of economic and human activities. In the USSR, out of a total membership of 57 million co-operators, 30 million are young people

of up to thirty years of age. In the consumer co-operatives there is a 35 per cent participation of young people in the age group of 25 and under. As stated in ICA documentation, greater attention had been paid to the problems of youth, and Centrosoyus felt that the ICA should support co-operation with youth. Consideration should also be given to the proposal of establishing a co-ordination centre which should deal with methods of involving youth in the movement. Mrs Maksimova called for the promotion at the international level of youth exchanges and of general concern for youth in order that it makes its contribution to the development of co-operation and of the ICA.

Mr A. ROULEAU (Canada) was glad to hear that the ICA had taken up the question of participation of young people in the co-operative movement. There was much concern about the entry of the young into the movement in Canada; for various reasons, the young were not attracted, yet it is believed that the co-operative formula offers the best answer for participation in any democracy. His country would be happy for the ICA to study in depth the question of how to arouse interest in the rising generation in the co-operative idea and the co-operative movement.

Mr J. SOBIESZCZANSKI (Poland) also stressed the importance of youth in its relation to the future of the co-operative movement. With financial support from UNESCO, Polish co-operators would organise their first study group on youth in May 1970. He would like to charge the Director of the ICA with the preparation of a special programme of work for youth, which should come before the Executive and Central Committees.

Mr J. SVOBODA (Czechoslovakia) was glad to hear of the ICA's greater interest in youth, proof of it having been the Youth Conference held in London in May 1969. The Czechoslovak movement felt that the future of the co-operative movement depended on the way in which the young understood the usefulness of

co-operative ideas and with what degree of enthusiasm they would become members. The Alliance should make systematic efforts to understand the problems of youth and influence national co-operative movements to pay greater attention to these problems as far as they affect co-operative youth. A specialised committee for youth questions within the Alliance could be set up.

Mr F. LOS (Poland) pleaded for fair consumer protection and welcomed the draft text of the International Declaration of Consumer Rights. Guarantees must be provided for the consumer in housing, food and health standards; in addition, however, people are interested in cultural, moral and spiritual values; also problems, such as the manipulation of property, poor durability and the creation of artificial consumer products, and deceptive labelling and monopolistic pressures have to be overcome.

The PRESIDENT announced at this point the arrival of a Greetings Telegram to Congress from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Republic, Herr Willi BRANDT.

Dr F. CORTESI (Italy) and Mr C. PEDERSEN (Denmark) spoke on the subject of the International Co-operative Day. Dr Cortesi spoke of the Italian Movement's dedication of the Day to the aims pointed out in the ICA Declaration and the addition of a national ceremony to the local celebrations. Mr Pedersen hoped to get the most effective results for the celebration of the International Co-operative Day by looking again at the institution of the Day—an old institution in changing times. Could it not be tried to look at it as *one* International Co-operative Day rather than its observance at different times during the year?

Mr A. MALKOV (USSR) spoke on the subject of the ICA and the UN. He felt that insufficient information came from the ICA to national organisations about the activities of ICA representatives at UN meetings, neither was information given

as to if and how ICA Resolutions were passed on to the UN and its Organisations. If well briefed, national organisations could help by informing their own national UN delegations to strengthen the ICA representative.

Mr L. WOODCOCK (USA and ICA Representative to the UN in New York) recalled the words of U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations: "I believe that the survival and welfare of mankind is the theme of the whole United Nations Charter." As a co-operator, Mr Woodcock stated the purpose of Co-operation as "the survival and welfare of mankind". No better reason could be given for the support of the UN. The recent UN Resolution on Co-operation meant not only official recognition by the UN of the ICA, but the greatest opportunity to prepare the blueprints for co-operative development which could be a thousand-fold greater than could be carried out with the funds available to the ICA. It has the opportunity now.

Mr V. JAKOVENKO (USSR) spoke about the need of the ICA to have contacts with inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations. He hoped the ICA would also consult with such organisations as the World Federation of Free Trade Unions, without ceasing its consultation with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and, in youth work, consult also the World Federation of Democratic Youth as well as the World Assembly of Youth. He enjoined delegates and co-operators to truly join hands and find ways of removing misunderstandings.

The PRESIDENT explained the ICA policy on ICA participation in the organisations mentioned by Mr Jakovenko and thought that, if those mentioned would have seminars or wanted participation from the ICA in relation to co-operative matters, the ICA could make a contribution.

Mr Ch.-H. BARBIER (Switzerland) said that, in the past, the co-operative movement had not enjoyed much consideration in government circles, whether national or

international. Today, through the ICA they had become valuable partners, even more—indispensable partners. At the 14th General Conference, the UNESCO Director General had stressed most strongly the point that, without non-governmental organisations, the international governmental organisations could not fulfil their tasks, and he mentioned the co-operative movement. It followed that the ICA should be especially active in these organisations. During the General Conference of UNESCO, which lasted for six weeks, there were three Commissions which worked independently throughout the Conference. Mr Barbier asked that, in addition to the Alliance's permanent representative at the General Conference, it should have three other representatives to cover each of the three Commissions. As it would be difficult for any one movement to delegate one co-operator for a period of six weeks, he suggested that there should be a system of collaboration between movements situated near Paris—the headquarters of UNESCO—and in such a way cover the whole proceedings. This could make a marked impact on UNESCO and enable those in the movements charged with education to gain greater confidence in their tasks. Perhaps a similar problem pertained as well to FAO meetings in Rome and to the ILO in Geneva. What was urgently required was the strengthening of the ICA's representation.

Mr A. KRASHENINNIKOV (USSR) considered the International Raiffeisen Union to be in contradiction with the existence of the ICA.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Raiffeisen World Congress was a commemoration of a very important co-operative initiative—not only from the German point of view but also from the world co-operative one—i.e., the creation of the Raiffeisen co-operative credit movement. The President considered the Raiffeisen membership of the ICA would not mean dividing the efforts in the agricultural field, but a great strengthening of the ICA, which

would become a truly representative body for all forms of agricultural co-operation.

Third Session :

Tuesday, 2nd September (morning)

The third session opened with a statement by the DIRECTOR that the Congress Committee, under Article 26, had admitted two emergency proposals, one dealing with the situation in Greece, sponsored by the Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives of Poland, and the second dealing with membership subscriptions, proposed by Centrosoyus, USSR.

Debate on the Report of the Central Committee (resumed)

MR J. DAVILA-LANAUSSE (USA) brought the name and work of the distinguished co-operator, Joseph Alexander Macdonald, to the attention of Congress. J. A. Macdonald, as a Roman Catholic Priest, had devoted his life to the co-operative movement of Puerto Rico, and was the founder, educator and exponent of the modern co-operative movement of that Caribbean island.

The PRESIDENT then introduced to Congress the official spokesman for the United Nations, also representing UNCTAD, Mr Yulin.

MR V. A. YULIN, in wishing success to the deliberations of the Congress, stressed the important role of the ICA as the principal international organisation representing the interests of large masses of consumers in the international arena. He mentioned the importance of ICA's United Nations relations. Just as the Rochdale Pioneers had spearheaded a movement that had taken on world-wide dimensions and had made a signal contribution to social

progress in many countries, so today, the United Nations, including UNCTAD, are seeking to open up new vistas in international economic co-operation. Standing on the threshold of a new UN Development Decade, all international organisations associated with the UN are expected to make their contributions to ensure its success. The ICA role in promoting economic progress in developing countries was particularly important, being founded on both self-help and mutual help. Mr Yulin had no doubt that the Alliance would prove equal to this challenge.

Mr J. P. LOPEZ (Argentina) stressed the Argentine consumers movement's association with the ICA for over 60 years. He was glad to see also a delegate from the Argentine insurance and credit movement, proving that co-operative efforts had borne fruit in the Argentine, and he hoped other Latin American co-operatives would join the Alliance; this aspect of eventual ICA membership made the consumers' movement encourage the establishment and work of the OCA. He hoped the Latin American co-operative movement would also play its part, along with the ICA, to further world peace and the well-being of all peoples.

Mr L. VIGONE (Italy) stated that the Lega delegation approved of the ICA Central Committee's work as expressed in its Report. The Lega had, however, the following observations to make: the ICA should check at intervals the true and practical work decided upon by the Congress. Much progress has been made, but events multiplied, making it imperative to move much faster towards raising the capacity for work and the initiative of each movement, and improve the means and methods at the disposal of the ICA for assistance. Within the ICA itself, a common language and line of action should be established, not only regarding problems affecting co-operative matters, but also regarding the wider problems that affected the world's working population. This would mean full support for total and complete autonomy for the ICA and the co-operative

movements which would contribute to the dissolution of military and economic blocs, and work in fraternal emulation for the welfare and peace of the world. The Lega recommended to the Executive to strengthen the Auxiliary Committees in order to stimulate action and initiatives in every field of co-operative activity. Hence the composition of the Auxiliaries should be carefully examined to ensure that fair and proper places were provided in those bodies for movements that had developed, and would develop, degrees of activities in all the different fields. New membership applications should be subject to scrutiny, but there were too many co-operatives still outside the ICA.

The PRESIDENT then read the names of co-operators who had died since the Congress last met in Vienna and who had served the co-operative movement nationally and internationally. The Congress stood in silence, paying tribute to the memory of those who had passed away.

Director's Reply to the Discussion on the Report of the Central Committee

The DIRECTOR thanked delegates for their contributions to the debate which had been wide-ranging, covering almost all aspects of the work of the ICA, and he thanked all who had helped as a team to make the work of the previous three years possible.

In reply to the ICA being asked by Mr Rev to give more attention to producers' co-operatives, especially in the developing countries, he felt that the Auxiliary Committee for Workers' Productive and Artisanal Co-operatives was at that moment trying to find experts who might go and work in developing countries, particularly Africa. Also the ICA was engaged in a study on the role of co-operatives in the industrialisation of developing countries and it was hoped that this was only a start and would lead to more intensive relations with other organisations in this field.

In thanking Mr Janczyk and his organisation for the support they had given the ICA, the Director referred to Mr

Janczyk's and Mr Krasheninnikov's interventions on the lack of implementation of Resolutions adopted by the ICA Congresses. The Director saw two kinds of Resolutions: one, which asked the ICA to do a job in the field of co-operation, and the other, which related to the broader economic environment, in which the co-operative movements operated. With the former type of Resolution, ICA's implementation could be specific: for example, to complete the study on a co-operative subject and report back to Congress on completion. As to the latter type, this might relate, for instance, to Monopolies or to Peace. The Director outlined how the Resolution on Monopolies, for example, was dealt with since its adoption by the Prague meeting of the Central Committee to its publication and its transmission to the ECOSOC, ILO, FAO and UNCTAD, including a request to the ICA member organisations, where appropriate, to make representations to their governments.

As to another point raised by Mr Krasheninnikov, that the Report did not contain an analysis, the Director thought it had to be left to Congress at large to judge this point; the document contained a report on the ICA work done during the past three years; as to its unbalanced presentation, the reason for the UN Agencies featuring so prominently was a reflection of the Alliance's broadening relationship with the UN and its Agencies. The Director hoped that, in looking at the Report of the Auxiliary Committees, a better idea of balance could be found. Mr Jakovenko's question for more members from Africa and Asia was one on which everybody agreed, but to join the ICA family, certain formalities had to be completed to ensure that the applicant organisations conformed to the Co-operative Principles. All applications were carefully examined by the Executive, which then either admitted or rejected them. As to Mr Marik's point on the structure of the ICA, the discussion about this was continuing.

Regarding the question of ICA subscriptions, mentioned by Mr Kolesnik, and

a possible saving of funds by reducing travel, the Director wished him to know that travel programmes in the Secretariat were extremely carefully vetted by himself and, only if the travelling intended would serve the cause of the co-operative movement, amongst other considerations, would it be authorised. Mr Syulemezov and Mr Kuoppala had commented on the "Review of International Co-operation". The Director invited the speakers to share with him some of the problems with regard to that publication; the audience catered for was extremely heterogeneous, ranging from countries where co-operation was in its simplest stages to those with the most sophisticated computerised ones. There was always a danger of falling between two stools. It was, however, tried to make certain special issues available dealing with specific problems. The Director spoke of two recent issues, as examples, in answer to Mr Syulemezov's request for more attention to be given to national experiences and national co-operative movements.

The Director thanked Mr Podlipny for his assurances about the ICA Seminar to be held in Czechoslovakia, and then referred to the International Education Year, organised by UNESCO for 1970. The ICA had informed its national affiliated organisations and had invited suggestions as to the activity it could undertake which would accent the role of co-operation in the field of education. An invitation had been received from Czechoslovakia for a conference in 1970 or 1971 as a follow-up of the Education Conference held in New Delhi in February 1968. The theme could be the problems of co-ordination of technical training provided by co-operative training institutes in the advanced countries. To Mrs Waldeck's question on the status of women, the Director felt that perhaps the critical point here was the question of the economic independence of women; he was grateful indeed to the Austrian Movement for its concern and help. In this connection, the suggestion made by the Norwegian Women's Guild for a seminar to be held in

Kenya, if the authorities there agreed, would be of interest; the seminar would be supported by the ICA Technical Assistance Sub-Committee. Regarding more finances in the field of technical assistance, as asked for by Mr Eshref, the Director could at no point see the ICA as a major financing institution; its field was "know-how" and technical expertise. It was in that field that the ICA would make its major contribution to the world co-operative development. He was delighted to see that, with regard to sub-contracts, the ILO was thinking on the same lines as the ICA, and Mr Orizet's most constructive remarks had been taken up by the President and Mr Barbier.

On Greece, in reply to Mr Schaffer, the Director said that the action the ICA had taken was known to the members of Congress. He was heartened to hear from Mr Musundi that the ICA's work in his area was greatly appreciated. As a member of the Co-operative Council, which decided on the Alliance's problems at the regional level in East Africa, Mr Musundi assisted in defining the areas of activity in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. In replying to Dr Sommerhoff, the Director was glad to find relations between the ICA and OCA developing on sound lines. He was pleased that some funds would be available to extend OCA's work, hoping that the two organisations could jointly achieve a maximum impact in Latin America. The financial side of the ICA's Spanish edition of the "Review of International Co-operation" was, however, giving some cause for concern. The Director hoped something could be done for this worth-while venture which made it possible to give Latin American co-operators a direct contact with international co-operative developments. With reference to the work of the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council, raised by Mrs Staros, the Director pointed to a number of useful initiatives that had already emerged out of the work of the Council. The ICA would bear in mind also Mrs Staros' suggestions and comments concerning the WCAC News Letter. To the speakers on

the subject of Youth, Mrs Maksimova, Mr Rouleau and Mr Sobieszczanski, the Director replied that he felt they had appreciated the initiative of the ICA to hold the Youth Conference in 1969 and that this should not remain a one-time activity of the ICA. The subject was a large one, and the Conference did not lack good suggestions. The general consensus was, the Director thought, against setting up an international youth organisation, but that the ICA should co-ordinate information on youth matters and distribute such information to member organisations. It would also keep in touch with other international organisations responsible for youth work.

Both Dr Cortesi and Mr Pedersen had referred to the International Co-operative Day. The Director felt that Dr Cortesi's suggestion and the approach of his organisation to the commemoration of that Day were good. As to the point raised by Mr Pedersen about one World Day for all, there were difficulties as, for instance, July was the monsoon month in one part of the world and, therefore, a more flexible date had to be accepted. With the UN having its own full Agenda, the Director felt, in answer to Mr Malkov's question, that it was difficult at all times for the ICA representative to speak at the UN. There had been full reports to the Executive on the work of the ICA representatives, as well as to the Central Committee on all interventions at UN meetings on behalf of the ICA. He felt that, during the next three years, the ICA would engage its attention to making practical proposals as to how co-operatives could realise the objectives of the Second UN Development Decade.

Mr Barbier had mentioned the ICA representation at UNESCO; the Alliance's French member organisations had taken a great deal of care in representing the ICA's point of view at UNESCO.

The Director ended by apologising to those speakers whose comments he had been unable to cover in his reply.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Director for his reply to the discussion on the Report

of the Central Committee and stressed, amongst other matters, that Article 14 of the ICA Rules, "Associate Membership", was a means by which it would be made possible for co-operative organisations in developing areas to contact the ICA before they had achieved control of their own affairs in order to become eventually fully-fledged members.

The Report of the Central Committee was Adopted by Congress.

MOTION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTER- NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

APPRECIATES highly the excellent work done by several affiliated national co-operative movements in giving generous technical assistance to the developing countries on a bilateral basis but simultaneously;

FINDS it necessary for greater co-ordination to be achieved internationally with the aim of providing wider scope for multilateral action; **WELCOMES** Resolution 2459 (XXIII) on the Role of the Co-operative Movement in Economic and Social Development, passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1968, as well as the recommendation on the Role of Cooperatives, addressed to the governments of developing countries by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation in 1966, as most significant documents recognising the merits, importance and possibilities of the Co-operative Movement;

ACCEPTS the moral, social, economic and educational responsibility of the ICA for contributing towards the solution of the urgent problems of the developing countries by means of more efficient promotion of Co-operation; **AGREES** with the conclusions of the Central Committee Report on the Development Fund, to the effect that, whilst objectively the ICA has favourable prerequisites for more active participation in the world-wide efforts for improving the living conditions in the developing countries, one of the main obstacles preventing the ICA from effectively pursuing such an aim is lack of finance and, therefore,

RESOLVES to urge all its affiliated organisations to increase substantially their contributions to the Development Fund, in raising the finance for which they should start a wide-scale campaign in their respective countries in commemorating the ICA's forthcoming 75th Anniversary, and in this connection commends among others the practice whereby member organisations donate 10 per cent of the sum raised for their own technical assistance programmes, and thus express most appropriately their feelings of international co-operative solidarity, by contributing to collections for the ICA Development Fund as generously as possible, and

INSTRUCTS the Director of the Alliance to examine and report to the Central Committee on the possibility of prescribing a minimum rate or rates at which the various categories of membership of affiliated organisations should contribute to the Development Fund and authorises the Central Committee to take appropriate action on the report.

Amendment: Proposed by Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Italy.

After the fourth paragraph beginning "Accepts the moral . . ." and before the fifth paragraph beginning "Agrees with the conclusions . . ." add new paragraph as follows:

"REQUESTS the Alliance to urge various Specialised UN Agencies to initiate joint programmes, with a view to promoting co-operation in all spheres of activity relevant to developing countries;"

Mr P. SØJLAND (Norway) moved the proposal of the Central Committee by asking for more support from the technically well-developed countries and pointing to the founding of the Development Fund in 1954. He stated that the Fund, in spite of being small, had nevertheless been able to carry out valuable work in the field of Technical Assistance. Yet much greater responsibilities had been placed on the ICA, and member organisations should take steps to enable the ICA to meet this challenge—the challenge to do more in co-ordinating technical assistance and to concentrate in the years to come on the lar-

ger problems, if it were to keep up with the increasing needs around the world. In 1970, the ICA would celebrate its 75th anniversary and no better tribute could be paid by its members than availing themselves of this opportunity for an intensified drive to strengthen the resources of the Alliance. If members pledged themselves to increase their development activities, they should be willing to release qualified staff for that purpose. Delegates representing member organisations should indicate through the proposal before Congress that they would be willing to make available to the ICA at least 10 per cent of the amount raised for their home technical assistance.

Mr W. BRIGANTI (Italy) introduced the amendment in the name of the Lega, requesting the ICA to press the various Specialised Agencies of the UN to draw up joint programmes, with a view to assisting the promotion of co-operation in all fields of activity in the developing countries.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the amendment by the Lega to this proposal was in line with the efforts of the ICA.

Mr R. B. BASTIN (United Kingdom) paid tribute to the Swedish Movement and its ability to collect large contributions for development aid, but felt he had to mention the difficult position of the co-operative movement in capitalist countries, its fierce competitors and loss of profits.

Mr F. OWEN (USA) supported the Central Committee proposal. As the ICA President had pointed out, the critical element was the "know-how" and that could only be provided by the co-operative movement, and he gave examples from the experience of the work of the Co-operative League relating to foreign assistance.

The PRESIDENT mentioned the importance of the investment of US\$112,000,000 through the efforts of the Co-operative League of the USA in a fertiliser plant in India as most remarkable—the first venture of this type on a co-operative basis in a developing country.

Mr S. TURUNOV (USSR) also gave examples of Centrosoyus' allocations to

technical aid and assistance to co-operative movements in developing countries in recent years, amounting to over three million roubles. He spoke of the training and education given to co-operators from all parts of the developing areas of the world and of Centrosoyus' intention to send experts into the field via the ILO. He would support the proposal on Technical Assistance, but at the same time felt that the allocation of amounts for this should be a matter of decision for each national organisation, and donations should not be regulated by Congress.

Mr I. TOMASOV (Czechoslovakia) welcomed all activity of technical assistance extended to the co-operative movements in the developing countries. He pointed to the great amount spent in his country on technical assistance and the running of seminars and schools for the development areas, which would continue. However, he felt that, as far as the proposal before the Congress was concerned, donations should be made on a voluntary basis.

Mr R. HAUGEN (Norway) gave whole-hearted support to the proposal on behalf of the Norwegian delegation, which appreciated the work done by the Alliance and felt it should play an even more outstanding role. He told Congress that the Norwegian State collected a special tax from its citizens which was earmarked for development aid and, therefore, it had not been easy to collect voluntary contributions in addition to this tax. However, the Norwegian Movement had been able to support fishermen's co-operatives in Dahomey and taken part in projects in East Africa, providing both personnel and financial assistance. He asked Congress to celebrate the 75th ICA anniversary in a worthy form by strengthening the Development Fund.

Dr W. SOMMERHOFF (Chile) reminded the Congress of the ever-widening gap between the advanced and the developing countries, the rich and the poor. There should be self-aid and joint co-operation, the only way to solve the problems involved. After an explanation of technical

assistance as such, Dr Sommerhoff thought that co-operative units in developing countries should have direct participation of co-operative members from the industrialised countries. Expenditure incurred should be borne in the first instance by the donor organisation; however, this should be accounted for as an initial investment to be repaid, once co-operation in the recipient countries was on a sound financial footing. He hoped the Authorities of the ICA would study this and his other suggestions.

Mr O. SHIPE (USA) directed his remarks to one specific part of CUNA International's Technical Assistance Programme, namely the highly successful role played by it as a contractor under the technical assistance programme of the Agency for International Development of the US Department of State. In 1968, sixteen countries were involved in that programme—twelve in Latin America, three in Africa and one in Korea. The result in Latin America was 2,651 credit unions with nearly 746,000 members. He felt strongly that the co-operative movement had much to give—and gain—by taking a more active part in the development of the less developed areas of the world and he would urge delegates to take a strong stand in supporting the Central Committee's proposal.

Mr R. AHMED (Pakistan) pointed to the intention of the proposal to urge the co-operative movements of the developed countries to make contributions to the Development Fund and thereby to strengthen the system of multilateral assistance rather than bilateral assistance. He felt that there were good reasons for this: the pooling of financial resources, experience and technical know-how; with one pool, these resources could be utilised to greater effect; another point was that assistance given from the ICA Development Fund would be free from political considerations. Developing countries should also contribute to the Fund. He thought that perhaps one per cent of net profits would be a good beginning. Mr Ahmed asked the Secretariat

to consider his suggestion.

The PRESIDENT clarified the position as to the Centrosoyus suggestion for an amendment to delete "10 per cent" from the text of the proposal. However, this suggestion was based on a misunderstanding of the text of the proposal and representatives of Centrosoyus had agreed that, if a clear and unequivocal declaration were made before Congress about the real content of the particular paragraph of the proposal, there would be no need to insist on their amendment. This applied also to the Czechoslovak delegation. Both delegations signified their agreement and the suggested amendment was not further pressed.

Fourth Session:

Tuesday, 2nd September (afternoon)

The PRESIDENT, in opening the fourth session of the Congress, read a Greetings Telegram to Congress from the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr G. HEINEMANN, congratulating the ICA on its world-wide co-operative undertakings, thanking it for its great contribution of assisting in the increase and improvement of living conditions in the developing countries, and wishing the Congress success and a hearty welcome to the Federal Republic.

MOTION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT FUND (resumed)

Mr C. PEDERSEN (Denmark) was in full agreement with the spirit of the proposal moved by Mr Søliland, but felt that

co-operative activities or those of the ICA in the field of technical assistance must not be limited too strictly to the small amounts of money available from the co-operative organisations. If the Co-operative Movement were to achieve its goal, the necessary money should be obtained from other sources, including governmental ones. In individual countries as well as in the international inter-governmental organisations, co-operative representatives should be able to convince people about the importance of technical assistance being used in the co-operative field. Mr Orizet had shown a profitable way by stating that the international governmental organisations could sub-contract co-operative activities to co-operative organisations. Co-operative movements, in turn, could contribute their experience, know-how and personal effort. Mr Pedersen added that, in his opinion, a useful lesson in obtaining money from members could be learnt from the Swedish example.

Mr E. WUESURIYA (Ceylon), in supporting the proposal, thought that members of the ICA should agree that all funds collected by member organisations for technical assistance programmes be credited to the ICA Development Fund and utilised by the ICA Sub-Committee for Technical Assistance or by the donor member organisation for its own technical assistance programmes in agreement between the two parties.

Mr V. N. PURI (India) pointed out the various ways by which technical assistance could be made available to the developing countries. The US co-operators had made their Government stand guarantee for raising funds in the USA, to be made available to the fertiliser factory already mentioned, the biggest venture of its kind in Asia, perhaps in the world. In no way was this an interference in Indian national affairs; India was most careful about that. There was the glowing example of the Japanese agreement for developing the co-operatives in Thailand, and Mr Puri also referred to the great help for training

of Indian personnel in the USSR and in Czechoslovakia. This help was being given without any strings attached, for which the recipients were grateful. Foreign currency restrictions in India prohibit giving assistance outside the country, but the co-operative movement contributed by providing training facilities to countries which were even less developed than India.

Mr F. R. SCHMIDT (Austria) pointed to the successful utilisation of Austria's contribution to the Development Fund being the result of a collection for technical assistance. He stressed the importance of arousing interest among member countries of the ICA regarding the needs of the developing countries and thought that best results could be achieved by way of voluntary contributions.

Mr S. COLABELLA (Argentina) believed that international assistance to developing countries was much less than it could be. He felt that, from a co-operative point of view, international collaboration should be looked at as a means of helping towards true independence of developing countries in all its aspects. He then spoke about a project in Argentina to organise a seminar on co-operative insurance for co-operative leaders in Latin America and of discussions being held with the Bureau for the Development of Co-operative Insurance (IDB), a Sub-Committee of the ICA's Insurance Committee. Mr Colabella thought that all that was the right road to follow in view of the fact that that region formed a whole, was one linguistic group and, therefore, was not divided in its endeavours and interests.

Mr A. HOURMAIN (Malaysia), in supporting the proposal, stated that the Malaysian Co-operative Movement was exploring the possibility of getting its Government to contribute to development. He also stressed the excellent relations between the Malaysian Co-operative Movement and the ICA's headquarters in London and its Regional Office in New Delhi.

Mr P. SØILAND (Norway), in reply to the discussion, gratefully thanked all parti-

cipants in the discussion on the motion of the Central Committee on technical assistance and the Development Fund and stressed that the amendment of the Lega Nazionale, Italy, was in line with the work of the ICA and with the construction of the proposal. He was glad that both the USSR and Czechoslovak delegations had decided to withdraw their proposed amendment to the motion because the recommended 10 per cent donation to the Development Fund should not be an obligation for every member organisation. After referring to some remarks made by the speakers during the debate, Mr Søliland, as mover of the proposal, felt that there had been unanimous support for the motion.

The PRESIDENT, in thanking Mr Søliland, told the Congress that the addition contained in the Lega amendment should be inserted in the text of the Central Committee's proposal.

The motion, as amended, was put to Congress and carried unanimously.

MOTION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE ICA, representing 230 million Co-operators, through the Affiliated Organisations, RECALLS its Resolutions adopted at previous Congresses;

CONFIRMS its belief that the most urgent problem in the world is the establishment of peace, for without it human survival is threatened, and the process of economic development and social progress are obstructed;

REAFFIRMS its will to promote harmony between all races and peoples, to which end Co-operation has a special contribution to make;

ACKNOWLEDGES the work done by the United Nations in this field;

CALLS on governments to desist from such unilateral actions which are likely to endanger peace, and instead to support and strengthen the UN in its efforts to reduce tension; and

ASKS its Member Organisations to do all they can to influence their national governments to support the settlement of international disputes by negotiation and all measures for disarmament so that conditions may prevail which will enable all people to work peaceably for a higher standard of living and for the elimination of hunger and economic security.

Amendment: Proposed by Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Italy.

In the fourth paragraph beginning "Re-affirms its will . . ." between the words "races and peoples", and "to which end" insert the words "as well as to safeguard the rights of peoples to their self-determination".

The PRESIDENT informed Congress that Lord Taylor of Gryfe, who was moving the proposal, would be unable to be at Congress the next day, hence the suggestion for a slight alteration in the order of the Congress proceedings.

LORD TAYLOR (United Kingdom) thanked the President and Congress for having made the alteration in the Agenda. He then went on to define the limitations of the ICA in relation to the attainment of peace and the specific purposes of the proposal. He told delegates that they were not representing Member States, they were a gathering of co-operators sharing a common philosophy, and the allegiance of this Congress was to that philosophy. The Congress could not impose decisions, but could seek to influence events in accordance with the co-operative ideas. He outlined the co-operative philosophy as re-defined by the Congress in Vienna. Co-operatives believed in working together for mutual advantage and not for private gain or selfish ends—a philosophy of sharing and caring. Reminding delegates that September 1st was the 30th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War and pointing to the world scene of today, he

asked Congress to try to establish that this international organisation and all its individuals would try to practise their co-operative philosophy and influence events in the direction of peace. Lord Taylor urged to strengthen and build up a form of international law and authority that was incorporated in the United Nations. Life could be a rich experience for all; it could be rich if men were permitted to pursue knowledge freely, if they cultivated in their lives the things that were worthy and encouraged the caring in human relationships. He ended by saying that that was what co-operation was all about and, for that reason, he asked for the support of the proposal. .

Mr G. BANCHIERI (Italy) spoke on the Lega amendment to the motion on peace, stressing the principles underlying the UN Charter which were often solemnly proclaimed, but the lack of adherence to these principles was one of the causes which had led to the renewal of difficulties and reduced the effectiveness of efforts towards peace in the world. Strict respect for these principles led to the proposal of the Lega amendment.

Mr A. KRASHENINNIKOV (USSR) reminded Congress that twice in the twentieth century, Europe had become the centre of a world conflict, in which 400 million people had participated and sixty countries had taken part. He recalled the monstrosities carried out by the enemy in his own country, where 20 million people had perished in the war. He stressed the need for waging a ceaseless struggle against military aggression throughout the world. At the Central Committee meeting in Oslo, when discussing the draft of the proposal which was now before Congress, the Centroyus delegation had said that that draft was not a complete one and did not reflect the situation which had been created in the world at that moment.

The PRESIDENT intervened and instructed Mr Krashennikov not to cite aggression by individual countries.

Mr KRASHENINNIKOV stated that he

had given the opinion of the USSR delegation which, in order to keep the unanimity of the Congress, would vote for the proposal, but without any amendment.

Mr I. ALEXE (Roumania) felt that it was the duty of the ICA and the world co-operative movement to deploy, alongside other forces working for peace in the world, the most energetic actions towards effective measures which would deliver humanity from the danger of thermo-nuclear war and from the burden of the arms race and would ensure that all national resources were used exclusively for peaceful ends.

Mr W. WAWRZECKI (Poland), while strongly supporting the proposal on peace, protested against aggression and any acts of war in the world today.

Mr J. VOORHIS (USA) stated that the US delegation supported the amendment submitted by the Italian co-operatives. He thought the peace proposal was not very different from those passed by previous Congresses, but felt it was needed more today than ever before. He pointed to the privilege to live upon this earth and to everybody's obligation to guard and preserve it. He felt that no nation would lay down its arms unless the other nations did likewise. What was needed was to build a "United Nations" or a "Parliament of Man" strong enough to enforce peace.

The PRESIDENT intervened and instructed Mr Voorhis not to cite aggression by individual countries.

Mr F. VYCHODIL (Czechoslovakia) stated that the Czechoslovak delegation would vote for the proposal on peace, although it thought that it should have mentioned present conflicts in various areas of the world.

Mr J. L. KHACHI (India) welcomed, on behalf of the Indian delegation, the proposal which was comprehensive, referring to both political and economic aspects. Without peace there could be no progress for anyone.

LORD TAYLOR (United Kingdom), in replying to the debate, and responding to

the general desire for unanimity, accepted the amendment submitted by the Lega Nazionale to the proposal. He thanked delegates for their contributions and, in the name of all, saluted the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, the centenary of whose birth had been mentioned in the debate. Lord Taylor moved the proposal.

The motion, as amended, was put to Congress and unanimously adopted.

Reports of Auxiliary Committees

Agricultural Committee

Dr L. Malfettani (Chairman, Italy) hoped that the Congress would be interested in the report of its Agricultural Committee. One urgent matter was the raising of income levels of small and medium producers who, in comparison with those working in industry, found themselves in an unfavourable situation in the economic sense. The Committee was promoting structures capable of putting the producer into direct contact with the market. All activities were governed by new techniques; therefore, the studies now undertaken concerned the financing of agricultural co-operatives on an international level and, in addition, the training of a new type of manager for co-operative agricultural societies. The object of the studies was to see that co-operatives were recognised as the main channel for financing agriculture. Over the past three years, satisfaction was derived from the setting up and the growth of the Fisheries Sub-Committee and of the South-East Asia Sub-Committee. Dr Malfettani recalled the intensification of ICA's contacts and work with the UN bodies and the cordial co-operation existing between them. The Liaison Committee was now a reality and had met for the first time in Hamburg. He mentioned particularly the relations with IFAP, with whom a systematic exchange of representatives at each other's meetings had been organised.

At the Agricultural Conference in

Hamburg, plans for future activities were announced, amongst them, the Conference on Co-operative Production of Animal Feeding Stuffs, immediately following the Congress, and the most concentrated effort required for the preparatory work for the Conference in 1971 on the Role of Agricultural Co-operation in the World Co-operative Movement. Dr Malfettani thanked the ICA authorities and the Committee's Secretary for their help and stated the desire of the Committee to explore and investigate deeply all structural, technical and economic problems of agricultural co-operation at the international level. Its efforts, however, needed the support and solidarity of the international co-operative family, and he asked Congress to ensure that agriculture could count on its help.

Agricultural Sub-Committee for South-East Asia

Mr E. WIJESURIYA (Ceylon) presented the report of the Sub-Committee on behalf of its Chairman, Mr H. Yanagida (Japan), who had prepared it. There had been three meetings since the inception of the Sub-Committee and discussions had ranged from seminars and publications in the field of agricultural co-operation to technical assistance, co-operative trade, and support for the activities of the ICA Regional Office and Education Centre. The Sub-Committee would make use of existing information, with a view to giving trade and other information via the ICA Information Bulletin to all countries in the Region. In the areas of need of the movement, more educational activities were required, mainly in the fields of productivity, marketing and processing. The Regional Seminar on Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables should have top priority amongst the seminars to be organised in 1970. Second priority was allocated to production credit, personnel management and training. The Sub-Committee also decided to work in direct connection with the Regional Office and Education Centre so that it would act as adviser

in the agricultural field of co-operation. A great number of valuable follow-up recommendations had been made, for instance, to collect basic statistical information on agricultural co-operatives in the region and to compile and distribute these data, as well as to circulate statements regarding successful performance in agricultural productivity amongst members as a farm guidance service.

Fisheries Sub-Committee

Mr P. LACOUR (Chairman, France) thanked especially the Japanese co-operative friends for their support and help and congratulated them on their organisation. Meetings had resulted in increased trade, exchange of views and the hope for setting up international sales organisations for the import and export of common products. As mentioned in Vienna, questionnaires were sent out to assess the requirements of developing countries and replies had shown a great need for executive and managerial staff. In order to meet this need, the Sub-Committee had striven to strengthen the expert and advisory bureau, set up three years ago. It had finished its work on a manual for managers of marketing and supply fishermen's co-operatives for the use in developing countries and hoped to organise, with the help of FAO, a seminar for fishery co-operative managers in 1970. With the participation of the ICA Technical Assistance Sub-Committee, the Fisheries Sub-Committee had also arranged a mission of French experts to Ceylon and hoped to help the Ceylonese co-operative movement to launch a fishery project with the help of the ICA, FAO and ILO. He thanked the ICA Authorities and complimented especially its former Director, Mr W. G. ALEXANDER, for his work in this field.

Discussion

Mr V. KONDRATOV (USSR) could see from the Report that co-operation in connection with agriculture was developing in all countries. The ICA ought to be a centre combining all agricultural co-operatives

into one and the same organisation. This was the reason for the USSR representative's intervention about the Raiffeisen Union.

The PRESIDENT intervened to state that that matter had already been dealt with.

Mr C. DURAZZO (Italy) thanked all those who, at the Vienna Congress, had stressed the need for setting up the Fisheries Sub-Committee and pointed to the contacts made by it with a number of countries. He especially mentioned Japanese advanced techniques in fish-farming. Their experiences would be most useful in helping others to derive greater benefit from their occupation. Thanks to the Sub-Committee, the ICA now has 1,480,000 fishermen, all represented through their associations, and this figure would increase, not only in the developed countries but especially in the developing ones. Fishing should in all countries with a coastline play a much greater role in the production of low-cost protein food, so vital to their populations.

Mr J. J. MUSUNDI (Kenya) pleaded for the examination of the best method of distribution of surplus from one area to another, depending on which area needed the surplus most. Developed countries in recent years had used revolutionary methods in food production which had realised surpluses in some crops. They should be helped to sell their surplus food in areas needing it. The danger faced by developing countries was competition from developed countries on the world market. Prices realised by developing countries on certain agricultural products were normally so low that they killed the incentive amongst the farmers, and their governments had to resort to fixing lower prices so as to discourage the local people from producing more of that particular commodity. To tell the less developed countries to produce more when they were unable to sell what they were able to produce would be ridiculous, and he suggested the following for the ICA's consideration: to find out new, untapped markets by way of study tours in

collaboration with the UN Specialised Agencies; to collaborate with developing countries in setting up processing plants for agricultural products, enabling them to sell the finished goods to other countries; to examine the possibilities of improving the developing countries' infrastructures in order to make possible the inflow of products from one country to another and to ascertain the best method of distribution of food products in the world to meet the needs of the human race; and finally, to look into the best method of constructing storage for holding some of the surplus foodstuffs for strategic reserve.

Mr A. MAYR (Italy), speaking about co-operative trade, stressed the importance of marketing for the agricultural co-operatives and the great need for mutual co-operative confidence between the agricultural and consumer co-operatives. He pleaded for internationally acceptable standards in the production processes used by productive and agricultural co-operatives working for the world market and advocated a choice of assortment and standardisation of products acceptable to the consumer.

Mr W. B. MELVIN (Canada) expressed the Canadian co-operators' special interest in the Co-operative Feeding Stuffs Conference in Paris, particularly since the Co-operative Movement in his country was still largely orientated towards farm and marketing organisations and towards the farmer. As to the marketing of Canadian grain, especially of wheat, a very serious situation existed, and suggestions and initiatives emanating from that Conference might be helpful not only to the Canadian farmers but to others receiving these products. Mr Melvin's other point made dealt with the need for a much stronger development of co-operative trade at the international level and, in this context, he drew attention to the Fisheries Co-operatives on the Pacific coast of Canada. Their difficulties in part stemmed from the competition of organisations operating a fleet in Canadian waters, whose owners with big

financial backing were domiciled in the USA and the United Kingdom. Canadian fisheries co-operatives had to compete not only with national groups, but with well-financed international groups. Co-operators in fisheries also should move into the international field if they were to succeed, as they had in the field of wholesaling, and as was exemplified by the International Co-operative Petroleum Association, the International Co-operative Bank and others.

Mr K. CHAND (AARRO) explained the structure of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation and its concentration on co-operative, community development and youth work. Collaboration and participation of the AARRO and the ICA in joint activities since 1965 had been helpful to both organisations.

Mr K. F. HARDING (Canada) strongly commended as one of the principal activities of the Fisheries Sub-Committee the assistance of fisheries co-operatives in the developing countries, but suggested that it should also help in the further development of fisheries co-operatives in the developed countries. Mr Harding pointed to the state of fisheries in the Federal Republic of Germany, which were largely controlled by two giants, Unilever Ltd and the GEG. As a small instance of international trade between co-operatives, he told Congress of the fisheries co-operatives in Canada being engaged in business with the Japanese fisheries co-operatives.

Fifth Session :

Wednesday, 3rd September (morning)

Reports of Auxiliary Committees (resumed)

Banking Committee

Mr H.-U. MATHIAS (Secretary, Switzerland) recalled the founding of the Inter-

national Co-operative Bank (INGEBA) in 1957. Its original small capital of 1.2 million Swiss francs had risen to 30 million and its present total balance sheet showed 450 million Swiss francs. The Bank was paying a dividend of 6 per cent in 1968. Shareholders were 48 enterprises, both from European and overseas countries. Co-operative production and distribution areas were represented by 16 organisations, financial circles by 23 banks and financial institutions, and the insurance sector by 9 companies. The targets and objectives of the Banking Committee and the INGEBA were the same, and all banking institutes, credit and savings institutions, could join the Banking Committee, whether they were directly or indirectly members of the ICA.

At its Hamburg meeting, the Committee had decided to call the plenary meeting annually. It was also decided to increase the number of members serving on the Executive Committee from eight to ten and to publish a new Directory of Co-operative Banks, Credit and Savings Institutions in membership with the Banking Committee, as well as reliable statistics covering all member institutions. The Committee's and INGEBA's task was to induce co-operation amongst international co-operative organisations, and both were most grateful to the ICA for its business-like help and co-operation. Listening to Mr Søliland on the subject of technical assistance, Mr Mathias thought it might be possible for individual organisations wishing to donate a percentage of their income to technical assistance to deposit these funds with INGEBA, against an interest payment ear-marked for credit to developing countries. When making payments to the developing countries, these payments from the Bank would be free from suspicion of being a charity; it would thus become much easier to loan funds for certain periods against interest rates, rather than making gifts.

Housing Committee

Mr S. KYPENGREN (Chairman, Sweden) told delegates that the printed Agenda

and Reports to Congress contained most of the activities of the Housing Committee, but he would like to emphasise some of the problems encountered in international co-operative housing work. Co-operatives, with their long tradition and ideas, had an efficient and viable organisation in housing. Through its close collaboration with the UN and co-operative organisations everywhere, the Housing Committee was aware of the seriousness of the housing problem in the developed and developing countries. The UN had recommended member organisations to keep up the housing construction of ten new units per thousand inhabitants a year. Only in a very few cases had developed countries been able to keep up this figure. In the developing countries, the appalling figure of between one and three had been reached. It was clear that self-help organisations alone could not tackle the magnitude of the problem, which called for the mobilisation of national as well as international efforts in the housing field. The Housing Committee had formed a development association of ten of the major national housing organisations (International Co-operative Housing Development Association), and both were now engaged in practical work making it possible for them to deal with a number of requests received from developing countries. They needed the assistance of the national co-operative movements to bring the world housing needs to the attention of their governments and representatives at the United Nations and to appeal to them to support the Committee's housing programmes.

Discussion

Mr W. J. CAMPBELL (USA) stressed first the great importance of multi-national technical assistance and development. Acknowledging the Housing Committee's achievements in the international housing field on the basis of direct relationship with co-operators in other countries, he felt that the International Co-operative Housing Development Association was more suc-

cessful with a multi-national basis of co-operation. He then expressed his concern about the serious problems involved in housing and the inability to understand these and the priority required in this field. This understanding, he said, was necessary in this Congress, in national governments and in the United Nations. There was a crisis in the housing field which was strangling the cities of Latin America and would strangle South-East Asia, if it continued. The shortage of housing was critical in the eastern countries as well as in the west. Mr Campbell concluded by telling Congress that the co-operative movement had the tools "to fashion our own destiny".

Dr W. RUF (Switzerland) reported that, within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Special Committee on Housing and Planning had set up this year a Sub-Committee' to deal solely with co-operative housing, mainly because of pressure from non-governmental housing organisations.

Mr H. E. CAMPBELL (United Kingdom) pointed out that, until quite recently, the United Kingdom had not developed co-operative housing. Due to the interest and advice of co-operators in many lands, this country had now for the first time the organisation to build 20,000 houses and a Government that had been persuaded to introduce measures through Parliament for the development of a new form of co-operative activity.

Insurance Committee

Mr R. LEMAIRE (Chairman, Belgium) said that the Central Committee Report showed that the Co-operative Insurance Committee was expanding well, now covering 57 societies in 25 countries. The Re-Insurance Bureau, a technical sub-committee of the Insurance Committee, effected 541 re-insurance agreements between co-operative societies to the value of 5 million pound sterling. Had it not been for the Bureau's existence, this sum would have gone to private enterprise. At the Insurance Committee's meeting in Ham-

burg, delegates had agreed on closer international collaboration between co-operative insurance societies in order to counter-act continental capitalist mergers; on studies of investment funds as a defence against inflation and into the alarming increase of overhead costs; and, finally, the effects of pollution on all living environments. On this last point, Mr Lemaire asked the ICA Authorities to alert public opinion in their Declaration for the next Co-operative Day.

Discussion

Mr R. VANDERBEEK (USA) commented on the subject of co-operative insurance in Latin America. There was a real need for a low-cost co-operative insurance programme to meet the needs of Latin American co-operatives, their members and the common man. In Argentina, insurance co-operatives had operated for over 75 years. In other Latin American countries, there had been only limited co-operative insurance activity before 1966. Since then, the number of insurance co-operatives had increased and all provided low-cost insurance. These organisations did not develop automatically, or had come into existence due to the visit of an expert, but through the maximum support and effort of many organisations, individuals, co-operatives, governments, the ICA and OCA. The speaker pleaded for active support of the insurance co-operative efforts in Latin America, and hoped that the experience there would benefit co-operators in other countries to build up insurance on a co-operative basis.

The PRESIDENT asked delegates at this stage to deal with the main theme of the Congress.

Contemporary Co-operative Democracy

Theory and Practice of Co-operatives in Socialist Countries

Mr A. P. KLIMOV (USSR), introducing

the theory and practice of co-operatives in socialist countries, stated his belief in the importance of the problem under discussion by Congress. He looked at the co-operative movement as born of, and developed by, the masses; its purpose, he felt, was to protect the interests of the masses, and hence the need for its management by the masses. Co-operative democracy, he told Congress, was the product of the social and economic conditions of a given democracy; there was no autonomous co-operative democracy without a place and time, without class or social relations. Co-operative democracy in the socialist countries was a component part of socialist democracy, and co-operatives as an organisation of the working people and co-operative property as a form of social property, could not contradict socialist democracy or public property in any way. Mr Klimov's main object was to show that the socialist system in a socialist democracy, based on the public property of the basic means of production and on the participation of the workers, farmers and intellectuals, in the management of society, gave unlimited possibilities for the development of co-operation on the basis of true democracy.

Mr Klimov pointed to the examples quoted in his thesis on this subject, printed in the Congress Agenda and Reports, and stressed the voluntary basis of the formation of co-operative unions and the importance of the process of concentration and enlargement of the scope of economic activities in the co-operatives of the socialist countries, accompanied by the strengthening of the principle of centralised management with the simultaneous expansion of de-centralised power in the field of co-operative management of the economy. Control by members over their enterprise had developed effectively through a wide network of membership committees and meetings, allowing members to influence directly the work of the co-operative, its assortment and production policy and its quality of service. Member participation was the emphasis in all co-operative under-

takings in the socialist countries, and member councils, activist groups and others had come into being as new forms of this participation. Mr Klimov believed that the high level of development of co-operative democracy was the result of the favourable social and economic conditions in which the co-operatives operated, and that was the reason why indifference of members towards co-operation or lack of interest in it amongst the youth were absent in the socialist countries. In the USSR, for example, 70 per cent of the total membership participated in the last co-operative elections. There was a need in the present conditions of co-operative activities to ensure competent and effective co-operative management, hence the stress on training of personnel. In his country, 100 million roubles were annually spent for this purpose, allowing over 500,000 co-operators to perfect their qualifications every year. As to the question whether co-operative democracy was compatible with national economic planning in the socialist countries, Mr Klimov explained in great detail that this was possible. He further informed delegates that a gradual transition of more and more duties from the authority of State bodies to the control of public organisations, including the co-operatives, was in progress.

In connection with the present discussion, Mr Klimov recalled that it was Lenin who, as far back as in 1910, advocated the unlimited possibilities for the development of co-operation and a co-operative democracy and had encouraged the workers to join the co-operatives, to assist in their development and to strengthen their democratic character.

In closing, Mr Klimov stated that the Soviet delegation was in favour of the Central Committee's proposal.

The Western Point of View

Mr R. KERINEC (France), introducing the report, prepared by himself and Mr N. Thedin (Sweden), told Congress how it came to be written jointly.

He said that the delegates had not assembled in this Congress to indulge in propaganda, even for democracy, but to find out frankly whether the co-operative institutions were functioning and had functioned democratically in the past, and whether democracy could always be counted on as an efficient method of management, and if so, in what ways. He emphasised that the opinions of men from different countries, living under different political systems, and from co-operative movements of different types had to be confronted. It was, therefore, natural to draw on the experience of a representative from a socialist country (USSR) and on that of two representatives from countries with a mixed economy (Sweden and France), where the problems differed according to their economic positions, but where their co-operative movements were very similar in terms of the problems posed by contemporary co-operative democracy. The report and proposal were thus the result of having joined forces and having agreed on the subject's essential factor, i.e., the degree of importance to be attached to co-operative democracy, possibly the greatest and most important of the ICA Principles. This basic idea—an experiment—had been stressed in the report right from the beginning.

Co-operators, said Mr Kérinec, who had experience in democratic management in institutions created by and for the users must make this experiment a success, and each official of the co-operative movement, whether in the highest or lowest position, and each member must understand the vital necessity of good democratic operation of the structures of every co-operative. All resulting responsibilities must be accepted by all working in whatever capacity, in other words, democracy must not be the province only of its specialists, but the concern of those working in the service of co-operation. Democracy demanded constant attention and its application to co-operative achievements was a matter of detail. Its everyday aspects which caused difficulties, were thoroughly explored in the report in order

to see how they would work out in daily practice. With all its imperfections, democracy which limited the misuse of power, was the best means of expression which liberty possessed at group level.

The conditions under which democracy existed were subject to changes which must be taken into account in political, technical, structural and even spiritual spheres (conflicts of one generation with the next one, for example) and care must be taken not to apply the solutions of yesterday to the problems of tomorrow.

Mr Kérinec emphasised that it was the co-operators' task to show not only the advantages of democracy, but how to give men the desire to run their own affairs, which was more difficult today than ever before, but just as necessary. These difficulties, which the co-operative movements must overcome, if they were to prosper while still maintaining their principles, were objectively mentioned in the report.

With regard to recent structural reforms with which the ICA Secretariat had dealt in its report, the only point made in the report was that it would be an error to blame these for the difficulties inherent in the proper application of the democratic principles—these difficulties had already existed. Only the problems brought about by recent developments had been highlighted as, for instance, the degree of importance to be attached to the functioning of democracy at national organisation levels. In Mr Kérinec's view, the proper functioning of democracy at the national level, and within the framework of the new structures, depended greatly on the method adopted in reforming these. The more democratically this method was inspired, the more efficient was the new structure because of the active involvement of every member. Mr Kérinec ended his remarks with a brief outline of the second part of the report—considered from the point of view of the members, the part to be played by the press and the need to win new members to the co-operative idea—containing an analysis of what should be done to ensure

that co-operatives remained truly democratic. The conclusion he and Mr Thedin had arrived at was that Co-operation was a great cause which merited devotion.

Proposal and Discussion

Mr Ch.-H. BARBIER (Switzerland), introducing the proposal on "Contemporary Co-operative Democracy", of the Central Committee, stressed that the crisis of efficiency in co-operatives did not arise yesterday, but dated back to the end of the Second World War. Warnings to the movement were either not heard at all, or were heard too late. Today, the crisis of efficiency in the co-operative movement was all but over, and at least it had worked out the methods and techniques which would lead to its reforms and would allow it—or had already allowed it in some cases—to be in the van and to conquer daily still more territory. This crisis was all but resolved and, although solutions for it were known, a new crisis had emerged—that of co-operative democracy. Efficiency demanded such drastic measures that the working of democracy was questioned. Mr Barbier referred in this connection to the opening sentence in the report of the ICA Secretariat reading: "Co-operatives everywhere have always found it difficult to retain the full vigour of their democratic base", presenting a perennial and acute problem of democracy. He recalled that the ICA and delegates present at the Congress knew for a long time that this problem had to be studied. This had been done, resulting in three excellent and informative reports now before Congress.

Mr Barbier paid tribute to the authors of the reports, from which the Central Committee drew inspiration in working out its proposal on Contemporary Co-operative Democracy. He hoped that Congress would not merely approve it unanimously, but would do everything to see that it became a reality as soon as possible.

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE,

HAVING studied and discussed the reports on contemporary co-operative democracy as it is applied in countries of various political, economic and social systems, noting that different systems have an impact on the structure of the co-operative movement and, therefore, also indirectly on co-operative democracy;

HAVING regard to the rapid and far-reaching structural changes which the co-operative movement has had to undertake in order to increase its economic efficiency in its fight against monopolies and in its efforts to improve the quality of its service to meet the new needs of its members;

RECOGNISING that the structural changes generally involve a development towards larger and fewer economic units within the movement and a transfer of authority from primary societies to apex organisations;

CONSIDERING that democracy, a basic principle of co-operation, must be retained and even strengthened within the new structures, and can be, in spite of difficulties in the application of democracy in the world today and of dangers with which it is threatened, such as the tendency towards bureaucracy and technocracy in large enterprises, and towards the concentration of economic power in the hands of international trusts and cartels;

RECOMMENDS the Affiliated members of the International Co-operative Alliance:

TO ADAPT whenever necessary the democratic system to the new economic structures in such a way as to provide members of the societies with the maximum opportunities for the active participation of those members;

TO INTRODUCE or develop for that purpose a system of representative democracy in co-operative primary societies whenever those cover a wide geographical area of activity and/or have a large number of members;

TO DEVELOP democratic structures in order to allow members of co-operative societies, through their elected representatives, to direct and control the policy of the movement, to engage in a permanent and fruitful exchange of views between co-operative societies and central organs in a co-operative spirit and to facilitate the division of tasks between the different structure levels in order to ensure maximum efficiency in the activities of the movement as a whole;

TO USE modern methods of mass consultation to stimulate and encourage members of co-operative societies to express their opinion and give their views on the activity and policies of their society and in this way to engage them

to participate to a greater extent in the direction of co-operative enterprises;

TO MEET the increased need for membership enlightenment by utilising modern audio-visual techniques in membership meetings and by investing adequate resources in the development of a widespread co-operative press;

TO DEVELOP systems of training for members of elected committees so as to give them opportunities of acquiring the necessary knowledge for making policy decisions and performing control over large economic undertakings in the interest of their members;

TO STRESS the co-operative training of managers and technicians employed by the co-operative movement and to underline in this connection the social and cultural aims of a movement based on the principles of solidarity;

TO UNDERTAKE through the International Co-operative Alliance or by direct contacts, and exchange of experience between the various forms of co-operation and between the co-operative movements of different countries with a view to improving the day-to-day functioning of democracy in co-operatives and to develop contacts with mass organisations which pursue the same objectives in the same spirit in order that the co-operative idea should have a bigger impact;

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE of all means at the disposal of co-operatives in order to exert co-operative influence on social and economic legislation and to obtain representation of co-operative organisations on governmental agencies which deal with the formulation and implementation of economic and social policy.

THE CONGRESS AFFIRMS solemnly that political democracy is indispensable to the development of co-operation and that reciprocally the free development of co-operative ideas and activities is indispensable to economic democracy without which political democracy remains incomplete.

Amendment: Proposed by Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Italy

After the fourth paragraph beginning "Considering that democracy, . . ." and before the fifth paragraph beginning "Recommends the Affiliated members . . ." insert additional paragraph as follows:

UNDERLINES also the real importance of co-operative methods in satisfying the increasing demand for democratic participation from workers, producers, consumers, and in particular, from youth, in the management of economic and social activities;

Amendment: Proposed by Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Italy

In the penultimate paragraph beginning "To take advantage of . . ." between the words "social and economic legislation" and "and to obtain" insert the words "as well as public planning".

Mr S. MIANA (Italy) illustrated the two amendments the Lega had submitted to the proposal on Contemporary Co-operative Democracy. In view of the close connection between co-operative democracy and economic and political democracy of the society, the Lega thought that it was necessary to stress in the proposal the increasing role of co-operation in the struggle for democracy and wished therefore to complete the proposal by underlining the validity of the co-operative movement, as expressed in the text of its proposed supplementary paragraph. By proposing its second amendment, the Lega meant to stress the necessity of co-operation to participate in public planning, thus clarifying the concept of the democratic relation that must exist between the co-operative movement and the State in mutual autonomy and in the elaboration and implementation of the country's economic and social policy.

Professor P. LAMBERT (Belgium) believed that the hour had come to seek out what united, rather than what divided representatives. The proposal put before Congress, fortunately added to by the amendments proposed by the Lega, constituted a synthesis and a unity. That political democracy would be imperfect without economic democracy, that was altogether a basic principle. Co-operators had carried democracy into the heart of their undertakings, which, Mr Lambert believed, was one of the co-operative movement's greatest claims to glory.

Mr S. SYULEMEZOV (Bulgaria) said that the co-operative organisation and its millions of members in a socialist democracy were given the opportunity of close

co-operation with the government which provided active participation in, and discussions of, the most important projects and laws, also the possibility for direct decisions on economic, political, cultural and social problems. Hundreds of co-operators were elected to serve on government bodies and they represented the interests of the co-operative movement. In his country, 50 per cent of the retail trade turnover and 36 per cent of agricultural production were in co-operative hands. Mr Syulemezov assured Congress of his delegation's full support of the proposal.

Mr A. MIYAWAKI (Japan) stated that the Japanese agricultural co-operative movement was in favour of the proposal. Referring to the movement's difficulties how to maintain the co-operative principles under the present co-operative structural changes, he said that it was endeavouring to find a means for the members' democratic and active participation in co-operatives. He stressed that, as co-operative members in Japan were the heads of families, it was difficult for women and youth to be heard in co-operatives and, therefore, the movement had established co-operative women's and youth clubs in order to include their wishes as much as possible.

Mr Miyawaki then read, on behalf of Mr S. Nakabayashi (of the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union), a paper prepared by the consumers' co-operatives, in which they informed Congress that they had studied the reports and the Central Committee's proposal on Contemporary Co-operative Democracy with great interest and that they agreed with them in principle. The Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union had persuaded unit societies to reorganise their memberships into small groups of 20 to 30 at the shop level and considered these basic and most important for the development of consumers' co-operatives. In addition, women's group activities were trying to play their part in strengthening these small groups. In unifying members, organisations and managements, all consumers' co-operatives in

Japan today were practising the rules of co-operative democracy.

Mr A. FAUCHER (France) stressed, among other points, the need of the co-operative movement to embark on a continuous and up-to-date line of action for the purpose of providing the public with objective and educational information and told Congress that, at the Conference of the Co-operative Press held in Hamburg, it was shown how the co-operative Press could play a vital role, given more support, in making co-operative opinions known.

Mr A. KORP (Austria) congratulated the Secretariat of the ICA and Messrs Kérinec and Thedin on their excellent presentation of the problems of contemporary co-operative democracy. The Austrian delegation would vote in favour of the proposal before Congress. This work, however, should not be considered as finished and everything should be done, on a scientific basis, to resolve the problems of contemporary co-operative democracy. He told delegates that the Swiss co-operators had trained and engaged scientists working on marketing and management surveys in an effort to bridge the gap between present-day practice and modern scientific and technological advances.

He mentioned the President's tribute to Mr Klimov who had brought the problems of democracy in co-operatives in socialist countries before Congress. However, Mr Korp felt that Mr Klimov was not wholly objective in his presentation, because he had included propaganda in his exposition of the theme. There were some economists who held that, as time went by, the contradictions between East and West would be eradicated or levelled out. Mr Korp would like to give a warning that he did not think that this assertion could be applied to a consideration of co-operative democracy.

The PRESIDENT read a telegram of good wishes to Congress from the Minister of Housing of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Sixth Session:

Wednesday, 3rd September (afternoon)

Contemporary Co-operative Democracy (resumed)

Mr P. LACOUR (France) began by expressing his agreement with the content of the three reports, especially as regards their common objective to increase the degree of participation of co-operators in the life of their society. In order to be guided, the impact and result of modern technology on democratic values and on co-operatives would have to be analysed. Co-operatives were a means of integrating an economic system and human values, seeking to instil moral practice into man's economic and social life, be he a consumer, producer or worker. Mr Lacour then expounded two particular points, namely, the situation of staff in co-operative undertakings and the necessity of organising a system of separation—an independence—as between the various powers making up the structure of a co-operative, to show how democracy would arrive at efficient solutions to certain types of difficulties.

Mr A. ROSSINI (Italy) thought that the conclusions in the three reports, though perhaps the result of compromise, were on rather general lines, containing important and incontestable affirmations of principle, but no precise solutions. As to the Central Committee's proposal, listing the dangers threatening democracy in the modern world and restating the existing trend towards bureaucracy and technocracy in large undertakings, it seemed to him that the proposal did not sufficiently stress that such a trend might become apparent in the big organisations which co-operative undertakings were today. He was aware that large

organisations were forced upon the co-operative movement by the exigencies of modern economic life, but warned that care must be taken not to lose sight of the friendly society and self-help. Although Mr Rossini had doubts that co-operative action could transform the feeling of frustration and alienation into one of constructive spirit rather than that of destruction, he ended on a more positive note by saying that, under the present leadership of the ICA, he felt certain that neither bureaucracy nor technocracy—that dangerous, absolute power—would reach into even the largest co-operatives.

Mr G. ETZLER (Sweden) said that, according to the rules of democracy, it was the majority which decided and that it was so in all democratic countries and organisations. As for the co-operative movement, it was the influence of the members which was the basis of its work. In this connection, Mr Etzler drew attention to Mr Klimov's report and quoted the following passage: ". . . socialist democracy is democracy *for* the majority, for the people, for the workers . . ." and asked whether it should not be "democracy *by* the majority". He suggested, therefore, that Mr Klimov should change the word "for" to "by".

Mr T. JANCZYK (Poland) pointed out that particularly favourable conditions for the development of co-operatives existed in his country under the socialist system. Co-operatives played a great role in the agricultural and consumer fields and their members took a very active part in meetings. He gave as an example the attendance of 60,000 to 70,000 members in rural meetings, of which there were 1,000 a year.

Mr H. KEMP (United Kingdom) regarded economic control in the British co-operative movement as the first major problem and democratic control as the second. To meet the demand for reform of the Constitution of the co-operative and trade union movements and the challenge of the growing power of private industry and commerce, efforts were being made to reduce the number of local consumer

societies and a special study was being undertaken into the question of how to encourage effective democracy in regional societies. Mr Kemp, in supporting the Central Committee's proposal, hoped that all present at this Congress would try to get it accepted in practice in their own countries. In his view, there was no monopoly of democracy in socialist countries, co-operators of other countries were just as proud of their democracy which, in any State, depended on what they themselves made it. The progress made by the co-operative movements in socialist countries in regard to the proportion of members participating in co-operative democracy, forming a high degree of participation in trade and educational achievements, was a challenge accepted by countries in the West, but their practices used, too, would deserve to be acknowledged—economic reality was important but was not the only purpose of life or of the co-operative movement.

Mr J. VOORHIS (USA) believed the proposal to be a good basis for future action by all co-operative movements. Two great principles—the development of representative democracy in large co-operative societies, and over-all policy and control by the membership as owners and not by the management and executive—must be observed if the movement were to succeed in developing a co-operative system of enterprise which would be both efficient and beneficial and would also retain full participating democracy within its structure. Mr Voorhis emphasised that all co-operatives depended, therefore, for their success on their members' participation in ownership, in decision-making and patronage, and if members helped each other. Properly managed, and as true voluntary institutions, co-operatives formed the most effective weapon against either state or private monopolies.

Mrs Z. STAROS (Poland) reminded delegates that the concept of democracy and the fight for equality were important in the life of co-operatives and unions. The co-operative movement, she said, did not

distinguish between members of both sexes, but their full equality had not yet been achieved. Co-operative organisations could considerably assist in eradicating the obstacles put in the way of women's greater access to the co-operative movement. However, increasing participation of women in the movements of many countries had come about, and she gave examples of her own country, where women were active in management and in committees and were responsible for the movement's progress.

MR C. MATEESCU (Roumania) stressed the continuous efforts made in developing democracy in his country and its effects on all aspects of the economic, social and co-operative life. Co-operative societies were formed in accordance with the principle of free association and membership was open to all without any restrictions. Every member had one vote only, irrespective of the number of shares he was holding. Active and direct participation by members was demonstrated by the large number elected to management and controlling bodies—about 50,000 to those of consumer co-operatives, 10,000 of these being women. The movement enjoyed full autonomy, and ownership of the societies was safeguarded constitutionally by the State.

Dr W. RUF (Switzerland), asking "what is democracy?", examined a variety of definitions, interpretations and answers given in countries with different forms of State rule as regards the rule of the majority, freedom for the individual, the possibility for man to be a human being, respect for the minority and its rights to participate as well as its enjoyment of as many rights as those of the majority.

Referring to the dynamic co-operative activity in the economic field, Dr Ruf suggested to throw all doors open to youth and women and reserve one-third of the places for them to serve on co-operative local, regional, national and international management committees. In such a way, a dynamic democracy would exist and en-

compass all strata of the populations.

Dr F. CORTESI (Italy) gave first an account of his country's co-operative experiences and problems in the field of co-operative democracy and found that solutions to the latter were very difficult, as they would not be valid for every situation. This was quite particularly true in the case of the area and type of freedom which varied in different countries and conditioned the democracy, and even co-operative democracy, there. Co-operatives, however, could contribute to the widening of freedom by allowing the development of a spirit of innovation and by encouraging the organisational ability of individuals and groups to fulfil their potential. In conclusion, Mr Cortesi said he wished that every co-operative movement maintained within its internal polemic a certain area of freedom which was above or outside the interests of other sectors. Its relationship with other forces should be safeguarded by clauses relating to the movement's individuality and its capacity for enlightened democratic renewal.

Mr I. SHAPAN (Israel), stating his views on co-operative democracy and replying to Mr Klimov's question how a true co-operative democracy could be ensured, recalled that the principles of co-operative democracy were enshrined 125 years ago by the Pioneers of Rochdale; these were equally valid today, as the examples of, for instance, the principle "one member, one vote" or those concerning subscriptions and free elections every year to the management organs of the co-operative proved. Adjustments of work, programmes and ideas had always to be made in order to be in line with the situation in the present-day world.

Mr Shapan turned then to his own country, where the co-operative movement had well developed and was an integral part of life there. He substantiated this with facts and figures relating to the activities of, and members' participation in, a variety of co-operatives. Most importantly, however, he gave an example of what he considered

as being true co-operative democracy, namely, that the chairman of a co-operative Board could not be re-elected at the annual elections, but went back to his work-place as a tractor driver or to that in any co-operative sector. In Mr Shapan's view, a co-operative movement could be developed in a democracy, irrespective of the socio-economic structure. In conclusion, he stated that his delegation supported the Central Committee's proposal.

Mr R. AHMED (Pakistan), commending the three reports for the coverage of almost the whole ground of co-operative democracy, regretted, however, that one aspect of the problem, namely, the functioning of co-operative democracy in the developing countries had not received the attention it deserved. The problems were of a different character and dimension in the different areas of the world. In the developed countries with a mixed economy, the threat came from giant capitalist enterprises, and under the pressure from that competition, the co-operatives there underwent structural changes in order to become equally efficient and competitive. The problem in the socialist countries stemmed from state relationship which, however, was easing up and resulting in the transfer of state authority and control to the co-operatives. The problems in the developing countries were manifold, complicated and difficult. The greatest danger to the co-operatives there came from capitalist enterprises and exploitation, political exploitation and government control. Another problem was how to create a socio-economic climate in which democracy could flourish. To achieve co-operative democracy, social equity between individuals was needed. Mr Ahmed concluded with the plea that co-operators in the developing countries should make special efforts to get together in order to find a solution to their problems.

Mrs S. RÄIKKÖNEN (Finland) reminded delegates that half of the world's population were women who, she said, were usually looked upon as a minority

group. This was also the case in many co-operative movements of the western countries, where possibly half of the membership was made up of women who, when it came to decision-making or to policy, had very little say in these. This, in her opinion, was a flaw in democracy. If the co-operative movement truly tried to implement democracy in practice, women's equal rights and participation must be paid attention to. Mrs Rääkkönen gave practical examples to prove her point. She mentioned agricultural producers' societies, where women performed the agricultural work, however, they were not the members but their husbands and brothers. In the consumer field, all people were consumers, but women predominated as consumers, yet there were no channels for those consumers' voice to be heard after decisions had been made. For instance, shopping networks were decided upon without hearing from those people—the women—who did most of the shopping. Mrs Rääkkönen thought that women were becoming restless, they wanted true democracy.

Reply to the Discussion

Mr A. P. KLIMOV (USSR), replying to the debate, first took up some points in Mr Korp's statement. Some of the questions he found difficult to answer, because they were rather abstract and dealt more with the socialist countries than with his report. As to Mr Korp's remarks regarding a *rapprochement* between East and West, he was worried about them. However, Mr Klimov added, it was known to all that the ICA was not a society for political unanimity. All must act jointly within the framework of the ICA to meet the tasks which the co-operatives had to fulfil and act in their interests. He thought that a *rapprochement* was much better for the future of humanity.

Regarding Mr Etzler's comments on a passage in his report, Mr Klimov pointed out that there was no disagreement between them, since what was said on the previous page had reference to Mr Etzler's own statement that "it has to be a democ-

racy of the majority”, with which they both agreed. Mr Klimov did not think it necessary to go into arguments with one or two speakers who had spoken against the view put forward in his report, because they had based their reasoning on a political view and conviction which was opposed to his. Finally, Mr Klimov expressed his gratitude to the many speakers who had supplemented the ideas in his report.

Mr N. THEDIN (Sweden), also replying to the debate, thanked, on behalf of Mr Kérinec and himself, delegates for the generosity they had shown in discussing their joint report and for the spirit in which the discussion had taken place. It had been enriching to listen to a discussion in which the same problem had been viewed from many different angles. He explained that both had tried to discuss the ideological and practical aspects of co-operative democracy in their report and, as Mr Veverka had said, the object had mainly been to show the difficulties and to discuss the problems. Commenting on one point in Mr Klimov's report, where the “empty talk about freedom of personality and human rights” was mentioned, this was, in Mr Kérinec's and his own opinion, not “empty talk”, since, in fact, the freedom of personality and of human rights was the very essence, the very purpose of democracy. He chose this example to show that, when in certain cases the same words were used, they might have different meanings. International gatherings and organisations were always running into semantic problems, words in different senses being used. In discussing the problems, Mr Kérinec and Mr Thedin had been aware that democracy in the western world was imperfect, as there existed discrimination between races and sexes, and inequality of income and opportunities in many countries, and it was Prof Lambert who stressed that, because the world was imperfect, the co-operative movement was needed. Co-operation was a challenge, a protest, therefore, co-operators had to see to it that that protest and that challenge was efficient and that it could change the world. This could

be done under two conditions which were economic efficiency and democratic efficiency.

Mr Thedin considered Mr Korp's mention in his intervention of the necessity of building a bridge between present-day practice and modern scientific and technological advances, a very important thought, with very much of a future in it. Mr Kemp had underlined the need for an exchange of information and Mr Thedin hoped that its strengthening in the field of democratic practices and solutions in the various countries would be one of the results of the Central Committee's proposal. One of the most important problems, the participation of women in co-operative activities, was discussed by Mrs Staros and Mrs Rääkönen, and the Polish experience particularly in this field was impressive. Mr Thedin thought that it was essential to give the women every possibility to add to the democratic strength of the co-operative movement. Mr Ruf had appealed for a dynamic democracy and had particularly mentioned the need for contacts with other organisations. Mr Thedin thought that Congress might be interested to hear that, in the new parliamentary organisation of the Swedish Co-operative Movement, there was a possibility of adding two nationally elected candidates to the Board of Directors of the Co-operative Union (KF), who might represent other movements, as, for instance, the trade union movement; these candidates should, of course, be elected by the co-operative authorities and not by the other organisations. Mr Thedin agreed with Mr Ahmed that the developing countries did not receive the attention they deserved in the joint report, and explained that he and Mr Kérinec felt that that vast problem was outside the scope of the report and deserved its own papers and discussion at Congress. Finally, the very important subject of members' involvement and participation, mentioned by many speakers, was a subject on which new ideas should be explored. Co-operation meant solidarity across all boundaries, and its vision could

bring hope to mankind, attract the interest of the young generation and was an important aspect of the whole of the co-operative movement's problem of democracy.

Mr Ch.-H. BARBIER (Switzerland) thanked all who took part in the discussion on the reports and made three points, the first being that world co-operation at present was strongly bound up with democracy and that no co-operator would allow democracy to be emasculated. In his second point, he referred to Mrs Staros' and Mrs Räikkönen's interventions which, he emphasised, must be taken seriously by all co-operators. It was wrong for men to believe that they could promote life without the help of women, and he warned that, unless the latter's part to be played in co-operative activities was going to be equal to that of men, this problem would remain unsolved. Finally, Mr Barbier referred to the excellent means available to the co-operative movement in setting about to create viable co-operative structures, but it was difficult to find both men and women co-operators taking a positive interest. It was, therefore, most important in a democracy to rouse their will to participate. To solve this problem, the co-operative movement must become an object of interest and must be taken seriously which could only be achieved, if its societies and co-operators displayed dynamism.

The PRESIDENT asked Congress to take a vote on the Central Committee's proposal and the two amendments submitted by the Lega.

The proposal, as amended, was carried unanimously.

Representation on Central Committee

Mr L. ROBERT (France) raised a question of importance to the French delegation, namely, that of representation of the French housing co-operatives on the Central Committee. He reported that the National Federation of Housing Co-operatives

(HLM) had now more than 500,000 members and had completed over 300,000 dwellings. It would, therefore, appear to him normal that the French co-operative housing movement should be represented on the Central Committee. Although his delegation was aware of the problem raised in this connection by the Rules of the ICA, which limited the representation of each national delegation. Mr Robert drew attention to Mr Kérinec's stand taken that democracy was the very essence of co-operation and asked Congress to consider his intervention and submit the problem of the French delegation's democratic representation to the ICA's Executive Committee for examination at its next meeting.

The PRESIDENT, in reply to Mr Robert, explained that nominations to the Central Committee were entirely in the hands of the national co-operatives in membership in a certain country to sort out, and the mandate for representation on the Central Committee could be changed by consent of the national movements themselves. However, in case of a serious dispute, the matter might be brought before the Executive Committee. The President hoped that, with the goodwill of all concerned, the French Movement would find a generally acceptable solution.

Election of Central Committee

The PRESIDENT informed Congress that the lists of nominations of representatives to the Central Committee had been circulated and two additional names were to be added. The election of the following candidates was agreed:

Algeria: P. Padovani

Argentina: C. Chiaraviglio, S. Colabella, A. Monin

Austria: A. Korp, O. Sagmeister, F. R. Schmidt, L. Strobl, F. Reinthaler

Belgium: M. Doms, P. Lambert, R. Ramaekers, J. Vandersmissen, J. Eerdekens, J. Lambert, A. Gengoux, M. Derbaix

Bulgaria: S. Syulemezov, T. Guerguiev Bébov, S. Péchev Tzékov

Canada: K. F. Harding, W. B. Melvin, J. T. Phalen, Y. Daneau, M. J. Légère, A. Rouleau
Ceylon: E. Wijesuriya
Chile: W. Sommerhoff
Cyprus: R. N. Clerides, M. Eshref
Czechoslovakia: R. Holec, M. Kabát, M. Marik, J. Podlipny, P. Poruben, L. Smrcka, P. Tonhauser, F. Vychodil
Denmark: K. Møller, C. Pedersen, K. Nielsen, E. Groes, L. P. Jensèn
Eire: W. Carroll, P. Kelly
Finland: J. Jalava, E. Salovaara, K. Peitsalo, P. Kuoppala, M. Mustonen, V. Loppi, V. Luukka, E. Särkkä
France: F. Burette, M. Couvrecelle, M. Degond, R. Kérinec, J. Lacroix, Ch. Veverka, A. Antoni, A. Cramois
Federal Republic of Germany: C. J. Bock, W. Flügge, O. Paulig, W. Peters, C. Wiederkehr, W. Hesselbach, W. Rittner, W. Ambrosius
Ghana: F. Mark-Addo
Hungary: F. Molnár, L. Rév
Iceland: E. Einarsson
India: P. Bose, R. Kankasabai, B. Perkash, V. N. Puri, P. S. R. Naidu, Y. Udaybhan Singh
Iran: H. Mossaed
Israel: S. Brandt, I. Shapan, N. Ushpiz, A. Yadlin, Sh. Berent
Italy: G. Banchieri, W. Briganti, I. Curti, S. Miana, L. Vigone, L. Malfettani, A. Mayr, A. Rossini
Japan: S. Nakabayashi, S. Katayanagi, M. Mihashi, A. Mijawaki, T. Ando
Kenya: J. J. Musundi
Malaysia: A. Hourmain
Netherlands: J. F. van Netten, J. G. Nijhof
Nigeria: E. T. Latunde, P. Igbinosun
Norway: R. Haugen, P. Sjøiland
Pakistan: R. Ahmed, S. I. H. Zaidi
Peru: R. Bandouin
Poland: Z. Engel, T. Janczyk, J. Sobieszczanski, Mrs Z. Staros, T. Szelazek, W. Kasperski, F. Lós, B. Trámpczyński
Roumania: C. Mateesco, I. Alexe
Sweden: M. Bonow, G. Etzler, H. Hjalmarson, N. Thedin, H. Hakansson, S. Kypengren, G. Blomqvist, K. Back, J. Sallborg
Switzerland: E. B. Blümle, W. Gnaedinger, R. Kohler, O. Schmutz, H. Thuli, A. Vuilleumier, W. Bleile, E. Debrunner
Tanzania: B. M. Juma
Turkey: N. Uzgören
USSR: M. M. Denisov, N. S. Djavahidze, M. D. Hasanov, A. P. Klimov, F. D. Kolesnik, A. I. Krashennikov, I. A. Krumin, V. K. Yakovenko
United Kingdom: C. Greenwood, E. H. Mirey-lees, Lord Jacques, R. Southern, Lord Taylor of Gryfe, H. W. Whitehead, G. Williams
USA: H. A. Cowden, G. Dunlap, S. Dreyer, T. J. Gorman, R. F. Morrow, F. F. Rondeau,

A. J. Smaby, L. Woodcock
Yugoslavia: M. Ivanović, later replaced by M. Koncar

International Organisations

Organization of the Co-operatives of America, San Juan, Puerto Rico: R. A. Vicens
Nordisk Andelsforbund, Copenhagen, Denmark: L. Lundin
International Co-operative Bank Co Ltd, Basle, Switzerland: H. -U. Mathias
International Co-operative Petroleum Association, New York, USA: A. R. Carlsson

Seventh Session :

Thursday, 4th September (morning)

Election of Executive Committee

The PRESIDENT, in declaring the results of the election of the Executive Committee by the Central Committee the previous evening, stated that the two Vice-Presidents (Mr A. P. Klimov, USSR, and Mr R. Southern, United Kingdom) and the President (himself) had been unanimously re-elected.

He then read the names of the thirteen elected members of the Executive Committee in alphabetical order: S. Dreyer (USA), J. Jalava (Finland), T. Janczyk (Poland), R. Kérinec (France), R. Kohler (Switzerland), P. Lambert (Belgium), W. B. Melvin (Canada), J. F. van Netten (Netherlands), O. Paulig (Federal Republic of Germany), J. Podlipny (Czechoslovakia), V. N. Puri (India), P. Sjøiland (Norway), Lord Taylor of Gryfe (United Kingdom).

INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS

I THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE DECLARES THAT CONSUMERS HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- 1 A reasonable standard of nutrition, clothing and housing.
- 2 Adequate standards of safety and a healthy environment free from pollution.
- 3 Access to unadulterated merchandise at fair prices and with reasonable variety and choice.
- 4 Access to relevant information on goods and services and to education on consumer topics.
- 5 Influence in economic life and democratic participation in its control.

II CONSUMER POLICY

- 1 The call for pure and unadulterated food by the Rochdale Pioneers reflected in their own practice, was made because of the widespread adulteration of merchandise at that time. Even today this call is, in many parts of the world, as topical as when it was first formulated. It therefore still holds a prominent position among the aims of all consumer co-operative movements.
- 2 This basic principle has nowadays come to imply considerably more. The previously rather narrow concept of consumption has widened to embrace all that affects the health and welfare of mankind. Clean air, clean and wholesome water, and in general a world fit for mankind, have come to stand out as ever more urgent requirements. These claims are no longer only applicable within consumer co-operative movements but are basic precepts for all co-operative organisations, and for other consumer organisations.
- 3 The co-operative movement has constantly endeavoured to equip itself with effective means for redressing grievances. Being engaged in production and in distribution it has had the opportunity of improving the living standards of all and of making necessities available to low income groups.
- 4 The co-operative movement has acquired a significant influence on important sectors of economic and community life and it also has considerable influence on public opinion.
- 5 One of the basic principles of the movement is that the members themselves should have influence over its activities. The consumer member's self-evident right to voice his views is thus of fundamental importance in all consumer co-operative organisations. To make

use of this authority and to exercise this influence the consumer needs knowledge; and education and information thus play an important part in co-operative activity.

III NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENTS SHOULD PROMOTE CONSUMER INTERESTS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- 1 The continued development of co-operative production and distribution with special attention to consumer needs and in order to promote national economic and social development.
- 2 Campaigning for legislation in the field of consumer protection and for consumer representation on all public bodies involved in decisions both directly and indirectly affecting the consumer.
- 3 The further development of assortment policies to meet consumer needs with the expert advice and technical assistance of specialised laboratories, so as to make available to the consumer a wide range of products with easily comparable prices and ensure them full freedom of choice.
- 4 Taking and campaigning for effective action to control monopolies, ensure effective competition and fair prices; to try to ensure that the fruits of technological progress are passed on to the consumer.
- 5 The provision of educational opportunities for the consumer in the field of nutrition, domestic economy and general economics.
- 6 The preparation and dissemination of useful information either independently or in collaboration with public and other consumer organisations and the promotion of informative labelling and truthful advertising.
- 7 Taking the initiative in collaboration with other organisations involved in consumer affairs to co-ordinate the promotion of consumer rights, in an effort to achieve joint action to promote consumer interests in all spheres of community life.

IV IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD THE WORLD CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO:

- 1 Heighten and develop collaboration between co-operative organisations in all parts of the world; promote and assist newly emerging co-operative movements, especially in developing countries, and generally promote economic and social development.
- 2 Assist in implementing special programmes designed to improve human conditions in collaboration with ECOSOC, the UN Specialised Agencies, the UN regional commissions and international non-governmental organisations

having similar aims, and generally to promote the objectives of the Resolution on Co-operatives adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1968.

3 Support UN activities for the improvement of the human environment.

4 Advocate the abolition of monopolies and other restrictive business practices obstructing economic development and international trade and in general promote freer world trade while recognising the special problems of developing countries.

5 Advocate an international co-ordination of laws and regulations affecting consumers through organisations such as the International Organisation for Standardisation and the International Electro-Technical Commission.

6 Advocate a co-ordinated international system of consumer information through collaboration with bodies such as the International Organisation of Consumer Unions, the International Labelling Centre, the International Organisation for Standardisation and the International Electro-Technical Commission; and the joint committee formed by the last two, the International Standards Steering Committee for Consumer Affairs (ISCA).

Amendment: Proposed by Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Italy.

In the second paragraph of Part IV, between the words "human conditions" and "in collaboration" insert the words "and especially in fighting effectively against hunger".

MR R. KOHLER (Switzerland) introduced, on behalf of the Central Committee, the Declaration of Consumer Rights to Congress, a subject which, he observed, should be at the very heart of its concern. He hoped that all delegates present as representatives of consumer co-operatives would unanimously endorse the Declaration, and drew the attention of all other delegates to the fact that the Declaration catered for the rights of all social strata of the population and did not try to secure and protect the rights of consumers exclusively. He hoped therefore that everybody would support it. Commenting on the content of the Declaration, he noted that there was first a set of targets enumerated in its preamble, one of the most important

being the statement that man was entitled to a proper standard of living, applying not only to nutrition but including housing, clothing and the satisfaction of basic requirements. The second point concerned the requirement for a healthy environment: man was entitled to healthy, pollution-free air and water, to the conservation of nature and to live in a reasonably noise-free environment. Proper supply conditions were dealt with in the third point; there was a need for a hygienic and sound supply of goods for the consumer in order to enable him to secure it at any time. In connection with the fourth point regarding the provision of proper information about goods and services and on education concerning consumer topics, Mr Kohler drew attention to consumer intelligence papers published in recent years. The last point of the preamble emphasised the consumer representatives' duties particularly with regard to the influence they wielded on economic life through democratic participation in economic policy and in the implementation of legislation.

In Mr Kohler's view, the aforesaid was more than just a general statement, and what followed in the next four paragraphs of the Declaration could be termed as a "programme of work" mainly of the consumer co-operatives. Their first task should be to abolish existing unsatisfactory conditions in the marketing of goods caused by the intermediary (middleman) and to improve the supply of goods and services. In later sections, the Declaration encouraged the consumer co-operatives to step up their own achievements and to ensure close co-operation with other national, regional and international co-operative organisations.

Mr Kohler then dwelt on the background history of this important Declaration and hoped that in all affiliated organisations and in their countries good use would be made of the recommendations contained therein and that the ICA Secretariat would help them to implement these. It was Mr Kohler's hope that the



Declaration could be used by all to enhance the prestige of the ICA. Wide-spread publicity on radio and television should be given to the conclusions of the Declaration. Finally, Mr Kohler thanked the Secretariat and the Consumer Working Party for their initiative taken in helping to bring this document into being.

Mr G. SPALLONE (Italy) said that his delegation was in general agreement with the content of the Declaration, but would have preferred to see greater emphasis placed on the actual terms on which consumer protection should be based in view of the existing situation in certain parts of the world. He thought it essential to have a precise indication of those forces tending to dominate the consumer. It was, therefore, imperative to define precisely the adversary—monopolies and combines—who must be opposed by means of general co-operative action, which was the aim of

the Declaration. The practices of monopolies disregarded the demands of the mass of consumers and their interests constituted the greatest obstacles to the development of a healthy and effective system of agricultural co-operation, which was essential to any policy for the protection of the consumer. Because of these facts, the Lega had submitted an amendment to the Declaration which, however, had not been favoured by the Executive Committee and was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr Spallone emphasised that the same monopolies were largely responsible for the serious obstacles to progress in the developing countries. Large sums of money were being spent on armaments, technology was constantly developing, yet there were still one thousand million people suffering from hunger—these were facts which co-operators could not ignore. This, Mr Spallone ended, would explain Lega's sub-

mission of a second amendment to the Declaration (i.e., to paragraph 2, section IV) which he hoped Congress would accept.

Mrs T. STRÖM (Sweden) commended the Declaration, as it was very broad and wide-ranging and stated the basic needs of all human beings, stressing particularly those of people who had not yet access to what should be considered a minimum level of existence. It was widening the old concept of consumers' needs to every aspect affecting mankind, paying special attention to the environmental problems of pollution which had become a growing concern throughout the world. It was, therefore, natural that a world-wide international organisation with deep-rooted traditions and engagements in economic and social development should regard consumer problems—previously seen in isolation from the context to which they really belonged—from this very broad angle. Mrs Ström found it deplorable that, in many countries and even in international organisations, there was a lack of understanding of what co-operative movements represented and the practical solution they were able to offer as the real representatives of consumers. It was her hope that the Declaration would serve as a stimulus and framework for the movement's thinking and that many specific programmes on consumer problems would be the outcome of it in the future.

With regard to international action dealt with in the Declaration, Mrs Ström said that this had already been manifested in various fields in the world-wide organisations, but in the co-ordination of matters affecting the consumers, little had so far been achieved. In this work, the ICA could play a very important role, because it represented not only technical knowledge but a wide range of practical experience in finding methods of informing consumers through nation-wide labelling schemes. Mrs Ström considered it a duty of Congress, when supporting the Declaration, also to realise its implications as far as the ICA's financial resources were concerned.

On behalf of her delegation, she fully endorsed this important document, hoping that it would be actively used in all organisations at all levels.

Mr A. MALKOV (USSR) said that the protection of consumer interests had always been one of the major concerns of his country's co-operators and that was why his delegation whole-heartedly supported the Declaration before Congress. He reported that special legislation dealing with the protection of consumer rights existed in the USSR and that the laws stipulated that all goods could only be marketed if they were up to the official standards established by the scientific research institutes, in which the co-operatives participated. These standards applied to quality of foodstuffs and goods, size and weight of products, conditions of storage and were binding for all industrial establishments. There was also legislation governing the relationship between the supplier and the consumer. The consumer co-operatives had shop and restaurant committees which worked together with an inspection service. The consumer's right to clean air and water provided for in the Declaration, was also covered by legislation.

Mrs M. BROCH (Norway), commenting on the Declaration, said that co-operative movements in all countries were generally realising that they had wider obligations than only those of handling goods and providing services. This attitude was clearly expressed in the Declaration's five points of the preamble as the basis of consumer rights. The preservation of the human environment was a global problem and Mrs Broch declared that individuals and societies must co-operate in counteracting the misuse of nature and technique. With growing urbanisation, a great many noisy activities had to be accepted and, in her opinion, noise was even more dangerous than the pollution of water and air, therefore, she suggested the insertion of the words "noise and" before the word "pollution" in point 2 of the preamble to

the Declaration, which would then read "Adequate standards of safety and a healthy environment free from noise and pollution".

Mr J. SEMLER-COLLERY (France) believed, as his delegation did, that the Declaration was of the greatest importance and should have a considerable effect on the relations between the co-operative movements and the various public and private organisations looking after consumer protection matters. He thanked the ICA's Executive and Central Committees for having responded to the initiative taken by the Consumer Working Party in proposing a veritable "Charter" to Congress. Mr Semler-Collery foresaw that the Declaration opened up excellent prospects for the development of concerted strategies and for setting up large-scale operations in the international scene, which would also bring about a willingness to collaborate with all who were working towards the same end. It would no longer be sufficient to ensure only the provision of the best service to the consumers, and neither would an isolated national action, as the experience of co-operative movements within the European Economic Community had shown. Mr Semler-Collery saw in the ICA Declaration the hope for greater collaboration between co-operative movements in working out jointly a true consumer policy.

Mr G. G. GROENEWEGEN (Netherlands) concentrated on point 7 of section III of the Declaration, dealing with advice given to national co-operative movements how to promote consumer interests. If delegates agreed with that point, the question arose in which way the national movements should take the initiative to reach their goal as defined therein. There were two ways, the first being that, whenever, in the opinion of the national movement, an initiative should be taken, it would seek contact with other consumer organisations and try to agree on a joint action—a possible, but, in Mr Groenewegen's view, not very efficient way. A

better way he would suggest was to form, together with the other consumer organisations, a permanent non-governmental body which would function as a private national representative organisation in consumer affairs. This body would be a Contact Committee of consumer organisations, having the task to co-ordinate the promotion of consumer rights and to represent the consumer at governmental and private bodies which took decisions affecting the consumer. Mr Groenewegen then commented on the relation between the national Contact Committee and the official governmental organisation for consumer affairs, known in many countries as the Consumer Council. Finally, speaking of the Declaration as a whole, he said that his delegation accepted it and added that, if it was the intention of Congress to publish it, it seemed desirable that an explanation be given on the various points taken up in it, enabling the ICA to make clear the philosophy behind the Declaration. He suggested that this might be a task to be carried out by the Consumer Working Party.

Mr P. KUOPPALA (Finland), in supporting the Declaration on behalf of his delegation, said that it was only proper for the co-operative movement as the oldest consumer organisation to define its consumer policy. Mr Kuoppala referred particularly to section II of the Declaration and agreed that the concept of consumption had widened to embrace all that affected the health and welfare of mankind, which meant that, in campaigning for legislation to protect the consumer, the co-operative movement had to pay increased attention to factors affecting the environment to be lived in. Being aware of the fact that he could not propose any amendments to the text at the present stage of discussion on the Declaration, Mr Kuoppala, nevertheless, thought it necessary to emphasise that the problem of food adulteration was still topical also in the industrialised countries and he would have liked to see the text of point 1, section II,

more in accordance with reality by omitting the words "in many parts of the world" in the second sentence.

Mr S. APELQVIST (Sweden), singling out the reference to pollution in the Declaration, reminded delegates of the disastrous effects on life caused by the atom bombs exploded in 1945 over Hiroshima and Nagasaki and by the dust carried from Japan round the whole globe, and the much more recent toxic pollution of the River Rhine in 1969, as two illustrations of the risks of contamination in modern society. Air, water and soil, he said, were being poisoned to such an extent that this constituted not only a threat to man's health but to his survival. The consequences of technology evolving in many fields must, therefore, be studied, analysed and examined. The problem under discussion had previously been mainly concerned with the aesthetic, humanitarian and cultural aspects, but it was also a serious economic question for consumers all over the world. It was most important, Mr Apelqvist advised, to get reliable scientific information and to ensure that all kinds of co-operative societies participated actively in the dissemination of information concerning the continual pollution of the environment and how it could be prevented and the damage already done put right. In conclusion, he asked Congress to accept the Declaration proposed by the Central Committee, and adding that it had received unanimous support at the ICA Insurance Conference held in Hamburg prior to this Congress.

Mr J. E. FISHER (USA) gave an account of some of his country's recent developments in the consumer movement, mentioning first the just over one year old Consumer Federation of America, whose membership had increased from 56 to 136 organisations. In 1968, the US Congress had passed 28 pieces of consumer legislation, covering credit practices, packaging, consumer safety and other issues, and new consumer protection laws had also been passed at the state and local levels. Mr

Fisher stated that there were, however, still formidable obstacles ahead, amongst them opposition, public apathy and the movement's own lack of experience, but he saw co-operatives as a major source of help to the consumer movement in its efforts to realise its full potential. The two movements had much in common. Both were based on the democratic concept of people working together to meet their economic and social needs; and both were committed to giving people a voice in their own affairs. The co-operative movement in the United States was playing a vital role in fostering the growth of consumer organisations, and the Co-operative League of the USA had been working hand-in-hand with the Consumer Federation of America. The former had recently published an illustrated outline of some of the consumer information and protection activities of American co-operatives, entitled "To Tell the Truth". Mr Fisher endorsed the Declaration on behalf of his delegation and urged Congress to support it, since it was a strong reaffirmation of the objectives common to both the co-operative and consumer movements and a firm commitment to joint action on behalf of people everywhere.

Mr W. SOMMERHOFF (Chile) raised the problem of more adequate leisure time and entertainment, with which the consumer co-operatives should concern themselves, and thought that that was a task to be undertaken by the women. Although conscious of the rules concerning new amendments, he ventured to suggest that the words "culture and leisure" be added at the end of point 1 of the preamble to the Declaration. Mr Sommerhoff also voiced his opinion that the poisoning of the mind was more dangerous than that of air and water.

Mr W. B. MELVIN (Canada) conveyed his delegation's full support for the Declaration, which he believed to be a valuable statement of this Congress as well as a useful guide for action to be taken by representatives on the return to their own

countries. Mr Melvin then gave a brief outline of the recent developments in his country's co-operative consumer activities.

Mr R. KOHLER (Switzerland), winding up the debate, thanked delegates for their valuable contributions to the discussion of the Declaration and for their support of the Central Committee's proposals therein. Some speakers, who commented on the Declaration as a whole, expressed the wish that its scope should be even more expanded and he assured them that the ICA, through its Secretariat would continue this work. With regard to the Italian delegate's reference to the struggle against monopolies, Mr Kohler pointed out that this problem had been taken care of in the Declaration and was, of course, a matter to be tackled by the co-operatives. A number of representatives had reported on the efforts made by, and developments in, the consumer movements of their respective countries. It was most important to see to it that the ICA's activities would be crowned with success and to obtain the co-operation of co-operatives of every type. Mr Kohler was convinced that, through widely publicising the Declaration, the Alliance's leadership in the consumer field would be enhanced and the number of people gaining knowledge of this campaign greatly increased. As to practical steps to be taken, he mentioned that the Consumer Working Party was already about to elaborate practical proposals and to publish reports on its activities.

In conclusion, Mr Kohler emphasised that merely to issue and publicise a Declaration was not sufficient, since, once it was brought to public attention, the Alliance and its affiliated organisations incurred additional responsibilities and would be closely watched by both competitors and consumers what they did in practice to implement the provisions contained in this Declaration. There could be no doubt that success would largely depend on the capability of translating its ideal into practice.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr Kohler

for his introduction of the Declaration and his comprehensive reply to the discussion which had followed. He then explained the procedural position regarding Mrs Broch's and Mr Sommerhoff's suggestions during the debate for small additions to the Central Committee's proposed text of the Declaration. Pointing out that, in both cases, the proposed additional points were broadly covered in the original text, the President hoped that the two delegates would not press them at that late stage of Congress. Mrs Broch and Mr Sommerhoff agreed. The President put therefore the International Declaration of Consumer Rights, as proposed by the Central Committee, to the vote.

The Declaration was unanimously adopted, but due to a procedural error, no vote had been taken on the Lega amendment, to the content of which, however, there was no objection at all in principle.

PROPOSALS OF AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS:

Amendments to Rules

(proposed changes are in italics)

Subject: Amendments to the Rules

Proposer: Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives, Poland

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

TAKES into consideration the universal and democratic nature of the International Co-operative Alliance;

HAS in mind the need to sanction the full representation of all associated organisations in the Rules of the ICA;

INTRODUCES the following amendments to the Rules of the ICA:

Article 2. Constituent Members: After the words "which have as their aim the promotion of co-operation", the following words are added: "*irrespective of political economic and social systems of the countries in which they develop their activities*".

Article 32. Executive: In paragraph 1, after the words "members elected by the Central Committee from amongst its members immediately after each Congress", the following words are added: "*on the basis of equal representation of member organisations, acting in different socio-economic systems and in various geographical regions*".

Article 33. Duties of the Executive: (d) will read as follows: "*To be responsible for the appointment of the ICA staff, taking into consideration the representation of the co-operative organisations acting in different socio-economic systems and in various geographical regions, as well as for the removal and the remuneration of the ICA staff*".

Subject: Amendments to the Rules

Proposer: Ustredni Rada Druzstev, Czechoslovakia

Article 32. Executive: The Executive shall consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents and thirteen other members elected by the Central Committee from amongst its members immediately after each Congress.

"In the election of the Executive, members shall be assured an adequate representation of organisations from various groups of countries in the world with regard to the membership and importance of the respective co-operative movements. The principles of the election safeguarding the realisation of this provision shall be determined by the Central Committee."

The Organisations of one country, or union of countries, shall not have more than two representatives on the Executive, excluding the President of the ICA.

Any member of the Executive who is prevented from attending a meeting shall have the right to appoint a substitute, who shall be a member of the Central Committee. Such appointments shall be notified to the Director.

Mrs Z. STAROS (Poland), commenting on the text of the Central Agricultural Union's amendments to Art. 2, 32 and 33 of the ICA Rules, believed that there were important and urgent problems involved,

and in particular that of the ICA's role in the world and its universal character. The Alliance was the only non-governmental organisation gathering together representatives of countries with different political and economic systems. Its universal character implied therefore that membership was open to all co-operative organisations wishing to join and whose activities were inspired by co-operative ideas. Consequently, the determining factor in the composition of the ICA's constitutional organs and its staff must be that all organisations belonging to it were properly represented. All geographical regions and the most important political and economic systems should, as far as possible, be ensured in the membership of the Executive and the Secretariat. The proposed amendments, concluded Mrs Staros, would have a great impact on the future development of the ICA.

Mr A. ROSSINI (Italy) announced that he would not approve the amendments to Art. 32 submitted by Poland and Czechoslovakia, but drew attention to the fact that there were only three non-European members amongst those of the newly elected Executive Committee. He reminded delegates of the Italian delegation's proposal at the Vienna Congress to the effect that the number of members of the Executive should be increased in order to give non-European countries a larger representation. Although that proposal had been approved, his delegation's hopes had not yet been realised. However, Mr Rossini was confident that this matter would be taken into account at the next Congress.

Mr G. J. NIJHOF (Netherlands) remarked that the Polish amendments to Art. 2 and 32 were not clear to his delegation, especially as it was generally known that different political, economic and social systems existed in this world; therefore, no change of Art. 2 was required, which would only weaken it and he opposed this amendment. Mr Nijhof then dealt with both the Polish and Czechoslovak amendments to Art. 32, which he

also rejected, stating that a general body must be free to elect from amongst its members those who were best suited and qualified to serve on the Executive.

Mr F. F. RONDEAU (USA) took up first the Polish amendments which the Co-operative League of the USA could not support. The amendment to Art. 32 contained two conflicting concepts. The one referring to representation on the Executive from different socio-economic systems would promote a division within the ICA and emphasise division rather than the unity this Congress was striving to achieve—such an element could not be introduced into the Alliance's Rules and was entirely unacceptable. On the other hand, his delegation would have favoured the second concept bearing on representation from various geographical regions, as it did at the Vienna Congress, because there should be a more complete geographical representation on the Executive. As to the Czechoslovak amendment, Mr Rondeau thought that it was vague and unnecessary and, for that reason, he would vote against it.

Mr R. HOLEC (Czechoslovakia) gave notice of his delegation's withdrawal of its own amendment in view of the fact that the Polish one had the same objective and was wider in scope. He would support that proposal.

Mr R. AHMED (Pakistan) thought that the Polish amendment concerning representation from different socio-economic systems could cause misunderstandings, as these were difficult to define. Had the Czechoslovak amendment not been withdrawn, he would have preferred it to that of Poland.

Mr V. N. PURI (India) broadly agreed with the Polish amendment to Art. 32 and with Mr Ahmed's statement on defining specified areas where one socio-economic system ended and another one started. He thought more representation should be given to less developed countries. Mr Puri referred to Mr Rossini's mention of the non-European members' under-

representation on the Executive Committee and warned that this led to various inequalities even within the ICA.

Mr P. SØILAND (Norway), also commenting on the amendment to Art. 32, said that, if accepted, it would alter the position of the Executive as one of ICA's bodies. It was the Central Committee, he emphasised, which was the representative body, whereas the Executive was an administrative one of the ICA, and it was up to the former to elect the latter and to select those persons whom it considered best for the work of the Executive. Mr Søyland appealed to the Polish delegation to withdraw its amendment as the Czechoslovak delegation had done.

Mr I. KRUMIN (USSR) supported the Polish amendment to Art. 32 because, in his view, it reflected the very changes which had occurred in the ICA during the past ten years as well as the situation existing at the present time. The Executive would be a much more effective body, he added, if its members were composed of representatives from different socio-economic systems and from various geographical regions. They would then be fully acquainted with the problems obtaining in these systems and in these regions and would be able to solve them with a better insight into the situation.

Mr R. SOUTHERN (United Kingdom) asked Congress, on behalf of the Central Committee, to reject the Polish amendment to Art. 2, 32 and 33 for the following reasons. The statement in Art. 2 was clear and simple and did not need any qualification. The Polish proposal would exclude political, economic and social considerations in judging the character of any of the organisations in the world federation, and Mr Southern cited the present situation of the Co-operative Confederation of Greece as a case in point.

As to Art. 32, the formula in the amendment was very vague. However, it was most important that the Executive was not a body representative of the ICA's member organisations, its function and

nature was executive.

The proposal to amend Art. 33 was totally unacceptable, since the principle therein was that members of the ICA staff should be representative of co-operative organisations. In this connection, Mr Southern listed all the various nationalities represented on the staffs of the ICA headquarters, the Regional Office for South-East Asia and the Office for East and Central Africa. Only on the basis of suitably qualified personnel for the jobs to be done could efficient administration be secured—an administration with only one loyalty, i.e., to the direction of the ICA, to the Executive and Central Committees, and to Congress. There could not be a situation in which members of the staff had a loyalty to external organisations—these were Mr Southern's concluding words.

Mr T. JANCZYK (Poland), replying to the debate, thought that all speakers, even those who spoke against the amendment to Art. 32, were convinced that the intention of the Central Agricultural Union was justified. He then gave the reason for having moved it, but in view of the possibility that this amendment could cause difficulties at other committee elections, and considering the unanimity which had so far prevailed at this Congress, the Polish delegation was prepared to withdraw the amendment, provided it would be included in the Minutes of Congress and at a later date referred to the Central Committee as a recommendation.

The PRESIDENT asked whether Congress consented to the withdrawal of the amendment, and it was so agreed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ICA RULES AND STANDING ORDERS GOVERNING CONGRESS PROPOSED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

(proposed changes are in italics)

Article 1. Name

Delete the second paragraph.
New text reads as follows:

“The International Co-operative Alliance, in continuance of the work of the Rochdale Pioneers, and in accordance with *Co-operative Principles*, seeks, in complete independence and by its own methods, to substitute for the profit-making régime a co-operative system organised in the interests of the whole community and based upon mutual self-help.”

Article 3. Objects

Consequent on the adoption of the phrase “Co-operative Principles” in Article 1, **Article 3 (a) will now read** as follows:

“To be the universal representative of Co-operative Organisations of all types which, in practice, observe *the Co-operative Principles*.”

Add the words “through Co-operative efforts” in 3 (g).

New text reads:

“To work for the establishment of lasting peace and security *through Co-operative efforts*.”

Article 8. Eligibility

Delete the following:

“Voluntary Membership;

Democratic Control assured by the election of the administrative organs of the Association by the members freely and on the basis of equality;

The Distribution of the Surplus to the members, in proportion to their participation in the social transactions or in the social services of the Association;

Limited Interest on Capital.”

New text reads as follows:

“Association of persons or Co-operative Organisations which observe the Aims of the ICA and the Policy laid down by its Congress shall be eligible for membership of the ICA.

Any Association of persons, or of Societies, irrespective of its legal constitution, shall be recognised as a Co-operative Society provided that it has for its object the economic and social betterment of its members by means of the exploitation of an enterprise based upon mutual aid, and that it conforms to the *Co-operative Principles as established by the Rochdale Pioneers and as reformulated by the 23rd Congress of the ICA:*

(i) *Membership of a co-operative society shall be voluntary and available without artificial restriction or any social, political, racial or religious discrimination to all persons who can make use of its services and are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.*

(ii) *Co-operative societies are democratic organisations. Their affairs shall be administered by persons elected or appointed in a manner agreed by the members and accountable to them. Members of primary societies shall enjoy equal rights of voting (one member, one vote) and participation in decisions affecting their societies. In other than primary societies the administration shall be conducted on a democratic basis in a suitable form.*

(iii) *Share capital shall only receive a strictly limited rate of interest, if any.*

(iv) *The economic results, arising out of the operations of a society belong to the members of that society and shall be distributed in such manner as would avoid one member gaining at the expense of others.*

This may be done by decision of the members as follows:

By provision for development of the business of the co-operative;

by provision of common services; or

by distribution among the members in proportion to their transactions with the society.

(v) *All co-operative societies shall make provision for the education of their members, officers and employees, and of the general public, in the principles and techniques of Co-operation, both economic and democratic.*

(vi) *All co-operative organisations, in order to best serve the interests of their members and their communities shall actively co-operate in every practical way with other co-operatives at local, national and international levels.*

Subject to compliance with these conditions, the types of Association eligible for membership shall include the following:

(a) National Unions or Federations of Co-operative Societies of the types mentioned in (f) (g), (h), (i), (j).

(b) National Federations of Co-operative Unions.

(c) Regional Unions of Co-operative Societies.

(d) Consumers' or Agricultural Co-operative Wholesale Societies.

(e) Co-operative Banks and Co-operative Insurance Societies.

(f) Consumers' Co-operative Societies.

(g) Co-operative Societies of Industrial Producers or Artisanal Co-operatives.

(h) Agricultural or Fishery Co-operative Societies.

(i) Co-operative Credit Societies.

(j) Housing and Building Societies.

(k) Supra-National or International Co-operative Organisations.

(l) Other Associations of persons or Associations which have as their aim the Promotion of Co-operation."

Article 23. Representation at Congress

Delete the word "vote" on the last line of (a).

Delete the word "vote" on the third line of (b) (in both cases).

Delete the word "vote" on the second line of (c).

New text reads as follows:

"Representation at Congress, subject to the full discharge of their financial obligations to the ICA, shall be accorded to affiliated Organisations as follows—provided that the Organisations of one country, or of a union of countries, or supra-national or international co-operative organisations, shall not exercise more than 15 per cent of the total voting power of the Congress:

(a) National Organisations admitted under clauses (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) and supra-national or international co-operative organisations admitted under clause (k) of Article 8 on the basis of Individual Membership (Article 18II), shall be entitled to one delegate.

(b) National Organisations admitted under clauses (a) and (b) of Article 8 on the basis of Collective Membership (Article 18III), shall be entitled to one delegate in respect of membership, and an additional delegate for each complete £135 of subscriptions.

(c) Organisations admitted under clauses (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (l) of Article 8 shall be grouped nationally and each national group shall be accorded one *delegate* for each complete £135 of their global subscription.

Each delegate shall have been for at least 12 months previous to appointment a member of the affiliated Society or Union making the nomination, or of a constituent member of such Union.

Unless the Central Committee shall decide otherwise a fee of £5 shall be paid for each delegate, and shall be sent to the Secretariat with the nomination form."

Article 25. Motions

Delete the last two paragraphs.

New text reads as follows:

“(a) All Motions and Resolutions of affiliated Organisations to be included in the Provisional Agenda issued under Article 20 shall be sent in writing to the Executive at least six months before the date of the Congress.

(b) Emergency Resolutions which any affiliated Organisation may desire to submit to the Congress must be handed in to the Director by noon on the first day of Congress and shall be considered by the Congress Committee, who will report on them to the Congress as first business on the second day. *No proposal will be accepted which could have been submitted under Article 25 (a).*

The text of all Emergency Resolutions as agreed by the Congress Committee and accepted for submission to Congress, shall be distributed to delegates at the end of the second day.

Amendments may exceptionally be moved at Congress subject to the procedure laid down in the Standing Orders governing the Procedure of Congress.

Consideration of Emergency Resolutions will take place at a time recommended to Congress by the Congress Committee.”

Mr R. SOUTHERN (United Kingdom) introduced the many amendments to the Rules and Standing Orders of the ICA, approved and proposed by the Central Committee, and drew briefly the attention of Congress to the more important aspects of the Committee's recommended proposals.

An addition of three words to Art. 3 (g) had been proposed to indicate that, in pursuit of the policy of lasting peace and security, the ICA should do so “through Co-operative efforts”. Mr Southern said that that would be a constant reminder as to what members were in the International Co-operative Alliance, and it might well serve also to prevent their energies being diverted along the by-ways of political controversy. That was the intention behind the addition of these simple words.

The background to the most important proposed alteration to Art. 8, Mr

Southern explained, was the adoption of the Report of the Commission on Co-operative Principles by the Vienna Congress, which had charged the Central Committee with the responsibility of considering how far the Rules of the ICA needed to be amended in the light of the reformulated Principles. That had been done, resulting in the Central Committee's proposal to incorporate in the Rules the Principles stated by the Commission. In future, these Principles would be described as the Rochdale Principles, as reformulated by the 23rd Congress of the ICA. Due to that major incorporation in Art. 8, various consequential amendments to some of its original wording became necessary.

Mr Southern clarified the amendments proposed to Art. 23 where, in its original version, the question of representation at Congress was combined with voting at Congress. It was simply desired, by the amendment to Art. 23, to deal separately with delegation and with votes in the Rules.

The purpose of the proposed amendments to Art. 25 was to strengthen it. Outlining first the present unsatisfactory procedural practice regarding the submission by member organisations of proposals, motions or amendments for the Congress, Mr Southern then added that, for the protection of Congress, it was recommended that the right to introduce amendments in the course of discussion should be removed, with the safeguard that exceptionally an amendment might be introduced in the course of discussion and that exception would possibly be for language difficulties or some amendment which was necessary because of some very urgent consideration. Thus, the rights of delegates were adequately protected.

The last in the series of alterations to the Rules Mr Southern mentioned was that to Art. 29, a minor one, which simply indicated that, in addition to settling the Agenda of the Congress, the Central Committee should also have the power to determine the order of business. Therefore,

should the case arise that the Congress had too many proposals to deal with during the four days of deliberations, it would be necessary for someone to determine which submissions should be given priority; and this was the reason for this amendment.

Coming to the amendments proposed to the Standing Orders governing the procedure of Congress, Mr Southern began with Standing Order 11, in which the recommended change was that the mover of an amendment to a motion should not have the right to reply, the reason being that, by virtue of proposing this, he sought to make a change in the original proposal and, therefore, only the mover of the latter should have the right to reply, thus preventing any further prolongation of the matter at hand.

The proposed change in Standing Order 14, namely, to limit the possibility of submitting amendments at Congress in the course of discussion, amplified that made in Art. 25 (b) of the Rules.

The recommended amendment to the old Standing Order 19, now re-numbered 18, meant that, instead of voting at Congress by a show of hands, a show of delegates' attendance cards should be used. The right of five member organisations or fifty delegates to ask for a card vote and that of the Congress Committee to order such a vote was being preserved.

Finally, Mr Southern drew attention to the addition of the new Standing Order 26, giving Congress the right to suspend, subject to certain conditions, its Standing Orders. This had been done to complete them, though it was unlikely that the need for it would arise.

Mr Southern then moved the Central Committee's recommendations to amend the Rules of the ICA and Standing Orders governing the procedure of Congress.

The PRESIDENT reported that, at the Central Committee meeting preceding this Congress, a Swiss amendment to Art. 3 (g)

of the Rules had been withdrawn on certain conditions which the Swiss Co-operative Movement had found satisfactory. This amendment was therefore not before Congress.

Discussion

The amendment to Art. 3 (g) had given rise to the most extensive discussion, in which the following delegates took part:

(Note: only fragmentary remarks can be reproduced in this summary.)

Mr S. SYULEMEZOV (Bulgaria) moved that the amendment should not be accepted. Mr J. SOBIESZCZANSKI (Poland) was against it and said he would vote against it. To Mr V. KONDRATOV (USSR) it was not acceptable. He asked for a paragraph by paragraph vote on the amendments, especially on Art. 3 (g); the PRESIDENT replied that voting would take place on article by article.

Eighth Session:

Thursday, 4th September (afternoon)

AMENDMENTS TO THE ICA RULES AND STANDING ORDERS GOVERNING CONGRESS PROPOSED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Discussion (resumed)

Mr N. DJAVAHIDZE (USSR) moved that Art. 3 (g) should remain as it was in the old text and requested a card vote on this amendment. Mr I. ALEXE (Roumania) wished that the old text be maintained, but he was in agreement with the other amendments. Mr P. TONHAUSER (Czechoslovakia) felt that the old text should stand without the amendment. Mr P. SØILAND (Norway) explained why his delegation would vote against this amendment. Mr R. B. BASTIN

(United Kingdom) asked whether the proposed amendment would preclude educational work with, for example, UNESCO; the PRESIDENT replied "No", because the ICA had consultative status with UNESCO amongst other UN organisations.

Comments on the amendments to Art. 8 were made by the following delegates:

Mr LAMBERT (Belgium) concentrated on the new texts in the amendments affecting the Co-operative Principles and asked Congress to accept the version approved by the Central Committee. Mr C. ORSOLINI (Italy), referring to paragraph (ii) of the amendment, suggested to delete the last four words "in a suitable form" or, if that were not possible, asked for an explanation of these, as they might result in ambiguities and lead to different interpretations. To Mr G. PANUNZIO (Italy) the last section of paragraph (iv) "by distribution among the members in proportion to their transactions with the society" seemed to be incomplete and should be examined. He thought it would have been better to complete this last section with the phrase: "or social services . . .". He wanted to put on record that, in the text dealing with amendments to the Rules, as was the case all too often in the general policies of the ICA, the experience of consumer co-operatives was drawn upon, and not enough notice was taken of workers' productive and artisanal societies and agricultural co-operatives. If no change were possible, he would be forced to vote against the amendments proposed in paragraph (iv) and added that, if the text of Art. 8 as a whole were put to the vote, he would not vote against it, but would abstain, as he agreed with the content of the other paragraphs in that Article. Mr J. JALAVA (Finland) raised the question of the Principles being now incorporated in the Rules of the ICA (i.e., as amendment to Art. 8). The question arose whether the national organisations had to amend their own rules accordingly. The Co-operative Union (KK)

for example, had no intention of excluding from its rules the principle of political and religious neutrality. He requested Congress or the President to give a clear and exact statement as to whether the national organisations could keep their present rules based on the Rochdale Principles, as confirmed in 1937, in force. Mr R. AMADUZZI (Italy) expressed agreement with the amendments to the Rules and, in particular, with those to Art. 8 (iv), but would prefer the original text of Standing Order 11.

Mr V. KONDRATOV (USSR), further commenting at the 7th session on some of the other proposed amendments to the Rules, said that changes had been brought about by the Commission on Co-operative Principles and also by the decision of the Central Committee. The amendments to Articles 1 and 8 followed decisions taken at the last Congress and reflected correctly the conclusions arrived at by the Commission on Co-operative Principles. No problems arose from the amendments to Articles 23 and 24. However, looking at the amendments to Art. 25 and some others, serious and dangerous trends for the Congress would follow—trends to reduce the role or powers of the higher Authorities of the ICA.

Mr R. SOUTHERN (United Kingdom) replied to the delegates who had taken part in the discussion on the amendments to the Rules.

The PRESIDENT put the Rules Article by Article and the Standing Orders paragraph by paragraph to the vote.

The result of the voting on the amended texts proposed by the Central Committee was as follows:

1. Rules of the ICA:

- Art. 1: carried, with 8 abstentions
- Art. 8: carried, with 8 abstentions
- Art. 23: carried unanimously
- Art. 25: carried by a large majority, with 41 votes against and 1 abstention
- Art. 29: carried unanimously

Art. 3(g): carried by card vote, with 325 votes for and 285 votes against

Arts. 3(a), 13, 24: agreed

2. Standing Orders of the ICA:

11: carried, with 26 votes against

14: carried, with 26 votes against and 1 abstention

15, 18 (old 19), 21 (old 22), 26 (new): agreed.

PROPOSALS OF AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS (resumed)

ICA OFFICE IN WEST AFRICA

Proposer: Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria Ltd.

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

ASKS the Central Committee to consider the possibility of setting up a Branch Office in West Africa with its headquarters in Nigeria.

Amendment: Proposed by Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Italy

Delete the words "in Nigeria" and substitute "where it is found to be most suitable".

The PRESIDENT stated that the wording of the amendment submitted by the Lega was acceptable to the mover of the proposal. Congress agreed to the proposal as amended.

The President added that the ICA Secretariat did not see the possibility of establishing an Office in West Africa in the near future.

INTER-CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Proposers: National Co-operative Union of India; Co-operative League of the USA

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

RECOGNISES the need for greater trade between co-operatives in keeping with the principles of co-operation among co-operatives;

ACKNOWLEDGES the value of the detailed study already completed for South-East Asia;

NOTES with satisfaction that the subject of mutual collaboration between developing and developed countries was considered at length at the second and third Asian Agricultural Co-operative Congress held at Tokyo and New Delhi, respectively, in 1964 and 1967;

RECALLS that specific resolutions were passed in this respect;

REQUESTS the Alliance to consider those resolutions and take necessary follow-up action to facilitate international trading between developed and developing countries to their mutual benefit; and

TO SEEK funds outside the regular budget and in collaboration with member co-operatives, to develop a general report on the trade taking place between co-operatives in the various countries and between countries. The report should show products or services handled, annual volume, how import or export regulations are handled, problems related to trade, etc., and, if possible, opportunities for further trade and the benefits to co-operative participants from such trade. Experiences of the ICPA (USA) could be used as an example. Such data to be collected by a special ICA Committee formed for this purpose with the results of the survey to be discussed in regional seminars in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

The PRESIDENT informed Congress that this proposal was the result of two proposals having been merged into one with the consent of the two proposers, the Co-operative League of the USA and the National Co-operative Union of India.

Mr V. N. PURI (India), on behalf of

both proposers, drew the attention of Congress to the developments of international co-operative trade during the last few years in his part of the world and requested the ICA to take stock of the situation there. He recalled that one of the points of the programme of long-term technical assistance endorsed by the 21st Congress of the Alliance was the "promotion and expansion of trade between co-operative organisations in developing and highly developed countries" and that, since then, two Asian Agricultural Co-operative Conferences had been held in Tokyo and one in New Delhi, followed up by a Conference on International Trade in South-East Asia, held in Tokyo in 1968. In these Conferences, practical decisions regarding the promotion of co-operative trade had been made involving not only steps to be taken by the movements in the developing countries but also responsibilities to be assumed by those in the rest of the world. Since Mr Puri found it impossible to enumerate all the recommendations emanating from the Conferences mentioned and though he was aware that these had been circulated by the ICA Secretariat to all member organisations, he requested that this Congress might now decide to draw the attention of the different sectors of the movements in various developed countries to the specific recommendations, so that suitable action might be taken by them in order to help develop the co-operatives in the less developed countries. He realised that this would require an additional amount of work of the Secretariat, but was sure that this effort would be worth while.

Referring to the last operative part of the joint proposal, Mr Puri urged the member organisations in developed countries to make special funds available to the ICA to enable it to implement the action set out therein. Concluding his remarks, Mr Puri commended the proposal for adoption.

~ Mr T. GORMAN (USA), referring to the mention by the President in his address at the opening session of this Congress of the continuity and consistency of the ICA

policies and actions in the field of international trade, said that there was an urgent need for bold initiatives and practical action in this sphere and that the joint Indian-US proposal addressed itself to these needs and opportunities. He spoke of independent efforts made to promote co-operative trade and believed, in order to avoid such disjointed efforts, the ICA should assert its leadership and be a co-ordinator of these endeavours, either together with its auxiliary committees, or through the FAO / ILO / ICA / IFAP / IFPAAW Liaison Committee. The proposal referred to ICA's valuable experience gained in its South-East Asian trade study, and any similar studies in the African and American continents would produce, it was hoped, two-way trade opportunities. The ICA should see to it that projects proposed be undertaken with funds outside its regular budget. In this connection, Mr Gorman cited the examples of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Pan-American Foundation, which stimulated co-operative trade and hoped that the International Co-operative Bank might be interested in making contributions to such efforts. Finally, the proposal encouraged that information obtained and opportunities available be communicated through regional seminars and Mr Gorman said that seminars provided not only an exchange of information but the chance for co-operators interested in trade to develop such opportunities through face-to-face discussion. He urged delegates to support the joint proposal.

Mr F. DI MARCO (Italy) supported the Indian-US proposal which recommended to the ICA to promote and encourage initiatives and measures designed to increase international trade. He stressed that the increase in world trade between co-operative movements should be considered by all member organisations as one of the methods to be used in strengthening the physical basis of co-operation as well as a means against monopolies. The expansion of international co-operative trading

systems was an essential prerequisite for improving friendly relations and exchanges of information and experiences, which would lead to the solidarity and unity of the world's co-operative movements. Paying tribute to the activities of the ICA and its accomplishments in developing international co-operative trade, Mr Di Marco thought that it now had the prestige and unity necessary to make its work in this field more effective. Therefore, he recommended to the newly elected Executive and Central Committees to embark on the following initiatives to be undertaken by the ICA:

1. To promote and encourage all measures which would lead to permanent forms of collaboration between co-operative movements with a view to improving existing commercial relations, and to extend international trade to all countries on an "annual programme" basis in accordance with the principles of co-operation and reciprocal interest.

2. To adopt all initiatives with a view to eliminating obstacles, restraints and regulations which, whether national or international, prevented the freedom and equality of trade amongst countries.

Concluding, Mr Di Marco also suggested that the Executive and Central Committees should promote an international conference on inter-co-operative trade and commerce.

The DIRECTOR said that the amalgamated proposal had a very wide scope and contained broadly two operative aspects. First, it asked the ICA to consider, and take the necessary follow-up action on, the two Asian Agricultural Conferences held in 1964 and 1967. In this connection, he pointed out that these Conferences had dealt with a large number of general matters and had not produced any specific resolutions but broad recommendations and a consensus of opinion which was reflected in their reports. There was also the aspect relating to the part played by existing international organisations, and here the Director did not recall the action which had already been taken by the ICA as a result of these two Conferences, except,

he added, that ICA's main responsibility had been seen there in terms of providing training in the field of trade. The ICA Regional Office for South-East Asia had been particularly active in that field since 1963.

The second part of the proposal called on the Alliance to seek funds outside the regular budget to develop a general report on the trade taking place between co-operatives in the various countries and between countries. It was suggested that the report should be a detailed one and be carried out by a special committee which would collect all necessary data.

The Director then reported the Central Committee's point of view on the implementation of this part of the proposal, which was that the first problem would be one of developing adequate resources for the proposed study. Thus, if funds were made available outside the regular budget of the ICA, it might be carried out possibly in consultation with the Co-operative Wholesale Committee, the International Co-operative Bank and other organisations. Failing this, a more practical solution would be that the ICA should ask some selected national organisations to undertake national studies which could be co-ordinated at the international level by the ICA Secretariat at its headquarters in London. The Central Committee, therefore, broadly accepted this proposal, with an alternative practical suggestion in case adequate resources were not available.

With the reservations made by the Central Committee and by the Director, **the joint proposal was carried unanimously.**

WOMEN IN THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Proposer: Federation of the Hungarian Co-operative Societies

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE
NOTES that the activity of women in every

branch of co-operation, particularly in the field of production and consumption is considerable. According to their proportion in membership, women assert a right to play an increasing role in the management and control of co-operatives. This is borne out by the growth of interest shown towards the activity of the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council of the ICA; and CHARGES the Central Committee to discuss the subject of "The Situation and Role of Women in the Co-operative Movement" at one of its next meetings.

Mr F. MOLNAR (Hungary), introducing the proposal, said that the number of women members in the co-operatives was quite considerable—in Hungary, 52 per cent—but he regretted that that was not the case in the ICA's authoritative bodies and those of the co-operative movements. He thought the participation of women should be increased particularly in the leading organs of the consumer co-operatives. They also played an important part in agriculture and, to a lesser degree, in artisanal co-operatives. With the development of democracy, the part to be played by women in public life was equally gaining increasing importance. Men had to think of the special needs of women when making plans for development. The Women Co-operators' Advisory Council of the ICA had carried out very useful activities. This Council, however, should not be the only forum, where women co-operators could deal with important questions; these should also be dealt with in the Executive and Central Committees. This was why the request had been made in the Hungarian proposal that the Central Committee should take up the subject of the situation and role of women in the co-operative movement at one of its next meetings.

Mrs V. ZAGULINA (USSR) affirmed that the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council was doing very useful work in the field of development of co-operative activity, but it was a well-known fact that there was an urgent need to consider the problem

of the women's position in the co-operative movement. Women, she said, were capable of playing a much more important part, as they were in public and economic life and, indeed, in the co-operative movement. Citing examples and figures of women's participation in her own country's life and co-operatives, Mrs Zagulina declared that they could be equally active in the international co-operative movement, where there existed many problems which could be considered and decided upon with the participation of women. It was, therefore, with regret that she noted that the role of women co-operators, the rights they enjoyed and the possibilities open to them for participation in the majority of organisations, as well as in the international arena, were not commensurate with the number of women who were co-operative members. For these reasons, Mrs Zagulina felt that there was a great need for the Alliance and its Executive and Central Committees to take a more active part in the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council's work. Her delegation supported the Hungarian proposal and hoped that the Central Committee would see to it that steps were taken to improve the existing situation.

Miss N. CERRINA (Italy), expressing agreement with the proposal, stressed its significance in the light of the need of the co-operative movement to encourage, with appropriate action and in adopting new lines of initiative, the participation of women in the running and management of co-operative enterprises. This, she said, was a prime and basic requirement of democracy. Furthermore, the active presence of women in consumer co-operatives would mean the adoption of co-operative policies more suited to the general interests of the family; and the role they could play in the actual work of agricultural co-operatives and in the introduction of new production processes would result in these co-operatives having at their disposal a qualified labour force more suited to the demands of the modern agricultural co-operatives.

Mrs M. SLEPCANOVA (Czechoslovakia) supported, in the name of her delegation, the Hungarian proposal which she felt was a very timely one.

Mr J. L. KHACHI (India) supported the proposal and expressed the belief of his country and delegation that no sociological ideology could function effectively and succeed unless women worked side by side with men. It was in this light that the National Co-operative Union of India had set up a Women's Advisory Committee. Mr Khachi was pleased that the proposal had been brought before Congress and thought that the problem to be discussed was whether there should be separate co-operatives for women. There might be certain areas where such co-operatives were possible but, by and large, it would be necessary for men and women to work together in the same co-operatives as, for instance, in consumer ones. He suggested that efforts be made to reserve a certain number of seats on the boards of management for women.

Mrs S. RÄIKKÖNEN (Finland), Chairman of the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council, replying to the discussion, felt that the Hungarian proposal had been well received, as it seemed to have been the general opinion that this subject should be examined. She noted that the Central Committee had already this item on its agenda for a future meeting, which meant that it, too, was in favour of the proposal and considered that there was reason for going deeper into the matter. Mrs Räikkönen announced that a number of sociological and psychological research studies had already been done which would serve as a basis for discussion and would provide guide-lines for the clarification of this problem. She warned, however, that the question of the woman's role was a very emotional one.

The PRESIDENT put the proposal before Congress.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

CONSUMER AND AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Proposer: National Co-operative Union of India

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

APPRECIATES the steps taken in pursuance of the Resolution on the subject adopted by the 22nd Congress held in Bournemouth in October 1963 and the follow-up action taken by the ICA and certain co-operative movements;

EMPHASISES the need for more active collaboration between the developed and developing countries in this direction; and URGES the Central Committee of the ICA to receive the annual reports from member organisations and to review the progress in this regard.

Mr V. N. PURI (India), introducing this proposal—a reiteration of India's continuous concern about the development of the co-operative movements in the economically less developed countries—recalled that this subject had been brought up by the Indian delegation at the 22nd ICA Congress held in Bournemouth in 1963, resulting in the adoption of a Resolution. Since then, follow-up actions had been undertaken by ICA's Technical Assistance Sub-Committee and Regional Office in New Delhi and, again, by the 23rd Congress, which passed a Resolution requesting the affiliated organisations to do their utmost to develop and increase their projects and programmes of technical assistance for the less developed co-operative movements. The Indian delegation asked this Congress, once again, to reiterate that Resolution. Mr Puri said that there was a great potential for the development of such industries in his region and warned that, if the co-operatives did not move in quickly, the already deeply entrenched and powerful private sector would further strengthen its roots, making it impossible to dislodge them.

Speaking of existing good collaboration amongst co-operative movements, Mr Puri first mentioned the example of the Bhor Milk Co-operative in the State of Maharashtra in his country, which was being established with the help of the consumer co-operatives of the Federal Republic of Germany due to the untiring efforts made by the ICA in securing aid for this project. Another example was that of the French fisheries co-operative movement, which was planning to set up a fish canning unit in Ceylon. Other projects were under discussion by SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority) and NAFED (National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation). There was also a combined Indo-Australian project to set up agricultural processing units. His delegation suggested that all the different kinds of assistance, whether through ICA committees or outside sources, should be catalogued and brought to the attention of the Central Committee for its consideration. Mr Puri further suggested that this Congress might request that the Central Committee set aside one full session for discussion of the various projects in order to reach broad decisions on them.

Mr F. OWEN (USA) supported the Indian proposal, particularly as it was his opinion that processing was of strategic importance to the solution of problems relating to the high cost of food to the consumer and the low income of the farmer. There was a need to involve farmers as producers and farm and urban people as consumers in the investment and related economic and political control of the new economic development. Mr Owen considered it important to have integration and mutually supporting roles of various types of co-operative activities, and it was evident that short-term, intermediate and developmental credit, marketing of agricultural produce and processing were all intimately connected with each other. US co-operatives, he said, had invested large sums in processing operations and, only in recent years—15 to 20 years too late—they had

begun to explore possibilities of further integrating their own marketing. Co-operatives in developing countries did not need to make the same error. In conclusion, Mr Owen mentioned the assistance given to many countries by the Co-operative League of the USA in planning, organising, building and operating various kinds of processing plants and he suggested that these and many more examples of assistance from the USA and other developed countries should be made available to all developing nations through the joint technical assistance programme of ICA/FAO/ILO/IFAP/IFPAAW. He urged the Central Committee to receive annual reports from member organisations and to review the progress in this regard.

The DIRECTOR, replying to the ICA's follow-up action taken in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the Congress in Bournemouth in 1963, referred to in the Indian proposal, said that the Secretariat had at that time decided that the most practical way of complying with the mandate of the Resolution was to continue to find out what practical and technical know-how could be made available from advanced countries. This, the Director confirmed, was being done continuously by the ICA, particularly in response to specific requests received from time to time, and appeared to be a meaningful way in which to carry out the wishes contained in that Resolution. In the absence of precise requests, a broad general economic survey would have been an alternative. The Director informed Congress that a number of projects had already been included in the ICA plan for technical assistance and that the Central Committee was in agreement with the idea of receiving annual reports from member organisations, indicating their activities in the field of consumer and agricultural processing industries, which was the main purpose of the proposal. The reports would be co-ordinated by the Secretariat and presented to the Central Committee for discussion at an appropriate time.

The proposal was put to Congress and was carried unanimously.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION CO-OPERATIVES

Proposer: Central Co-operative Union, Bulgaria

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

CONSIDERS that examination of the imperative question of the need to unite peasants in agricultural production co-operatives, and the part to be played by the Alliance in this matter, is pressing.

In this connection, the Congress

ENTRUSTS to the Central Committee of the Alliance the working out of measures concerned with the broadening of activity by the Agricultural Committee in giving comprehensive help to existing agricultural production co-operatives and in the establishment of new co-operatives in individual countries;

ASKS that plans be worked out outlining means for carrying out such assistance to national co-operative unions;

REQUESTS that particular attention be drawn in these plans to methods of giving help to agricultural production co-operatives in the developing countries;

URGES all types of co-operative organisations and members of the ICA to give every possible form of assistance and support to agricultural production co-operatives;

CONSIDERS it imperative to draw attention to those close economic ties which agricultural production co-operatives should establish with other types of co-operatives;

CONSIDERS that one of the most important future tasks of the members of the International Co-operative Alliance should be in connection with the effort to persuade the governments of their respective countries to introduce legislation for comprehensive help in the development of agricultural production co-operatives in providing technical assistance, and in granting to the co-operatives and their members privileges in tax relief, in leaseholds and in other similar matters;

POINTS OUT that the question of the development of economic connections between agricultural production co-operatives in all countries of the world, the interchange of experience between them, of information, literature, technical documentation, etc., is of

very great importance. The Alliance and the Agricultural Committee should organise the publication of propaganda literature concerning the successes achieved by existing agricultural production co-operatives; ORGANISES the exchange of specialists between individual countries interested in problems of agricultural co-operation.

Mr S. SYULEMEZOV (Bulgaria), introducing the proposal, observed that technical progress had been made in all branches of the economy, including agriculture, at the international level, but this was not the case in an agriculture with only small production units, where primitive implements and machines were being used. Historical and economic developments pointed to two main solutions. The first was the way followed by many western countries, where the number of farmers by 1980 would be reduced by 5 million and their farms replaced by big production units. The other consisted in the method to create agricultural production societies with the object of opposing monopolies, which could be found in socialist, developed and developing countries, where they played an important part in the whole economic system. The recent trends of establishing co-operative and other farmers' associations and the democratisation of existing ones provided good possibilities for adapting the size of the production units to the requirements of the market and technical progress as well as for solving social problems. Mr Syulemezov emphasised that socialism guaranteed the full use of creative initiative by the individual. Mechanisation of agriculture made the farmers' labour easier, whilst the application of scientific and technological methods increased productivity and the incomes of the co-operators and their co-operative and social funds. Profits of a co-operative farm were distributed amongst its members according to the quantity and quality of the output and the land ownership. Experience in his country had shown, said Mr Syulemezov, that countries with small-sized individual

farms could reorganise their agriculture by establishing agricultural production societies, thus avoiding nationalisation of the land and preserving private property. In conclusion, he suggested that one of the permanent tasks of the ICA should be to study thoroughly and constantly the experience of these societies and he believed that the proposal before Congress would mobilise the activity of the international co-operative movement in this field and would contribute to the more effective work of the Agricultural Conference planned for 1971.

Dr L. Malfettani (Italy), explaining why, in his view, Congress should reject the Bulgarian proposal, first mentioned that this theme had originally been suggested by Mr Syulemezov for inclusion at the Agricultural Conference held in Hamburg. It had also been submitted to the ICA Administration to ensure its inclusion amongst the other motions on the Congress agenda. The Agricultural Executive Committee, when planning the Agricultural Conference, had decided not to include this theme on the agenda. The subject of agricultural co-operative productive societies was to be dealt with in depth and would also take into account the experiences of other countries. The memorandum accompanying the proposal, however, covered only Bulgarian experiences which, on their own, could not serve as the sole basis on which to draw the necessary conclusions. Furthermore, the subject was strictly specific and affected a particular sector of agricultural co-operation. It did not seem, therefore, opportune to examine it in isolation; besides, production problems everywhere seemed to be wholly subordinate to those of marketing. Finally, the Agricultural Committee, in agreement with the Central Committee, had decided on a full Conference on Agricultural Co-operation in 1971, which would be open to all co-operative associations, even those which were not members of the ICA, and the information emerging from it would then serve as a basis and as preparatory work for

the Alliance's Congress in 1972. Any discussion at the present Congress would be entirely premature. Dr Malfettani suggested that the proposal should be submitted to the Agricultural Conference, and it could be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the Agricultural Committee to be held in Bulgaria.

The PRESIDENT thought that Dr Malfettani's suggestion was a practical one and asked Mr Syulemezov whether he would be prepared to withdraw his proposal.

Mr S. SYULEMEZOV (Bulgaria) did not wish to withdraw his proposal and wanted a decision to be taken on it at this Congress.

Mr N. DJAVAHIDZE (USSR) thought that the Bulgarian proposal was a timely and valuable initiative, since the small farmers needed to fight for their rights and against the influx of monopolistic capital. He therefore felt that the ICA could not stand aside when such problems had to be solved and had to make its contribution towards the defence of the small farmer. Agricultural production co-operatives could help ensuring the living conditions of these farmers. Mr Djavahidze supported the proposal which must not be shelved.

Mr A. ROSSINI (Italy) criticised the Bulgarian proposal as not being very clear, but the illustration given in the attached Central Co-operative Union's memorandum was, in his opinion, far too clear. The proposal sought to condemn every type of agricultural co-operative which was not based on ownership of land, i.e., those co-operatives whose land was the property of its members. Italy had, in fact, the type of co-operative which owned the land it cultivated, but had also numerous agricultural co-operatives of other types, whose members owned the land, and all of them were working very well. Co-operators, therefore, must be free to choose the type of co-operation they preferred. The assertion in the memorandum that the Italian *Piano Verde* ("Green Plan") was for the liquidation of the small- and medium-

sized peasant holdings as agricultural producers was inaccurate. It actually strengthened the position of the small-holders, due to State subsidies and a system of loans which helped develop the small-holdings. The Bulgarian solution proposed, concluded Mr Rossini, was contrary to the very development of agriculture and to the improvements in the standard of living of agricultural workers.

Mr L. GASPERI (Italy) said that the Lega was in agreement with, and would vote for, the Bulgarian proposal, since it was convinced of the necessity to eliminate land rents and to achieve unification of all agricultural workers in productive co-operatives as an essential step in gaining equal income levels for them. He also stressed the importance of the role played by the co-operatives concerned with canning, processing and marketing of agricultural products. Finally, Mr Gasperi conveyed Lega's support for the planned International Conference on Agricultural Co-operation.

Mr S. DREYER (USA) believed that, except in rare instances, individual initiative and long-term agricultural production were not advanced in agricultural production co-operatives. He therefore would not advise the developing countries to adopt the ideas expressed in the proposal and neither did he think that the ICA should promote such a concept. Co-operators in the USA believed in individual initiative and private ownership of land, and they achieved the results desired by the Bulgarian proposal by actively stimulating the farmer's effective use of purchasing, marketing and credit co-operatives. His delegation would either vote against the proposal or abstain, as circumstances would dictate.

Mr J. PRELOVSKY (Czechoslovakia) supported the Bulgarian proposal, which was designed to draw attention to the problems of the agricultural productive co-operatives. It was true, he said, that this type of co-operatives existed more in the socialist countries than elsewhere, but had

also recently emerged in capitalist and developing countries. As the number of agricultural co-operative organisations associating with the ICA was increasing, it would only be right for it to involve itself with the problem under discussion.

Dr L. Malfettani (Italy), replying to the discussion, was not sure whether his best course at this juncture was to speak in favour of the suggestion he had made at the end of his introduction to the Bulgarian proposal, or whether he should just propose its rejection. However, he wanted first to make it clear that he was not against a system of land tenure and, secondly, that, if this Congress were to approve the proposal, it would be affirming that the best solution for raising production and uniting the farm workers was the Bulgarian system of productive co-operatives. Dr Malfettani then took up various points in the memorandum accompanying the proposal and mentioned by Mr Rossini and came to the conclusion that Congress would be well advised to refer the matter to the next Agricultural Committee meeting or to discuss the possibility of its rejection.

The PRESIDENT, explaining the procedural position at the present stage, said that, as the Bulgarian delegate had refused to withdraw the proposal, it was now for Congress to take a decision for or against it, and the question of dealing with the proposal in another body was for later consideration.

Mr S. SYULEMEZOV (Bulgaria), coming back to some of the comments made by delegates in the discussion, reassured Congress that the sole intention of the proposal was the defence of the interests of co-operators and requested that a vote be taken on it.

A vote was taken and the President declared the proposal lost.

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Proposer: National Co-operative Union of India

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

NOTES that the success of the co-operative movements in developing countries depends largely upon the availability of trained personnel for key positions;

RECORDS its high appreciation of the work done by governments, international organisations and advanced co-operative movements for training such personnel;

TAKES NOTE of the recommendations made by the International Conference on Co-operative Education held by the Alliance in February 1968 in New Delhi, and in view of the need to co-ordinate and make the training programmes more relevant to the needs of the developing movements;

RESOLVES to appoint a Standing Committee on co-operative training and management development to ensure a planned and co-ordinated training programme by the co-operative movements of developed countries and the International Co-operative Training Centres and with a view to rationalising available facilities for the maximum benefit of the co-operative movements in the developing countries; and

REQUESTS the Alliance to make an assessment of the requirements of the movements of developing countries in respect of training and education and to take the necessary follow-up action including the designing of special courses to suit the special needs of a country or group of countries having identical situations.

Mr Y. UDAYBHAN SINHJI (India), introducing this proposal, reminded delegates of the unparalleled all-round advancement of science and technology during the post-war years and how the application of technological knowledge had engulfed all sectors of life of society. Nations quick on the uptake had adapted themselves to the newly developed techniques of organisation and management, making a marked impact on their economy. The public and private enterprise sectors as well as co-operatives in the advanced countries had kept pace with each other in modelling their structural patterns and working methods to suit the ever-changing socio-economic spectrum, and consequently, the development of know-how and

expertise in many fields of their economy had been outstanding. Mr Udaybhan Sinhji regretted that the less developed countries had not been as fortunate in their development processes, and the co-operatives there were lagging behind and faced the danger of being edged out unless their position was remedied by equipping them with advanced techniques; for that they were naturally looking to their co-operative friends in the developed countries and were hoping for a steady flow of technical instructions in the know-how and expertise to them. In this connection, Mr Udaybhan Sinhji referred to the Report of the ICA's Commission on Co-operative Principles which placed great emphasis on the importance of education and training, and co-operation amongst co-operatives—two principles which had a special significance in the present context of co-operative development in the less advanced countries. In that respect, help had been forthcoming from international organisations and advanced co-operative movements by providing training facilities in special courses and seminars as well as scholarships. Though appreciated in the developing countries, greater efforts still needed to be made to check slow growth and weakness in co-operative development in these countries, a source of tension and conflict. In Mr Udaybhan Sinhji's opinion, a sustained watch at the international level over the execution of training programmes was essential, as was the necessary follow-up action, and to make the programmes for courses more effective and meaningful, a thorough prior assessment of the training needs in the different less developed countries was imperative. The International Conference on Co-operative Education, held by the ICA in New Delhi in 1968, had made recommendations on similar lines. Another point made by Mr Udaybhan Sinhji was the need for adequate provision of education and training of local personnel in the developing countries and of financial support for this purpose, since, without it, technical aid and industrial collaboration,

even on a substantial scale, would not produce the desired results. Finally, he hoped that Congress would support the proposal, the intention of which was the beginning of a permanent link-up between co-operatives all over the world in the field of training.

Mr J. J. MUSUNDI (Kenya) supported the proposal and said that one of the greatest problems facing the co-operative movement in the developing countries was that of a lack of trained personnel at all levels to manage co-operative enterprises efficiently. Due to this fact, in spite of a large working community, hardly any consumer co-operatives had been organised in Kenya, and those which had been formed, had not succeeded. A few years ago, reported Mr Musundi, member education and training of staff in the rural areas had been started with the help of two mobile communication units equipped with films, film projectors and teaching material, but because of insufficient resources, these efforts had not come to fruition. Recognising the problems encountered by the co-operative societies, the Kenyan Government had approached the Nordic Governments to assist in solving them and, with their aid, a Co-operative College had been established in Kenya. In addition, farmers' centres had been supported in order to cope with the increasing demand for training. Mr Musundi then appealed to co-operators of the developed countries to extend their hand to the less developed ones by offering opportunities for training in their co-operative institutions.

Mr B. KHVOSTOV (USSR) felt that the adoption of the proposal would give rise to the promotion of the training of personnel in the developing countries and recalled that the authoritative bodies of the ICA had repeatedly adopted recommendations in connection with this subject, which, however, had been general ones and had not pin-pointed organisational and specific measures. The present proposal provided for the appointment of a Standing Committee on co-operative training and

management development, for which, in Mr Khvostov's view, there was a need and which would present a unified policy of the ICA concerning the training of personnel. This would meet the requirements of the developing countries and give them the opportunity of studying the training and education of co-operators in the advanced countries. Efforts in the field of training would thus be co-ordinated by the Alliance, assisted by the United Nations Specialised Agencies, and the support of non-governmental organisations would also be enlisted, with the result of bringing about various international programmes. Most important, however, was to publicise and study the experience acquired by individual countries and to organise an exchange of this experience between the countries giving technical assistance to co-operators in the developing countries. Mr Khvostov ended by assuring Congress of 'Centrosoyuz' support of the proposal under discussion.

The DIRECTOR, commenting on the two operative aspects of the proposal—the appointment of a Standing Committee and the assessment to be made by the ICA—drew, regarding the first, the attention of Congress to the 1968 Conference on Co-operative Education in New Delhi, at which the particular matter of co-ordination had been discussed and where members of developed and developing movements had been present, as well as to the Conference in Denmark in 1968, where the question of co-ordination relating to the advanced movements had been considered. As to the second aspect, this would have to be discussed in detail by the national co-operative movements.

The Director continued by reporting that the Central Committee had found itself, in principle, in agreement with the proposal, but had suggested a more practical approach to realising its objectives, namely, that it would be possible for the ICA to send out a questionnaire, on which information about studies regarding the training aspects could be collected. The

replies could then be co-ordinated at its London Headquarters and passed on to the members of international co-operative training centres. Finally, a report—if ready in time—should be presented to the Conference to be held in connection with the International Education Year, planned as a follow-up of the New Delhi Conference. Concerning the appointment of a Standing Committee, the Central Committee had believed that there was no need for it, since the co-ordinating work would be carried out by the Secretary for Education and Technical Assistance.

The PRESIDENT asked the mover of the proposal whether he would agree to the Central Committee's suggestions for its implementation, as outlined by the Director. With this proviso and Mr Udaybhan Singhji's agreement,

Congress adopted the proposal.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

Proposer: Gesamtverband gemeinnütziger Wohnungsunternehmen, Federal Republic of Germany.

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

NOTES that the provision of housing for the broad masses is still an outstanding problem; RECOGNISES that there is a need for a healthy residential environment for the population including good social and recreational amenities and all related facilities;

NOTES that in the solution of these very important problems for the families and individuals, co-operative methods have proved themselves to be of the greatest significance, and that in most countries co-operative housing is playing an ever-increasing role; ASKS governments in industrialised as well as in developing countries to pay more interest to co-operatives in solving their housing problems;

CONSIDERS that it is of the greatest importance that the United Nations should be given more resources to assist its members, particularly in the developing countries, in solving the problems of housing and a satisfactory social milieu by means of co-operative methods; and

DECLARES its willingness to support any action taken by international and national bodies for the application of co-operative methods in the field of housing in the light of the Resolution taken by the 23rd General Assembly of the United Nations (2459/XXIII).

Mr W. PAHL (Federal Republic of Germany) began by stating that there was an acute housing shortage all over the world and that there were still far too many people compelled to live in unthinkable and inhuman housing conditions—and that was happening in the second half of the 20th century. In his brief introduction to the proposal, Mr Pahl confined himself to dealing with the developing countries and said that an active housing policy would not only remove the shortage but would bring about a better standard of living and improve the entire economic situation of a country. Increased housing activities would, in fact, have a multiplier effect by attracting more contracts with allied industries and thereby creating more employment possibilities for the economic benefit of the people. Mr Pahl informed delegates that through the co-operation of the Gesamtverband gemeinnütziger Wohnungsunternehmen, the first multi-national administrative project for an East African country was being launched, which was a promising beginning for going ahead and striving for further achievements in the field of housing. He added that the proposal, which aimed at solving the problem of supplying houses worthy of human beings, had been unanimously endorsed by the Housing Conference held in Hamburg and invited Congress to act in the same way.

Mr. A. ROSSINI (Italy), notifying first his delegation's vote for the proposal, asked the President and, more particularly, the Housing Committee, to gather together all relevant statistics and items of information on housing possibilities in all countries and to publish these annually. By this means, national and international bodies might be more readily convinced of the vital need to apply co-operative

methods in the field of housing.

Mr W. J. CAMPBELL (USA) suggested that the President and Director forwarded also the previous Resolutions on housing adopted by the Congresses in 1960, 1963 and 1966 to the United Nations as a reminder of the decisions taken in them regarding the request for a special UN housing agency. He then expressed his enthusiastic support for the proposal of the Gesamtverband.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

ACTION ON THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 2459/XXIII

Proposer: Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives, Poland

(NOTE: As a result of the Central Committee's suggestion to the Co-operative League of the USA to associate its proposal on Technical Assistance to Developing Countries (for text, see ICA Agenda and Reports, proposal IV, p. 90) with that of the Central Agricultural Union under the above title, and to withdraw it, the Congress Committee had discussed the latter, incorporating in it some amendments proposed by the League, and recommended the following agreed text to Congress. The League's own proposal had therefore been withdrawn.)

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HIGHLY APPRECIATES the efforts made by the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies aiming at the promotion of the socio-economic development of the developing countries;

WELCOMES the Resolution of the 23rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Role of the Co-operative Movement in the Economic and Social Development;

RECOGNISES that UN Resolution 2459/XXIII confirms the important role of the co-operative movement in the development of different countries, and especially in the realisation of the programme of the development of various fields of production—agricultural, artisanal and industrial—in the field of trade, services, medical care and education, as well as in the realisation of economic and social reforms, and especially land reform; **DRAWS** attention to the fact that the co-operative form of ownership gives special possibilities to activate social initiative and to mobilise human and financial resources under social control for their effective use for the benefit of social progress and economic development, thus effectively bringing low-income persons into the main stream of development;

OBSERVES that creative technical assistance efforts have been developed directly between co-operatives in many countries represented in the 60 nation membership of the International Co-operative Alliance. These programmes have offered flexibility, economy and maximum participation among the member co-operatives;

DECLARES the willingness and readiness of the Alliance for the further development of co-operation with the United Nations, its Specialised Agencies and other national and international organisations in the fields of common interest;

CALLS upon developing nations to make use of the FAO, ILO, ICA, IFAP joint programme of technical assistance, and urges more developed countries to co-operate actively with requests for assistance;

REQUESTS the Central Committee and Executive Committee of the Alliance, to encourage its members to prepare and forward to the joint programme, case studies of their co-operative organisations, which are developing activities in various geographical regions and in different socio-economic systems, to find how the co-operative movement can accelerate the socio-economic development of countries;

REQUESTS the Director of the Alliance to forward the results of these studies in the form of a report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, its Specialised Agencies and also to the governments of states where the ICA member organisations are developing their activities;

CALLS upon the Central and Executive Committees of the Alliance to elaborate long-term programmes of training, taking into consideration the most essential needs of co-operative organisations especially in the developing countries;

RECOMMENDS that the International Co-operative Alliance elaborate a programme of work with agricultural co-operatives with special emphasis on the role of agricultural co-operatives in the increase of agricultural production and in the fight against hunger;

URGES the Central and Executive Committees and member organisations of the Alliance

to actively promote co-operative development as a counteracting force to monopolies in the developing countries and especially work for full implementation of the 1967 Resolution of the Central Committee, adopted in Prague, concerning the struggle against monopolies; APPEALS to the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies to ascribe a greater part of the funds at their disposal, to co-operative organisations for the realisation of joint projects of technical assistance and pre-investments in developing countries, taking advantage of the consultative assistance of the Alliance and its members; and REQUESTS the United Nations to appeal to its Members to direct through the co-operative organisations in their countries a greater part of the technical assistance for States who are Members of the United Nations.

Mr T. JANCZYK (Poland), introducing the proposal, emphasised the importance of the unanimous adoption by 124 Member States of the UN General Assembly's Resolution 2459/XXIII, by which they had extended their assistance to the co-operative movement and, at the same time, had imposed a moral obligation on the ICA. Explaining the reasons for the Polish submission of the proposal, he said that the co-operators in his country had felt that, in positively replying to the United Nations, the ICA, with the collaboration of its affiliated organisations, should lay before it a programme for cultural and economic development and an international plan for expanding technical assistance to the co-operative organisations in developing countries. Mr Janczyk then went point by point over the text of the proposal and concluded that it was a programme in itself and needed to be implemented in connection with the UN General Assembly's Resolution. He hoped that this programme would be implemented by the whole co-operative movement and called on Congress to support the proposal.

Mr S. DREYER (USA) expressed the Co-operative League's pleasure of associating itself with the Polish proposal and its appreciation of the Polish delegation's acceptance of the few amendments which had been suggested by it. He thought that

the gratitude of Congress should go out to Poland's Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives and other groups of persons for their initiative in the United Nations, crowned by the General Assembly's adoption of the historic Resolution 2459/XXIII. Mr Dreyer hoped that all delegates would give their support to the Polish proposal and its implementation.

The DIRECTOR informed Congress that the Central Committee, while having found itself, in principle, in agreement with the content of the proposal, had suggested that a number of its aspects had much relevance to some activities already undertaken by the ICA. The Secretariat should, therefore, examine the proposal, accept it in principle and carry out the studies suggested therein in conjunction with those aspects to which attention was already being given. The Director mentioned as examples the suggestion for the elaboration of long-term programmes of training in developing countries, the recommendation to develop a programme of work for agricultural co-operatives, and the reference to monopolies, all of which had been dealt with by him in his comments on previous proposals and in his reply to the Central Committee's debate. He assured Congress that the Secretariat attached great importance to the proposal arising from the UN General Assembly's Resolution.

Mr R. B. BASTIN (United Kingdom) moved the closure of debate in view of the unanimity expressed on the proposal.

The motion was seconded and carried by a large majority.

The PRESIDENT put the proposal to Congress and it was **unanimously adopted.**

CO-OPERATIVE LEGISLATION

Proposer: National Co-operative Union of India

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WELCOMES the helpful attitude of the governments in the developing countries towards the co-operative movement as well as their keenness to associate their co-operative movements with the schemes of national development;

FEELS that there is scope for the co-operative laws in the developing countries to conform progressively to the principles of co-operation as recently adopted by the Alliance; and

REQUESTS the Alliance to undertake a study of the various legislative enactments, rules, and bye-laws regulating the co-operative movement in the developing countries and to suggest improvements therein with a view to making them more conducive to the proper and healthy development of the co-operative movement and its leadership.

Amendment: Proposed by Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Italy.

Amend the title to read "Co-operative Legislation in Developing Countries".

Mr J. L. KHACHI (India), introducing the proposal, referred to the Director's résumé of the Executive Committee's comments given at the Central Committee meeting and said that his delegation fully appreciated the ICA's limitations regarding the implications arising from the requests made in this proposal. He realised that it would not be proper for the ICA to work at this stage on a common codification which might not be acceptable to various states and might be construed as an affront to their sovereignty, but hoped that it would consider the significance of the Indian point of view regarding the dangers and apprehensions co-operatives were facing in the developing countries. The proposed ICA study, even if touching a fringe of the issues, would, in his opinion, greatly highlight the problems of these countries and they might be able to profit from such an analytical study, in which the Regional Office in New Delhi and the Office for East and Central Africa could collaborate by contributing their experiences in the regional co-operative

movements. Mr Khachi touched very briefly on the situation of co-operatives in the developing countries as to the Acts of Law which were colonial in nature before these countries became independent, but since then, he reported, the co-operatives played a more dynamic and purposeful role and came to be relied upon as instruments of social and economic justice. Their present co-operative laws, however, were out of date, bad in respect of the co-operative spirit, and could not meet the requirements of the changed times and the new dimensions co-operatives had assumed. The role and power of the Registrars should be re-defined, particularly the power of making bye-laws and initiating legislation, and co-operative institutions be given complete autonomy. Co-operative laws should not be static, should conform to the social and economic objectives enshrined in the Constitutions of the developing countries and should be periodically reviewed. Mr Khachi hoped that Congress would support the proposal which was designed to promote co-operative leadership and preserve the Co-operative Principles and ideals in the developing countries.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to Lega's amendment to the title of the proposal. Since this was an obvious change in conformity with the substance of the subject-matter dealt with, he asked whether delegates would agree that there was no need for the Lega to move this change. **This was agreed upon.**

The DIRECTOR, dealing with the implementation of the proposal, said that what had been envisaged by the Central Committee was that, in the immediate future, it might be possible to draw up a more general report on co-operative legislation in some selected developing countries. There was, however, in the Central Committee's thinking, no intention of producing a detailed legal commentary on co-operative legislation.

Mr N. UZGÖREN (Turkey) reported

that questions touching on co-operative legislation had always aroused a great deal of interest in Turkey. The co-operative movement, which had been much in evidence in his country, though with less success than in the advanced countries, had asked the Government for many years that there should be a special law promulgated on the subject of co-operatives in general, basing its action on publications of the ILO. Nothing had been done until 1961, when the Parliament introduced a simple little phrase into the framework of the constitutional laws, which ran: "The Government will seek to promote the co-operative movement", and based on this article 51, eight years later—in 1969—a special law on co-operatives had been promulgated. Mr Uzgören thought that this would be of interest to all developing countries, since, had it not been for the introduction of that little phrase into the constitutional laws, the Turkish co-operators would still be without a law.

Mr S. COLABELLA (Argentina) moved the closure of debate.

The PRESIDENT asked whether there was agreement on the motion for the closure of debate. **This was agreed upon.**

Mr J. L. KHACHI (India) felt that, if he accepted Lega's amendment, the scope of the proposal might be limited to the developing countries, whereas the intention was to learn from the advanced countries as much as possible in order not to remain developing for ever. He asked therefore the Lega not to press the amendment but enable the developing countries to have the advantage of studying the qualifications of the advanced movements.

The DIRECTOR, complying with the President's request, replied to Mr Khachi that the Secretariat was continuously collecting information on co-operative legislation from a number of countries which could either be made available to him or could be built into the general framework about which he had spoken before.

The PRESIDENT put the proposal to be implemented as indicated to Congress.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

EMERGENCY PROPOSAL ON THE SITUATION IN GREECE

Proposer: Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives, Poland

Co-operative organisations all over the world, affiliated to the International Co-operative Alliance, observe with great fear the situation in Greece where democracy was liquidated after power was taken over by a fascist military junta.

The Authorities of the International Co-operative Alliance have protested against the removal of the elected officers of the Greek Co-operative Movement.

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE ICA supports this protest and

DEMANDS that terrorism against Co-operators cease, and that all imprisoned Co-operators and fighters for freedom for the Greek Nation be liberated, and

ASKS co-operative organisations of the ICA to support the fight of the Greek Nation for Democracy, and the struggle for independence of the Greek Co-operative Movement.

Mr Z. ENGEL (Poland), introducing this emergency proposal, reiterated the dangerous and serious situation in Greece, as had been expressed already in many meetings of the ICA which was opposed to the discrimination against the Greek Co-operative Movement. Mr Engel said that new information about such discrimination had been received in his country and that all co-operators protested against the action of the military junta which had liquidated democracy and made any activity of co-operative organisations impossible. He asked Congress for its full support of this emergency proposal.

The PRESIDENT commented that this was not a controversial proposal and conformed to the action the ICA Authorities had already taken. This proposal had been accepted by the Congress Committee as an emergency proposal because it was known that the situation in Greece had very

seriously deteriorated. The President added that this matter was before the Human Rights Commission of the Council of Europe, where the question of expelling Greece was being considered. The President moved the unanimous adoption of this emergency proposal.

The proposal was carried by acclamation.

EMERGENCY PROPOSAL ON MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Proposer: Centrosoyus, USSR

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APPEALS to the Central Committee and requests it to annul its decision to increase the membership subscription in 1970 and 1971 and to find other ways and means to balance the ICA Budget.

Mr F. KOLESNIK (USSR) introduced this emergency proposal and said that its terms were quite clear and that he already had occasion to explain the reasons for its submission. However, he wanted to make an additional point, namely, that this matter was not linked in any way to that of technical assistance, which had been satisfactorily dealt with by this Congress. Mr Kolesnik requested a card vote on this proposal.

Mr R. SOUTHERN (United Kingdom) disputed the request in the proposal to refer the matter of the increase in subscriptions back to the Central Committee, since it would place it into an embarrassing position, and the Committee had not reached its decision light-heartedly. The Committee, Mr Southern stressed, was not enthusiastic about its own proposal, but had no other option if the central core of the ICA administration were to be maintained. The subscriptions kept its offices

going and upheld its democratic structure. He recalled that, in Britain as in many other countries, the value of sterling was steadily falling because of increasing inflation, and that was the problem for the ICA. Unless subscriptions were increased, some of the ICA activities would have to be reduced, and there was the question of what could be done without and where to start. Enumerating several activities and asking whether these should be dropped, Mr Southern declared that these were the practical questions arising out of the financial situation, but not realistic proposals. The Central Committee had faced the situation realistically and there was no alternative to choose from; that was the reason why he asked Congress to reject the proposal submitted by Centrosoyus.

Mr P. SØILAND (Norway) moved the closure of debate, which was seconded and **carried**.

The PRESIDENT, before putting the emergency proposal to the vote, explained why he was taking the unusual step of giving his position on this particular matter and said, considering all the many constructive and valuable suggestions made during the course of this Congress to expand and intensify the ICA's activities in the most varied fields involving very considerable costs, and certainly, as a consequence, an increase of the ICA staff, then he thought that the position must be quite clear on this matter.

A card vote was taken on the proposal, with the result of 200 for and 427 against it.

The emergency proposal was lost.

ICA Jubilee Triennial Prize

Mr A. P. KLIMOV (USSR), reporting on behalf of the International Jury, requested Congress to allow it more time for the consideration of 27 books received, all rather voluminous and some of very high quality. The Jury had not enough time at its disposal to go beyond three particular

books presented, and therefore, it was impossible to pronounce a judgement on any one of the publications as yet. In order to make a careful selection worthy of the ICA, the Jury was asking to make its report at the next meeting of the Central Committee.

Congress agreed to grant the Jury's request.

Reports of Auxiliary Committees (resumed)

The PRESIDENT announced that there were still some reports of the Auxiliary Committees left for consideration. Since these were mainly for the information of Congress and did not call for decisions to be taken on them, he suggested to dispense with these reports, provided the representatives of the Auxiliary Committees, who had not yet been able to report, consented to it.

Congress agreed to the President's suggestion.

Date and Place of the 25th Congress

The PRESIDENT suggested that Congress

should leave the date and place of its next sessions for the decision of the Executive and Central Committees.

Congress agreed to the President's suggestion.

Close of Congress

The PRESIDENT expressed his great satisfaction with the friendly atmosphere during the Congress deliberations and with the unanimous decisions taken, which would augur well for the work of the implementations following Congress to be undertaken by the newly elected Executive and Central Committees. The heaviest burden would, however, as always, fall on the Director and the Secretary for Administration. He thought that the very constructive discussions could be described as a turning point in the history of the ICA, as the emphasis had been almost entirely on co-operative matters of common concern and interest to all co-operative movements.

The President finally thanked all the host organisations of the Federal Republic of Germany and their staffs for their excellent arrangements for this Congress and for their hospitality, as well as the Town Hall authorities in Hamburg for the use of, and facilities in, that beautiful Hall and for the reception and welcoming greetings, and, lastly, the Director, the Secretary for Administration and the whole staff of the ICA, and the interpreters and verbatim reporters for all the work done in connection with Congress. The President ended by extending his thanks also to all participants in the Congress for their collaboration, making it easy for him to conduct the business of Congress.

A vote of thanks was given by acclamation and Congress closed at 18 hours 40 minutes.



Mr. O. Paulig



reception given by the Senate in the Rathaus

RESOLUTIONS
RULES OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE
AND
STANDING ORDERS GOVERNING THE PROCEDURE
OF CONGRESS
ADOPTED, AS AMENDED, BY CONGRESS

International Declaration of Consumer Rights

I The International Co-operative Alliance declares that consumers have a right to:

- 1 A reasonable standard of nutrition, clothing and housing.
- 2 Adequate standards of safety and a healthy environment free from pollution.
- 3 Access to unadulterated merchandise at fair prices and with reasonable variety and choice.
- 4 Access to relevant information on goods and services and to education on consumer topics.
- 5 Influence in economic life and democratic participation in its control.

II Consumer Policy

1 The call for pure and unadulterated food by the Rochdale Pioneers, reflected in their own practice, was made because of the widespread adulteration of merchandise at that time. Even today this call is, in many parts of the world, as topical as when it was first formulated. It therefore still holds a prominent position among the aims of all consumer co-operative movements.

2 This basic principle has nowadays come to imply considerably more. The previously rather narrow concept of consumption has widened to embrace all that affects the health and welfare of mankind. Clean air, clean and wholesome water, and in general a world fit for mankind, have come to stand out as ever more urgent requirements. These claims are no longer only applicable within consumer co-operative movements but are basic precepts for all co-operative organisations, and for other consumer organisations.

3 The co-operative movement has constantly endeavoured to equip itself with effective means for redressing grievances. Being engaged in production and in distribution it has had the opportunity of improving the living standards of all and of making necessities available to low income groups.

4 The co-operative movement has acquired a significant influence on important sectors of economic and community life and it also has considerable influence on public opinion.

5 One of the basic principles of the movement is that the members themselves should have influence over its activities. The consumer member's self-evident right to voice his views is thus of fundamental importance in all consumer co-operative organisations. To make use of this authority and to exercise this influence the consumer needs knowledge; and education and information thus play an important part in co-operative activity.

III National Co-operative Movements should promote consumer interests in the following ways:

1 The continued development of co-operative production and distribution with special attention to consumer needs and in order to promote national economic and social development.

2 Campaigning for legislation in the field of consumer protection and for consumer representation on all public bodies involved in decisions both directly and indirectly affecting the consumer.

3 The further development of assortment policies to meet consumer needs with the expert advice and technical assistance of specialised laboratories, so as to make available to the

consumer a wide range of products with easily comparable prices and ensure them full freedom of choice.

4 Taking and campaigning for effective action to control monopolies, ensure effective competition and fair prices; to try to ensure that the fruits of technological progress are passed on to the consumer.

5 The provision of educational opportunities for the consumer in the field of nutrition, domestic economy and general economics.

6 The preparation and dissemination of useful information either independently or in collaboration with public and other consumer organisations and the promotion of informative labelling and truthful advertising.

7 Taking the initiative in collaboration with other organisations involved in consumer affairs to co-ordinate the promotion of consumer rights, in an effort to achieve joint action to promote consumer interests in all spheres of community life.

IV In the international field the World Co-operative Movement should take steps to:

1 Heighten and develop collaboration between co-operative organisations in all parts of the world; promote and assist newly emerging co-operative movements, especially in developing countries, and generally promote economic and social development.

2 Assist in implementing special programmes designed to improve human conditions in collaboration with ECOSOC, the UN Specialised Agencies, the UN regional commissions and international non-governmental organisations having similar aims, and generally to promote the objectives of the Resolution in Co-operatives adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1968.

3 Support UN activities for the improvement of the human environment.

4 Advocate the abolition of monopolies and other restrictive business practices obstructing economic development and international trade and in general promote freer world trade while recognising the special problems of developing countries.

5 Advocate an international co-ordination of laws and regulations affecting consumers through organisations such as the International Organisation for Standardisation and the International Electro-Technical Commission.

6 Advocate a co-ordinated international system of consumer information through collaboration with bodies such as the International Organisation of Consumer Unions, the International Labelling Centre, the International Organisation for Standardisation and the International Electro-Technical Commission; and the joint committee formed by the last two, the International Standards Steering Committee for Consumer Affairs (ISCA).

Contemporary Co-operative Democracy

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE,

HAVING studied and discussed the reports on contemporary co-operative democracy as it is applied in countries of various political, economic and social systems, noting that different systems have an impact on the structure of the co-operative movement and, therefore, also indirectly on co-operative democracy;

HAVING regard to the rapid and far-reaching structural changes which the co-operative movement has had to undertake in order to increase its economic efficiency in its fight against monopolies and in its efforts to improve the quality of its service to meet the new needs of its members; RECOGNISING that the structural changes generally involve a development towards larger and fewer economic units within the movement and a transfer of authority from primary societies to apex organisations;

CONSIDERING that democracy, a basic principle of co-operation, must be retained and even strengthened within the new structures, and can be, in spite of difficulties in the application of democracy in the world today and of dangers with which it is threatened, such as the tendency towards bureaucracy and technocracy in large enterprises, and towards the concentration of economic power in the hands of international trusts and cartels;

UNDERLINES also the real importance of co-operative methods in satisfying the increasing demand for democratic participation from workers, producers, consumers, and in particular, from youth, in the management of economic and social activities;

RECOMMENDS the Affiliated members of the International Co-operative Alliance:

TO ADAPT whenever necessary the democratic system to the new economic structures in such a way as to provide members of the societies with the maximum opportunities for the active participation of those members;

TO INTRODUCE or develop for that purpose a system of representative democracy in co-operative primary societies whenever those cover a wide geographical area of activity and/or have a large number of members;

TO DEVELOP democratic structures in order to allow members of co-operative societies, through their elected representatives, to direct and control the policy of the movement, to engage in a permanent and fruitful exchange of views between co-operative societies and central organs in a co-operative spirit and to facilitate the division of tasks between the different structural levels in order to ensure maximum efficiency in the activities of the movement as a whole;

TO USE modern methods of mass consultation to stimulate and encourage members of co-operative societies to express their opinion and give their views on the activity and policies of their society and in this way to engage them to participate to a greater extent in the direction of co-operative enterprises;

TO MEET the increased need for membership enlightenment by utilising modern audio-visual techniques in membership meetings and by investing adequate resources in the development of a widespread co-operative press;

TO DEVELOP systems of training for members of elected committees so as to give them opportunities of acquiring the necessary knowledge for making policy decisions and performing control over large economic undertakings in the interest of their members;

TO STRESS the co-operative training of managers and technicians employed by the co-operative movement and to underline in this connection the social and cultural aims of a movement based on the principles of solidarity;

TO UNDERTAKE through the International Co-operative Alliance or by direct contacts, and exchange of experiences between the various forms of co-operation and between the co-operative movements of different countries with a view to improving the day-to-day functioning of democracy in co-operatives and to develop contacts with mass organisations which pursue the same objectives in the same spirit in order that the co-operative idea should have a bigger impact;

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE of all means at the disposal of co-operatives in order to exert co-operative influence on social and economic legislation as well as public planning and to obtain representation of co-operative organisations on governmental agencies which deal with the formulation and implementation of economic and social policy.

THE CONGRESS AFFIRMS solemnly that political democracy is indispensable to the development of co-operation and that reciprocally the free development of co-operative ideas and activities is indispensable to economic democracy without which political democracy remains incomplete.

Peace

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE ICA, representing 230 million Co-operators through the Affiliated Organisations,

RECALLS its Resolutions adopted at previous Congresses;

CONFIRMS its belief that the most urgent problem in the world is the establishment of peace, for without it human survival is threatened, and the process of economic development and social progress are obstructed;

REAFFIRMS its will to promote harmony between all races and peoples, as well as to safeguard the rights of peoples to their self-determination, to which end Co-operation has a special contribution to make;

ACKNOWLEDGES the work done by the United Nations in this field;

CALLS on governments to desist from such unilateral actions which are likely to endanger peace, and instead to support and strengthen the UN in its efforts to reduce tension; and

ASKS its Member Organisations to do all they can to influence their national governments to support the settlement of international disputes by negotiation and all measures for disarmament so that conditions may prevail which will enable all people to work peaceably for a higher standard of living and for the elimination of hunger and economic insecurity.

Technical Assistance and the ICA Development Fund

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

APPRECIATES highly the excellent work done by several affiliated national co-operative movements in giving generous technical assistance to the developing countries on a bilateral basis but simultaneously;

FINDS it necessary for greater co-ordination to be achieved internationally with the aim of providing wider scope for multilateral action;

WELCOMES Resolution 2459 (XXIII) on the Role of the Co-operative Movement in Economic and Social Development, passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1968, as well as the recommendation on the Role of Co-operatives, addressed to the governments of developing countries by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation in 1966, as most significant documents recognising the merits, importance and possibilities of the Co-operative Movement;

ACCEPTS the moral, social, economic and educational responsibility of the ICA for contributing towards the solution of the urgent problems of the developing countries by means of more efficient promotion of Co-operation;

REQUESTS the Alliance to urge various Specialised UN Agencies to initiate joint programmes, with a view to promoting co-operation in all spheres of activity relevant to developing countries;

AGREES with the conclusions of the Central Committee Report on the Development Fund, to the effect that, whilst objectively the ICA has favourable prerequisites for more active participation in the world-wide efforts for improving the living conditions in the developing countries, one of the main obstacles preventing the ICA from effectively pursuing such an aim is lack of finance and, therefore,

RESOLVES to urge all its affiliated organisations to increase substantially their contributions to the Development Fund, in raising the finance for which they should start a wide-scale campaign in their respective countries in commemorating the ICA's forthcoming 75th Anniversary, and in this connection commends among others the practice whereby member organisations donate 10% of the sum raised for their own technical assistance programmes, and thus express most appropriately their feelings of international co-operative solidarity, by contributing to collections for the ICA Development Fund as generously as possible; and

INSTRUCTS the Director of the Alliance to examine and report to the Central Committee on the possibility of prescribing a minimum rate or rates at which the various categories of membership of affiliated organisations should contribute to the Development Fund and authorises the Central Committee to take appropriate action on the report.

ICA Office in West Africa

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

ASKS the Central Committee to consider the possibility of setting up a Branch Office in West Africa with its headquarters where it is found to be most suitable.

Inter-Co-operative Trade in Developing Countries

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

RECOGNISES the need for greater trade between co-operatives in keeping with the principles of co-operation among co-operatives;

ACKNOWLEDGES the value of the detailed study already completed for South-East Asia; NOTES with satisfaction that the subject of mutual collaboration between developing and developed countries was considered at length at the second and third Asian Agricultural Co-operative Congress held at Tokyo and New Delhi, respectively, in 1964 and 1967;

RECALLS that specific resolutions were passed in this respect;

REQUESTS the Alliance to consider those resolutions and take necessary follow-up action to facilitate international trading between developed and developing countries to their mutual benefit; and

TO SEEK funds outside the regular budget and in collaboration with member co-operatives, to develop a general report on the trade taking place between co-operatives in the various countries and between countries. The report should show products or services handled, annual volume, how import or export regulations are handled, problems related to trade, etc., and, if possible, opportunities for further trade and the benefits to co-operative participants from such trade. Experiences of the ICPA (USA) could be used as an example. Such data to be collected by a special ICA Committee formed for this purpose with the results of the survey to be discussed in regional seminars in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Consumer and Agricultural Processing Industries in Developing Countries

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

APPRECIATES the steps taken in pursuance of the Resolution on the subject adopted by the 22nd Congress held in Bournemouth in October 1963 and the follow-up action taken by the ICA and certain co-operative movements;

EMPHASISES the need for more active collaboration between the developed and developing countries in this direction; and

URGES the Central Committee of the ICA to receive the annual reports from member organisations and to review the progress in this regard.

Training of Personnel in Developing Countries

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

NOTES that the success of the co-operative movements in developing countries depends largely upon the availability of trained personnel for key positions;

RECORDS its high appreciation of the work done by governments, international organisations and advanced co-operative movements for training such personnel;

TAKES NOTE of the recommendations made by the International Conference on Co-operative Education held by the Alliance in February 1968 in New Delhi, and in view of the need to co-ordinate and make the training programmes more relevant to the needs of the developing movements;

RESOLVES to appoint a Standing Committee on co-operative training and management development to ensure a planned and co-ordinated training programme by the co-operative movements of developed countries and the International Co-operative Training Centres and with a view to rationalising available facilities for the maximum benefit of the co-operative movements in the developing countries; and

REQUESTS the Alliance to make an assessment of the requirements of the movements of developing countries in respect of training and education and to take the necessary follow-up action including the designing of special courses to suit the special needs of a country or group of countries having identical situations.

Co-operative Housing

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

NOTES that the provision of housing for the broad masses is still an outstanding problem;

RECOGNISES that there is a need for a healthy residential environment for the population including good social and recreational amenities and all related facilities;

NOTES that in the solution of these very important problems for the families and individuals, co-operative methods have proved themselves to be of the greatest significance, and that in most countries co-operative housing is playing an ever-increasing role;

ASKS governments in industrialised as well as in developing countries to pay more interest to co-operatives in solving their housing problems;

CONSIDERS that it is of the greatest importance that the United Nations should be given more resources to assist its members, particularly in the developing countries, in solving the problems of housing and a satisfactory social milieu by means of co-operative methods; and

DECLARES its willingness to support any action taken by international and national bodies for the application of co-operative methods in the field of housing in the light of the Resolution taken by the 23rd General Assembly of the United Nations (2459/XXIII).

Action on the United Nations Resolution 2459/XXIII

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

HIGHLY APPRECIATES the efforts made by the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies aiming at the promotion of the socio-economic development of the developing countries;

WELCOMES the Resolution of the 23rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Role of the Co-operative Movement in the Economic and Social Development;

RECOGNISES that UN Resolution 2459/XXIII confirms the important role of the co-operative movement in the development of different countries, and especially in the realisation of the programme of the development of various fields of production—agricultural, artisanal and industrial—in the field of trade, services, medical care and education, as well as in the realisation of economic and social reforms, and especially land reform;

DRAWS attention to the fact that the co-operative form of ownership gives special possibilities to activate social initiative and to mobilise human and financial resources under social control for their effective use for the benefit of social progress and economic development, thus effectively bringing low-income persons into the main stream of development;

OBSERVES that creative technical assistance efforts have been developed directly between co-operatives in many countries represented in the 60 nation membership of the International Co-operative Alliance. These programmes have offered flexibility, economy and maximum participation among the member co-operatives;

DECLARES the willingness and readiness of the Alliance for the further development of co-operation with the United Nations, its Specialised Agencies and other national and international organisations in the fields of common interest;

CALLS upon developing nations to make use of the FAO, ILO, ICA, IFAP, IFPAAW joint programme of technical assistance, and urges more developed countries to co-operate actively with requests for assistance;

REQUESTS the Central Committee and Executive Committee of the Alliance, to encourage its members to prepare and forward to the joint programme, case studies of their co-operative organisations, which are developing activities in various geographical regions and in different socio-economic systems, to find how the co-operative movement can accelerate the socio-economic development of countries;

REQUESTS the Director of the Alliance to forward the results of these studies in the form of a report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, its Specialised Agencies and also to the governments of states where the ICA member organisations are developing their activities;

CALLS upon the Central and Executive Committees of the Alliance to elaborate long-term programmes of training, taking into consideration the most essential needs of co-operative organisations especially in the developing countries;

RECOMMENDS that the International Co-operative Alliance elaborate a programme of work with agricultural co-operatives with special emphasis on the role of agricultural co-operatives in the increase of agricultural production and in the fight against hunger;

URGES the Central and Executive Committees and member organisations of the Alliance to actively promote co-operative development as a counteracting force to monopolies in the developing countries and especially work for full implementation of the 1967 Resolution of the Central Committee, adopted in Prague, concerning the struggle against monopolies;

APPEALS to the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies to ascribe a greater part of the funds at their disposal, to co-operative organisations for the realisation of joint projects of technical assistance and pre-investments in developing countries, taking advantage of the consultative assistance of the Alliance and its members; and

REQUESTS the United Nations to appeal to its Members to direct through the co-operative organisations in their countries a greater part of the technical assistance for States who are Members of the United Nations.

Co-operative Legislation in Developing Countries

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

WELCOMES the helpful attitude of the governments in the developing countries towards the co-operative movement as well as their keenness to associate their co-operative movements with the schemes of national development;

FEELS that there is scope for the co-operative laws in the developing countries to conform progressively to the principles of co-operation as recently adopted by the Alliance; and

REQUESTS the Alliance to undertake a study of the various legislative enactments, rules, and bye-laws regulating the co-operative movement in the developing countries and to suggest improvements therein with a view to making them more conducive to the proper and healthy development of the co-operative movement and its leadership.

Women in the Co-operative Movement

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

NOTES that the activity of women in every branch of co-operation particularly in the field of production and consumption is considerable. According to their proportion in membership, women assert a right to play an increasing role in the management and control of co-operatives. This is borne out by the growth of interest shown towards the activity of the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council of the ICA; and

CHARGES the Central Committee to discuss the subject of "The Situation and Role of Women in the Co-operative Movement" at one of its next meetings.

Emergency Resolution on the Situation in Greece

Co-operative organisations all over the world, affiliated to the International Co-operative Alliance, observe with great fear the situation in Greece where democracy was liquidated after power was taken over by a fascist military junta.

The Authorities of the International Co-operative Alliance have protested against the removal of the elected officers of the Greek Co-operative Movement.

THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE ICA supports this protest and

DEMANDS that terrorism against Co-operators cease, and that all imprisoned Co-operators and fighters for freedom for the Greek Nation be liberated, and

ASKS co-operative organisations of the ICA to support the fight of the Greek Nation for Democracy, and the struggle for independence of the Greek Co-operative Movement.

Amended Rules:

Article 1. Name

The name of this Organisation, which was founded in London, August, 1895, is the International Co-operative Alliance, ICA (Alliance Coopérative Internationale, ACI; Internationaler Genossenschaftsbund, IGB; Mezdunarodny Cooperativny Alliance, MCA).

The International Co-operative Alliance, in continuance of the work of the Rochdale Pioneers, and in accordance with *Co-operative* Principles, seeks, in complete independence and by its own methods, to substitute for the profit-making régime a co-operative system organised in the interests of the whole community and based upon mutual self-help.

Article 3. Objects

The ICA shall have the following objects:

(a) To be the universal representative of Co-operative Organisations of all types which, in practice, observe *the Co-operative* Principles.

(b) To propagate Co-operative Principles and methods throughout the world.

(c) To promote Co-operation in all countries.

(d) To safeguard the interests of the Co-operative Movement in all its forms.

(e) To maintain good relations between its affiliated Organisations.

(f) To promote friendly and economic relations between the Co-operative Organisations of all types, nationally and internationally.

(g) To work for the establishment of lasting peace and security *through Co-operative efforts*.

Article 8. Eligibility

Associations of persons or Co-operative Organisations which observe the Aims of the ICA and the Policy laid down by its Congress shall be eligible for membership of the ICA.

Any Association of persons, or of Societies, irrespective of its legal constitution, shall be recognised as a Co-operative Society provided that it has for its object the economic and social betterment of its members by means of the exploitation of an enterprise based upon mutual aid, and that it conforms to the *Co-operative Principles as established by the Rochdale Pioneers and as reformulated by the 23rd Congress of the ICA*:

(i) *Membership of a co-operative society shall be voluntary and available without artificial restriction or any social, political, racial or religious discrimination to all persons who can make use of its services and are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.*

(ii) *Co-operative societies are democratic organisations. Their affairs shall be administered by persons elected or appointed in a manner agreed by the members and accountable to them. Members of primary societies shall enjoy equal rights of voting (one member, one vote) and participation in decisions affecting their societies. In other than primary societies the administration shall be conducted on a democratic basis in a suitable form.*

(iii) *Share capital shall only receive a strictly limited rate of interest, if any.*

(iv) *The economic results, arising out of the operations of a society belong to the members of that society and shall be distributed in such manner as would avoid one member gaining at the expense of others.*

This may be done by decision of the members as follows:

by provision for development of the business of the co-operative;

by provision of common services; or

by distribution among the members in proportion to their transactions with the society.

(v) *All co-operative societies shall make provision for the education of their members, officers and employees, and of the general public, in the principles and techniques of Co-operation, both economic and democratic.*

(vi) *All co-operative organisations, in order to best serve the interests of their members and their communities shall actively co-operate in every practical way with other co-operatives at local, national and international levels.*

Subject to compliance with these conditions, the types of Association eligible for membership shall include the following:

(a) National Unions or Federations of Co-operative Societies of the types mentioned in (f), (g), (h), (i), (j).

(b) National Federations of Co-operative Unions.

(c) Regional Unions of Co-operative Societies.

(d) Consumers' or Agricultural Co-operative Wholesale Societies.

(e) Co-operative Banks and Co-operative Insurance Societies.

(f) Consumers' Co-operative Societies.

(g) Co-operative Societies of Industrial Producers or Artisanal Co-operatives.

(h) Agricultural or Fishery Co-operative Societies.

(i) Co-operative Credit Societies.

(j) Housing and Building Societies.

(k) Supra-National or International Co-operative Organisations.

(l) Other Associations of persons or Associations which have as their aim the Promotion of Co-operation.

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Article 13. Obligations of Members

Every Organisation affiliated to the ICA shall have the following obligations:

(a) To observe the aims and policy of the ICA and to conform in its activity to the *Co-operative Principles* as defined in Article 8.

(b) To pay, during the first three months of each financial year, an annual subscription according to the provisions of Articles 17 and 18, and in the case of Organisations paying a

Collective subscription (Article 18, III) to declare the basis upon which it is calculated.

(c) To supply the ICA with its Annual Report.

(d) To send for the Library of the ICA a gratis copy of all literary works published by it; to inform the ICA of books published in its respective country which are of special interest or importance either for the work or Library of the ICA (if possible to supply the ICA with such books).

(e) To appoint a Correspondent who shall be responsible for sending to the ICA regularly—for the purpose of its publications, for the information of its Authorities, or for its documentation—full information concerning national co-operative developments, as well as all legislative or other actions and decisions on the part of the Public Authorities which directly or indirectly affect the activity and life of the Co-operative Movement.

(f) To supply, as far as possible, all information that shall be requested by the Authorities of the ICA.

(g) To take all such action as shall be recommended by the Authorities of the ICA in support of its policy, and for the implementation of the decisions of its Congress and Committees.

(h) To give such support to the publications of the ICA that their sale shall become a source of revenue to the ICA.

Article 23. Representation at Congress

Representation at Congress, subject to the full discharge of their financial obligations to the ICA, shall be accorded to affiliated Organisations as follows—provided that the Organisations of one country, or of a union of countries, or supra-national or international co-operative organisations, shall not exercise more than 15 per cent of the total voting power of the Congress:

(a) National Organisations admitted under clauses (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) and supra-national or international co-operative organisations admitted under clause (k) of Article 8 on the basis of Individual Membership (Article 18 II), shall be entitled to one delegate.

(b) National Organisations admitted under clauses (a) and (b) of Article 8 on the basis of Collective Membership (Article 18 III), shall be entitled to one delegate in respect of membership, and an additional delegate for each complete £148. 10. 0.* of subscriptions.

(c) Organisations admitted under clauses (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (l) of Article 8 shall be grouped nationally and each national group shall be accorded one *delegate* for each complete £148. 10. 0.* of their global subscription.

Each delegate shall have been for at least 12 months previous to appointment a member of the affiliated Society or Union making the nomination, or of a constituent member of such Union.

Unless the Central Committee shall decide otherwise a fee of £5 shall be paid for each delegate, and shall be sent to the Secretariat with the nomination form.

* This figure is the result of a revision in the light of the 10% increase in subscriptions.

Article 24. Voting at Congress

Organisations shall be entitled to one vote for each delegate appointed under Article 23. *Organisations* shall have the right to entrust all their votes to one or more delegates, provided that no delegates shall hold more than ten votes.

Article 25. Motions

(a) All Motions and Resolutions of affiliated Organisations to be included in the Provisional Agenda issued under Article 20 shall be sent in writing to the Executive at least six months before the date of the Congress.

(b) Emergency Resolutions which any affiliated Organisation may desire to submit to the

Congress must be handed in to the Director by noon on the first day of Congress and shall be considered by the Congress Committee, who will report on them to the Congress as first business on the second day. *No proposal will be accepted which could have been submitted under Article 25 (a).*

The text of all Emergency Resolutions *as agreed by the Congress Committee* and accepted for submission to Congress, shall be distributed to delegates at the end of the second day.

Amendments may exceptionally be moved at Congress subject to the procedure laid down in the Standing Orders governing the Procedure of Congress.

Consideration of Emergency Resolutions will take place at a time recommended to Congress by the Congress Committee.

Article 29. Duties of the Central Committee

The Central Committee shall have the following duties:

(a) To interpret the Policy and to carry out the Programme of the ICA established by the Congress.

(b) To elect the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the ICA, also the Executive.

(c) To approve decisions of the Executive regarding the admission of Associates.

(d) To appoint the Director of the ICA and to fix his remuneration.

(e) To appoint the Auditor.

(f) To confirm the budget of the ICA drawn up by the Executive.

(g) To decide the Agenda and the date of the Congress, *as well as the order of Congress business*, and to report on all matters submitted to Congress.

(h) To confirm agreements which impose permanent obligations upon the ICA.

(i) To deal with appeals and with the exclusion of members.

(j) To appoint the Trustees and if thought expedient to do so to remove the Trustees or any of them from time to time and to appoint new Trustees in the places of any Trustees who shall die, resign, or be removed as aforesaid.

(k) To make or authorise on behalf of the ICA all purchases, leases, sales, exchanges, mortgages, and other matters referred to in Article 38 (b) hereof.

(l) To decide on matters not provided for in the Rules.

Amended Standing Orders:

The Congress Sessions

1 Provision shall be made for the proceedings of the Congress to extend over four full days of two Sessions each.

2 No Auxiliary Conference shall take place during the Sittings of the Congress, and all social functions, excursions, or visits during the periods allocated for the Sessions of the Congress, or which would in any way hinder the work of the Congress, shall be strictly eliminated.

3 The President of the ICA is responsible for conducting the business of the Congress, assisted by the members of the Congress Committee, in so far as they are called upon by the President to do so.

4 A time-table shall be prepared for the discussion of each subject which shall be strictly adhered to, subject only to such modifications as the Congress Committee may find necessary for the admission of *emergency resolutions* under Article 25 (b).

Order of Debate

8 Delegates desiring to speak on any subject must hand in their names in writing. As a rule

they will be called upon in the order in which their names are received, but in the discussion of definite motions the President may call upon supporters or opponents of the motion to speak alternately.

9 Each delegate who rises to speak must address the President and direct his speech to the motion or question under discussion or to a question of order.

10 Each speaker shall be allowed five minutes, except the mover of a motion or amendment or the mover of a paper, and no delegate shall be allowed to speak more than once on any one subject except the mover of a motion or amendment or of a paper.

11 The mover of a motion shall be allowed ten minutes for his speech and five minutes in which to reply to the discussion before the motion or amendment is put to the vote. Such reply must be strictly limited to points raised in the discussion. *The mover of an amendment shall be allowed ten minutes for his speech, but has no right of reply unless the amendment is carried and becomes the substantive motion.*

12 Any speaker may be accorded an additional five minutes by the decision of the Congress, the question being put without discussion.

13 The mover of a paper shall not be subject to a fixed time limit in presenting his paper but, if the time-table demands, a time may be fixed by the President. The mover shall have fifteen minutes in which to reply to the discussion on his paper.

14 When more than one motion or amendment is submitted for discussion on any item of the Agenda (except motions of procedure and formal matters) they shall be referred to the Congress Committee, which shall endeavour to prepare an agreed text. *Exceptionally, an amendment proposed in the course of the discussion may, at the discretion of the President and with the approval of Congress, be considered by Congress. If an amendment is so accepted by Congress for consideration the President has discretion to deal with it immediately or to refer it to the Congress Committee.*

15 *In the preparation of any agreed text under Standing Order 14 above*, the mover of any motion or amendment shall have the right to attend the meeting of the Congress Committee to support his motion *or amendment*.

16 The discussion on any question may be closed by a motion "that the question be now put". Such motion must be moved formally and may only be moved by a delegate who has not spoken on the question under discussion. If the motion for the closure is seconded, the President shall put it to the vote. If the motion is accepted the mover of the original motion or amendment shall have the right to reply before the vote is taken. If the motion for the closure is rejected the mover of the closure motion shall have no further right to speak on the question under discussion.

17 Fraternal Delegates and Guests may, with the consent of the Congress Committee, address the Congress on any subject under discussion but may not vote.

Voting

18 All motions *and amendments* shall be decided by a show of *delegates' attendance cards*, unless a card vote is required to be taken by the Congress Committee, or on the written request of five member Organisations or on the demand of 50 delegates.

19 Organisations which are entitled to more than one vote may entrust their votes to a single delegate, provided, however, that no one delegate shall use more than ten votes.

20 The President shall have only one vote. In the case of an equality of votes being cast on any question the President shall declare the proposition "Not carried".

21 Cards shall be provided for use in all cases in which a demand for a *card vote* is made under Standing Order Number 18.

22 The voting shall be certified by the Director under the supervision of the Congress Committee.

23 Such number of tellers as may be required shall be appointed by the Congress at its first sitting.

24 Personal explanations are only admissible at the end of a debate and after the voting has taken place.

Emergency Appointments

25 Any delegate whose appointment has not been previously notified shall only be admitted by handing in to the Congress Committee satisfactory evidence of his or her appointment.

Suspension of Standing Orders

26 *No motion to suspend a Standing Order shall be accepted unless notice in writing has been given to the Director by not less than 20 delegates stating the reason for the motion. The motion to suspend Standing Orders shall be put to the vote after it has been moved and formally seconded, and not more than one speech made in opposition. A card vote must be taken on the motion to suspend Standing Orders and approved by a three-fourths majority. If defeated, no second motion can be permitted for the same purpose.*

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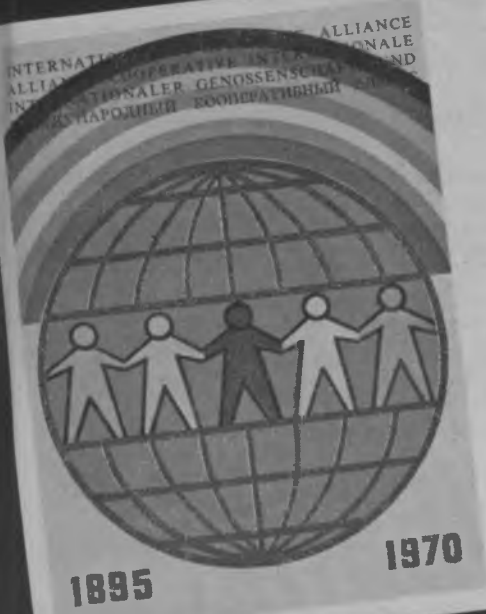
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International Co-operative Alliance
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London, W1X 9PA
England

75th ICA Anniversary Postage Stamp

The United Kingdom Post Office is issuing a postage stamp, value 1s, on the 1st April, 1970, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the International Co-operative Alliance.

The first day issue on envelopes with a special colour design will be on sale from the ICA. All proceeds from the sale of the envelopes will go to the ICA Development Fund.

Your request for envelopes bearing the commemorative stamp—enclosing 10s minimum for stamp and cover—should be addressed to:

**Anniversary Stamp,
International Co-operative Alliance,
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London, W1X 9PA
United Kingdom**

International Co-operative Alliance
Regional Office and Education Centre for
South-East Asia

Regional Director: Mr P. E. Weeraman
PO Box 3021, 43 Friends Colony
New Delhi 14, India

International Co-operative Alliance
Office for East and Central Africa
Regional Director: Mr Arne Holmberg
Regional Director Designate: Mr Dan
Uyanjom
PO Box 946, Moshi, Tanzania

Affiliated Organisations

Algeria: Société Coopérative Musulmane Algérienne d'Habitation et d'Accession à la Petite Propriété, 6 et 8 rue du Cercle Militaire, Oran; also at - 21 rue Edgar Quinet, Algiers, and 9 rue Mathurin Régnier, 75 Paris 15.

Argentina: Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Consumo, Avda. Suárez 2034, Buenos Aires.

Intercoop, Editora Cooperativa Limitada, Rivadavia 4426 (1er piso), Buenos Aires.

Asociación Argentina de Cooperativas y Mutualidades de Seguros, Belgrano 530, 5 Piso, Buenos Aires.

Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Credito Ltda., Pueyrredon 468, 2 Piso, Buenos Aires (RC 24).

Australia: Co-operative Federation of Australia, c/o CWS of Queensland Limited Buildings, 50-54 Ferry Street, South Brisbane, Queensland.

Austria: "Konsumverband" Zentralverband der österreichischen Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.

Membership (1967): 476,200; turnover: retail trade: Sch. 4,646 mill. (thereof consumers' societies: Sch. 3,895 mill.; department stores: Sch. 713 mill.; other retail trade: Sch. 38 mill.); wholesale society (G.Ö.C.): Sch. 1,821 mill.; own production: consumers' societies: Sch. 472 mill.; G.Ö.C. and subsidiaries: Sch. 415 mill.

Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft A.G., Seitzergasse 2-4, Vienna 1.

Zentralkasse der Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.

Österreichischer Verband gemeinnütziger Bau-, Wohnungs- und Siedlungsvereinigungen, Bösendorferstrasse 7/11, Vienna 1.

1967: Affiliated organisations: 313 (comprising 201 societies and 112 associations); membership: 130,286; dwellings administered: 288,157 (comprising 127,954 societies and 160,203 associations); balance at 1966: 33.8 milliard Sch. (divided as to societies Sch. 15.7, associations Sch. 18.1).

Österreichischer Raiffeisenverband, Seilergasse 16, Vienna 1.

Belgium: Société Générale Coopérative, 26-28 rue Haute, Brussels 1.

Affiliated consumers' societies: 21; membership: 300,000; turnover (1968): Frs. 4,180 mill.; shops: 1,409; Wholesale society turnover (1968): Frs. 1,272 mill.

Société Coopérative d'Assurances "La Prévoyance Sociale", P.S. Building, 151 rue Royale, Brussels 3.

Premiums (1966): Frs. 1,903 mill.; reserves: Frs. 6 milliards; insurance funds, life: Frs. 20 milliards.

Fédération Nationale des Coopératives Chrétiennes, 135 rue de la Loi, Brussels 4.

(1967): 1,250 shops; turnover: Frs. 1,430 mill.; Savings Bank: 2,050 branches; 500,000 members; deposits: Frs. 12 milliards; Insurance Society: 290,000 policy holders; premiums: Frs. 450 mill.; reserves: Frs. 1,300 mill.

L'Economie Populaire, 30 rue des Champs, Ciney (Namur).

Branches (1968): 460; membership: 92,000; turnover: F.B. 1,069,000,000; savings deposits: F.B. 592 mill.; capital and reserves: F.B. 184 mill.

L'Institut Provincial de Coopération Agricole, 42 rue des Augustins, Liège.

OPHACO (Office des Pharmacies Coopératives de Belgique), 602 Chaussée de Mons, Anderlecht-Brussels.

Union of 28 co-operative societies owning 360 pharmacies, 68 optical departments and counters, 7 drug stores, 14 wholesale depots. Turnover (1963): Frs. 1,250 mill. Surplus distributed to 400,000 members: Frs. 95 mill.

Brazil: Aliança Brasileira de Cooperativas (ABCOOP), Rua General Jardim 645, 3º Andar, São Paulo.

União Nacional das Associações de Cooperativas (UNASCO), Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 126-Conj. 608, Rio de Janeiro.

Bulgaria: Central Co-operative Union, Rue Rakovski 103, Sofia.

Canada: Co-operative Union of Canada, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.

A federation of English-language co-operative organisations, organised in 1909.

Conseil Canadien de la Coopération, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.

Ceylon: Co-operative Federation of Ceylon, Co-operative House, 455 Galle Road, Colombo 3.

Chile: Federación Chilena de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Credito, Ltda., Dieciocho 246, Clasificador 760, Santiago de Chile.

Cooperativa Sodimac Ltda., Casilla 3110, Santiago de Chile.

Colombia: Cooperativa Familiar de Medellin Ltda., *Calle 49, No. 52-49, Medellin.*

Cyprus: Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., *P.O. Box 1447, Nicosia.*

Cyprus Turkish Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. *P.O. Box 791, Nicosia.*

Vine Products Co-operative Marketing Union Ltd., *P.O. Box 314, Limassol.*

Czechoslovakia: Ustredni Rada Druzstev, *Tesnov 5, Prague 1.*

Denmark: De samvirkende danske Andelselskaber (Andelsudvalget), *H. C. Andersens Boulevard 42, 1553 Copenhagen V.*

Representing 30 national organisations, comprising: consumers' societies, agricultural production, marketing and purchase societies, other production and marketing societies, insurance societies, banking societies. Membership: 750,000 individual members.

Det Kooperative Faellesforbund i Danmark, *Linnegade 14, 1. sal, 1361 Copenhagen K.*

Affiliated societies (1963): 634; total sales: D.Kr. 1,582 mill.; employees: 12,500; comprising consumers', workers', artisans', productive and housing societies, etc.

Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger (FDB), *Roskildevej 65, Albertslund.*

Affiliated societies (1965): 1,852; members: 716,000; turnover: 2,583 mill. D.Kr.; wholesale turnover: 1,453 mill. D.Kr.; own production: 405 mill. D.Kr.

Dominica: Dominica Credit Union League, *14 Turkey Lane, Roseau.*

Eire: Irish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd., *The Plunkett House, 84 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.*

National Organising and Advisory Body for Agricultural Co-operatives. Affiliated societies: 333; membership: 127,000; turnover (1967): £152 mill.

Co-operative Development Society Ltd., *35 Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin.*

Finland: Suomen Osuuskauppojen Keskuskunta (S.O.K.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; wholesale turnover: Fmk. 1,377 mill.; own production of SOK: Fmk. 270 mill.

Yleinen Osuuskauppojen Liitto r.y. (Y.O.L.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; turnover of societies: Fmk. 2,543 mill.; total production of the affiliated societies: Fmk. 47 mill.

Kulutusosuuskuntien Keskusiitto (K.K.), r.y., *P.O. Box 10740, Mikonkatu 17, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 83; members: 582,159; turnover: Fmk. 1,852 mill.; own production: Fmk. 310 mill.

Osuustukkukauppa (O.T.K.), *P.O. Box 10120, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 83; turnover: Fmk. 1,062 mill.; own production: Fmk. 336 mill.

Pellervo-Seura, Central Organisation of Farmers' Co-operatives, *Simonkatu 6, Helsinki K.*

Affiliated organisations (1963): 10 central organisations; 1,102 societies.

France: Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommation, *F.N.C.C., 89 rue la Boétie, 75 Paris VIII.*

Affiliated societies (1964): 475; membership: 3,460,000; shops: 9,900; turnover: NF. 3,600 mill.

Société Générale des Coopératives de Consommation, *61 rue Boissière, 75 Paris XVI.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production du Bâtiment, des Travaux Publics et des Matériaux de Construction, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Générale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Banque Coopérative des Sociétés Ouvrières de France, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Nationale de la Coopération, de la Mutualité et du Crédit Agricoles, *129 Bd. St. Germain, 75 Paris VI.*

Confédération Française de la Coopération Agricole, *18 rue des Pyramides, 75 Paris 1er.*

Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole, *91-93 Boulevard Pasteur, 75 Paris XV.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives d'Habitations à Loyer Modéré, *Foyer Coopératif, 17 rue Richelieu, 75 Paris 1er.*

Confédération des Coopératives de Construction et d'Habitation, "L'Habitation", *3 ave. du Coq, 75 Paris 9e.*

Confédération des Organismes de Crédit Maritime Mutuel, *18 bis, Avenue Hoche, 75 Paris VIII.*

Federal Republic of Germany: Bund deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften G.m.b.H., *Besenbinderhof 43, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Affiliated societies (June 1968): 124; membership (1967): 2,379,114; turnover (1967): D.M. 4,321,596,200 (thereof D.M. 78,862,700 for West-Berlin).

Grosseinkaufs-Gesellschaft deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften m.b.H., *Besendinderhof 43-52, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Total turnover incl. subsidiaries (1967): D.M. 2,195,524,900. Gesamtverband gemeinnütziger Wohnungsunternehmen, *Breslauer Platz 4, (22c) Cologne.*

Volksfürsorge Lebensversicherung Aktiengesellschaft, *An der Alster, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Volksfürsorge Deutsche Sachversicherung Aktiengesellschaft, *Steinstrasse 27, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Ghana: The Alliance of Ghana Co-operatives Ltd., *Post Office Box 2068, Accra.*

Greece: Pan-Hellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Co-operatives (S.E.S.), *56 El. Venizelou Street, Athens 142.*

Guyana: Guyana Co-operative Union Ltd., *Ministerial Buildings, High Street and Brickdam, Georgetown.*

Haiti (W.I.): Caisse Populaire Dominique Savio, 57 Rue Rigaud, Pétion-Ville.

Hungary: Federation of Hungarian Co-operative Societies, Szabadság 14, Budapest V.
National Federation of Producers' Co-operatives (OKISZ), Pesti Barnabás 6, Budapest V.

Iceland: Samband Isl. Samvinnufélaga, Reykjavík.

India: National Co-operative Union of India, 72 Jorbagh, New Delhi 3.

National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd., D-44, NDSE Part II, New Delhi 16.

Iran: Sepah Consumers' Co-operative Society, Avenue Sevmov Esfand, Rue Artèche, Tehran.

Credit and Housing Co-operative Society of Iran, 20-22 Shahabad Avenue, Tehran.

Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran, 357 Pahlavi Avenue, Teheran.

Israel: General Co-operative Association of Jewish Labour in Eretz-Israel "Hevrat Ovdim", Ltd., P.O.B. 303, Tel-Aviv.

Affiliated societies and companies (1963): 1,855 in all branches.

"Merkaz" Audit Union of the Co-operative Societies for Loans and Savings, 44 Rothschild Bd., P.O. Box 75, Tel-Aviv.

"Haikar" Audit Union of Agricultural Societies of the Farmers' Federation of Israel, 8 Kaplan Street, P.O.B. 209, Tel-Aviv.

Italy: Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Via Guattani 9, Rome.

Confederazione Cooperative Italiane, Borgo Santo Spirito 78, 00193 Rome.

Associazione Generale delle Cooperative Italiane, Via delle Quattro Fontane 16, 00184 Rome.

Jamaica (W.I.): Jamaica Co-operative Union Ltd., 14-16 Barry Street, Kingston.

Japan: Nippon Seikatsu Kyodokumiai Rengokai (Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union), 1-13, 4-chome, Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.

Zenkoku Nogyokyodokumiai Chukokai (Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives), 5, 1-chome Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

Zenkoku Gyogyo Kyodokumiai Rengokai (National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations), Sankaido Building no. 9-13, 1-chome, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo.

Jordan: Jordan Co-operative Organisation, P.O.B. 1343, Amman.

Kenya: Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives Ltd., P.O.B. 9768, Nairobi.

Korea: National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, 75, 1st Street, Chung-Jong-Ro, Sodaemun-ku, Seoul.

Malaysia: Co-operative Union of Malaysia Ltd., P.O. Box 685, Kuala Lumpur.
Sarawak Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., Kuching, Sarawak.

Malta: Farmers' Central Co-operative Society Ltd., New Building, Middleman Street, Marsa.

Mauritius: Mauritius Co-operative Union, Co-operation House, Dumat Street, Port Louis.

Netherlands: Coöperatieve Vereniging U.A., Centrale der Nederlandse Verbruikcoöperaties, "CO-OP Nederland", Postbus 6008, Vierhavensstraat 40, Rotterdam 7.

Association of Enterprises on a Co-operative Basis, Bloemgracht 29, Amsterdam.

New Guinea: Federation of Native Associations Ltd., P.O.B. 152, Port Moresby, Papua.

Nigeria: Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria Ltd., Co-operative Bank Buildings, Milverton Ave., Aba.

Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria Ltd., c/o Co-operative Buildings, New Court Rd., Ibadan.

Lagos Co-operative Union Ltd., Co-operative Office, 147 Broad Street, Lagos, W. Nigeria.

Mid-Western Nigeria Co-operative Federation Ltd., c/o Ministry of Co-operative and Rural Development, Co-operative Societies Division, P.O.B. Benin City.

Norway: Norges Kooperative Landsforening, Revierstredet 2, Oslo 1.

Affiliated societies (1968): 803; membership: 382,000; turnover of local societies Kr. 2,750 mill.; of N.K.L.: Kr. 918 mill.

Norske Boligbyggelags Landsforbund (NBBL), Trondheimsveien 84-86, Oslo 5.

Pakistan: East Pakistan Co-operative Union Ltd., 9/D-Motijheel Commercial Area, 8th floor, Dacca 2.

West Pakistan Co-operative Union, 5 Court Street, P.O.B. 905, Lahore 1.

Karachi Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., 14 Laxmi Building, Bunder Road, Karachi 2.

Karachi Central Co-operative Consumers' Union, Iqbal Market and Cold Storage, Soldier Bazar, Karachi.

Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies' Union, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.

Karachi Co-operative Union Ltd., *Co-operative House, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.*

Karachi Fishermen's Co-operative Purchase and Sales Society Ltd., *West Wharf Road, Karachi.*

Sind Baluchistan Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd., *Provincial Co-operative Bank Bldg., Serai Road, P.O. Box 4705, Karachi 2.*

Provincial Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd., *Iqbal Road, Patharghata, Post Box 27, Chittagong.*

Peru: Cooperativa de Seguros "INCA" Ltda. No. 181, *Camilo Carrillo 225, Of. 602, Lima.*

Philippines: Central Co-operative Exchange Inc., *P.O.B. 1968, Manila.*

Poland: Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives, *Kopernika 30, Warsaw.* Central Union of Building and Housing Co-operatives, *Ul. Jasna 1, Warsaw.*

"Spolem" — Union of Consumer Co-operatives, *Grazyny 13, Warsaw.*

Central Union of Work Co-operatives, *Surawia 47, Warsaw.*

Roumania: Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor de Consum "Centrocop", *Calea Victoriei 29, Bucharest.*

Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor Mestesugaresti, "Ucecom", *Calea Plevnei 46, Bucharest.*

Singapore: Singapore Co-operative Union Ltd., *Post Box 366; Office and Library: 3-J/K Clifford House, Singapore 1.*

Sweden: Kooperativa Förbundet, *S-104 65 Stockholm 15.*

Affiliated retail societies (1968): 252; membership: 1,469,000; total turnover of distributive societies: Kr. 6,605 mill.; total turnover of K.F.: Kr. 5,003 mill. (Kr. 3,663 mill. sales to affiliated societies); K.F.'s own production: Kr. 2,308 mill.; total capital (shares, reserves and surplus) of K.F. and affiliated retail societies: Kr. 1,200 mill.

Hysesgästernas Sparkasse- och Byggnadsför- eningars Riksförbund (H.S.B.), *Fleminggatan 41, Fack, S-100 21 Stockholm 18.*

Affiliated Building Societies: 115; with individual members: 310,000; number of flats administered by local societies: 275,000; value of real estate: 12,500 mill. Kr.

Svenska Riksbyggen, *Hagagatan 2, P.O. Box 19015, S-104 32 Stockholm 19.*

Folksam Insurance Group, *Folksam Building, Stockholm 20.*

Sveriges Lantbruksförbund, *Klara Östra, Kyrko- gata 12, Stockholm 1.*

Kooperativa Kvinnogillesförbundet, *S-104 65 Stockholm 15.*

Switzerland: Co-op Schweiz, *Thiersteinerallee 14, CH 4002 Basle.*

Affiliated societies (1964): 505; shops: 3,200; member- ship: 780,000; retail turnover of affiliated societies: Frs. 1,700 mill.; wholesale turnover: Frs. 1,100 mill.

Verband ostschweiz. landwirtschaftlicher Ge- nossenschaften (V.O.L.G.), *Schaffhauserstrasse 6, Winterthur.*

Verband sozialer Baubetriebe, *c/o SBHV, Sihlpostfach, Zürich.*

Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, *Aeschenplatz 3, CH 4002 Basle.*

CO-OP Lebensversicherungs-Genossenschaft Basel, *Aeschenvorstadt 67, CH 4002 Basle.*

Tanzania: Co-operative Union of Tanganyika Ltd., *National Co-operative Building, P.O. Box 2567, Dar-es-Salaam.*

Tunisia: El Ittihad, *37, rue de Cologne, Tunis.*

Turkey: Turk Kooperatifcilik Kurumu (Turkish Co-operative Association), *Mithat Pasa Cadesi 38, Yenisehir, Ankara.*

Uganda: Uganda Co-operative Alliance, *P.O.B. 2215, Kampala.*

U.S.S.R.: Central Union of Consumers' Co- operative Societies of the U.S.S.R. and RSFSR, "Centrosoyuz", *Tcherkassky per no. 15, Moscow.* Consumers' societies (1967): 16,489; members: 55 mill.; shops: 356,700.

United Kingdom: Co-operative Union Ltd., *Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 OAS.*

Affiliated retail societies (1968): 539; membership: 12,794,228; share capital: £203,882,214; retail sales: £1,095,033,517.

Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., *P.O.B. 53, New Century House, Corporation Street, Man- chester M60 4ES.*

Affiliated societies (1965): 746; sales: £487,859,688; Bank turnover: £9,764,603,821; reserve and insurance funds: £40,791,711; total assets: £300,463,985.

Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd., *Miller Street, Manchester 4.*

Assets (1964): £369 mill.

Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd. *Centenary House, 100 Morrison Street, Glasgow C.5.*

Affiliated societies (1967): 153; sales: £89,008,059; reserves and insurance funds: £9,474,291; total resources: £23,139,384.

Co-operative Permanent Building Society, *New Oxford House, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.*

U.S.A.: Co-operative League of the U.S.A., *59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Ill. (60605), and 1012 14th Street, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.*

Yugoslavia: Glavni Zadruzni Savez FNRJ, *Terazije 23/JVI, Belgrade.*

Zambia: Eastern Province Co-operative Market- ing Assoc. Ltd., *P.O.B. 108, Chipata.*

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Organization of the Co-operatives of America,
G.P.O. Box 4103, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936.

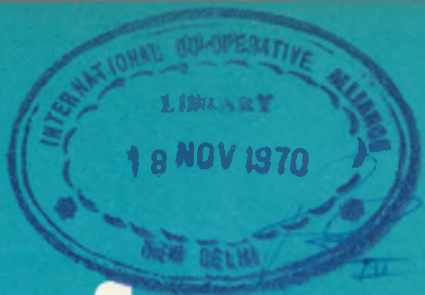
Nordisk Andelsforbund (Scandinavia), 3 Axel-
torv, Copenhagen V, Denmark.

International Co-operative Bank Co. Ltd.,
*Aeschenvorstadt 75, P.O.B. 711, CH 4002 Basle,
Switzerland.*

International Co-operative Petroleum Associa-
*tion, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.
10036, U.S.A.*

Sociedad Interamericana de Desarrollo de
*Financiamiento Cooperativo, 1012, 14th Street,
N.W., Room 1401, Washington D.C., U.S.A.*

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE



Review of International Co-operation

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THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

was founded in London in 1895 as an association of national unions of co-operative societies, which seek to promote a non-profit system of production and trade, organised in the interests of the whole community and based upon voluntary and mutual self-help.

It comprises organisations in every continent, and its total affiliated membership through national organisations exceeds 255 million. The consumers' movement accounts for about half the membership, the other half consisting of agricultural, credit, workers' productive, artisanal and fishery societies.

Its purpose is to propagate co-operative principles and methods and to promote friendly and economic relations between co-operative organisations of all types, both nationally and internationally.

It promotes, through auxiliary trading, banking and insurance organisations, direct commercial and financial relations between co-operative enterprises in different countries so as to enable them to exert on the world market, as well as at home, an influence beneficial at once to consumers and primary producers.

It convenes international congresses, furthers the teaching and study of co-operation, issues publications and research data, and collaborates closely with the United Nations as well as with voluntary and non-governmental international bodies which pursue aims of importance to co-operation.

Within the United Nations, it enjoys the right to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council as a Category "1" member.

Its official organ is *The Review of International Co-operation*, published bi-monthly.

The study of International Co-operation takes place under the auspices of the 'Henry J. May Foundation', the Permanent Centre of International Co-operative Study.

The ideological work of the Alliance also finds expression in the annual celebration in July of International Co-operative Day.

Review of INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The official Organ of the International Co-operative Alliance

Vol 63 No 3

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The ICA is not responsible for the opinions in signed articles

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International Co-operative Day, 1970

In August this year, the International Co-operative Alliance will complete seventy-five years of uninterrupted work. This, in itself, is no mean achievement, keeping in mind the fact that the world during these years has witnessed two major wars and one severe economic depression. The number of member organisations in the ICA has steadily increased and Co-operative organisations, big and small, from all continents of the world, are playing an active role in the affairs of our International Organisation.

The period since the end of World War II has been marked by remarkable expansion and diversification in the activities of the Alliance. Although the question of assisting Co-operative movements in developing countries has figured almost continuously in our discussions since the Paris Congress of 1954, the Congress in Lausanne in 1960 marks, as it were, the great divide when the ICA launched out actively in the promotion of Co-operation in developing countries. A Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia, with substantial assistance from the Swedish Co-operative Movement, was established in 1960 and, during the ten years of its existence, has played a significant role in assisting Co-operative movements in South-East Asia. A series of seminars and conferences, both national and regional, have resulted in a wide interchange of experience on an intra-regional basis; literature has been produced which is directly relevant to the needs of the Movements; and sustained efforts have been made to provide technical assistance by undertaking feasibility studies and by providing on-the-spot advice for the creation of economic organisations on a Co-operative basis. In short, the ICA Regional Office and Education Centre has become a beehive of activities and shows considerable promise in providing additional support to the struggling Co-operative movements in South-East Asia.

Our efforts in Latin America have taken a slightly different course, although leading on to the same objective. When the Co-operative movements in Latin America decided to set up their own regional organisation, namely,

by Dr S. K. Saxena, Director, ICA

the Organization of the Co-operatives of America, the Alliance decided to support the OCA and to maintain active collaboration with it. At the same time, the number of member organisations in the ICA from that continent has increased. A Spanish edition of the "Review of International Co-operation" has provided a window to Co-operators in Latin America on world-wide Co-operative developments. A Latin American Technical Institute for Co-operative Integration supported, *inter alia*, by the ICA, has been helping to increase the economic efficiency of Co-operative organisations.

The setting up of a small ICA Office in Moshi, which services Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, has given our African friends an opportunity to discuss their problems and learn from the experiences of neighbouring countries.

If I have written mainly about some aspects of our work in the developing countries, this is merely to emphasise the need and potentialities of international action in the Co-operative field. Let me now turn to the immediate future and indicate what I believe are to be the broad lines of our action.

Firstly, it is clear that our services to the advanced movements will need to be tailored more precisely to the large socio-economic changes which are affecting the Co-operative movements in the affluent parts of the world. This would call for providing, under the auspices of the ICA, training facilities which are specialised and which provide members with the opportunity of exchanging experiences. Our forthcoming seminar to be held in the United States in collaboration with our member organisations is, one could say, a beginning in the direction of offering specialised programmes for executives of Co-operative organisations. At the same time, we would continue to analyse the impact on Co-operative movements of new social and economic

continued overleaf

developments against the background of the fundamentals of Co-operation. ~

Secondly, it will be essential to have the significance of the work of our Auxiliary Committees reflected more fully in the overall functioning of the Alliance. This was the consensus of the Auxiliaries Conference held in Basle in 1969 and it is clear that these are the "economic arms" of the Alliance, which must be encouraged to develop initiatives in their own specialised fields.

Thirdly, our relations with the United Nations are continuing to broaden and the importance of the Co-operative movements has been recognised in a recent Resolution of the ECOSOC for social and economic development in which the ICA has been mentioned by name. A Joint Committee consisting of ILO and FAO with three NGOs, including the ICA, has come into existence and this Committee will concern itself with the promotion of agricultural Co-operatives.

Finally, our concern with the Co-operative movements in developing countries is profound and for many years to come a large part of our work will be devoted to ensuring that international experience in Co-operation is made available to the third world. ICA's work in the developing countries has already shown practical results, but compared to the vast needs of resources, it is insignificant. Clearly the ICA is an organisation which cannot provide large scale finances; its competence is in the field of know-how. The nucleus of our activities in developing countries has been the ICA's Development Fund, which is extremely modest in size and is fed by voluntary contributions from member organisation. At the same time, a number of projects could get off the ground if a small essential component of assistance could be made available which would enable the ICA to take the initiative and to invite co-operation from other organisations. The seventies are to be the Second United Nations Development Decade and the ICA has the unique opportunity of seizing the challenge with a broad-based co-ordinated programme of action. We must rise to the occasion and help to build in the far-flung corners of the earth efficient Co-operative organisations which would enable men and women, through their own efforts, to rise out of the poverty and stagnation which have been their lot for centuries.

I invite you to join us in this exciting adventure by helping with generous contributions to the Development Fund of the ICA.

48th International Co-operative Day

Saturday, 4th July, 1970

Declaration of the ICA

THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE, addressing its affiliated Organisations comprising 255,508,443 members in 60 countries, on the occasion of the 48th INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DAY and the 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ICA, 19th AUGUST, 1895:

RECALLS all Peace Resolutions adopted at various Congresses held since its founding in 1895 and confirms its belief that the most urgent problem in the world is the establishment of peace, for without it, human survival is threatened, and the process of economic and social development is obstructed;

CALLS on governments to desist from such unilateral actions which are likely to endanger peace and instead to support and strengthen the UN in its efforts to reduce tensions by negotiations;

WELCOMES Resolution 2459 (XXIII) on the Role of the Co-operative Movement in Economic and Social Development of the UN General Assembly as well as the recommendation on the Role of the Co-operatives by the International Labour Organisation as most significant documents, recognising the merits and potentialities of the World Co-operative Movement;

SUPPORTS fully the objectives of the UN Second Development Decade and asks its member Organisations to contribute fully in the implementation of the CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT DECADE, a wide-ranging collaborative programme initiated by the ICA for the development of Co-operatives in developing countries through research, technical and educational programmes, keeping in mind that the year 1970 has been declared by the UNESCO as the International Education Year;

REQUESTS its affiliates to assist the FAO by ensuring that well-informed national members from the countries of our affiliates will contribute to the deliberations of the Second World Food Congress, and recommend specific actions ensuring a large Co-operative contribution to the solution of the provision of adequate food supplies for all mankind;

AFFIRMS IN ITS INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS that consumers have the right to a reasonable standard of nutrition, clothing and housing; adequate standards of safety and a healthy environment, free of pollution; access to unadulterated merchandise at fair prices and with a reasonable variety of choice; access to relevant information on goods and services, and to education on consumer topics, and the right of the consumer to influence economic life and to democratic participation in its control;

ASKS on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary to express appropriately their feelings of international Co-operative solidarity by contributing to the ICA Development Fund as generously as possible;

THANKS ALL ITS AFFILIATES for their support throughout the seventy-five years of the work of the Alliance, the only Organisation entirely and exclusively dedicated to the promotion of Co-operation in all parts of the world, linking without distinction of colour or creed, all Co-operators in pursuit of Co-operative aims.



Seventy-Five Years of the ICA: A Commentary

by W. P. Watkins

I

As an institution the International Co-operative Alliance has 75 years of history. As an idea it had a pre-history stretching back 60 years before its actual constitution at the London International Congress of 1895. The Association of All Classes of All Nations formed by Robert Owen and some disciples in 1835 evoked no response outside of Great Britain, notwithstanding a continental tour in search of support by Owen himself. Nevertheless the idea which inspired the Association was in all essentials the same as inspires the Alliance of today. Though their concrete achievements were virtually nil, these co-operators of 1835, like others who came after them, could clearly visualise that the ultimate end of association on co-operative principles is, by logical and practical necessity, international organisation.

In the thirty years which elapsed before the next attempt was made to bring the idea down to earth, the basic types of credit, consumers' and workers' productive co-operative societies were worked out and their value tested. The distinction between co-operative and other forms of association became more clearly recognised. The pendulum of public opinion began to swing away from individualism and governmental *laissez faire*. The group of French co-operators, led by J. P. Beluze, who established *Le Crédit au Travail* to finance workers' productive and consumers' co-operative enterprises, convened an international congress to be held during the Paris International Exposition of 1897. Though their plans were brought to naught by the Paris police, they succeeded in setting the concept of an "international

co-operative alliance" in circulation, to be taken up and given wider currency nearly twenty years later by Edouard de Boyve.

Meanwhile, communication was spreading far and wide among co-operators of different countries as was proved by the international sponsorship of the British Co-operative Congress of 1869. The more successful Co-operative Movements in several European countries were entering the phase of national consolidation in federations or unions for technical guidance, trade or finance and thus laying the material foundations necessary for effective and enduring international collaboration. Progress towards international organisation however, was halting and devious. While a few leading spirits appreciated the need and advantages of international association, the great body of co-operators were well content to accept the nationalistic limitations then fashionable on thought and action. National consolidation, regarded as an end in itself, acted as an obstacle rather than a stepping-stone to international organisation. Moreover, doctrinal differences arose, for example, between schools of thought with conflicting views on the organisation of credit, co-operative production, and the bearing of co-operation on "the class struggle". The fact that so many prominent advocates of international co-operative organisation were also firm believers in co-operative production based on labour co-partnership and profit-sharing, prevented them from winning the support of other co-operators who did not share their belief.

The International Alliance of Friends of Co-operative Production,

planned by Edward Vansittart Neale and Edward Owen Greening in 1892, was a reaction against the final defeat of their long campaign to persuade the British Co-operative Congress to impose profit-sharing as a principle on all types of of co-operative enterprise. Labour co-partnership was too narrow a basis for a viable international co-operative alliance, as Henry W. Wolff pointed out when Greening invited him to join in preparing its first congress. Almost in spite of themselves Greening and his friends were obliged, step by step, in order to get an effective international organisation formed at all, to open its membership to every known type of co-operative enterprise without imposing any doctrinal test. Their own view of co-operation was broad enough to accept this and to interpret faithfully the evident determination of the first congress that the International Co-operative Alliance should be founded, leaving definitions of principle and doctrine to be worked out in the light of subsequent experience. Even at that early stage the spirit which places the unity of the Alliance above theoretical correctitude was thus already manifest.

II

Nevertheless, doctrinal differences impaired the unity of the Alliance for some years. The constitution caused little difficulty, for its drafting demanded no more than the adaptation of the familiar co-operative federal pattern to meet international requirements. The main obstacle to its full operation was the expense of travel, in relation to both the ICA's income and the resources of the young national unions. This and the first World War were the only important reasons why the functions of the Executive were exercised by the British members of the Central Committee until 1921. The composition of the ICA's membership, however, underwent important changes. The Alliance began with a mixed membership of organisations and individual co-operators. By 1902, individual mem-

bership, certain exceptions apart, was terminated. This coincided with the decline in the influence of the workers' productive and co-partnership elements in the membership.

The Budapest Congress of 1904 marked the first deliberate attempt of the ICA - under the leadership of Henry W. Wolff - to stimulate co-operative movements and to recruit members in Eastern Europe, then the economically least developed part of the continent. But the congress was also notable for debates about the bearing of co-operation on social evolution and the relation of Co-operative Movements to government, which led directly to the withdrawal of important unions of artisanal co-operatives and peoples' banks adhering to Schulze-Delitzsch doctrines of self-help and independence of the state, as well as agricultural unions for which the primacy claimed for consumers' co-operation was unacceptable. At Cremona in 1907 William Maxwell, President of the Scottish CWS, was elected President of the Alliance. By 1910, when the constitution was given a definitive form, the ICA consisted of and depended financially almost entirely on consumers' co-operative unions and their affiliated societies. Yet the idea that the Alliance should be open to all genuine forms of co-operation was faithfully preserved and in due time the ICA became more fully representative of the various forms of co-operative association.

III

The belief that co-operation had both ideal and practical contributions to make to the attainment and preservation of international and social peace was a powerful reason in the minds of Edouard de Boyve, Hodgson Pratt and other leaders for founding the Alliance. It was, however, the mounting tension in Europe, precluding the first World War, which impelled the Central Committee to bring before the Glasgow Congress of 1913 the resolution on peace, the unanimous acceptance of which was accompanied by a demonstration

both unprecedented and never since repeated. The resolution could avail nothing to arrest the Powers in the warlike courses they were then pursuing, but six years later it served as a rallying point when the Alliance was re-assembling its forces in the effort to join in building a post-war world of greater security and humanity than the one which had collapsed in war and revolution. Two remarkable facts helped co-operators to renew their faith in their Movement. The Alliance was not disrupted by the war. For the greater part of four years of fighting, its Bulletin appeared in identical English, French and German editions, thanks to the loyalty of co-operators in belligerent and neutral countries alike. And many national co-operative movements emerged from the war with enhanced numerical strength and public esteem because of the services they had rendered to the consuming public, their own members and their national governments in times of economic stringency.

The return of the Alliance to normal activity from 1919 onwards was accompanied by high hopes of following up the Glasgow declaration with effective contributions to economic and social reconstruction on the international plane. For one thing, the peace treaty brought into existence the League of Nations and the International Labour Office, two institutions which the Alliance might legitimately seek to interest in the co-operative idea and its applications to economic and social policy. The belief that competition and monopoly in economics were factors of strife in politics, and that peace must be founded on social justice and a more equitable sharing of wealth and opportunities for leisure was widespread at that time. Idealists like Professor Charles Gide looked forward to a new system of international organisation of exchange which would supersede traditional protection and orthodox free trade.

These hopes were doomed to frustration. The vested interests of those

who desired no other kind of reconstruction than the quickest possible return to the pre-war world and the inexperience of administrators, mostly drawn from national civil services, in studying and solving economic problems from an international standpoint obstructed and restricted collaboration and often reduced the results of international conferences to pious resolutions which the practice of governments openly disregarded. The efforts of the ICA to communicate with the League of Nations were repulsed for half a decade. Something similar might well have happened with the International Labour Office but for the good fortune of Albert Thomas' appointment as its first Director and his creation of its Co-operative Service.

IV

Admittedly the ICA was officially recognised in time for it to participate in the World Economic Conference of 1927, but by that time the leading governments were too confirmed in their economic nationalism for any effective action to be taken to avert the world-wide economic depression of the 1930s, already foretold by Sir George Paish, a distinguished British economist, at the first Stockholm Congress of the ICA. Another element of disappointment was the fact that the ICA seldom had the material means effectively to influence either its own membership or the external world. The programme of work and development prepared by the Central Committee and adopted by the Basle Congress of 1921 without a word of comment would have required, it was estimated, an annual income of £15,000 to carry out. In the twenty years between the two World Wars the annual subscription income of the Alliance never much exceeded £10,000 and was mostly far below that sum. In the early 1920s currency instability and depreciation whittled away its revenue, but from 1924 onward the development of its press, education and research activity showed what might be achieved with an adequate and assured

income. Nevertheless, in spite of lack of money some worthy ideas were accepted and realised, notably that of International Co-operative Day, as a festival of rejoicing and re-dedication for co-operators all over the world, in which participation extended much further than the membership of the Alliance at any given time.

Another idea was the re-affirmation of the unity of the Co-operative Movement through what came to be called "inter-co-operative" relations. The movement of thought which was started by Albert Thomas' paper at the Ghent Congress of 1924 was continued by the World Economic Congress of 1927 in its resolution recognising the value of inter-trading and collaboration between consumers' and agricultural co-operative organisations. The Inter-Co-operative Committee, which sat regularly at Geneva in the 1930s, greatly assisted in carrying this idea into practical effect. But there was also a favourable reaction on the membership of the Alliance, which from this time began to include a steadily increasing proportion of agricultural co-operatives, such as the Canadian Wheat Pools, through the admissions of organisations from other continents than Europe.

V

During the 1920s and 1930s the efforts of the Alliance to work out and apply constructive ideas were hindered by the effect of external events, especially in the sphere of politics, upon the situation and development of important member organisations. The first World War brought about the collapse of the ancient Austrian and Russian empires, the emergence of new and re-emergence of old nation-states, and the establishment after the revolution of 1917 of a new element in European and world politics, the USSR. Among other things this last introduced into the Alliance concepts hitherto unknown of the relation of co-operation to the state and to a centrally-planned economy, which also involved questions of the principles observed and the policies

pursued by Russian co-operative organisations and their eligibility for membership of the Alliance. It cannot be said that these questions, which were revived with a much wider application and more complicated controversy after the second World War, have ever been resolved in a manner commanding the consensus of co-operators. But rather than provoke an outright division of the Alliance, which was desired by no party, the Authorities of the Alliance have established, with the approval of Congress, a kind of compromise which permits of working relations over a considerable range of problems. Beyond this, of course, there have been differences of view from time to time on the best way of preserving peace and on international economic policy, concerning which the Authorities of the Alliance have needed to exercise considerable care and skill in maintaining its independence of political entanglements.

This was all the more necessary when the traditional and legal freedom of co-operative association was menaced and infringed by totalitarian, anti-democratic regimes, resting on military and police power and favoured by capitalist economic interests. The Alliance lost one of its oldest and most important members when the Fascist regime in Italy dissolved the Co-operative League and many of its affiliated societies, subjecting the rest to its so-called corporative system. This was the first example, to be imitated during the 1930s in Germany, Austria, Spain and some Baltic and Balkan States. Wherever its member organisations called for it, the ICA in the person of its General Secretary, Henry J. May, intervened, often with salutary effect. It is probable, however, that these interventions would have been fruitless had it not been possible to point convincingly to the politically non-partisan character of genuine co-operative organisations and, especially, to the neutrality of the Alliance.

VI

The world economic depression,

following the great Wall Street crash of 1929 brought to an end the six years of expansion which began for the ICA after the currency stabilisations of 1924. At the time of its first Vienna Congress in 1930, the Alliance had member organisations in forty countries and its horizons, as a result of inter-co-operative relations, were still extending. The financial crisis, however, and the devaluation of currencies reduced its income for several years. Nevertheless in general the affiliated organisations, where they firmly adhered to basic Co-operative Principles, and were well-managed, survived the depression often in better shape than their competitors. In Scandinavia, for example, the consumers' Co-operative Movements made steady progress, the Swedish Movement in particular bringing its series of campaigns against cartels and monopolies to a climax with the opening of its Luma electric lamp factory. The common purchasing agency of the Scandinavian wholesale societies, NAF, also expanded its trade and consolidated its position. The very stability of the Co-operative Movement under the depressed conditions brought upon it the unwelcome attention of its trade competitors, to whose pressures certain governments actually yielded to the extent of applying to co-operative societies the restrictive provisions of legislation designed to shelter small trading enterprises from the competition of larger and better organised rivals. The changed relations of co-operation and government in the end impelled the Central Committee to place the question on the Agenda of the Congress in Paris in 1937 when the President, Dr. Väinö Tanner, presented a paper on the place of Co-operation in different economic systems which was generally acknowledged as the classic treatment of its subject.

VII

The 1930s, because of the very pressures and conflicts which compelled co-operators to take cognisance of where they stood and what their Movement represented, were a period of clarification.

In this the leading role was played by its great General Secretary, Henry May. The Congress of Vienna in 1930, on the motion of the French delegation, authorised the Executive to appoint a special committee to define the Principles of Rochdale and investigate the manner in which they were still observed in the practice of contemporary Co-operative Movements. The results of the enquiry, which came before successive Congresses in 1934 and 1937, confirmed that the Rochdale Principles were still valid, after almost a century of application, both as tests of the genuineness of co-operative organisation and as guidelines of co-operative action. Although the committee's definitions did not find unanimous acceptance, its findings represented the greatest common measure of agreement and the consequent amendments of the ICA rules were of incalculable value in safeguarding the unity of the Alliance ten years later when controversy over eligibility for membership broke out anew after political revolutions in Eastern Europe.

Besides clarification about the Principles of Co-operation, the Authorities of the Alliance, as the expansionist policy of the Third Reich in Europe and the Japanese in Asia brought war ever nearer, were constrained to define with greater precision the attitude of the Co-operative Movement to tendencies and events in the external world. It was Henry May who, in articles in the "Review of International Co-operation" and in memoranda and declarations drafted for the Central and Executive Committees, did most to voice the wishes and convictions of the great body of the ICA's members. Their wish, as it was that of the mass of mankind, was to forestall or avoid the outbreak of a world war. They therefore hoped that efforts to avert it by "appeasement", if that were consistent with justice, would succeed. But they knew, from 1935 onwards that the true intention of the Third Reich in regard to co-operation and especially consumers' co-operation, was to

destroy it along with other democratic institutions of the people. If war became inevitable, therefore, the victory of the Third Reich and its allies would mean the extinction of co-operation. The Alliance accordingly abandoned for the time its policy of non-affiliation to other bodies, joined the International Peace Campaign and encouraged the formation of industrial co-operatives in China in order to reinforce Chinese resistance to aggression. After the fighting actually began, May boldly declared in the "Review" that the war was being waged for the subjugation of evil forces threatening civilisation, and that neutrality did not mean non-participation. His great concern was not simply that the Alliance should hold together during the war, but that it should be ready and able to play an effective role in a world settlement ensuring freedom, security and peace. In the "Review" for November 1939 he published an article outlining the tasks of the ICA during the war. This was his last message and legacy to the Co-operative Movement for on 19th November, after a brief illness, he died. Under the leadership of R. A. Palmer, who acted as President for Dr. Tanner, isolated in Finland, Miss G. F. Polley, as Acting General Secretary, and the British members of the Central Committee who formed a provisional executive committee, the tasks which Henry May had foreseen were faithfully discharged.

VIII

In the early years of the second World War, the ICA was perhaps less active than in the corresponding period of the war of 1914-1918. For one thing, there were fewer neutral countries and communications were slower and more difficult. However, in the later years, as consultations on the pattern of the international organisation of the post-war world began to yield results, the ICA was able to organise conferences with some of its affiliates and to arrange representation at inter-governmental meetings through its member organisation, the Cooperative

League of the USA. In this way the ICA was present at San Francisco when the United Nations organisation was constituted and in due time was designated as a body with which consultative arrangements could be made under Article 71 of the Charter. This Article, providing for consultation with non-governmental organisations which were widely representative of the common people and possessed special experience of economic and social problems, showed that something had been learned from the mistakes of the old, discredited League of Nations. Of course, some lively discussions had to take place between the representatives of the non-governmental organisations and the respective bureaucracies before mutual agreement was reached on what consultative arrangements were suitable and effective, and in these discussions the ICA, through its first Director, Thorsten Odhe, played a leading role. However, as the years passed and the development of the technical assistance activities of the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies involved them more and more in practical operations demanding specialised knowledge, the importance of the contribution of the non-governmental organisations gained in appreciation and various methods of collaboration were introduced with success and perfected with experience. This was the more easily possible, so far as the Alliance was concerned, because Co-operation in general emerged from the second World War on a higher plane of respect amongst statesmen and others responsible for social reconstruction than ever before.

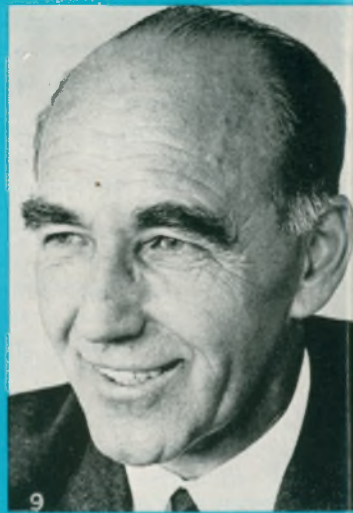
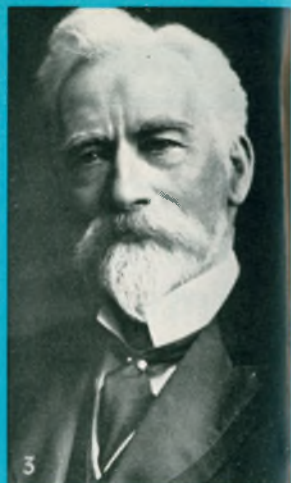
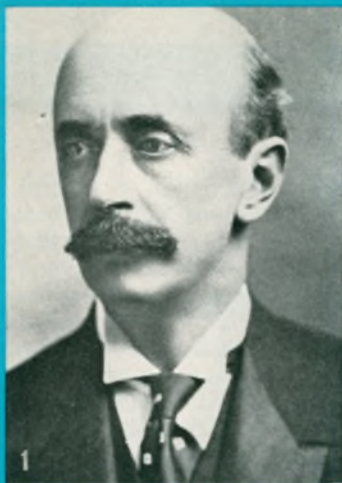
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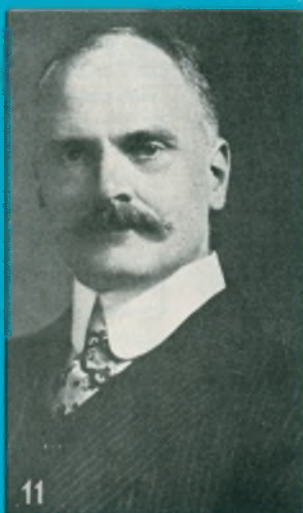
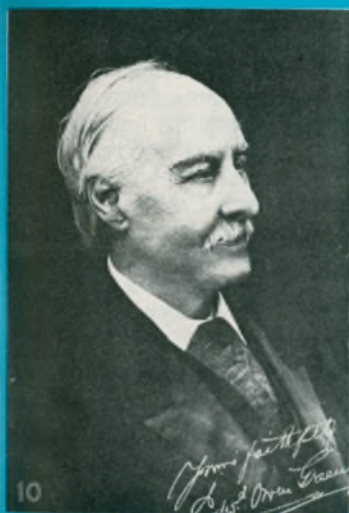
The ICA and its member organisations required five or six years after the second World War to rally their membership, bring their administrative machines into running order and dispose of the aftermath of war-time problems. By the early 1950s, however, some kind of normality had been achieved. The ICA

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Presidents, Secretaries and Directors of the International Co-operative Alliance

<i>Number of picture overleaf</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Dates</i>
1	The Rt. Hon. Earl Grey	President	1895-1917
2	Henry W. Wolff	President	1895-1907
3	Sir William Maxwell	President	1907-1921
4	G. J. D. C. Goedhart	President	1921-1927
5	Väino Tanner	President	1927-1945
6	Lord Rusholme	{ Acting President President	1940-1946 1946-1948
7	Sir Harry Gill	President	1948-1955
8	Marcel Brot	President	1955-1960
9	Dr. Mauritz Bonow	President	1960-
10	E. O. Greening	Secretary	1895-1902
11	J. C. Gray	Secretary	1902-1907
12	Hans Müller	General Secretary	1908-1913
13	Henry J. May, OBE	General Secretary	1913-1939
14	Gertrude F. Polley, OBE	{ Acting General Secretary Secretary	1939-1947 1947-1963
15	Thorsten Odhe	Director	1948-1951
16	William P. Watkins	Director	1951-1963
17	W. Gemmell Alexander	Director	1963-1968
18	Süren K. Saxena	Director	1968-





Secretariat had been established in its own premises with unprecedented amenity and room for expansion. Old Auxiliary Committees had resumed work; new ones, for example, for Agricultural Co-operation and Co-operative Housing, had been set up. The establishment by resolution of Copenhagen Congress of a Committee on Rationalisation was evidence that the Movement was preparing to cope with the impending transformation of distributive trade in the industrially-advanced countries, foreshadowed by the spread of self-service methods in retailing. Few co-operators, if any, had at that time any inkling of the speed with which the Co-operative Movements' economic and social background would be revolutionised in the next two decades.

These changes form part of everyone's experience today and require no description here. All that need be said is that they placed the ICA in the situation of having two revolutions at once on its hands. Its older members, mostly in Europe and North America were confronted with the necessity of adjusting their structures and methods to a new industrial age dominated by electronics, automation, new applications of physical and chemical science, as well as to new social policies designed to keep up standards of living through high and stable levels of employment and subsidised social services. The question needed to be answered: what is the function of co-operation, which originated in poverty and distress, in this so-called affluent society? The younger members of the Alliance were (and are still) in countries passing through the first industrial revolution from hand tools to power machinery which began in Europe two centuries ago. How were the two groups to be kept in proper relation, so that the knowledge and experience of the first might be available to help the development of the second.

The post-war plans of the Alliance included the expansion of its organisation so that functions of its central Secretariat

could be devolved step by step upon regional offices in different parts of the world. The first moves in this direction were made in South-East Asia in consequence of the ICA's adoption in 1954-55 of its own programme of technical assistance for the promotion of co-operation in the less-developed regions. South-East Asia, because of its extent and vast populations, was taken as the first of these regions to be studied. An exploratory tour undertaken by Dr. G. Keler in the winter of 1955-56, led in due course to the Kuala Lumpur Conference of 1958 and the establishment in the autumn of 1960 to the ICA Regional Office in New Delhi. The results in the last ten years cannot be enumerated now, but they certainly include enhanced inter-communication and cohesion on the part of the ICA's membership right across Asia from Iran to Japan; the development of education and training with an improvement in the quality of co-operative management and of government guidance and supervision of co-operative organisations; a thorough exploration of the possibilities of inter-co-operative trade between the different countries. The ICA's regional office for East and Central Africa was opened in 1969. In America devolution was anticipated by a move from below upward through the formation of the Organization of the Cooperatives of America by the national organisations for mutual assistance which by no means excludes collaboration with the ICA.

In the 1950s both the Co-operative Wholesale Committee and the younger auxiliary, the Committee on Retail Distribution, were deeply involved in the study of new structures and methods in distributive trade, but the far-reaching importance of structural reform demanded consideration by an ICA Congress. At Lausanne in 1960 the paper presented by Dr. Mauritz Bonow, who was subsequently elected President, inaugurated research and discussions which continued for almost a decade and included not only economic

aspects of co-operative organisation, but the modernisation of the Movement's systems of democratic government, imperative if it were to carry its membership with it and retain the members' active participation and support.

Amid these organisational changes the ICA has been concerned to preserve the social character of the Co-operative Movement. The feeling that new thinking about the principles of Co-operation was necessary enabled A. P. Klimov to carry his proposal at the Bournemouth Congress of 1963 for a fresh enquiry. Compared with the investigation of thirty years before, the emphasis had shifted from confirmation to re-statement, including the abandonment of practices inappropriate to contemporary conditions and the possible enunciation of new principles. Undoubtedly the Commission, presided over by Professor Karve, whose report was accepted overwhelmingly by the second Vienna Congress, did magnificent work in removing ambiguities lurking in the sloganised formulations of the preceding report and in broadening the basis of practical experience on which co-operative doctrine, in order to be of practical experience must rest. It also laid timely emphasis on the obligation of co-operative organisations to co-operate with one another. Nevertheless, by defining principles as practices, it did not recognise, any more than the preceding report, the vital importance between the principles, as elementary ideas inherent in co-operation, and the methods by which, in varying times and places, these ideas are to be realised in action. Not the least of the benefits of the enquiry was evidently the world-wide interest it aroused within the Movement and the stimulus it gave to serious thought about the Co-operative Movement, its true nature and ultimate aims.

Almost simultaneously the contribution of the Movement to economic and social development was recognised by the International Labour Organisation, when, for the first time Co-operation

figured on the agenda of its annual conference. The result of deliberations extending over three successive years was the adoption of an "instrument" which may be described, not inappropriately, as a charter for co-operative promotion in the developing countries. Three years later, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in deciding to make the 1970s a Second Development Decade, also resolved to assess the contribution which the Co-operative Movement could make to the realisation of its objects, namely, the development of resources and the raising of standards of living in the regions where economic evolution was retarded and difficult. The response of the Authorities of the ICA was to consider the project of a Co-operative Development Decade running parallel and in co-ordination with that of the United Nations. Having for a generation urged on governments and inter-governmental bodies the importance of co-operation as a method of economic and social organisation, the Alliance must now live up to its own claims. For this, it needs to maximise, not only its numerical strength, but also its international cohesion and discipline.

It is, therefore, encouraging to observe the increasing importance of its auxiliary organisations and the manner in which they are continually extending the scope of co-operative economic enterprise and supporting the Authorities of the Alliance in the effective and fruitful conduct of its consultative relations with the United Nations system and its collaboration with other international institutions. The convocation at Basle in the autumn of 1969 of the first special conference of Chairmen and Secretaries of the Auxiliary organisations is therefore of the greatest significance. It holds out the promise of more rapid progress than in the past towards the building of a coherent Co-operative sector in world economy, a task to which the ICA must more and more bend its energies as it enters the remaining quarter of its first century.



Sir Robert Southern,

The British Co-operative Movement and the International Co-operative Alliance

by **Sir Robert Southern, Kt, CBE, BA (Com), CHD**

General Secretary of the Co-operative Union of Great Britain

The affinity of the British Co-operative Movement with Co-operative Movements in other countries goes back in history to the ten years before the founding of the International Co-operative Alliance. In those years correspondence was taking place between British Co-operators and those in France, Germany and Italy regarding the idea of establishing an International Alliance. It was also the practice of the French and British Movements to exchange fraternal delegations at their Congresses. In the early records the

name of Edouard de Boyve, the eminent French Co-operator, appears frequently and our historians may well be correct if they regard Edouard de Boyve as the leading spirit in the promotion of International Co-operation. At a little later stage the German and Italian Co-operative Movements became active in the development of the idea that international co-operative exchanges should be based on an International Co-operative Organisation.

This activity seemed to be based

mainly on the desire to seek information about the development of Co-operation in various countries. This was not merely the exercise of curiosity. It was rather the emergence of a mutual interest in the state of Co-operation in different countries, linked with the possibility of appraising the forms and extent of co-operative activity throughout the world. Indeed, one of the preliminaries to the foundation of the Alliance was a survey of Co-operation covering many countries, which was undertaken through the goodwill of the British Foreign Office and its Embassies overseas. Much more was done by the founding of Co-operative Committees in various countries, which maintained contacts mainly through correspondence. Whilst such activity was important, it was not enough to satisfy the aspirations of those who wanted to move towards a permanent international medium for co-operative exchanges.

Ideas eventually crystallized in the year 1895. Within the British Movement informal activity had outstripped that of the Co-operative Union. For some years the British Congress had appointed and re-appointed an International Foreign Enquiry Committee. In some years the Committee had meetings; in others, it did not. Thus, leadership passed for a time to those engaged in unofficial activities, who were corresponding with Co-operators abroad with a view to holding an International Co-operative Congress. Eventually, the Co-operative Union became recognised by the British Co-operative Movement as the medium through which international relations should be developed. At the British Congress in 1895, G. J. Holyoake reported that he had been taking part with other Co-operators by inviting the leading friends of the Movement at home and abroad to hold an International Congress in London for the promotion of productive Co-operation. It had come to his knowledge that a feeling existed, which he was very glad to recognise, that these invitations

should be given in future in the name of the Co-operative Union, which represented in a much larger degree co-operative opinion in Britain. He, therefore, proposed that again an International Foreign Enquiry Committee should be formed, which should have power to make full enquiry into the question of an International Alliance and to confer with any other body of Co-operators having the same object with a view to establishing a plan for complete international co-operative alliance. This was supported by Mr. Thomas Blandford, a leader of the Co-partnership Co-operative Movement, who said it did not need any argument to show the desirability of promoting friendly relations between different nations. He went on to say, "We may draw from other countries and other countries may draw from us assistance which will promote the growth of our Movement throughout the world." The proposal was adopted unanimously with effect that the Co-operative Union became the official body through which international co-operative relations should be developed.

The first practical outcome was the organisation of an International Co-operative Congress, held in London in 1895, which paved the way for the International Co-operative Congress in 1896 to lay down the constitution of the International Co-operative Alliance.

To mark this event the Co-operative Union prepared a historical account of international co-operative relations. This takes the story back to 1884 when Congress expressed its gratification on receiving knowledge of the wish of the Parisian Co-operative Societies to enter into regular relations with the British Co-operative Union. The Congress of 1885 expressed itself as desirous of obtaining correct and continuous information as to the progress of Co-operation in other countries. In 1886 arrangements for relations by correspondence with other countries were endorsed and cognizance taken of a scheme for international co-operation,

which had been approved at the French and Italian Congresses. In 1887 events were taken further on Congress approving the idea for Co-operative Committees in various countries to exchange their ideas on the question of social and international peace. The concept of an International Co-operative Alliance was also approved. This, however, was not as yet in the form of an effective international organisation. These Correspondence Committees continued until 1889 when ideas were expressed about the most practical means available for advancing International Co-operation. The next really significant event was in 1895 when the idea of an International Co-operative Alliance evolved as a practical objective.

Having resolved its difficulties about the appropriate agency through which the British Movement should develop its international relations, the way was then clear for official participation in the first ICA Congress and the founding of the International Co-operative Alliance. It is evident that throughout the formative period preceding the 1895 ICA Congress co-operative leaders in various countries did not see Co-operation limited by their own national boundaries. Then, as now,

they were outward looking, believing that Co-operation in its various forms had a great deal to offer socially and economically for the benefit of working people. In the present day this outlook characterises a great deal of co-operative activity at the international level, especially in regard to the part which Co-operation can play in the emerging countries. There is another aspect which is also important. In the early stages of co-operative development in most countries, national Co-operative Union and Wholesale Societies were established to undertake tasks which their individual member societies could not accomplish on their own account. It is a logical development of this idea that there are co-operative tasks to be done in the world which cannot be accomplished by national movements acting in isolation. Thus it is that the ICA has become a medium of collective co-operative world action, especially in relation to the United Nations and its agencies. What was at first the outcome of a vague aspiration has progressively become a means of action. The British Movement recognises this and will continue to play its part in the furtherance of co-operative influence and development of the International Co-operative Alliance.



Stanley Dreyer

The Cooperative League of the USA and the International Co-operative Alliance

by **Stanley Dreyer**, President of the Cooperative League of USA

Co-operatives in the United States of America, representing some 20 million member families, are proud to be a part of the International Co-operative Alliance through membership of their organisations in The Cooperative League of the USA. Although their co-operatives do only a relatively small part of all US business by volume, the shareholdings of their member families represent the most *widely-held* ownership of any sector of American business.

Our co-operatives are extremely varied and diverse and represent an

honoured tradition of self-help by American families, from the very earliest days of their country.

The membership and board, as well as the staff, of the Cooperative League of the USA have valued highly their participation in ICA throughout the years of its existence. Despite the distances involved, US co-operators have consistently had a high attendance at ICA Congresses. We have felt the need for sharing of ideas and ideals among the co-operatives of the rest of the world, particularly in those lands where people are free to develop their own

institutions under their own control. Like many other co-operators world wide, when distance has not permitted us to participate more actively, we have been able to make use of various ICA publications.

Valued Relationships

We have seen mutually beneficial economic, cultural and fraternal relations with the co-ops of these nations grow from our membership and participation in the ICA. We have appreciated the opportunity to associate with those co-operators of all nations dedicated to peace in the world. Surely, the bonds of friendship and understanding between peoples, based on acceptance of common constructive goals, and speaking the common language of co-operation, are the strongest possible way for peace to be realised among the peoples of the earth.

Another direction in which we have valued the relationship and assistance of the ICA membership, its staff and leadership, is in the creation of international co-operative ventures to build strength and co-operative programmes on the part of peoples in many lands.

One pioneering elder statesman, Howard A. Cowden, genius of the US petroleum co-operatives and member of the recent ICA Principles Commission, also helped to guide the development of the International Co-operative Petroleum Association. Through this association, co-operators in many countries together have driven a wedge into one of the world's most tightly-held and politically potent concentrations of economic power.

Likewise in re-insurance, co-operatively-oriented US insurance firms have taken an active part in the ICA's insurance committee and the creation of Allnations, Inc. And more recently, our members have been privileged to become involved in the operations of the International Co-operative Bank. Credit unions have participated actively in worldwide thrift and credit conferences. Housing has been a fourth field, in which co-operatives

from many countries, including the US, have joined forces to share ideas, resources and experience, through the ICA housing committee, and its allied International Co-operative Housing Development Association, which has already undertaken its first programme of assistance in Africa.

The Broadening Concern

In the aftermath of World War II, US co-operatives created the Freedom Fund and CARE—first known as the Co-operative for American Remittances to Europe and later changed to the Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere. Murray D. Lincoln as President of the Co-operative League of the USA, and Vice-President of the ICA in 1948, was elected as the first President of CARE and served in that capacity for twelve years guiding it from a straight relief organisation to one dedicated to rehabilitation, self-help, and co-operation.

Even more urgent for the future of the world, in some ways, are the efforts of existing co-operatives to help people in developing countries create their own self-help economic institutions to serve their own needs. ICA and many of its members have long been in the forefront of these efforts. The opening of the South-East Asia ICA office was a natural outgrowth of these programmes, as was the development of our office in India. The South-East Asian office of the ICA has helped immeasurably in the development of the region and has thereby accelerated co-operative growth.

In the Western hemisphere, the ICA has recognised the indigenous development of the Organisation of Co-operatives of America. Co-operators throughout the Americas appreciate ICA's help in Latin American co-operative development.

We Live in One World

The Alliance has been a positive factor in stimulating and encouraging the United

Nations and its affiliate bodies, to incorporate the support and development of co-operatives as a basic part of their work.

We, in the United States, are proud to have the UN based on our shores and to have ICA represented at the UN by one of our board members in The Cooperative League, Leslie Woodcock. We believe that through ICA's efforts, the peoples of the world and their governments have come to realise in increasing ways the value and significance of co-operatives in achieving greater human dignity, protecting their income, their economic resources and their power as producers and consumers.

As the world grows smaller, we hope and expect that international visits among co-operators will become the practice, not the exception. We observe with great interest the successes of European co-operatives in the travel field. We look forward to the time when improved worldwide communications will enable co-operative leadership around the world to better share ideas and gain in understanding of each other's achievements, aims and goals. When that time comes, the rainbow flag of co-operation will take on new meaning because all of us will be that much closer through the actual

sharing of each other's presence.

While awaiting that day, we pledge ourselves to continue to be as active as resources and geography will permit in the creation of ever stronger bonds through joint economic programmes, joint learning efforts, and joint development of co-operatives with peoples of other countries through the ICA.

The 75-year history of the ICA has been one of growth in number and prestige. Were there not an international alliance of co-operatives, there would be an effort to create such a body. Fortunately, the ICA has existed and because of it and its able leaders, there is today a greater degree of rationalisation and sense of direction in the World Co-operative Movement than there would be without it.

The challenge to the world's people in the next 75 years is to survive in peace on a planet which is shrinking in size, dwindling its resources, polluting its environment, and permitting military-industrial power to determine its destiny. The co-operative challenge is to make our movement relevant to the goals of mankind and to take affirmative action to lessen the gaps between the developing and over-developed areas of the world, and between the people therein.

Roger Kérinec



The French Co-operative Movement and the International Co-operative Alliance

by **Roger Kérinec** General Secretary FNCC

The International Co-operative Alliance will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in conditions vastly different from those which surrounded its birth. And yet, the goals it set itself are as vital today as they were then – Peace, and understanding between peoples.

Perhaps today's leaders are less Utopian, less naively trusting in the efficacy of co-operative solidarity, chastened as they have been by two world wars. The statement made by one of the founders of the Alliance, the Frenchman De Boyve, may well engender a smile

today, for he declared – only a few years before the founding of the Alliance – that “what was merely useful two years ago is now urgently necessary, and we have not a minute to lose”.

The very style of his declaration has aged somewhat: Our international association, he affirmed, will contribute considerable strength to the Co-operative Movement and will assist its development, while at the same time making known the sublimity of the goal our co-operative societies are aiming at. “We shall thus erect a lighthouse so tall that it shall be visible

to the whole world; it will lighten the dark places of society and will illumine the way to those who are lost; the shipwrecked will be rescued by an appeal to devotion; and lastly, thanks to the brilliance of its light, man will reach his haven and find there brotherly love, social peace and international understanding.”

May it not be also that co-operators throughout the world are more sceptical than those who, at the end of the first world war, when they met in Glasgow, voted a resolution which ran: if man's folly unleashed another war, it (the Alliance) would count on the co-operators of all countries uniting in a unanimous protest which would not cease until the war ended, and without waiting to determine, in a series of irritating discussions, who was the aggressor, who the defenders, and without fear of running counter to patriotic prejudices, nor official censure.

But co-operators still hold the view, as the same text stated, that “peace and concord between peoples are fundamental conditions to the achievement of the co-operative ideal”.

This is what French co-operators believe, and all their actions have been inspired by this ideal; their efforts have all been developed towards the re-establishment of links between co-operators torn asunder by wars, as well as to avoid the dissolution of unity of the International Co-operative Movement during periods of crisis in international affairs.

It suffices to recall the role played by Albert Thomas, the rapporteur of a motion on Peace in 1912, that of Charles Gide and Cléuet when they arranged international meetings at the end of the war of 1914, or of Poisson, or yet again of Marcel Brot during those six difficult years (1954-1960) when he was presiding over the destinies of the Alliance.

But how could French co-operators not have faith in the International Co-operative Alliance's mission since it was they, in company with their British

co-operators, who were the promoters, and then the founders, of this Alliance, which was founded in Paris?

A quick look back into the past – for which you must forgive a Frenchman – on the ideals expressed by his predecessors, will let us see the manner in which the ICA developed, and will also let us see its current situation¹.

Our international organisation was founded at the Paris *Musée Social* in 1865. It had the enormous advantage of having achieved the unity of International Co-operation at a time when the democratic economic forces throughout the world were divided and is it so different today?

But this Alliance only grouped personalities, and not co-operative organisations, and it was not until 1900, again in Paris, that the third Congress of the ICA was held, and here were represented all the national co-operative movements as such.

Two lines of action were then undertaken by French co-operators; the first has as its aim the increase of symbols of international ideals, for instance the creation of International Co-operative Day, and the selection of the rainbow flag, which is unfurled on every one of our Congress buildings “as a manifestation of universal brotherhood”, as had been asked for by the Director of the *Familistère de Guise* in 1896.

But – and this is perhaps less well-known – it was French co-operators who were the first to advocate the setting up of economic and commercial bodies so that the ICA did not get bogged down in questions of principle, but went forth to concrete achievements.

Even before the founding of the Alliance, J.-P. Beluze, one of the leaders of the “*Crédit au Travail*” movement wrote: “In this way, the ICA should establish

(1): So clearly set out by W. P. Watkins, a former Director of the Alliance, in his book “*The International Co-operative Alliance 1895-1970*” which is due to appear this year and retraces the history of the Alliance.

itself. Little by little, we should see links between the people's banks even more tightly knit than are today the Bank of France and the Bank of England. Wholesale purchasing societies would get their supplies direct from the co-operative productive societies of various countries..."

And it was Charles Gide who, during what was called the first Inter-Allied Co-operative Conference, meeting in Paris after the first world war, drew up a memorandum and voted a resolution advocating the conclusion, between the countries of the Entente, of trade treaties and the extension of international agreements to all forms of trade, communication and the movement of labour so as to unite these countries in what was later to be called a "Common Market".

It was A.-J. Cleuet who had adopted a second resolution during this same Conference to set up Committees within each Co-operative Movement entrusted with the task of collecting the funds needed to help those co-operative societies who had suffered during the invasion.

And the third resolution approved in principle the creation of an International Bureau for Trade Information, a nucleus of the future international wholesale organisation which was to be set up a few years later, and whose first President was this same A.-J. Cleuet.

I do not need to remind you that it was Albert Thomas, the first Director of the International Labour Office, who set up a Co-operative Department and placed at its head that great co-operator, Dr. George Fauquet.

And since we are speaking of the contributions made by the French Co-operative Movement to the orientation of the problems of all co-operators covered by the Alliance, I should like to mention two initiatives which, I feel sure, will have beneficial effects in the future.

Firstly, the resolution voted unanimously by the 1934 London Congress at the request of the FNCC stating that "the organisation of leisure activities by

the co-operative movement was a problem which merited particular attention from four aspects: social, educational, propaganda and co-operative organisation".

Secondly, a resolution was voted on, also unanimously, at Stockholm in 1957, put forward by Marcel Degond concerning education and consumer protection in the contemporary conditions which governed production and distribution. This resolution was followed by action on the part of the Executive Committee, deciding to convene International Conferences at regular intervals to study the best steps which could be taken, both nationally and internationally, to protect the health of consumers. The first of such conferences was held at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1958.

French Co-operators are therefore very favourably inclined towards an extension, on international levels, of co-operative undertakings concerned with the fields of trade, banking, insurance, etc., which would help to stress the efficiency of our co-operative ideas.

But they do not for a moment forget that these undertakings would be worthless without our movement's inspiration.

There can be no doubt that the world's evolution is compelling its peoples to understand the necessity of global unity, but real unity can only be that in which differences are recognised—differences between countries, and their political regimes and differences between the Movements who develop their activities in these different countries.

The world of today can only survive provided that it respects pluralism. The rate of mutation is so great and is proceeding at such speed that only minds ready to admit pluralism, and indeed even contradictions, will allow the peoples of the world to live together.

The International Co-operative Alliance is the finest example of an organisation which can demonstrate that such a view is the right one, and that the

essence lies in a revolution of the spirit so that the co-operative ideal will finally triumph, as Marcel Brot illustrated in an article which appeared in the "*Co-opérateur de France*" in December 1950 when he spoke to all co-operators by saying:

"Let us express the wish not to follow with resignation the narrow paths where the human hordes stumble along.

Let us refuse to hear only one voice, but let us rather listen to what the others

have to say. Let us strive to discern the true and discard the false, to distinguish between the possible, and the far-fetched.

Let us have the courage to condemn bad faith, even when it pretends to be on our side. Only so will we be able to forge that conviction which shall be our guide. Let us express the wish to act as free men. There is no other way to work for our part in establishing the reign of Peace."

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Alexander Klimov

The Russian Co-operative Movement and the International Co-operative Alliance

IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING CO-OPERATORS

by **Alexander Klimov**, Vice-President of the ICA

Soviet Co-operators attach great importance to the activities of the International Co-operative Movement represented by the Alliance, celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. We are greatly interested and earnestly take part in the work of the ICA and attentively follow its policy. The fate of this organisation, its past, present and future, is not indifferent to us. That is why we work hard and actively to increase the successes of the Alliance and are so intolerant to its shortcomings.

Every anniversary is a landmark at which one usually not only looks back at the road traversed, sums up the results, and appraises what has been done during the past years, but also looks into the future, sets targets and tasks for it.

We, Soviet Co-operators, in evaluating the past and present activity of the ICA, in defining its future tasks, proceed from the fact that it is an organisation borne by a mass social and economic movement of the working people and is therefore called upon to serve the working

people, to protect their interests and rights. Everything that has been done, is being done and will be done by the Alliance, is to be evaluated only on the basis of this criterion.

The ICA, if it wants to be a vital organisation serving social progress, cannot set aims in its activity which are different from the common aims of the co-operative movement itself. Therefore the representatives of the Soviet consumer co-operatives which have been affiliated to the Alliance for more than fifty years do their utmost to contribute to a successful fulfilment of these very aims: to consolidate the international ranks of co-operative movements, to raise the effectiveness and authority of the ICA, to democratise the bases of its activity, to be more useful to the workers and peasants, artisans, fishermen and housewives, employees and students, associated in co-operatives.

For a long time supporters of "political neutrality" called the tune in the ICA, this "neutrality" is in its essence a pronounced policy of certain social forces interested in ensuring a class world, in conciliation and collaboration of labour and capital, and in taking away the co-operative movement from solving vital problems of protecting the economic and social interests of the working people. Co-operators, who were true representatives of the working people, were prevented by these forces from taking part in the work of the Alliance. It was the advocates of political neutrality who so stubbornly resisted the restoration of the Centrosoyus membership in the Alliance after the victory of the great October socialist revolution in Russia in 1917.

Those who are acquainted with the history of the Alliance know well that the efforts of Soviet co-operators who were at that time in the ICA the only representatives of co-operatives living under the conditions of a socialist system, made the Alliance face up to such solutions of vital social and economic problems of the day, as the fight against monopolistic capital in the

interests of the working people. But they ran against misunderstanding, mutual distrust, and even a "cold war" unleashed by certain forces in the ICA's leading bodies.

A similar picture could be seen after the Second World War when co-operatives of new socialist countries appeared in the international arena. They also had to wage a similar fight for admission to membership of the ICA as had been waged in its own time by Centrosoyus. They ran against the same policy of a certain part in the ICA leadership. Any initiative on the part of co-operators from socialist countries caused "misunderstanding", opposition and even ill-will.

Co-operators of the USSR and other socialist countries had to make great efforts to achieve mutual understanding with co-operators of the West. They always put into practice a clearly expressed policy of protecting the economic and social rights of workers and small producers in country and town who are exploited by monopolistic capital. They advocated a policy of an active fight for peace and security of the peoples, of drawing co-operatives into political life, activation of their social role, democratisation of principles of activity, consolidation of the unity in the co-operative movement and its relations with other democratic organisations and movements. At the same time the co-operators from socialist countries aimed at acquainting the international co-operative membership with the experiences and achievements of co-operatives acting under the conditions of a socialist system.

At present we may state with satisfaction, that the efforts of co-operators from socialist countries supported by co-operators of other countries, and by all those who are interested in collaboration and consolidation of the co-operative movement, resulted in a serious change in the correlation of forces in the ICA and its

people, to protect their interests and rights. Everything that has been done, is being done and will be done by the Alliance, is to be evaluated only on the basis of this criterion.

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interests of the working people. But they ran against misunderstanding, mutual distrust, and even a "cold war" unleashed by certain forces in the ICA's leading bodies.

A similar picture could be seen after the Second World War when co-operatives of new socialist countries appeared in the international arena. They also had to wage a similar fight for admission to membership of the ICA as had been waged in its own time by Centrosoyus. They ran against the same policy of a certain part in the ICA leadership. Any initiative on the part of co-operators from socialist countries caused "misunderstanding", opposition and even ill-will.

Co-operators of the USSR and other socialist countries had to make great efforts to achieve mutual understanding with co-operators of the West. They always put into practice a clearly expressed policy of protecting the economic and social rights of workers and small producers in country and town who are exploited by monopolistic capital. They advocated a policy of an active fight for peace and security of the peoples, of drawing co-operatives into political life, activation of their social role, democratisation of principles of activity, consolidation of the unity in the co-operative movement and its relations with other democratic organisations and movements. At the same time the co-operators from socialist countries aimed at acquainting the international co-operative membership with the experiences and achievements of co-operatives acting under the conditions of a socialist system.

At present we may state with satisfaction, that the efforts of co-operators from socialist countries supported by co-operators of other countries, and by all those who are interested in collaboration and consolidation of the co-operative movement, resulted in a serious change in the correlation of forces in the ICA and its

policy.

More and more the ICA submits for consideration problems of the struggle against the capitalist monopolies in defence of the working people, for peace and democracy. Actions undertaken by co-operators from socialist countries for collaboration with co-operators of other countries, for the extension of friendly and business contacts with them resulted in a serious change of the "climate" in the ICA leading bodies, and created an atmosphere of better mutual understanding and loyalty, comprehension of the aims, tasks and needs of the co-operative movements under different social and economic systems.

Recently the ICA leaders and the representatives of the co-operative movements in capitalist countries, have exhibited a tendency to carry out a more constructive and flexible policy. They have become more deeply interested in the co-operative development under conditions of socialism, they have started to visit socialist countries and study their experiences. literature and concrete proposals of co-operative organisations in these countries. Co-operative representatives of socialist countries were more often used as rapporteurs and lecturers at international co-operative forums and as members of international co-operative commissions. In their turn international co-operative seminars and conferences are held in socialist countries under the auspices of the ICA, and ICA leaders and their representatives participate in them. Materials and information on the co-operative movement in socialist countries appear more often in the pages of the press and in documents of the ICA Secretariat.

All this contributed to the deepening of the purposefulness in the activities carried out by the leading ICA authorities, in particular, in its congresses and meetings of the Central Committee. It helped to bring about a unanimous adoption of co-ordinated decisions on important problems of today such as the struggle against capitalist monopolies, for peace, disarmament

and peoples' security, against the regime of fascist reaction in Greece, and the protection of working consumers, collaboration of co-operators from different countries, development of international co-operative trade, improvement of co-operative democracy, assistance to co-operatives in developing countries, extension of collaboration between co-operators and other mass democratic movements and organisations, and many other problems the successful solution of which interests many millions of co-operators and all the working people.

Paradoxical as it seems, until quite recently many of these problems were considered by some people as "non-co-operative" and their submission for discussion by co-operators of socialist countries was seen as a "hindrance" to the normal activity of the ICA, or as "political propaganda".

Life proves again and again, that a regular dialogue in the ICA between representatives of different social and economic systems is good for the ICA, and contributes to the consolidation of the International Co-operative Movement.

Appreciating the changes for the better in the ICA activities and the rise of the effectiveness of this organisation, we are aware that the co-operative organisations affiliated to the Alliance have used far from all opportunities to activate its work, to increase its usefulness for the solution of the fundamental tasks of the International Co-operative Movement, for the fight of the working people for social justice and improvement of their standard of living, for democracy and progress.

Not all is done, in our opinion, to consolidate the unity and collaboration in the ranks of the Movement itself, to join co-operative efforts in the solution of common tasks with other mass organisations of the working people: trade unions; farmers; women's and youth organisations as well as peace associations. The problems of ICA membership, in particular, the liquidation of unequal rights, discrimina-

tory categories of membership and a just representation of co-operative organisations from socialist and developing countries in the ICA leading bodies, have not yet found their solution.

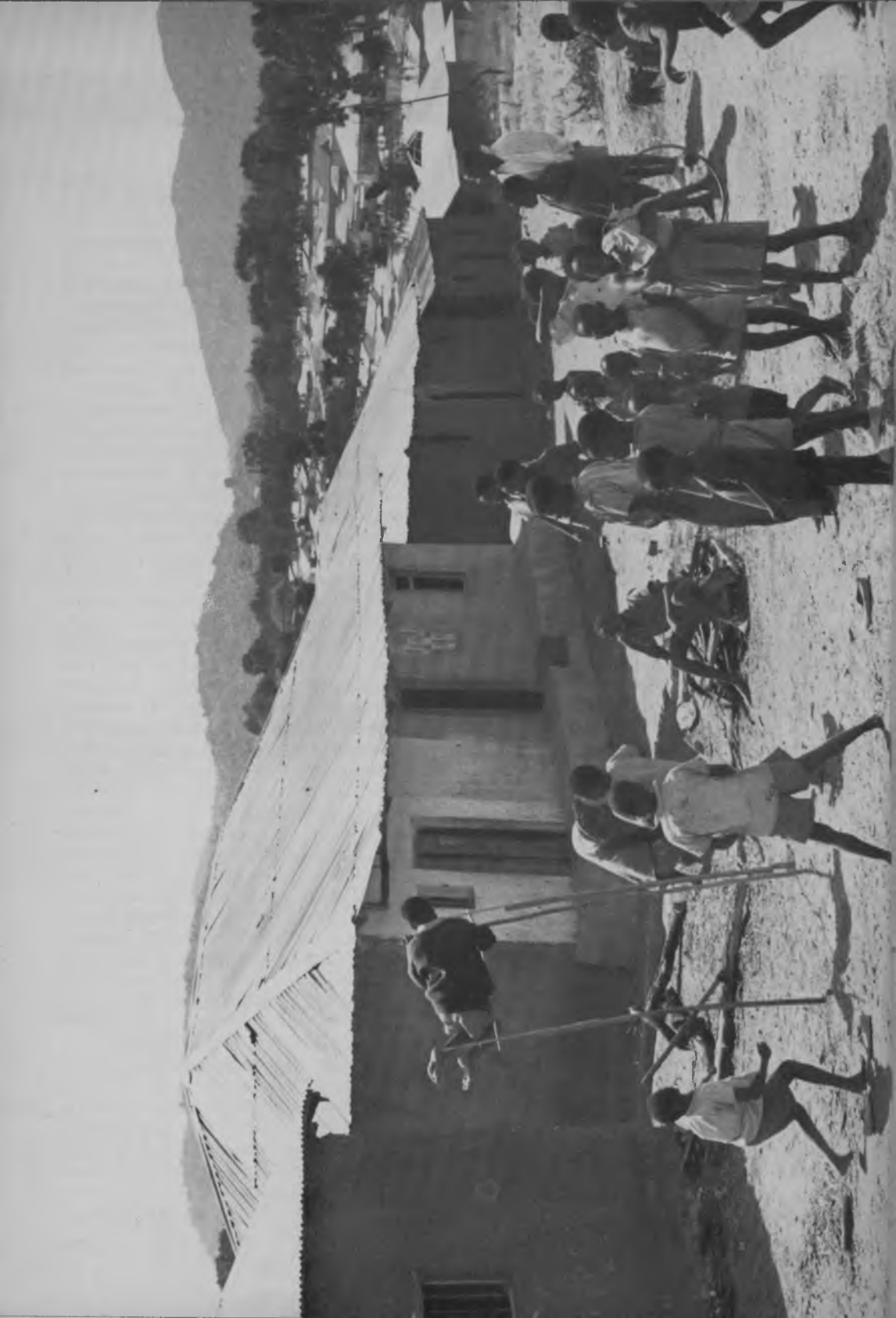
At present young co-operative organisations of developing countries, which play a greater role every year, have entered the international arena. Their more active participation in the international co-operative movement, in the activities of the Alliance contributes to the strengthening of the independent national economy and a higher well-being for the people of these countries. That is why the ICA must do its utmost to actively promote the development of co-operation in the countries that have freed themselves from colonialism.

The problem of the amendments to the Rules and standing orders of the ICA aiming at their democratisation and bringing them near to the needs and conditions of the modern co-operative movement also awaits its solution. The ICA Rules must reflect the changes that are taking place in the world, take into consideration the diversified forms and methods

of co-operative activity under different social and economic systems. Many other problems awaiting their solution by the ICA leading bodies could also be enumerated.

Soviet co-operators are optimistic about the prospects of the development of the International Co-operative Movement and its centre, the ICA. Together with co-operators of other countries they will actively contribute to the heightening of the role played by the ICA in the struggle against capitalist monopolies and for social progress, and to the increase of its usefulness for the working masses. Great social and economic changes taking place in the world, the growth of the socialist forces, the heightening of the role played by the working masses in strengthening the forces of democracy and peace, which also find their reflection in the co-operative movement, pledge for the success of this activity.

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the ICA, Soviet Co-operators greet and congratulate co-operators of all countries and call on them to unite and collaborate in implementing the common aims and tasks.



Housing in Developing Countries

Liberal economic traditions of the 19th century tended to regard housing and the housing industry as non-productive, and something which should be left on the economic periphery at the mercy of private entrepreneurs. The outcome and influence of this school of thought on the authorities found its visible expression in the ugly, densely inhabited and unhealthy slums which sprang up and encircled every industrial centre in 19th century Europe, and provided ample fuel for the attacks of social reformers on the state and its lack of housing policy.

The "laissez-faire" housing policy had largely been abandoned by political thought by the end of the 19th century, but the concept of housing as non-productive and thus secondary when economic priority considerations are involved, still finds many adherents even among serious economists and other scientists. Such an outlook is quite inconceivable, especially in view of the European experience after the second world war, when the urgent necessity to provide a roof for millions of people resulted in accelerated construction activity, large scale investments in housing, full employment and an increasing output of the building industry, all of which contributed decisively to the total volume of industrial growth and hence to the tide of economic prosperity.

If the housing and building industry was such an important factor in the reconstruction of European economy there can be no doubt about its immense potential value to developing countries. In most of the 109 out of 139 existing states which are categorised as developing ones, processes of urbanisation similar to

those which overwhelmed the European scene during the 19th century, are becoming more and more pronounced. Population growth, stagnation of rural areas, land hunger, the appeal of the city, lack of employment and education opportunities, as well as the wish to improve standards of life, are only a few of the factors denoting the rapid urbanisation of the third world, increasing at a rate of 10 to 15 per cent, and in some cases even 25 per cent, annually.

When the general rate of population growth, the rapid urbanisation and the low income per capital are considered, the reality of desperate tin shacks and cardboard slums, which comprise the major part of most towns and cities of developing countries, is clearly understood. The political, economic and social tensions and the widening gap between the wealthy and the poor, find constant outlets in these monstrous rubbish slums and squatters and endanger the progress achieved in other spheres. Experience has already indicated that the future of many developing countries is, and will be, decided here.

Although most of the governments concerned are well aware of the perils posed by the unhealthy course of urban development, little could be done until now to solve the urgent problems. In spite of the increasing efforts on the part of those countries themselves as well as development assistance towards industrialisation and modernisation, every increase in the gross national product is immediately absorbed by the multiplying population. The share of national income which can be spared for solving housing distress is therefore in no proportion to the actual requirements.

The place of housing in development assistance hitherto offered by the industrialised nations is astonishingly minute, but even if increased manifold, external aid could not satisfy the needs. Solution of the housing problems and elimination of their distresses cannot be reached by external, governmental or public means only, but also and mainly through the mobilisation of the self-help of the people.

The mobilization of self-help, namely: capital, expertise, forces and potentialities within the developing countries themselves, if properly administered and joined with the required training efforts, could contribute decisively to the improvement of living conditions.

The United Nations, recognising that the provision of sufficient housing to answer human requirements is a basic assumption for healthy and peaceful development, has for many years been urging its member nations as well as other international and national organisations and agencies to allocate higher priorities to housing, especially within the next development decade. Consequently, the UN Economic and Social Council passed a resolution (1224) calling attention to co-operative and self-help methods as a means of overcoming housing problems in developing countries.

Housing co-operatives and non-profit housing enterprises enjoy a century-long successful history in many of the industrialised countries. Their advantage in providing comfortable and low-cost homes and in educating people for a true spirit of co-operation have been indicated by decades of experience.

Housing conditions differ from one country to another, and the problems facing African countries now could not be compared with those which burdened West-European states in the past or still concern them today. Any attempt, therefore, to transfer Western co-operative housing patterns to a developing country where conditions, traditions and many

other factors are basically different, is bound to fail. In order to establish housing co-operatives and non-profit housing enterprises corresponding to local requirements, a type of co-operative must be founded, adapted to local peculiarities, but using techniques, methods and organisational structures already proved elsewhere.

The necessity to implement new housing and building methods which will provide decent housing for the masses of socially underprivileged in developing countries, without putting a heavy burden on the budget of those countries, led to the establishment by the ICA Auxiliary Committee on Housing of the International Co-operative Housing Development Association (ICHDA) at the time of the Triennial Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance in September 1966 at Vienna. It was felt that the vast experience accumulated over many years by the member organisations could contribute to solving the housing difficulties facing developing countries. The object of housing co-operatives, namely, providing assistance for self-help, has an immense value for those countries, as it offers important educational opportunities in the fields of: saving for improvement in the standard of living, accepting personal and collective responsibilities, adapting to urban social patterns where traditional family ties are loosening, etc.

ICHDA initiated its activities by collecting relevant documentation and establishing relations with international organisations active in developing countries. The first result of this collaboration was the study "Technique of Financing Co-operative and Non-profit Housing" presented to the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning of the United Nations in December 1967. Further inquiries were held during 1967/1968 concerning financing and other problems of housing in developing countries.

Early in 1969 representatives of ICHDA participated in a conference on

Technical and Social Problems of Urbanisation sponsored by the United Nations Commission for Africa and the German Foundation for Developing Countries in Addis-Ababa, where a resolution was adopted calling upon the Economic Commission for Africa to establish a housing co-operative pilot programme in an African country with bilateral or multilateral assistance. Subsequently, discussions were held between ECA and ICHDA representatives in which an agreement was reached that ICHDA with the active support and under the auspices of ECA, should implement the Addis-Ababa resolution.

As a first step for the realisation of the Co-operative Housing Pilot Programme, a reconnaissance study was undertaken by two representatives of ICHDA, actively supported by the Swedish foundation "Without Boundaries", for the purpose of determining a suitable locale where a pilot project could be launched. Following the study tour in June 1969, the reconnaissance team presented its conclusions and proposed to the ICHDA board meeting in September at Hamburg, held in conjunction with the 24th Triennial Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance, to choose Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, for the pilot programme. The ICHDA board meeting accepted the recommendation of the reconnaissance team unanimously and decided to undertake a six-week follow-up study, in order to reach a working agreement with the ECA and the Tanzanian Government.

The follow-up study undertaken by ICHDA's experts during October and November 1969 confirmed the choice of Tanzania for the Pilot Programme, evaluated local conditions for the establishment of housing co-operatives and concluded the details for a long term co-operation between the ECA and ICHDA for the promotion of low-cost housing in Africa.

Assisting and co-operating with the

Tanzanian government, ECA and ICHDA will now help with the establishment of a co-operative housing pilot programme in Dar-es-Salaam, which will serve as an example and model for similar co-operatives in Tanzania, neighbouring East-African states and other African regions.

Corresponding to ICHDA's activity, the Federal German Federation of non-profit housing associations prepared the establishment of an independent Federal German Development Assistance Institution for Non-profit Welfare Housing. The motives for founding a Federal German foundation are based on the ability of such an institution to mobilize the means, resources and good will of non-profit enterprises and associations, as well as other organisations, authorities and individuals, active in housing and building in the Federal Republic of Germany. Moreover, an independent Federal German institution for housing development assistance can collect and study the decades of practical and theoretical German experience in co-operative housing for its useful adaptation and application in developing countries. The Development Assistance Institution can offer a variety of training opportunities in Federal German co-operative housing organisations, provide advice and assistance for the founding of co-operative and non-profit enterprises, encourage self-help for building, and forward saving methods for the building and acquisition of homes.

In co-operation and co-ordination with ICHDA as well as other international and national bodies, the Federal German Development Assistance Institution for Non-profit Housing Co-operatives intends to participate in the founding and execution of co-operative housing projects in African as well as other developing countries. It will direct and awake public opinion to the housing needs of developing countries and mobilize all efforts and means to provide decent housing for all people in the developing countries.

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PO Box 3021, 43 Friends Colony
New Delhi 14, India**

**International Co-operative Alliance
Office for East and Central Africa
Regional Director: Mr Arne Holmberg**

**Regional Director Designate: Mr Dan
Nyanjom
PO Box 946, Moshi, Tanzania**

Affiliated Organisations

Algeria: *Société Coopérative Musulmane Algérienne d'Habitation et d'Accession à la Petite Propriété, 6 et 8 rue du Cercle Militaire, Oran; also at - 21 rue Edgar Quinet, Algiers, and 9 rue Mathurin Régnier, 75 Paris 15.*

Argentina: *Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Consumo, Avda. Suárez 2034, Buenos Aires.*

Intercoop, Editora Cooperativa Limitada, Rivadavia 4426 (1er piso), Buenos Aires.

Asociación Argentina de Cooperativas y Mutualidades de Seguros, Belgrano 530, 5 Piso, Buenos Aires.

Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Credito Ltda., Pueyrredon 468, 2 Piso, Buenos Aires (RC 24).

Australia: *Co-operative Federation of Australia, 569 Wellington Street, Perth, Western Australia.*

Austria: *"Konsumverband" Zentralverband der österreichischen Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.*

Membership (1967): 476,200; turnover: retail trade: Sch. 4,646 mill. (thereof consumers' societies: Sch. 3,895 mill.; department stores: Sch. 713 mill.; other retail trade: Sch. 38 mill.); wholesale society (G.Ö.C.): Sch. 1,821 mill.; own production: consumers' societies: Sch. 472 mill.; G.Ö.C. and subsidiaries: Sch. 415 mill.

Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft A.G., Seitzergasse 2-4, Vienna 1.

Zentralkasse der Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.

Österreichischer Verband gemeinnütziger Bau-, Wohnungs- und Siedlungsvereinigungen, Bösendorferstrasse 7/11, Vienna 1.

1967: Affiliated organisations: 313 (comprising 201 societies and 112 associations); membership: 130,286; dwellings administered: 288,157 (comprising 127,954 societies and 160,203 associations); balance at 1966: 33.8 milliard Sch. (divided as to societies Sch. 15.7, associations Sch. 18.1).

Österreichischer Raiffeisenverband, Seilergasse 16, Vienna 1.

Belgium: *Société Générale Coopérative, 26-28 rue Haute, Brussels 1.*

Affiliated consumers' societies: 21; membership: 300,000; turnover (1968): Frs. 4,180 mill.; shops: 1,409; Wholesale society turnover (1968): Frs. 1,272 mill.

Société Coopérative d'Assurances "La Prévoyance Sociale", P.S. Building, 151 rue Royale, Brussels 3.

Premiums (1966): Frs. 1,903 mill.; reserves: Frs. 6 milliards; insurance funds, life: Frs. 20 milliards.

Fédération Nationale des Coopératives Chrétiennes, 135 rue de la Loi, Brussels 4.

(1967): 1,250 shops; turnover: Frs. 1,430 mill.; Savings Bank: 2,050 branches; 500,000 members; deposits: Frs. 12 milliards; Insurance Society: 290,000 policy holders; premiums: Frs. 450 mill.; reserves: Frs. 1,300 mill.

L'Economie Populaire, 30 rue des Champs, Ciney (Namur).

Branches (1968): 460; membership: 92,000; turnover: F.B. 1,069,000,000; savings deposits: F.B. 592 mill.; capital and reserves: F.B. 184 mill.

L'Institut Provincial de Coopération Agricole, 42 rue des Augustins, Liège.

OPHACO (Office des Pharmacies Coopératives de Belgique), 602 Chaussée de Mons, Anderlecht-Brussels.

Union of 28 co-operative societies owning 360 pharmacies, 68 optical departments and counters, 7 drug stores, 14 wholesale depots. Turnover (1963): Frs. 1,250 mill. Surplus distributed to 400,000 members: Frs. 95 mill.

Brazil: *Aliança Brasileira de Cooperativas (ABCOP), Rua General Jardim 645, 3º Andar, São Paulo.*

Uniao Nacional das Associações de Cooperativas (UNASCO), Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 126-Conj: 608, Rio de Janeiro.

Bulgaria: *Central Co-operative Union, Rue Rakovski 103, Sofia.*

Canada: *Co-operative Union of Canada, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.*

A federation of English-language co-operative organisations, organised in 1909.

Conseil Canadien de la Coopération, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.

Ceylon: Co-operative Federation of Ceylon, *Co-operative House, 455 Galle Road, Colombo 3.*

Chile: Federación Chilena de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Crédito, Ltda., *Dieciocho 246, Clasificador 760, Santiago de Chile.*

Cooperativa Sodimac Ltda., *Casilla 3110, Santiago de Chile.*

Colombia: Cooperativa Familiar de Medellín Ltda., *Calle 49, No. 52-49, Medellín.*

Cyprus: Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., *P.O. Box 1447, Nicosia.*

Cyprus Turkish Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. *P.O. Box 791, Nicosia.*

Vine Products Co-operative Marketing Union Ltd., *P.O. Box 314, Limassol.*

Czechoslovakia: Ustredni Rada Druzstev, *Tesnov 5, Prague 1.*

Denmark: De samvirkende danske Andelselskaber (Andelsudvalget), *H. C. Andersens Boulevard 42, 1553 Copenhagen V.*

Representing 30 national organisations, comprising: consumers' societies, agricultural production, marketing and purchase societies, other production and marketing societies, insurance societies, banking societies. Membership: 750,000 individual members.

Det Køoperative Faellesforbund i Danmark, *Linnesgade 14, 1. sal, 1361 Copenhagen K.*

Affiliated societies (1963): 634; total sales: D.Kr. 1,582 mill.; employees: 12,500; comprising consumers', workers', artisans', productive and housing societies, etc.

Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger (FDB), *Roskildevej 65, Albertslund.*

Affiliated societies (1965): 1,852; members: 716,000; turnover: 2,583 mill. D.Kr.; wholesale turnover: 1,453 mill. D.Kr.; own production: 405 mill. D.Kr.

Dominica: Dominica Credit Union League, *14 Turkey Lane, Roseau.*

Eire: Irish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd., *The Plunkett House, 84 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.*

National Organising and Advisory Body for Agricultural Co-operatives. Affiliated societies: 333; membership: 127,000; turnover (1967): £152 mill.

Co-operative Development Society Ltd., *35 Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin.*

Finland: Suomen Osuuskappojen Keskuskunta (S.O.K.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; wholesale turnover: Fmk. 1,377 mill.; own production of SOK: Fmk. 270 mill.

Yleinen Osuuskappojen Liitto r.y. (Y.O.L.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; turnover of societies: Fmk. 2,543 mill.; total production of the affiliated societies: Fmk. 47 mill.

Kulutusuuskuntien Keskusiitto (K.K.), r.y., *P.O. Box 10740, Mikonkatu 17, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 81; members: 579,400; turnover: Fmk. 2,009.4 mill.; own production: Fmk. 302.6 mill.

Osuustukkukauppa (O.T.K.), *P.O. Box 10120, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 81; turnover: 1,189.1 mill.; own production: Fmk. 336.1 mill.

Pellervo-Seura, Central Organisation of Farmers' Co-operatives, *Simonkatu 6, Helsinki K.*

Affiliated organisations (1963): 10 central organisations; 1,102 societies.

France: Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommation, F.N.C.C., *89 rue la Boétie, 75 Paris VIII.*

Affiliated societies (1964): 475; membership: 3,460,000; shops: 9,900; turnover: NF. 3,600 mill.

Société Générale des Coopératives de Consommation, *61 rue Boissière, 75 Paris XVI.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production du Bâtiment, des Travaux Publics et des Matériaux de Construction, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Générale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Banque Coopérative des Sociétés Ouvrières de France, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Nationale de la Coopération, de la Mutualité et du Crédit Agricoles, *129 Bd. St. Germain, 75 Paris VI.*

Confédération Française de la Coopération Agricole, *18 rue des Pyramides, 75 Paris 1er.*

Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole, *91-93 Boulevard Pasteur, 75 Paris XV.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives d'Habitations à Loyer Modéré, *Foyer Coopératif, 17 rue Richelieu, 75 Paris 1er.*

Confédération des Coopératives de Construction et d'Habitation, "L'Habitation", *3 ave. du Coq, 75 Paris 9e.*

Confédération des Organismes de Crédit Maritime Mutuel, *18 bis, Avenue Hoche, 75 Paris VIII.*

Federal Republic of Germany: Bund deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften G.m.b.H., *Besenbinderhof 43, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Affiliated societies (December 1969): 115; membership (end of 1969): 2,235,000; turnover (1969): D.M. 4,827 milliards.

Grosseinkaufs-Gesellschaft deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften m.b.H., *Besendinderhof 43-52, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Total turnover incl. subsidiaries (1969): D.M. 2,462 milliards.

Gesamtverband gemeinnütziger Wohnungsunternehmen, Breslauer Platz 4, (22c) Cologne.

Volksfürsorge Lebensversicherung Aktiengesellschaft, An der Alster, (2) Hamburg 1.

Volksfürsorge Deutsche Sachversicherung Aktiengesellschaft, Steinstrasse 27, (2) Hamburg 1.

Deutscher Raiffeisenverband e.V., Adenauerallee 127, 53 Bonn.

Ghana: The Alliance of Ghana Co-operatives, Ltd., Post Office Box 2068, Accra.

Greece: Pan-Hellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Co-operatives (S.E.S.), 56 El. Venizelou Street, Athens 142.

Guyana: Guyana Co-operative Union Ltd., Ministerial Buildings, High Street and Brickdam, Georgetown.

Haiti (W.I.): Caisse Populaire Dominique Savio, 57 Rue Rigaud, Pétion-Ville.

Hungary: Federation of Hungarian Co-operative Societies, Szabadság 14, Budapest V.

National Federation of Producers' Co-operatives (OKISZ), Pesti Barnabás 6, Budapest V.

Iceland: Samband Isl. Samvinnufélaga, Reykjavik.

India: National Co-operative Union of India, 72 Jorbagh, New Delhi 3.

National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd., D-44, NDSE Part II, New Delhi 16.

Iran: Sepah Consumers' Co-operative Society, Avenue Sevvom Esfand, Rue Artèche, Tehran.

Credit and Housing Co-operative Society of Iran, 20-22 Shahabad Avenue, Tehran.

Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran, 357 Pahlavi Avenue, Teheran.

Israel: General Co-operative Association of Jewish Labour in Eretz-Israel "Hevrat Ovdim", Ltd., P.O.B. 303, Tel-Aviv.

Affiliated societies and companies (1963): 1,855 in all branches.

"Merkaz" Audit Union of the Co-operative Societies for Loans and Savings, 44 Rothschild Bd., P.O. Box 75, Tel-Aviv.

"Haikar" Audit Union of Agricultural Societies of the Farmers' Federation of Israel, 8 Kaplan Street, P.O.B.-209, Tel-Aviv.

Italy: Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Via Guattani 9, Rome.

Confederazione Cooperative Italiane, Borgo Santo Spirito 78, 00193 Rome.

Associazione Generale delle Cooperative Italiane, Via delle Quattro Fontane 16, 00184 Rome.

Jamaica (W.I.): Jamaica Co-operative Union Ltd., 14-16 Barry Street, Kingston.

Japan: Nippon Seikatsu Kyodokumiai Rengokai (Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union), 1-13, 4-chome, Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.

Zenkoku Nogyokyodokumiai Chuokai (Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives), 5, 1-chome Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

Zenkoku Gyogyo Kyodokumiai Rengokai (National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations), Sankaido Building no. 9-13, 1-chome, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo.

Jordan: Jordan Co-operative Organisation, P.O.B. 1343, Amman.

Kenya: Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives Ltd., P.O.B. 9768, Nairobi.

Korea: National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, 75, 1st Street, Chung-Jong-Ro, Sodaemun-ku, Seoul.

Malaysia: Co-operative Union of Malaysia Ltd., Peti Surat 685, Kuala Lumpur.

Sarawak Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., Kuching, Sarawak.

Malta: Farmers' Central Co-operative Society Ltd., New Building, Middleman Street, Marsa.

Mauritius: Mauritius Co-operative Union, Co-operation House, Dumat Street, Port Louis.

Netherlands: Coöperatieve Vereniging U.A., Centrale der Nederlandse Verbruikcoöperaties, "CO-OP Nederland", Postbus 6008, Vierhavensstraat 40, Rotterdam 7.

Association of Enterprises on a Co-operative Basis, Bloemgracht 29, Amsterdam.

New Guinea: Federation of Native Associations Ltd., P.O.B. 152, Port Moresby, Papua.

Nigeria: Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria Ltd., Co-operative Bank Buildings, Milverton Ave., Aba.

Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria Ltd., c/o Co-operative Buildings, New Court Rd., Ibadan.

Lagos Co-operative Union Ltd., Co-operative Office, 147 Broad Street, Lagos, W. Nigeria.

Mid-Western Nigeria Co-operative Federation Ltd., c/o Ministry of Co-operative and Rural Development, Co-operative Societies Division, P.O.B. Benin City.

Norway: Norges Kooperative Landsforening, Revierstredet 2, Oslo 1.

Affiliated societies (1968): 803; membership: 382,000; turnover of local societies Kr. 2,750 mill.; of N.K.L.: Kr. 918 mill.

Norske Boligbyggelags Landsforbund (NBBL), Trondheimsveien 84-86, Oslo 5.

Pakistan: East Pakistan Co-operative Union Ltd., 9/D-Motijheel Commercial Area, 8th floor, Dacca 2.

West Pakistan Co-operative Union, 5 Court Street, P.O.B. 905, Lahore 1.

Karachi Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., 14 Laxmi Building, Bunder Road, Karachi 2.

Karachi Central Co-operative Consumers' Union, Iqbal Market and Cold Storage, Soldier Bazar, Karachi.

Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies' Union, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.

Karachi Co-operative Union Ltd., Co-operative House, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.

Karachi Fishermen's Co-operative Purchase and Sales Society Ltd., West Wharf Road, Karachi.

Sind Baluchistan Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Provincial Co-operative Bank Bldg., Serai Road, P.O. Box 4705, Karachi 2.

Provincial Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd., Iqbal Road, Patharghata, Post Box 27, Chittagong.

Peru: Cooperativa de Seguros "INCA" Ltda. No. 181, Camilo Carrillo 225, Of. 602, Lima.

Philippines: Central Co-operative Exchange Inc., P.O.B. 1968, Manila.

Poland: Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives, Kopernika 30, Warsaw. Central Union of Building and Housing Co-operatives, Ul. Jasna 1, Warsaw.

"Spolem" — Union of Consumer Co-operatives, Grazyny 13, Warsaw.

Central Union of Work Co-operatives, Surawia 47, Warsaw.

Roumania: Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor de Consum "Centrocoop", Calea Victoriei 29, Bucharest.

Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor Mestesugaresti, "Ucecom", Calea Plevnei 46, Bucharest.

Singapore: Singapore Co-operative Union Ltd., Post Box 366; Office and Library: 3-JJK Clifford House, Singapore 1.

Sweden: Kooperativa Förbundet, S-104 65 Stockholm 15.

Affiliated retail societies (1968): 252; membership: 1,469,000; total turnover of distributive societies: Kr. 6,605 mill.; total turnover of K.F.: Kr. 5,003 mill. (Kr. 3,663 mill. sales to affiliated societies); K.F.'s own production: Kr. 2,308 mill.; total capital (shares, reserves and surplus) of K.F. and affiliated retail societies: Kr. 1,200 mill.

Hyresgästernas Sparkasse- och Byggnadsföreningars Riksförbundet (H.S.B.), Fleminggatan 41, Fack, S-100 21 Stockholm 18.

Affiliated Building Societies: 115; with individual members: 310,000; number of flats administered by local societies: 275,000; value of real estate: 12,500 mill. Kr.

Svenska Riksbyggen, Hagagatan 2, P.O. Box 19015, S-104 32 Stockholm 19.

Folksam Insurance Group, Folksam Building, Stockholm 20.

Sveriges Lantbruksförbund, Klara Östra, Kyrkogata 12, Stockholm 1.

Kooperativa Kvinnogillesförbundet, S-104 65 Stockholm 15.

Switzerland: Co-op Schweiz, Thiersteinerallee 14, CH 4002 Basle.

Affiliated societies (1964): 505; shops: 3,200; membership: 780,000; retail turnover of affiliated societies: Frs. 1,700 mill.; wholesale turnover: Frs. 1,100 mill.

Verband ostschweiz. landwirtschaftlicher Genossenschaften (V.O.L.G.), Schaffhauserstrasse 6, Winterthur.

Verband sozialer Baubetriebe, c/o SBHV., Sihlpostfach, Zürich.

Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, Aeschenplatz 3, CH 4002 Basle.

CO-OP Lebensversicherungs-Genossenschaft Basel, Aeschenvorstadt 67, CH 4002 Basle.

Tanzania: Co-operative Union of Tanganyika Ltd., National Co-operative Building, P.O. Box 2567, Dar-es-Salaam.

Tunisia: El Ittihad, 37, rue de Cologne, Tunis.

Turkey: Turk Kooperatifcilik Kurumu (Turkish Co-operative Association), Mithat Pasa Cadesi 38, Yenisehir, Ankara.

Uganda: Uganda Co-operative Alliance, P.O.B. 2215, Kampala.

U.S.S.R.: Central Union of Consumers' Co-operative Societies of the U.S.S.R. and RSFSR, "Centrosoyus", Tcherkassky per no. 15, Moscow. Consumers' societies (1967): 16,489; members: 55 mill.; shops: 356,700.

United Kingdom: Co-operative Union Ltd., *Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 0AS.*

Affiliated retail societies (1968): 539; membership: 12,794,228; share capital: £203,882,214; retail sales: £1,095,033,517.

Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., *P.O.B. 53, New Century House, Corporation Street, Manchester M60 4ES.*

Affiliated societies (1965): 746; sales: £487,859,688; Bank turnover: £9,764,603,821; reserve and insurance funds: £40,791,711; total assets: £300,463,985.

Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd., *Miller Street, Manchester 4.*

Assets (1964): £369 mill.

Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd. *Centenary House, 100 Morrison Street, Glasgow C.5.*

Affiliated societies (1967): 153; sales: £89,008,059; reserves and insurance funds: £9,474,291; total resources: £23,139,384.

Co-operative Permanent Building Society, *New Oxford House, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.*

U.S.A.: Co-operative League of the U.S.A., *59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Ill. (60605), and 1012 14th Street, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.*

Yugoslavia: Glavni Zadružni Savez FNRJ, *Terazije 23/VI, Belgrade.*

Zambia: Eastern Province Co-operative Marketing Assoc. Ltd., *P.O.B. 108, Chipata.*

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Organization of the Co-operatives of America, *G.P.O. Box 4103, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936.*

Nordisk Andelsforbund (Scandinavia), *3 Axel-torv, Copenhagen V, Denmark.*

International Co-operative Bank Co. Ltd., *Aeschenvorstadt 75, P.O.B. 711, CH 4002 Basle, Switzerland.*

International Co-operative Petroleum Association, *11 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036, U.S.A.*

Sociedad Interamericana de Desarrollo de Financiamiento Cooperativo, *1012, 14th Street, N.W., Room 1401, Washington D.C., U.S.A.*

The International Co-operative Alliance 1895-1970

by **W. P. Watkins**

This volume of ICA history commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the International Co-operative Alliance, tracing its evolution from its first manifestation as a phrase on the lips of a few 19th century co-operators to its present status as the largest consultative organisation recognised by the United Nations, with over 240 million adherents.

The first chapter shows how the idea of the ICA arose out of the growth of co-operative association at local roots through national organisation to international level, to be finally realised when the basis of its constitution was laid at the London Congress of 1895.

The second chapter traces the development of the ICA's democratic constitution, its efforts to recruit members, hold them together and devise effective administrative organs and working methods in its first fifteen years.

The third chapter relates the struggles of the Alliance to maintain its existence and keep on its proper course amid the successive wars, political revolutions and economic depressions and upheavals which shook the world between 1914 and 1945.

The fourth chapter outlines the growth of the ICA, its expanding activities in the newly-developing regions, the development of its auxiliary, technical, economic and financial organisations from the start of a new era of international collaboration, inaugurated by the Charter of the United Nations in 1945, to the opening of the United Nations Second Development Decade.



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Review of International Co-operation

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THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

was founded in London in 1895 as an association of national unions of co-operative societies, which seek to promote a non-profit system of production and trade, organised in the interests of the whole community and based upon voluntary and mutual self-help.

It comprises organisations in every continent, and its total affiliated membership through national organisations exceeds 255 million. The consumers' movement accounts for about half the membership, the other half consisting of agricultural, credit, workers' productive, artisanal and fishery societies.

Its purpose is to propagate co-operative principles and methods and to promote friendly and economic relations between co-operative organisations of all types, both nationally and internationally.

It promotes, through auxiliary trading, banking and insurance organisations, direct commercial and financial relations between co-operative enterprises in different countries so as to enable them to exert on the world market, as well as at home, an influence beneficial at once to consumers and primary producers.

It convenes international congresses, furthers the teaching and study of co-operation, issues publications and research data, and collaborates closely with the United Nations as well as with voluntary and non-governmental international bodies which pursue aims of importance to co-operation.

Within the United Nations, it enjoys the right to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council as a Category "1" member.

Its official organ is *The Review of International Co-operation*, published bi-monthly.

The study of International Co-operation takes place under the auspices of the 'Henry J. May Foundation', the Permanent Centre of International Co-operative Study.

The ideological work of the Alliance also finds expression in the annual celebration in July of International Co-operative Day.

Review of INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The official Organ of the International Co-operative Alliance

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The International Declaration of Consumer Rights*

The 24th Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance, held at Hamburg last September, gave unanimous approval to the International Declaration of Consumer Rights, which had been prepared by the ICA Secretariat in consultation with the Consumer Working Party.

This Declaration is, in fact, more than merely a Declaration of Consumers' Rights in general terms. It begins with a short statement of five basic rights to which consumers are entitled: the right to adequate living standards, the right to adequate standards of health and safety, the right to a reasonable variety and choice of goods at fair prices, the right to be fully informed about the goods they are buying, and the right to be heard.

These five basic rights are then elaborated in a consumer policy statement on how to implement and render them effective. The third section of the Declaration is concerned with ways in which consumer co-operative societies as consumer organisations can promote con-

sumer interests; and the fourth section deals with the protection of the rights of consumers and the promotion of their interests in the international field.

The Declaration is thus a call to action to be taken by individual consumers, co-operative organisations, governments and international organisations, with a view to protecting the rights of consumers and promoting their interests throughout the world.

The Right to Adequate Living Standards

The improvement of human conditions, and, in particular, the fight against widespread hunger is clearly one of the most important tasks facing the world today. Agricultural co-operatives enable farmers to obtain farm and domestic supplies at lower prices; and in so far as they are engaged in marketing and processing, they enable the world's primary producers to get a better price for their produce and to

*The text of the Declaration is published in this Review, Vol. 63, Nos. 1-2, 1970, p.76.

raise their own standards of consumption. The great majority of the people in the developing countries is still engaged in agricultural and, therefore, agricultural co-operatives are instrumental in enabling them to achieve a "reasonable standard of nutrition, clothing and housing".

The role of the consumer societies is also very important in this connection. The Declaration recalls that the drive for pure and unadulterated food by the Rochdale Pioneers was set in motion because of the wide-spread adulteration of merchandise at that time and notes that, in many parts of the world, it is even today as topical as it was then. Whereas private traders aim at making profits for proprietors and shareholders, the consumers' co-operative societies, serving effectively the interests of their members by providing them with goods of high quality and the best possible value for money, are genuine consumer organisations. Moreover, they are constantly seeking to improve their over-all performance by selected assortments, centralised buying and careful testing of goods and by producing these to their own specifications.

In order to help raise and harmonise the standard of goods for consumers of every type, co-operators are campaigning for international legislation in the field of consumer protection. To this end, they are strongly supporting the work of the International Organisation for Standardisation, the International Electro-Technical Commission, the International Standards Steering Committee for Consumer Affairs, as well as that of other organisations, as the Codex Alimentarius and the Council of Europe. To achieve a higher standard of living conditions, co-operatives, through the International Co-operative Alliance, are collaborating with the United Nations Specialised Agencies in implementing the Resolution on Co-operatives, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1968.

In developing countries, co-operative credit societies play an important part in raising the standard of living in rural areas. For millions of families, better standards of consumption depend on the extent to which they are able to save out of small earnings. In some cases, the development of consumer societies follows the establishment of the small savings of credit societies. Co-operative housing societies and workers' productive societies help in obtaining reasonable standards of housing and clothing, as called for in the Declaration.

The Right to Adequate Standards of Health and Safety

Consumers' co-operative societies and other consumer organisations have the important task of ensuring that, for example, food additives are permitted only if it can be shown conclusively that they are harmless when used over a long period. Household appliances, electrical equipment and motor cars must be designed to safety specifications, and what is needed is an international harmonisation of the variety of different regulations. International trade and competition must not be hindered by differences in standards. Therefore, the harmonisation of every kind of consumer protection law affecting health and safety is of the greatest interest to co-operators as members of consumer organisations.

The much broader question of the pollution of air, sea, rivers, lakes, and of cities and the country-side, caused by industrial and radioactive wastes as well as by agricultural poisons is certainly a matter co-operators must concern themselves with, since it is more than likely to become an increasing public problem during the 'seventies. Dr R. Kohler of Co-op Schweiz, who introduced the Declaration of Consumer Rights by citing the five opening points—amongst them the aspect of pollution—commended the Declaration in its entirety to the ICA Congress for approval.

During the debate, several delegates had particularly welcomed the reference to the broad problem of pollution, but the Norwegian delegate would have liked also avoidance of noise mentioned in this connection.

The whole issue of pollution of the environment, conservation of natural resources and contamination of foodstuffs is clearly one in which co-operative societies should collaborate with other consumer organisations. In the 'seventies, co-operators could be pioneers in the fight against pollution, as they have been pioneers in the past in the struggle against adulteration of food, unfair trading practices and monopolies.

The Right to a Reasonable Variety and Choice at Fair Prices

Consumers' co-operative societies need to offer their members a reasonable assortment of goods. However, too wide a range of brands and package sizes can add to distribution costs and would thus raise prices. Many societies are amalgamating with neighbouring ones, forming larger units and building supermarkets in order to reduce distribution costs and give their members the best possible value for their money. For the same reason, wholesale consumers' societies which undertake production must produce on a sufficiently large scale to take full advantage of the economies of scale; but they also need to have goods produced to their own specifications and with their own labels by other manufacturers rather than try to produce too many different kinds of goods in their own factories on an inadequate scale.

Consumers' co-operative societies differ from private traders in that they pass on the benefits of economies in distribution to their members by way of lower prices, patronage refunds or dividends on purchases, and not, as private traders, by increased dividends to their shareholders.

Some societies in Canada sell goods to members at cost price and cover their expenses by a direct charge on the members, irrespective of the volume of their purchases—a system that stimulates member loyalty, results in lower prices and can have tax advantages. Co-operators recognise that it is important to maintain effective competition amongst producers in order to supply consumers with what they need at the lowest possible prices. In many countries, they have waged campaigns against monopoly, resale price maintenance and restrictive agreements of all kinds between producers. Finally, the Declaration stipulates the need to remove international trade barriers which have the effect of raising prices.

The Swedish Consumers' Co-operative Movement has been particularly successful over a long period of years in its fight against monopolies, thus helping to reduce prices not only for members of co-operative societies but for all consumers. The 1967 ICA Report on "Co-operatives and Monopolies in Contemporary Economic Systems" discussed the problem of ensuring that "the fruits of technological progress are passed on to the consumer", as required by the Treaty of Rome. The Report suggested that co-operators should join in the debate on the future of the limited company and that, where competition was ineffective, as between giant companies, consumer participation in the fruits of technological progress might be brought about by a wider application of co-operative principles, including the principle of a limited return on capital and consumer participation in residual earnings in the way pioneered by consumers' co-operative societies. It seems probable that the future of the limited company, like the pollution of the environment, will become a matter of increasing public concern in the 'seventies. If present trends are allowed to continue, more and more power will come to be concentrated in the hands of huge, irresponsible, multi-national corporations.

A wider application of co-operative principles is relevant to the problem of maintaining economic growth and full employment without inflation. The Declaration of Consumer Rights insists on the need to make goods available to the consumer at fair prices; but prices have been increasing continuously in most countries since the Second World War, and this has been a great burden for the weakest sections of the community. Consumers' co-operative societies have traditionally concerned themselves with the needs of the poorer sections of the community.

The Right to Full Consumer Information

In some countries, co-operatives have been pioneers of informative labelling so that consumers know exactly what they are buying. They have also supported legislation on informative labelling and the work of the International Labelling Centre in harmonising labelling legislation in different countries. Co-operatives in Denmark have been pioneers in marking packages with the price per kilogramme as well as the price per packet so as to make it easier for housewives to compare the value for money of similar products.

Co-operators have also been pioneers in date marking in some countries and have actively supported the "truth-in-lending" and other consumer legislation in the USA. In Sweden and several other countries, "Consumer Corners" or advice centres in co-operative stores help the housewife to choose wisely and to learn more about the nutritional value of different foods, the durability of different fabrics, etc. In some countries, co-operators have been active in promoting codes for trade description to encourage honesty in advertising. Providing consumers with the fullest possible information about goods enables them to obtain the best value for their money. The cost of informative labelling is small compared with the sales value of goods; moreover, full in-

formation about merchandise would encourage consumers to shop at the co-op rather than elsewhere.

The Right to be Heard

The International Declaration of Consumer Rights points out that one of the basic Principles of the Co-operative Movement is that the members of co-operative societies should have influence over their activities. The democratic control of consumers' co-operative organisations by their members gives them the right and duty to collaborate with other consumers' organisations in promoting consumers' rights and representing the consumers' point of view to public authorities and agencies, to publicly owned industries and to international organisations. Consumers have the right to be assured that their interests will receive full and sympathetic consideration in the formulation of government policies and that their complaints will receive fair and expeditious treatment from administrative tribunals.

The consumers' co-operative movements of the Common Market countries are associated in the European Community of Consumers' Co-operatives (CECC) which has joined with other consumer organisations to form the Contact Committee of the Consumer Organisations of the European Communities. This had been recognised by the Common Market authorities as representing the voice of the consumer in the European Economic Communities.

When the Treaty of Rome was signed in 1957, the consumers' interests were somewhat neglected. The first twelve years of the Common Market have shown that its policies and institutions need to be modified so as to take more account of consumer interests. In the debate at the Hamburg Congress of the ICA on the International Declaration of Consumer Rights, reference was made to the importance of the work of the national Contact Committee of Consumer Organisations.

ations in the Netherlands and the Contact Committee of Consumer Organisations of the European Communities. There were also reports on the protection of consumer rights in the USSR and on the rapid growth of the consumer movement in the USA.

Co-operators should collaborate actively with other consumer organisations in presenting the consumer's point of view in such international organisations as the Codex Alimentarius, the Council of Europe, the International Organisation for Standardisation and the United Nations Agencies. The ICA Consumer Working Party is dealing with these issues, and its Sub-Committee in Stockholm is concentrating on the harmonisation of consumer protection legislation on informative labelling, date and price marking and related

matters. Its Sub-Committee in Paris is attempting to stimulate a dialogue between co-operators in the EEC and EFTA countries, with a view to influencing the development of the Common Market in a way that will benefit consumers.

In the second half of 1971, the ICA Consumer Working Party will be organising another Consumer Conference similar to those held in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1959, in France in 1962, in Switzerland in 1965 and in Austria in 1968. That Conference will review the progress made by consumer co-operative movements in European and other countries in implementing the International Declaration of Consumer Rights since its adoption by the 24th ICA Congress.

. P.D.

ERRATA

in the *Review* Nos. 1-2, 1970

1. On page 57, top left-hand column, the text against Art. 3(g) is erroneous and should read as follows:

“card vote taken (325 for and 285 against); not carried, as the necessary two-thirds majority was not obtained.”

2. Consequently, in the last line of page 83, the last three words in italics should be deleted and the sentence should now read:

“(g) To work for the establishment of lasting peace and security.”

THE CO-OPERATIVE LAW IN ASIA

by Laszlo Valko

*Department of Agricultural Economics,
College of Agriculture,
Washington State University*

The ICA would like to draw the attention of Co-operators throughout the world to this valuable study, which is a compilation of co-operative legislation in the Far East and in South Asia.

This study was published by the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agriculture, Washington State, U.S.A., in May 1969.

Consumers' Co-operation —A Functional Approach

by Y. DON

Bar Ilan University, Israel

In the following article, Dr Y. Don has analysed in an interesting and provocative way certain developments in co-operative thinking and practice, which have been increasingly under discussion in recent years, including trends towards more active price policy, "instant dividend", the need to increase member capital, and the democratic problem created by larger units and greater centralisation of managerial decision-making.

The framework of his article consists in an attack against what he considers to be the rigidity of the Co-operative Principles, particularly those relating to democratic control, patronage refunds and limited interest on capital, claiming that these limit the economic viability of co-operatives and result in "anachronisms."

In our view, this does less than justice to the 1966 Report of the ICA Commission on Co-operative Principles, which, we feel, fully anticipates the points raised by Dr Don in the following examples:

On Democratic Administration, the Commission does not propose to let co-operative efficiency be diluted by democratic control, but, on the contrary, urges that efficiency requires renewed efforts to vitalise co-operative democracy. "What the members' interests are, in any given situation only they can finally determine. A co-operative therefore will not in the long run work well and prosper without agreed and efficient methods of consulting the members as a body and enabling

them to express their wishes. . . . The tendency to evolve towards the creation of ever larger and more closely integrated operational units is not only characteristic of the economic world but also inherent in the co-operative form of association. The Co-operative Movement therefore must attempt to match it by a corresponding development of its democratic organs and a judicious balancing of centralisation by decentralisation. The more the affairs of primary societies have to be entrusted to trained and experienced professionals and the greater the extent to which vital decisions have to be taken by an official elite at the centre of their administrative systems, the greater the importance grows of consolidating the societies' local foundations and strengthening their influence on the minds of their members."

On Limited Interest on Capital, the Commission does not prescribe a specified limit for interest on capital. It reaffirms that co-operative "profits" or surplus should not be distributed according to share holdings, but, at the same time, acknowledges the need for a realistic market rate of interest. "The principle is that, if interest is paid on share capital, the rate should be limited and fixed, on the ground that the supplier of capital is not equitably entitled to share in savings, surplus or profit, whatever the term employed to denote what remains of the value of the society's output of goods and services, after its costs, including the remuneration of labour, land and capital, have been met. . . . Con-

temporary conditions in the countries of advanced economic development demand some more elastic system of interest limitation. If the Movement is to be more than a mere camp-follower of the more progressive private sector and blaze new trails and lead the entire economic system, the whole question of capital availability has to be studied in a much more mobile and dynamic manner than was possible in earlier days. This does not imply any departure from principles hitherto accepted, only their application in a more flexible manner. If co-operatives adhere to the principle that nothing more than a legitimate rate of interest will be paid, one is no more and no less co-operative than another, whether it fixes its rate for long periods by rule or for short periods by reference to some standard rate prevailing in the market."

On Patronage Refunds, the Commission explicitly recognised situations which require an active price policy of the kind prescribed by Dr Don: "... it is significant that those who adopted Rochdale methods in several other countries tended to modify

them, once again in the direction of conferring an immediate benefit on the member, by adopting an 'active' price policy of slightly underselling the market, with the further consequence of lower rates of dividend on purchases. . . . Not seldom co-operatives have felt obliged to make some concession to offset these inducements (of their competitors), as, for example, by giving their members the choice of receiving discount at the time of purchasing or waiting for the dividend ultimately declared. No breach of principle is apparent here. . . . The overriding consideration throughout is that whatever is to be done with a society's net surplus or savings is determined by democratic decision by the members according to their judgement of what is just and expedient."

The issues raised by Dr Don are of immediate and vital concern to all co-operators. Therefore, we invite comments from our readers and are prepared to publish such contributions in whole or in part in the Review.

Editor

I

The great work done by the ICA Commission on Co-operative Principles and its courageous realism in treating the Rochdale heritage as an ideological framework rather than a canonised set of business rulings, helped towards the modernisation of co-operative thinking. These changes of attitude are well demonstrated in a recent paper of Mr J. Orizet of the ILO.¹ He distinguishes between binding and non-binding principles, indicating the inapplicability and even irrelevance of some of the non-binding principles to modern Co-operation.² The phrasing of the principles themselves, particularly the rigorous wording of 1936 as compared to the more general and vague definitions

used in 1966,³ also indicates that the Commission in 1966 realised that greater elasticity in the interpretation of the principles can only increase the viability of Co-operation.

However, the fundamental anachronism, the attempt to look for principles of business behaviour, which must be applicable to all types of co-operative undertakings, remained in the 1966 Report almost untouched. The effort to apply to Co-operation common principles, which are more detailed than basic philosophical premises, ideological objectives, common historical origin and a sense of coherence owing to these principles, premises and origin, is anachronism. Co-operatives operate in such diverse fields and under such incomparable economic, social and political circumstances that anything beyond

¹ J. Orizet, The Co-operative Movement since 1919. *International Labour Review*, Vol. 100, No. 1, July 1969.

² Open Membership, Democratic Control, Dividend on Purchase and Limited Interest on Capital are regarded binding principles, whereas Political and Religious Neutrality, Cash Trading and Education are regarded as non-binding. *Ibid.*, pp. 26-27.

³ Compare, for instance, "Dividend on Purchase" (1937), "Disposal of Surplus" (1966) or "Cash Trading" (1937), "Business Practices" (1966) or "Limited Interest on Capital" (1937), "Interest on Capital" (1966). See ICA Report, *Yearbook of Agricultural Co-operation*, 1967, p. 2.

generalities on aims and philosophies will prove untrue.⁴

Instead of generalisation, the approach should be both functional and analytic. The functional approach should investigate the role expected to be fulfilled by various types of co-operatives, considering the specific circumstances in which they operate. The analytical approach should explore the anatomy of each specific type of co-operative undertaking, using motivations of members and patrons as a basic criterion. Functions and structure are, of course, interdependent, in as much as the structure confines the range of functions which the society may assume. On the other hand, changing circumstances reshape social and economic functions and change motivations which lead to structural adjustments.

In this paper, an attempt will be made to present such an analysis for Consumers' Co-operation in Western-type developed economies.

II

The most important development in recent years in consumers' retail trade has been the supermarket and self-service store. The gradual superseding of the traditional small shopkeeper, especially in the food trade, by large supermarkets is now regarded as inevitable. Moreover, the supermarket system will be extended from the densely populated urban centres to the suburbs, where the spread of car ownership will change consumers' shopping

⁴ Even the vague definition for co-operatives as "a union of individuals who join together to better their position, to achieve social and economic objectives which they cannot attain as individuals" is not necessarily true as a generalisation, since co-operative members are not only individuals but firms and other bodies as well.

habits.⁵ For the same reason, the size of the supermarket will grow, increasing thereby the range of service and the number of customers necessary for profitable operation. Equally, the competitiveness of the small shopkeeper will decrease and the number of retail selling points will further decline. The number of independent firms in retail trade is expected to decline even more owing to the chain-store system.

Retail trade of consumer goods has maintained a relatively high rate of competitiveness, principally because of the large number of independent small shops which compete with each other, as any restrictive collusion amongst them is, even theoretically, inconceivable. Thus, the trade operates rather inefficiently, with excessively small plants, yet without any apparent monopolistic exploitation of the public.

This situation is expected to change drastically with the gradual invigoration of the supermarket system and the parallel contraction of the small store formula. Oligopolistic collusion is becoming easier and in many cases perceivable. Moreover, this monopolistic power of the supermarkets is held directly responsible for higher prices and poorer services in many poverty stricken areas of large cities as compared with their richer suburbs.⁶ Under certain simple assumptions, such policy of price discrimination should be regarded as a per-

⁵ Development in California, with the highest car ownership population ratio in the USA, may serve as a guide-line for eventual development patterns elsewhere. In California, the standard consumers' food purchasing medium is the very large supermarket, equipped with a parking lot. The frequency of foodstuff shopping is greatly reduced, owing to the large quantities purchased at each visit, thanks to the wide-spread ownership of cars and of modern equipment for food storage.

⁶ In California, for instance, the largest chain of supermarkets was openly accused in the press for charging higher prices in its stores in slums and labour class districts than in those situated in the central or richer parts of the respective cities.

fectly rational behaviour which serves best the profit maximising objectives of the firms.

It is in this field where consumers' co-operation should seek its new principal function, as an anti-monopolistic countervailing power in modern retail trade.⁷ The assumption of such a function is, in principle, the closest expression of the Rochdale Pioneers' ideal, a search for remedy, through self-help, for the inherent weakness of the individual consumer. This weakness shows itself in different ways at different times. In England of the mid-nineteenth century, adulteration, usurious shopkeepers and the "Truck System" were the main hazards for the labour class consumers. In Sweden of the first half of our century, the monopolistic exploitation of the consumers by certain manufacturers was the principal peril. In many developing countries, the village money-lender endangers all efforts of rural rehabilitation. In each case, specific measures were taken by co-operatives to defend its members against exploitation. Most Rochdale Principles themselves were such measures; the manufacturing policy of the Swedish Kooperativa Förbundet was such a measure, and the multi-purpose village co-operatives in South-East Asia are examples of such measures. Even the extreme vertical integration of the British CWS could possibly be interpreted in a similar fashion. These measures indicated in each case the adaptability of the co-operative formula to functional adjustments.

III

The assumption of the role of anti-monopolistic countervailing power necessi-

⁷ A classical manifestation of this new function recently took place in New York, where a community-sponsored co-operative furniture store was opened in Harlem to enable low-income residents to buy "good furniture at fair prices". At the opening ceremony, it was indicated that the store, by its very existence, "will create healthy competition". See *The Christian Science Monitor*, November 4, 1969, p. 7.

tates a revision in some traditional co-operative business practices and principles. The prerequisites for the successful execution of such a role should be (1) large scale of operation; (2) active price policy; and (3) modern aggressive selling methods. Literally, none of them contradicts directly any Rochdale Principle. However, large size, meaning a large body of patrons and members, prevents the intensification of social aspects in co-operative membership and rules out effective implementation of the one-man one-vote principle as the main tool of democratic control. In this respect, the course of development of large co-operatives has been similar to that of large corporations. In both of them, effective control has slipped away from shareholders and has become the domain of the professional executive.

"Active price policy" is the opposite of "sales at market price", an established business practice of co-operatives. The practical, as well as ethical, merits of selling at market price are well known, but its economic meaning needs clarification. When the selling at market price practice is pursued, Total Revenue becomes basically dependent upon exogenous factors, i.e., on forces beyond the control of the society. Hence, the magnitude of surplus, which is the difference between Total Revenue and Total Cost, is of real economic significance, since it shows the result of two exogenous factors, the selling price of output and buying price of inputs, and one endogenous force, the efficiency in the operation of the co-operative. Consequently, if the size of surplus is an indication of success or failure in co-operative management, its distribution and the principle and practice of that distribution should be a major question.

Under an active price policy, pricing is based upon cost, demand situation, the requirements of sales promotion and the realisation of the anti-monopolistic functions of the co-operative. Pricing and

pricing methods of competitors are, of course, under constant observation, but, instead of following the prices dictated by the market, the co-operative should attempt to dictate prices to the market. It should assume the function, which is known in economic theory as the "price leader". The very presence of an efficient co-operative store, pursuing an active price policy, should in itself act as a price depressing factor. As long as consumers of a certain neighbourhood are aware of the availability of quality goods at reasonable prices in the co-operative store, private supermarkets will necessarily adjust their prices to remain in business. Furthermore, in such circumstances, one might even anticipate a policy of "dumping", aiming at the eviction of the co-operative store from business. Therefore, the prerequisites for the successful performance of such countervailing functions are high efficiency and competitiveness. Only efficient and competitive co-operatives will be able to set selling prices at a sufficiently low standard to make it effective. Secondly, only efficient and strong societies can survive temporary perils of dumping and retaliatory price undercuts.

Aggressive selling methods and the utilisation of modern tools of sales promotion are probably strange and even repulsive to the protagonists of classical co-operation of the puritan social school. Nevertheless, the resort to modern mass media in communication is unavoidable.

IV

The introduction of active price policy greatly diminishes the significance of patronage dividend. When the selling price is determined by the market, surplus depends, assuming constant input prices and input productivity, upon efficiency. However, when the selling price becomes a matter of policy, the magnitude of surplus becomes a function of that policy and can be regulated merely by raising or lowering selling prices. In other words, high prices

and high patronage dividend are almost equivalent in effect to low prices and low patronage dividend.⁸ That means, the member-patron of a consumers' society may benefit either from high patronage dividend or low prices. Real benefit from a high price system may only be derived when a large body of non-member patrons exists; the surplus arising from non-member participation will be added to the general surplus and distributed among members. This, however, converts co-operative members' investment into profit-making capital, which is by no means a co-operative ideal. Furthermore, besides other implications,⁹ capital seeking investment opportunities for the sake of profit maximisation could certainly find better channels than co-operative shareholding for patronage dividend.

Though patronage dividend is relegated, under active price policy assumptions, to become of minor importance, it should not disappear. Determination of selling prices must take into consideration the preservation of a reasonable safety margin, which might be subject to distribution after actual costs are known and deducted from sales. However, there is doubt as to whether patronage dividend should continue to be of a residual nature or should be replaced by a fixed-rate rebate. Originally, the procedure of surplus disposal was a classical manifestation of the democratic character of the co-operative. At the annual meeting, when the

⁸ In a co-operative which is patronised only by its members, the only difference is the interest which may be received on the price difference under a low price low patronage system. For details, see Y. Don, "Economic Analysis of Agricultural Co-operation", *Yearbook of Agricultural Co-operatives*, 1960, pp. 49-75.

⁹ Among the other implications, tax consideration is certainly a major one. Patronage dividend is not income, hence, not subject to income tax. Yet, the inclusion of surplus made on non-members' purchases into distributable surplus changes the status of such dividend from rebate into partial income.

balance sheet is submitted for approval by the members, it is the members who finally decide which part of the surplus should be distributed and which reploughed into the society. In big consumers' co-operatives, however, this decision is taken by the executive in a rather authoritative fashion. Thus, in the large co-operative store, residual patronage dividend loses its democratic characteristic. The introduction of active price policy deprives it of its economic significance.

In summary, in a large co-operative supermarket which pursues active price policy, residual patronage dividend, like democratic control, loses most of its importance.

Finally, limited interest on capital of members is both anachronistic and damaging to the proper functioning of the society. Interest on capital is only limited for members' investment. Non-member creditors, such as banks, receive full market rate. That is amongst the principal reasons why co-operatives, are in many countries so financially shaky. The Rochdale Principle of limited rate of interest on share capital had been laid down in an economy which had a much less developed money market than ours. It was supposed to prevent the co-operative from becoming basically a financial institution for absorbing members' savings instead of providing services.¹⁰ There was also some mystic fear concerning "the domination of capital" instead of the rule of men over capital. Co-operatives made great efforts to distinguish co-operative undertakings from capitalist corporations by emphasising the human element in the decision-making criteria, instead of profit maximisation for anonymous capital. Such arguments, plentiful in the classical co-operative

literature,¹¹ proved the case by relying on the principle of limited return to capital, and often underrated the role of capital in the co-operative undertaking altogether. This anti-capital, or "limited yield on capital" complex caused sometimes interesting contradictions. For instance, in the otherwise excellent paper of P. Derrick on co-operative finances, we read: "The co-operative principle is not that the return paid on capital should be low or set at any particular rate; the co-operative principle is that the return should be limited."¹² The author of this paper has never heard or read of unlimited return on capital. The real substance of this principle is, of course, the attempt to remove from capital investment in the co-operative any profit-making motivations and to stress thereby its service character. Hence, the rate of interest for a member-investor is of rather marginal significance, since his expectations from his society were primarily services and not yield on his capital. The anticipation of such behaviour is perfectly rational, as long as the sum required from members is small in relation to their total assets and to the benefit which they expect from the service. In the past, a relatively small amount of share capital required from each new member could sometimes furnish the consumers' co-operative with sufficient capital to operate the store. Modern production and distribution methods, however, are much more capital intensive, i.e., they require a much higher capital/output ratio than those of the past. Consequently, under conditions of high and constantly rising prices of capital, as the case has been in the West for the last twenty years, adherence to the principle of limited and constant rate of interest on members' investment may lead to one of two results. The co-operative may want to

¹⁰ Eventually such development was not prevented even by the orthodox adherence to the principle of limited interest. The extremely liquid asset structure of the CWS in England during quite a long time was a clear proof of it.

¹¹ For instance G. J. Holyoake, C. R. Fay, C. Gide.

¹² P. Derrick, "Competing for Capital," *Review of International Co-operation*, Vol. 61, 1968, No. 3, p. 107.

maintain a competitive standard of equipment, stock and services, which it will do by borrowing heavily at current market rate. Or alternatively, it may prefer to adjust its methods and equipment to the size of share-capital which can be raised from members only. In both cases, the co-operative's competitiveness and efficiency will be impeded and its service supplying capability curtailed.

Consequently, in order that the co-operative should be able to raise the large amounts of capital it needs through borrowing from members instead of banks, the principle of "limited interest" should

possibly be reconsidered; at the very least, the current market rate of money should be adopted as a guide-line for interest policy.¹³ Extensive borrowing from members need not involve any issue of voting rights. Formulae for institutional arrangements of this kind are plentiful and the Derrick paper has dealt with quite a few of them.¹⁴

¹³ This principle has, in fact, been largely accepted by the ICA Commission on Co-operative Principles in its Report.

¹⁴ P. Derrick, *op cit.*, deals with the various alternatives and the problems involved in their application.

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Consumer Protection in Great Britain

by **J. M. Wood**

Chairman, ICA Consumer Working Party

It has long been accepted in Great Britain that all people have a right to reasonable standards of nutrition, clothing and housing, but there is no beneficent Power to which they can appeal for the enforcement of such a right. Full employment is a basic condition of the achievement of a high standard of living and this was adopted as a national policy in 1944 by the war-time Coalition Government, and is now supported by all political parties. Economic planning, redistribution of incomes by fiscal means, social security schemes, and a sustained effort by those who produce the wealth of the nation, are all essential elements. The Co-operative Movement makes its contribution to national prosperity in the economic, social and political fields.

Adequate standards of safety and a healthy environment free from pollution are also accepted as objectives of government policy in Britain. Safety on the roads is now a major concern, and a campaign is being fought against the taking of alcohol by drivers of motor vehicles. The pollution of the natural environment is disturbing pub-

lic opinion and, in the latest reorganisation of the Government, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Planning has been given special responsibility for all aspects of environmental pollution and will co-ordinate the activities of the executive departments in this field. Of particular importance are standards of safety for consumer goods, for example electric blankets and oil heaters, as well as the purity of foodstuffs and other goods which may have an adverse effect upon the health of consumers.

Points three and four of the Declaration are properly the concern of consumer protection. In the past seventeen or eighteen years, there have been greater developments in this field than in any previous period of history, and the following summary of the most significant events in the rise of the "modern consumer movement" shows that, in Great Britain, the consumer is no longer "the forgotten man at the base of the economic pyramid", to quote the late President Roosevelt.

“The need for consumers to organise themselves was first expressed in the genesis of the Co-operative Movement”, according to the report of the Committee on Consumer Protection which was set up by the Government in 1959. The British Co-operative Movement certainly prepared the way for the “modern consumer movement”. As long ago as 1925, Co-operative Members of Parliament were campaigning for consumer protection laws. In 1925, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Co-operative Union, Mr A. V. Alexander (later Earl Alexander of Hillsborough) introduced into the House of Commons a Trusts and Combines Bill to deal with monopolies and restrictive practices. In 1927, he was responsible for a Consumers’ Bill, but, in the political climate of that period, there was insufficient support for legislation of this kind. In 1963, Mr John Stonehouse, another Co-operative MP (now Minister of Posts and Telecommunications), introduced a Bill to abolish resale price maintenance, that is the system of fixing and enforcing minimum prices by various methods, including the withholding of supplies from Co-operative Societies, whose practice of paying dividends on sales was widely regarded as a form of price-cutting. Although this Bill was not successful, the Government soon introduced a Bill of its own, which became the Resale Prices Act, 1964. Yet another Co-operative MP, Mr Robert Edwards, introduced a Bill which became the Consumer Protection Act, 1961. This Act gives power to certain government departments to make Orders fixing safety standards for a wide range of consumer goods. Incidentally, it is the only Act of Parliament which bears the word “consumer” in the title.

The origin of the “modern consumer movement” may be traced back to 1952, when the Government began to withdraw the extensive system of economic controls which were a legacy of the Second World War. A wide range of quality standards for clothing and furniture had been established

under the “Utility Schemes” which were designed to make the best use of scarce materials and to facilitate price controls. There was much opposition to the abolition of these schemes, because it was feared that quality standards would deteriorate under the pressure of competition. The Government therefore asked the British Standards Institution to formulate new standards for consumer goods under the “Kite Mark” scheme which had been in use for many years in connection with industrial goods. Thus the Women’s Advisory Committee of the BSI was formed, and is still active. Hundreds of British Standards now exist, and the consumer, who wishes to have a guarantee of reasonable quality and safety, may look for the “Kite Mark” on an extensive range of goods, from motor-cycle crash helmets to oil heaters, and from furniture to electric blankets.

In 1957, the Consumers’ Association was formed as a non-profit-making body “to raise and maintain the standard of goods and services”. It does this by testing consumer goods and services and publishing the results in its monthly magazine *Which?*. The Consumers’ Association is financed entirely from the sales of its publications and over 600,000 subscriptions to *Which?*. The total readership of *Which?* is estimated at about 3 million, and the income of the Association in 1969 exceeded £1½ million.

The Consumers’ Association has encouraged the formation of local consumer groups. These are voluntary bodies, based in a town or region and concerned with promoting the interests of consumers generally and improving the standard of goods and services in the area. There are about 80 of these groups. In 1963, a National Federation of Consumer Groups was set up to give them a national voice. The main financial support of the Federation comes from an annual grant by the Consumers’ Association.

In 1959, the growing public interest in consumer protection led the Government

to appoint the Committee on Consumer Protection, which made the most comprehensive inquiry ever undertaken into this matter. In its final report in 1962, the Committee made over 200 recommendations on such matters as standards and labelling, trade marks, seals and comparative testing, civil redress for consumers, hire-purchase and credit trading, trade descriptions, advertising and sales practice, and the establishment of a government-sponsored Consumer Council.

The major reforms advocated by the Committee are now substantially complete. The Consumer Council was set up in March 1963, with an annual grant from the Government (now £210,000). The members of the Council are appointed by the Government and include the Chief Executive Officer of the Birmingham Co-operative Society, Mr G. L. Armitage. The terms of reference of the Council are "to ascertain and review the problems experienced by the consumer and devise and advance the means of resolving them". One of the weaknesses of the Consumer Council is its lack of a mass membership. It establishes contact with consumers through press, radio and television, through its monthly magazine *Focus*, as well as through booklets on specific subjects and lectures.

The Consumer Council is acutely aware of the need for local contacts and has asked to be allowed to set up regional offices. The view of the Government, based on the recommendations of the Committee on Consumer Protection, is that local contact with consumers should be the responsibility of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux. These Bureaux were set up in 1939 to advise citizens on the many problems that confront them in their daily life. There are now about 500 Bureaux throughout the country and, with the aid of a money grant from the Government, they have extended their services to include consumer problems.

The Committee on Consumer Protection drew attention to certain weaknesses

in the laws covering credit trading and, stimulated by the Co-operative Members of Parliament, the Government introduced a Bill in 1964, which greatly extended the protection given to consumers buying goods on credit. The Law was consolidated in the Hire-Purchase Act of 1965 (covering England and Wales) and a similar Act in Scotland. In 1967, a new Law was enacted on the advertising of credit terms, the Advertisements (Hire-Purchase) Act, which consolidated earlier laws and gave further protection to consumers. Recently, the Government has appointed the Committee on Consumer Credit to investigate the subject and make a report on it.

The growing practice of trading stamps, used as a method of sales promotion, led to the passing of the Trading Stamps Act, 1964. This Law regulates the issue, use, and redemption of stamps in the interest of the consumers. One of the requirements is that stamps must be redeemable for cash, if the consumer so wishes, and another is that the value of the stamps must be printed on them.

One of the most important pieces of legislation ever introduced on behalf of the consumers is the Trade Descriptions Act of 1968. A Co-operative Member of Parliament, Mr George Darling, who was then Minister of State at the Board of Trade, was in charge of the Bill during its passage through the House of Commons. This Act has been described as "The Consumers' Charter", although this is an exaggeration. Basically, the Act makes it a criminal offence for anyone to apply a false or misleading description to goods, services and prices. For the first time, false statements by word of mouth were made an offence. An important provision of the Act is that enforcement is the responsibility of local weights and measures inspectors, with the result that, in the first eleven months, there were over 21,000 complaints from consumers and 400 successful prosecutions of traders in the courts.

The Misrepresentation Act, 1967, which applies to contracts of all kinds, widens the remedies available to persons who have been induced to enter into a contract by misrepresentation of material facts. It also amends the Sale of Goods Act, 1893, in favour of the consumers.

One of the few matters referred to in the report of the Committee on Consumer Protection on which the Government has not yet legislated concerns exemption clauses in contracts and guarantees, by which the legal rights of consumers may be reduced. The Law Commission, which is an official body carrying out a continuous study of existing laws, issued a report in 1969 which recommended that suppliers of goods should not be able to avoid their common law responsibility for the quality and performance of such goods. The Government has announced that the Law will be amended as soon as possible.

For food and drugs there are special safeguards for consumers, in addition to those provided by the Weights and Measures Acts and the Trade Descriptions Act. The Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (England and Wales), and the Food and Drugs Act, 1956 (Scotland), forbid the sale of any food or drug which, to the prejudice of the purchaser, is not of the substance, nature and quality demanded, and make it an offence to use false or misleading descriptions either on labels or in advertisements.

The Medicines Act, 1968, completely revised and brought up to date the Law on Drugs and Medicines and their sale to consumers. In the next few years, numerous orders and regulations are likely to be made under the authority of the Act to extend the protection afforded to consumers.

The use of various additives in food has been under close scrutiny in recent years, and the Government has carried out many special inquiries into the use of colouring matters, preservatives, artificial sweeteners and the like. The Food Stand-

ards Committee is a highly qualified advisory body to which the Government looks for guidance on these matters, and numerous reports have been issued which are widely scrutinised and discussed. Recently, the Government has acted promptly, following evidence from the USA, to ban the use of cyclamates as sweetening agents in soft drinks and food-stuffs.

It would require a book to describe adequately the tremendous developments that have taken place in the sphere of monopolies and restrictive trade practices. It is little more than 20 years, since the first post-war Labour Government introduced the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices (Inquiry and Control) Act. Since then, the twin branches of monopolies and restrictive practices have been separated. Monopolies (defined as conditions in which one-third of the total supplies of goods of a particular class is controlled by one firm or group) were the responsibility of the Board of Trade, but were referred for investigation and report to the Monopolies Commission. Restrictive trade practices are the responsibility of the Registrar of Restrictive Trading Agreements and the Restrictive Practices Court. Price fixing by individuals or trade associations has been almost completely eliminated. Mergers amongst firms may now be examined by the Monopolies Commission, and the Board of Trade may forbid them if they appear to be against the public interest. There have been new Acts of Parliament on these matters in 1953, 1956, 1964, 1965 and 1968.

Responsibility for monopolies and restrictive practices has recently been transferred to the Department of Employment and Productivity, and substantial changes in the administration of the law are foreshadowed.

The prevention of excessive inflation is obviously in the interest of consumers, and the Government's prices and incomes policy was designed for this purpose. The National Board for Prices

and Incomes was set up in 1965 to investigate, at the request of the Government, any question referred to it about prices and incomes, mainly in the context of proposed increases. The Chairman of the Board, Mr Aubrey Jones, has drawn attention to the influence of pressure groups in a democracy. Industry is strong and is organised into trade associations. Workers, once weak, are now strong and, although they are also consumers, their interests as workers are much more concentrated and are organised into trade unions which act as pressure groups; but consumers have not been well organised. The National Board for Prices and Incomes has tried to express the voice of the consumer in the fight against inflation.

The British economy, like most others in Western Europe, is a partnership of state and private enterprise, with co-operative societies standing in between. The achievement of the fifth point in the ICA Declaration of Consumer Rights, that is, influence in economic life and democratic participation in its control, depends upon a satisfactory partnership of state, other public bodies, co-operative societies, and voluntary consumer organisations. Many government departments share the responsibility for safeguarding consumer interests. The Consumer Council has been given a special responsibility. The nationalised industries—transport, gas, electricity, coal mining, and the post office—do not necessarily serve consumers better than private

enterprise, and a network of consumer consultative committees has been set up by the Government to represent the consumer interest and to deal with complaints about the goods and services supplied by the industries. Many co-operators serve on these committees.

The Co-operative Political Party, which is a unique feature of the British Co-operative Movement, has made consumer protection one of its special concerns. In 1954, the Party proposed that the responsibility for consumer affairs, which is spread over several government departments, should be concentrated in a single department to be known as the Ministry of Consumer Welfare. This proposal has not been accepted outside the Co-operative Movement, partly because it poses some difficult administrative problems, but as the need for powerful consumer representation in economic and political affairs becomes more widely accepted, it is likely that it will receive more serious consideration.

The British Co-operative Movement is now deeply involved in plans for re-organising its structure in order to improve its economic efficiency. The more efficiently the Movement conducts its business, and the larger the share of the trade in consumer goods it can secure, the greater the influence it is likely to have on economic life. Although political democracy has existed in Britain for many years, it is much more difficult to establish economic democracy.

The Crisis of Consumers' Co-operation

by W. P. Watkins

To speak of a crisis of Consumers' Co-operation is not to be alarmist. Nevertheless, the present situation of Consumers' Co-operation, viewed from an international standpoint, can, without exaggeration, be described as critical, since it is one in which the accepted practices, policies and objectives of the Movement are being tested as never before and must inevitably come up for judgement. The Sixth International Co-operative Scientific Congress, held at Giessen in Germany last September, discussed this situation under the general title of "Co-operatives in Economic Growth". This was treated broadly, so as to take into account all the principal types of co-operative associations as well as the kinds of economic environment—industrialised market economies, socialist planned economies and the areas of recent economic development—in which Co-operative Movements seek to establish themselves and grow in extent and depth. The papers presenting various aspects of the general theme were considered in special working groups, each dealing with one particular

branch of Co-operation. Certain important questions provoked by the papers and by opinions expressed in the Working Group on Consumers' Co-operatives seem worthy of consideration in an article, even in advance of the publication of the report of the Congress proceedings.

These questions relate to the function of consumers' co-operatives in industrialised market economies. Dr W. W. Engelhardt (Cologne), whose paper gave the key-note of the discussion, put forward the working hypothesis that the functions of co-operatives necessarily change with the growth of the economic system as a whole and with their own development. The term function, as he pointed out, is capable of a variety of meanings, but the sense in which he and the working groups were chiefly concerned with it was the role of the Co-operative Movement in relation to other sectors and to the over-all performance and development of the economy in the present period of accelerated technological and organisational change.

Making use of the American Professor Rostow's scheme, by which five different types of human society correspond to five phases of economic growth, Dr Engelhardt traced the changing functions of co-operative associations, stage by stage, as "traditional" societies evolved into the "mature" industrialised societies of today. The functions of co-operatives may be described as micro-economic, in so far as they consist in the defence and promotion of the interests of their individual members, and macro-economic, in so far as they are important and influential for the economic system as a whole. Generally speaking, in the course of evolution, both of the co-operatives and of the economic system, the macro-economic functions gain in importance compared with the micro-economic ones. Co-operative Movements may begin by making small economies which directly and chiefly benefit their actual membership, but, in their advanced stages of development, they may reach the point of exercising functions, as regulators of prices and setters of standards in their respective markets, recognised and accepted by both the public and the state. It would even appear that their chances of continued progress and ultimate survival depend more and more on the successful performance of such macro-economic functions.

The leading Consumers' Co-operative Movements of the Western World are operating in countries of advanced industrial development in the phase termed by Rostow "mature" and characterised by far-reaching industrial combination and concentration, increasing intervention in the economic system by the public powers and greater respect than formerly for consumer interests. These countries, if they have not already entered, are on the brink of the next phase, which is characterised, according to Rostow, by "mass consumption" and may be roughly equivalent to the "affluent society" of J. K. Galbraith.

The questions whether the Consumers' Co-operative Movements can succeed in making the transition or, if they make it, can continue to develop within the changed environment, cannot be answered with certainty at this moment. What is significant is that, at Giessen, an international working party, consisting of economists completely sympathetic to Consumers' Co-operation and senior Co-operators with years of practical experience in it, was not disposed to controvert the assertion that the Movement was showing signs of stagnation. It is not simply that, in some countries, Consumers' Co-operatives find it difficult or impossible to achieve a rate of growth higher than that of the distributive sector as a whole, but also that they find it harder to convert their customers into members or to secure active and intelligent participation in their democratic administration by those already possessing membership rights. Doubt was in fact expressed in the report of the working group whether the consumers' societies in Western industrialised countries were capable, given the increasing passivity of their members, of effecting any far-reaching social change at all.

This passivity is no new phenomenon. It was already visible at least a generation ago, as, with increasing size, the relations between management and members of Consumers' Co-operatives became more and more impersonal and the differences between co-operative and other large-scale distributive enterprises less and less obvious. The interest of the members was already dwindling before the technical and social revolutions of our time resulted in new types of distributive undertaking, offering advantages more attractive than the traditional economic benefits, such as the dividend on purchases, of the "co-op" or "Konsum". The dividend diminished in amount through the shrinkage of profit margins and also declined in importance in the consumers' eyes, as full employment raised their

earnings and social welfare services increased their sense of security. Besides, after years of war-time privation and control, consumers seized the chance to exercise greater freedom of choice and to disown irksome social responsibilities. It was not merely the micro-economic performance of the co-operatives that was weakened, but also their macro-economic effectiveness as price regulators, since the very notion of "normal" or "market" price was riddled with the practice of "loss leaders" and other kinds of custom-tempting price reductions adopted by the co-operatives' big competitors, and under stress of competition, by co-operatives also.

There are, of course, other macro-economic functions than price regulation or stabilisation which Consumers' Co-operatives can fulfil when they are effectively competitive. Since the two World Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45, when governments discovered that they could be effective collaborators in maintaining the orderly distribution of goods in limited supply or allocated by rationing, they have become increasingly involved in public policy. Between the wars, in a few countries, they demonstrated their capabilities as countervailing forces against concentrations of economic power dominating the supply of essential commodities—this is where the co-operatives, under courageous leadership, have displayed an adequate capacity to unite for combined action, concentrate their capital resources and pool their purchasing power under a single management.

Hence, when faced by the question "Consumers' Co-operatives in present-day economy, why—or why not?", it is still possible for them to find useful and essential functions which they can perform as well as, even better than, any other agency; but this is only the first of several vital questions to which the present critical situation gives rise. If the functions of Consumers' Co-operation are changed, may not its nature, as determined by its

basic principles, change also? Or putting the question the reverse way: is it possible for Consumers' Co-operation to alter its structures, objectives and methods, as it apparently must do in order to survive in its rapidly changing environment, and for its adherents still to claim that, in the words of the French saying, the more it changes the more it remains the same thing? Or again, a co-operative society is an association engaged in a business enterprise. If it survives as an enterprise, but withers as an association, can it be said to be Co-operation any longer, whatever the inscription on the fascia board of the store? Or yet again, if Consumer Co-operatives were originally the offspring of poverty and distress, can they survive in a climate of comfort and security? If the fear of poverty no longer has its former power, where is the Consumers' Co-operative Movement to obtain the necessary driving force to ensure its future success and growth?

Very powerful motives are, and always were, necessary to impel ordinary people, like the great body of consumers, not simply to join co-operative societies and loyally support them, but also to keep a constant eye on their affairs and play a part in administering them. It was never harder than it is today to recruit enough men and women suitably qualified by character, ability and knowledge to discharge spare-time offices. At the same time, problems of management, administration and leadership have become much more complex, and the scale of operations so much greater. As Andreas Korp reminded the last Congress of the Austrian Consumers' Co-operatives, contemporary methods of retail distribution and the infinite diversity of consumers' tastes or needs make their contacts with co-operative societies much more casual and impersonal than formerly. The primary problem of co-operative democracy is thus not one of constitutional machinery but of personnel. The more administration

becomes professionalised, the greater is the need for first-class ability in the bodies elected to supervise the co-operatives' operations in their members' interests. In recent years, considerable ability, which ought to have been exercised within the democratic framework of the Consumers' Co-operative Movement, has been canalised away into consumers' associations which have contested the right of Consumers' Co-operatives to represent the consumers' interests. The two types of organisation should join forces to educate customers into becoming a conscious and active force in the economy.

Charles Gide once said that the consumers were like the Third Estate before the great French Revolution. They were nothing, wished to be something and ought to be everything. At one time, it was fashionable to speak of the "sovereignty" of the consumers, perhaps with some justification, because the satisfaction of consumers' wants is the great end of economic activity and they are the ultimate paymasters of all the factors of production and distribution. Yet, because of their individualism and lack of cohesion, they may reign but do not rule. Equally hollow is the phrase "consumers' society" applied to the present "mass-consumption" phase of economic development, as hollow as the doctrine of Gordon Selfridge, the founder of London's largest department store: "The customer is always right." It is at least equally true that the customer is always fooled, whether by being "blinded with science" or in some other fashion, and never more than in this technological age. Consumers often suspect this, can sometimes prove it, but seldom do anything effective to counteract it. The state is often invoked, but legislative and administrative measures, even if enforceable, usually lag behind the actual situation. The Consumers' Co-operative Society is an instrument ready-made for consumers' protection, if only sufficient numbers of them can be trained to adopt it and use it.

In conclusion, it may be appropriate to suggest a few strategic considerations bearing upon the policies and methods to be adopted by consumers' societies in their present situation. It would seem that one essential condition for the success and permanence of any Co-operative Movement is that it shall stand unequivocally for a clearly-defined economic interest. This should be plainly reflected in the "image" of Consumers' Co-operatives in the minds of their own members and the general public. A good business image, however efficient the co-operatives may be, is not enough. They need an economic and social image, like that adopted by the Consumers' Co-operative Movement of the Federal Republic of Germany some years ago for one of its annual propaganda campaigns, of the co-operatives being "always on the side of the consumer". That is good as far as it goes, but the image should not be merely of an institution fighting on the consumers' side, but of the organised consumers themselves fighting their own battles. Consistently with that image, the consumers' societies should be constantly informing their members, and consulting with them, about goods and services, their qualities and uses. In his day, Albert Thomas spoke of a co-operative society's internal system of communication like the body's nervous system, which made it sensitive to the wishes and views of its members. It is also à propos to recall the late Gottlieb Duttweiler, who was not content with a mere cash nexus between his business and his customers, but tried to convert the Migros Organisation into a Co-operative, thereby conceding the whole argument for Consumers' Co-operation.

The necessity of organising the massive purchasing power of consumers' co-operative movements as single units is becoming increasingly recognised. Allied with an intimate knowledge of consumers' wants and habits, this unity should enable the movements to exert effective pressure

on the producers to provide commodities in the quantities and qualities their members require at prices they can reasonably afford to pay. The objective here is not necessarily the lowest price, but the highest value for money, and it should be an integral part of the movements' image. The aim should be at all times to maximise the purchasing power of consumers' incomes which is continually being eroded, under conditions of full-employment, by recurrent increases in wages and salaries. A movement of sufficient magnitude might even aspire to exercise the macro-economic function of a brake on price inflation, spreading the benefits of increased productivity over the whole community rather than leaving them to be fought over by employers and employed in wasteful and embittered wage disputes. A government seeking to bring a boom situation under control might well welcome the aid of a powerful Consumers' Co-operative Movement working on these lines.

The Working Group on Consumers' Co-operatives at Giessen pointed out the urgent need for Consumers' Co-operatives to work out a modern concept of democracy applicable to large-scale undertakings. Co-operation being a voluntary Movement, the possibility of such a concept depends on the ability to evoke the interest of the public in what it is doing, or attempting to do, and beyond that, the wish to be associated with, and participate in it. Participation must begin at the "grass-roots", amongst groups of neighbours or workers in areas small enough for people to know their fellow-members personally, and it should be especially encouraged amongst young people facing the economic problems of setting up a household. The appeal to them should not be based exclusively on self-interest or on materialism. Co-operation has more to offer to the younger generation than higher standards of comfort. The humane ideals which Co-operation seeks to implant more firmly in economic

life have not lost their power of attraction and those consumers' movements, as the Swedish and the Swiss ones, which have conspicuously contributed to national and international efforts in aid of the developing countries, have lost nothing, but rather gained in prestige and public standing by their action.

The crisis of Consumers' Co-operation is not simply a question of business competition or survival. Nor can it be resolved in those terms, because they are incapable of arousing amongst the common people that passionate concern and sustained will to realise certain ideals necessary to meet the challenge of our times.

STUDIES AND REPORTS

(fifth in the series)

The ICA, in collaboration with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, has issued in No. 5 of the ICA Studies and Reports series an off-print of articles on the "World-wide Training of Co-operative Experts" which appeared in Nos. 4 and 6 of this *Review* of 1969. The articles were written at the request of the Second International Conference on Technical Assistance to Developing Countries in the Co-operative Field. IFAP and the ICA considered it worthwhile to publish this off-print in order to make the articles known to a wider circle of readers.

Available from the International Co-operative Alliance, 11 Upper Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9PA (in English only). *Price: 3/6 per copy including postage.*

REPORTS ON THE 24TH CONGRESS AND THE AUXILIARY COMMITTEES OF THE ICA IN HAMBURG IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1969

appeared in this *Review*, Vol. 63, Nos. 1-2, 1970, and in the *ICA Co-operative News Service*, No. 10, 1969, respectively.

Copies of these issues are available from the International Co-operative Alliance, 11 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9PA. *Price: 7/- and 2/-, respectively, post free.*

Book Reviews

The Rise of American Co-operative Enterprise: 1620-1920

By Joseph G. Knapp, Interstate Printers and Publishers, Inc., Danville, Illinois, USA. Price \$8.50.

Joseph Knapp has the rare distinction of having both written and made American co-operative history. Originally an academic, with a special interest in agricultural co-operation, he entered the American Civil Service and spent some forty years working, always in a co-operative context, first in the Farm Credit Administration, latterly in the Farmer Co-operative Service, of which he became Administrator in 1953. Probably no one knows so much about American Co-operation as he does, and few have exercised a more beneficial influence on its development over more than a generation.

Dr Knapp has always had the historian's approach, seeing movements and situations as they develop in time, embedded in, and influenced by, the general evolution of economics, politics and society. It is from this standpoint that he has written the first volume of his book—"The Rise of American Co-operative Enterprise", an artfully chosen title, avoiding some of the associations which cling to "movements", placing Co-operation firmly in the same category as other forms of American enterprise. The period of 1620 to 1920 makes a large claim, but one which the author has had no difficulty in substantiating from existing records of the Pilgrims' joint work on farming and fish-

ing. In the 18th century, he could point to Franklin's Mutual Fire Insurance and, with the industrial revolution and the first years of the 19th century, Co-operation was fairly launched.

The influence of Robert Owen on America is well known, and memories of New Harmony and Brook Farm still linger, though, in material terms, these experiments in communal living led to nothing. The early introduction of consumers' stores, first spontaneous and locally inspired, later much influenced by Rochdale, will come as a surprise to many. So will the quite considerable development of co-operative workshops and workers' productive associations, especially in the period immediately after the Civil War, when the Knights of Labour and the Sovereigns of Industry were for a time as much interested in Co-operation as in trade unions.

About the same time, the farmers began to stir. Subsistence farming was coming to an end. The Grange was founded in 1866 and began to organise "agencies" or group buying of the new, industrially produced, inputs of the farm. Many of these became Rochdale supply stores with a regional wholesale. A decade later, the growth of industrial cities in the East and the distance which lay between them and the new centres of agriculture in the West, gave marketing for the first time the dimension of a problem. Wool and tobacco co-operatives were attempted, not very successfully, in the 'seventies. Dairies followed, their path smoothed by the in-

vention of the mechanical cream separator. Grain elevators came into being with the railways that penetrated the prairies. Fruit co-operatives began with New England cranberries and reached sensational success with the citrus fruits of Florida and California.

The end of the 19th century brought "the closing of the frontier" and the intensification of farming within its existing limits, a great advance in agricultural biology and technology, and a marked progress in farm education. All this was aided—more perhaps than is realised in Europe—by the introduction of the telephone and of free postal deliveries in country districts. Much credit goes to President Theodore Roosevelt and his Country Life Movement, owing not a little to the inspiration of Horace Plunkett.

Co-operative finance was made possible by the Federal Reserve Act and was influenced by the reports of two official Commissions which visited European co-operatives in the same year. From that period also dates the first interest in co-operative marketing of the United States Department of Agriculture and many of the most forward-looking American universities.

From that point on, there was no stopping the co-operative drive. The farmers' organisations — the Farmer's Union, the Equity, the Grange and the Farm Bureau—all took it up. Marketing flourished in all its forms, adapted to almost every product of the American soil. Farm supply was revived and greatly extended. Multi-purpose co-operatives and regional organisations made their appearance. The names of organisations, well known in later years, were now heard for the first time. Plans for a national co-operative organisation were in the air. As Dr Knapp says, "the basic character of American co-operative enterprise was formed. It had reached the end of its beginnings."

The book makes fascinating reading for anyone interested in Co-operation or in America. It is provided with 82 pages of scholarly notes and an excellent index. The next volume, covering the period of 1920 to 1970, will be something to look forward to, especially as the author proposes to base it on the "exploration of the future potential significance of American Co-operation".

Margaret Digby

Die gewerblichen Bürgschaftsgenossenschaften in den EWG-Ländern, Österreich und der Schweiz. (The Industrial Guarantee Co-operatives in the Common Market Countries, Austria and Switzerland.*)

By Jürgen Brinkmann, St. Gallen, 1969. Price £4.0.0d.

The progressing integration in Europe has led to an increasing interest in the economic, legal and social conditions of the neighbouring countries. There is growing recognition of the importance of comparative studies. This can be said in particular about Co-operation with its common roots and its comparable development in Europe. No wonder that numerous works were written during the last years which concentrate on this field and compare the co-operative laws and co-operative institutions of the various countries. About the guarantee co-operatives, however, no comparative investigations have yet been made. This is the task undertaken by the publication under review, dealing with the industrial guarantee co-operatives and supplying the relevant material in this special field of Co-operation.

In this investigation, the above-mentioned co-operatives are not examined country by country, but on the basis of the

* The term "Industrial" comprises small- and medium-sized businesses in the sphere of industry, trade, crafts and services.

decisive criteria it is shown how far they are alike and how far they differ. The author gives us therefore not a complete picture of these co-operatives in the various countries, but presents us rather with a factual examination and a coherent description of their legal and economic features.

In the first part, the author shows in detail the importance of the Guarantee Co-operatives for the supply of industrial credits. In the second part, he draws the attention to the similar characteristics in the historical development of the co-operatives and to the present distribution of the Guarantee Co-operatives in the industries of the various countries. In the third part, he deals with the various criteria used for the granting of guarantees and with the promotion of co-operation in its various forms and with its scope. In the fourth part, he compares the internal structure and thoroughly examines the organisational conditions, the relations to the Banks and the relationship between governmental support and self-help. In the

concluding fifth part, he examines the question whether the Guarantee Co-operatives in the various countries can still be regarded as co-operatives, in view of their present structure and appearance.

In the last section, the author develops some interesting ideas about Co-operation. His conclusion is that the principle of membership promotion is the only decisive principle for the determination of the co-operative character of an economic structure. Summarising, he states that, as a rule, the principle of membership promotion is adhered to by the Guarantee Co-operatives dealt with. Mr. Brinkmann bases this opinion on the facts that the guarantee institutes, on the one hand, are concerned directly or at least indirectly exclusively with members' business and, on the other hand, admit only those organisations and institutions as members which have a direct or indirect interest in membership promotion. Considering Mr. Brinkmann's treatise as a whole, it can be said in all fairness that it is an indispensable contribution to Co-operation.

B.Z.

CORRIGENDUM

In Vol 63, No 3, 1970, p101, left column, fourth line from the bottom, in the article "Seventy-Five Years of the ICA: A Commentary" by W. P. Watkins, the year 1897 should read "1867".

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Regional Director: Mr Arne Holmberg
Regional Director Designate: Mr Dan
Nyanjom
PO Box 946, Moshi, Tanzania

Affiliated Organisations

Algeria: Société Coopérative Musulmane Algérienne d'Habitation et d'Accession à la Petite Propriété, 6 et 8 rue du Cercle Militaire, Oran; also at - 21 rue Edgar Quinet, Algiers, and 9 rue Mathurin Régnier, 75 Paris 15.

Argentina: Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Consumo, Avda. Suárez 2034, Buenos Aires.

Intercoop, Editora Cooperativa Limitada, Rivadavia 4426 (1er piso), Buenos Aires.

Asociación Argentina de Cooperativas y Mutualidades de Seguros, Belgrano 530, 5 Piso, Buenos Aires.

Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Credito Ltda., Pueyrredon 468, 2 Piso, Buenos Aires (RC 24).

Australia: Co-operative Federation of Australia, 569 Wellington Street, Perth, Western Australia.

Austria: "Konsumverband" Zentralverband der österreichischen Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.

Membership (1967): 476,200; turnover: retail trade: Sch. 4,646 mill. (thereof consumers' societies: Sch. 3,895 mill.; department stores: Sch. 713 mill.; other retail trade: Sch. 38 mill.); wholesale society (G.Ö.C.): Sch. 1,821 mill.; own production: consumers' societies: Sch. 472 mill.; G.Ö.C. and subsidiaries: Sch. 415 mill.

Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft A.G., Seitzer-gasse 2-4, Vienna 1.

Zentralkasse der Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.

Österreichischer Verband gemeinnütziger Bau-, Wohnungs- und Siedlungsvereinigungen, Bösendorferstrasse 7/11, Vienna 1.

1967: Affiliated organisations: 313 (comprising 201 societies and 112 associations); membership: 130,286; dwellings administered: 288,157 (comprising 127,954 societies and 160,203 associations); balance at 1966: 33.8 milliard Sch. (divided as to societies Sch. 15.7, associations Sch. 18.1).

Österreichischer Raiffeisenverband, Seilergasse 16, Vienna 1.

Belgium: Société Générale Coopérative, 26-28 rue Haute, Brussels 1.

Affiliated consumers' societies: 21; membership: 300,000; turnover (1968): Frs. 4,180 mill.; shops: 1,409; Wholesale society turnover (1968): Frs. 1,272 mill.

Société Coopérative d'Assurances "La Prévoyance Sociale", P.S. Building, 151 rue Royale, Brussels 3.

Premiums (1966): Frs. 1,903 mill.; reserves: Frs. 6 milliards; insurance funds, life: Frs. 20 milliards.

Fédération Nationale des Coopératives Chrétiennes, 135 rue de la Loi, Brussels 4.

(1967): 1,250 shops; turnover: Frs. 1,430 mill.; Savings Bank: 2,050 branches; 500,000 members; deposits: Frs. 12 milliards; Insurance Society: 290,000 policy holders; premiums: Frs. 450 mill.; reserves: Frs. 1,300 mill.

L'Economie Populaire, 30 rue des Champs, Ciney (Namur).

Branches (1968): 460; membership: 92,000; turnover: F.B. 1,069,000,000; savings deposits: F.B. 592 mill.; capital and reserves: F.B. 184 mill.

L'Institut Provincial de Coopération Agricole, 42 rue des Augustins, Liège.

OPHACO (Office des Pharmacies Coopératives de Belgique), 602 Chaussée de Mons, Anderlecht-Brussels.

Union of 28 co-operative societies owning 360 pharmacies, 68 optical departments and counters, 7 drug stores, 14 wholesale depots. Turnover (1963): Frs. 1,250 mill. Surplus distributed to 400,000 members: Frs. 95 mill.

Brazil: Aliança Brasileira de Cooperativas (ABCOOP), Rua General Jardim 645, 3º Andar, São Paulo.

União Nacional das Associações de Cooperativas (UNASCO), Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 126-Conj. 608, Rio de Janeiro.

Bulgaria: Central Co-operative Union, Rue Rakovski 103, Sofia.

Canada: Co-operative Union of Canada, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.

A federation of English-language co-operative organisations, organised in 1909.

Conseil Canadien de la Coopération, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.

Ceylon: Co-operative Federation of Ceylon, Co-operative House, 455 Galle Road, Colombo 3.

Chile: Federación Chilena de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Credito, Ltda., Dieciocho 246, Clasificador 760, Santiago de Chile.

Cooperativa Sodimac Ltda., Casilla 3110, Santiago de Chile.

Colombia: Cooperativa Familiar de Medellín Ltda., *Calle 49, No. 52-49, Medellín.*

Cyprus: Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., *P.O. Box 1447, Nicosia.*

Cyprus Turkish Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. *P.O. Box 791, Nicosia.*

Vine Products Co-operative Marketing Union Ltd., *P.O. Box 314, Limassol.*

Czechoslovakia: Ustredni Rada Druzstev, *Tesnov 5, Prague 1.*

Denmark: De samvirkende danske Andels-selskaber (Andelsudvalget), *H. C. Andersens Boulevard 42, 1553 Copenhagen V.*

Representing 30 national organisations, comprising: consumers' societies, agricultural production, marketing and purchase societies, other production and marketing societies, insurance societies, banking societies. Membership: 750,000 individual members.

Det Kooperative Faellesforbund i Danmark, *Linnesgade 14, 1. sal, 1361 Copenhagen K.*

Affiliated societies (1963): 634; total sales: D.Kr. 1,582 mill.; employees: 12,500; comprising consumers', workers', artisans', productive and housing societies, etc.

Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger (FDB), *Roskildevej 65, Albertslund.*

Affiliated societies (1965): 1,852; members: 716,000; turnover: 2,583 mill. D.Kr.; wholesale turnover: 1,453 mill. D.Kr.; own production: 405 mill. D.Kr.

Dominica: Dominica Credit Union League, *14 Turkey Lane, Roseau.*

Eire: Irish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd., *The Plunkett House, 84 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.*

National Organising and Advisory Body for Agricultural Co-operatives. Affiliated societies: 333; membership: 127,000; turnover (1967): £152 mill.

Co-operative Development Society Ltd., *35 Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin.*

Finland: Suomen Osuuskappojen Keskus-kunta (S.O.K.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; whole-sale turnover: Fmk. 1,377 mill.; own production of SOK: Fmk. 270 mill.

Yleinen Osuuskappojen Liitto r.y. (Y.O.L.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; turnover of societies: Fmk. 2,543 mill.; total production of the affiliated societies: Fmk. 47 mill.

Kulutusuuskuntien Keskusliitto (K.K.), r.y., *P.O. Box 10740, Mikonkatu 17, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 81; members: 579,400; turnover: Fmk. 2,009.4 mill.; own production: Fmk. 302.6 mill.

Osuustukkukauppa (O.T.K.), *P.O. Box 10120, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 81; turnover: 1,189.1 mill.; own production: Fmk. 336.1 mill.

Pellervo-Seura, Central Organisation of Farmers' Co-operatives, *Simonkatu 6, Helsinki K.*

Affiliated organisations (1963): 10 central organisations; 1,102 societies.

France: Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommation, *F.N.C.C., 89 rue la Boétie, 75 Paris VIII.*

Affiliated societies (1964): 475; membership: 3,460,000; shops: 9,900; turnover: NF. 3,600 mill.

Société Générale des Coopératives de Con-sommation, *61 rue Boissière, 75 Paris XVI.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production du Bâtiment, des Travaux Publics et des Matériaux de Construc-tion, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Générale des Sociétés Coopé-ratives Ouvrières de Production, *88 rue de Cour-celles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Banque Coopérative des Sociétés Ouvrières de France, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Nationale de la Coopération, de la Mutualité et du Crédit Agricoles, *129 Bd. St. Germain, 75 Paris VI.*

Confédération Française de la Coopération Agricole, *18 rue des Pyramides, 75 Paris 1er.*

Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole, *91-93 Boulevard Pasteur, 75 Paris XV.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives d'Habitations à Loyer Modéré, *Foyer Coopératif, 17 rue Richelieu, 75 Paris 1er.*

Confédération des Coopératives de Construction et d'Habitation, "L'Habitation", *3 ave. du Coq, 75 Paris 9e.*

Confédération des Organismes de Crédit Mari-time Mutuel, *18 bis, Avenue Hoche, 75 Paris VIII.*

Federal Republic of Germany: Bund deut-scher Konsumgenossenschaften G.m.b.H., *Besen-binderhof 43, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Affiliated societies (December 1969): 115; membership (end of 1969): 2,235,000; turnover (1969): D.M. 4,827 milliards.

Grosseinkaufs-Gesellschaft deutscher Konsum-genossenschaften m.b.H., *Besenbinderhof 43-52, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Total turnover incl. subsidiaries (1969): D.M. 2,462 milli-ards.

Gesamtverband gemeinnütziger Wohnungsunter-nehmen, *Breslauer Platz 4, (22c) Cologne.*

Volksfürsorge Lebensversicherung Aktiengesell-schaft, *An der Alster, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Volksfürsorge Deutsche Sachversicherung Ak-tiengesellschaft, *Steinstrasse 27, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Deutscher Raiffeisenverband e.V., *Adenauerallee 127, 53 Bonn.*

Ghana: The Alliance of Ghana Co-operatives Ltd., *Post Office Box 2068, Accra.*

Greece: Pan-Hellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Co-operatives (S.E.S.), *56 El. Venizelou Street, Athens 142.*

Guyana: Guyana Co-operative Union Ltd., *Ministerial Buildings, High Street and Brickdam, Georgetown.*

Haiti (W.I.): Caisse Populaire Dominique Savio, 57 Rue Rigaud, Pétion-Ville.

Hungary: Federation of Hungarian Co-operative Societies, Szabadság 14, Budapest V.

National Federation of Producers' Co-operatives (OKISZ), Pesti Barnabás 6, Budapest V.

Iceland: Samband Isl. Samvinnufélaga, Reykjavík.

India: National Co-operative Union of India, 72 Jorbagh, New Delhi 3.

National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd., D-44, NDSE Part II, New Delhi 16.

Iran: Sepah Consumers' Co-operative Society, Avenue Sevvom Esfand, Rue Artèche, Tehran.

Credit and Housing Co-operative Society of Iran, 20-22 Shahabad Avenue, Tehran.

Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran, 357 Pahlavi Avenue, Teheran.

Israel: General Co-operative Association of Jewish Labour in Eretz-Israel "Hevrat Ovdim", Ltd., P.O.B. 303, Tel-Aviv.

Affiliated societies and companies (1963): 1,855 in all branches.

"Merkaz" Audit Union of the Co-operative Societies for Loans and Savings, 44 Rothschild Bd., P.O. Box 75, Tel-Aviv.

"Haikar" Audit Union of Agricultural Societies of the Farmers' Federation of Israel, 8 Kaplan Street, P.O.B. 209, Tel-Aviv.

Italy: Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Via Guattani 9, Rome.

Confederazione Cooperative Italiane, Borgo Santo Spirito 78, 00193 Rome.

Associazione Generale delle Cooperative Italiane, Via delle Quattro Fontane 16, 00184 Rome.

Jamaica (W.I.): Jamaica Co-operative Union Ltd., 14-16 Barry Street, Kingston.

Japan: Nippon Seikatsu Kyodokumiai Rengokai (Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union), 1-13, 4-chome, Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.

Zenkoku Nogyokyodokumiai Chuokai (Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives), 5, 1-chome Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

Zenkoku Gyogyo Kyodokumiai Rengokai (National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations), Sankaido Building no. 9-13, 1-chome, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo.

Jordan: Jordan Co-operative Organisation, P.O.B. 1343, Amman.

Kenya: Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives Ltd., P.O.B. 9768, Nairobi.

Korea: National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, 75, 1st Street, Chung-Jong-Ro, So-daemun-ku, Seoul.

Malaysia: Co-operative Union of Malaysia Ltd., Peti Surat 685, Kuala Lumpur.

Sarawak Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., Kuching, Sarawak.

Malta: Farmers' Central Co-operative Society Ltd., New Building, Middleman Street, Marsa.

Mauritius: Mauritius Co-operative Union, Co-operation House, Dumat Street, Port Louis.

Netherlands: Coöperatieve Vereniging U.A., Centrale der Nederlandse Verbruikerscoöperaties, "CO-OP Nederland", Postbus 6008, Vierhavenstraat 40, Rotterdam 7.

Association of Enterprises on a Co-operative Basis, Bloemgracht 29, Amsterdam.

New Guinea: Federation of Native Associations Ltd., P.O.B. 152, Port Moresby, Papua.

Nigeria: Co-operative Union of Eastern Nigeria Ltd., Co-operative Bank Buildings, Milverton Ave., Aba.

Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria Ltd., c/o Co-operative Buildings, New Court Rd., Ibadan.

Lagos Co-operative Union Ltd., Co-operative Office, 147 Broad Street, Lagos, W. Nigeria.

Mid-Western Nigeria Co-operative Federation Ltd., c/o Ministry of Co-operative and Rural Development, Co-operative Societies Division, P.O.B. Benin City.

Norway: Norges Kooperative Landsforening, Revierstredet 2, Oslo 1.

Affiliated societies (1968): 803; membership: 382,000; turnover of local societies Kr. 2,750 mill.; of N.K.L.: Kr. 918 mill.

Norske Boligbyggelags Landsforbund (NBBL), Trondheimsveien 84-86, Oslo 5.

Pakistan: East Pakistan Co-operative Union Ltd., 9/D-Motijheel Commercial Area, 8th floor, Dacca 2.

West Pakistan Co-operative Union, 5 Court Street, P.O.B. 905, Lahore 1.

Karachi Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., 14 Laxmi Building, Bunder Road, Karachi 2.

Karachi Central Co-operative Consumers' Union, Iqbal Market and Cold Storage, Soldier Bazar, Karachi.

Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies' Union, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.

Karachi Co-operative Union Ltd., *Co-operative House, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.*

Karachi Fishermen's Co-operative Purchase and Sales Society Ltd., *West Wharf Road, Karachi.*

Sind Baluchistan Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd., *Provincial Co-operative Bank Bldg., Serai Road, P.O. Box 4705, Karachi 2.*

Provincial Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd., *Iqbal Road, Patharghata, Post Box 27, Chittagong.*

Peru: Cooperativa de Seguros "INCA" Ltda. No. 181, *Camilo Carrillo 225, Of. 602, Lima.*

Philippines: Central Co-operative Exchange Inc., *P.O.B. 1968, Manila.*

Poland: Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives, *Kopernika 30, Warsaw.*
Central Union of Building and Housing Co-operatives, *Ul. Jasna 1, Warsaw.*

"Spolem" — Union of Consumer Co-operatives, *Grazyny 13, Warsaw.*

Central Union of Work Co-operatives, *Surawia 47, Warsaw.*

Roumania: Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor de Consum "Centrocoop", *Calea Victoriei 29, Bucharest.*

Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor Mestesugaresti, "Ucecom", *Calea Plevnei 46, Bucharest.*

Singapore: Singapore Co-operative Union Ltd., *Post Box 366; Office and Library: 3-JJK Clifford House, Singapore 1.*

Sweden: Kooperativa Förbundet, *S-104 65 Stockholm 15.*

Affiliated retail societies (1968): 252; membership: 1,469,000; total turnover of distributive societies: Kr. 6,605 mill.; total turnover of K.F.: Kr. 5,003 mill. (Kr. 3,663 mill. sales to affiliated societies); K.F.'s own production: Kr. 2,308 mill.; total capital (shares, reserves and surplus) of K.F. and affiliated retail societies: Kr. 1,200 mill.

Hyresgästernas Sparkasse- och Byggnadsföreningars Riksförbund (H.S.B.), *Fleminggatan 41, Fack, S-100 21 Stockholm 18.*

Affiliated Building Societies: 115; with individual members: 310,000; number of flats administered by local societies: 275,000; value of real estate: 12,500 mill. Kr.

Svenska Riksbyggen, *Hagagatan 2, P.O. Box 19015, S-104 32 Stockholm 19.*

Folksam Insurance Group, *Folksam Building, Stockholm 20.*

Sveriges Lantbruksförbund, *Klara Östra, Kyrkogata 12, Stockholm 1.*

Kooperativa Kvinnogillesförbundet, *S-104 65 Stockholm 15.*

Switzerland: Co-op Schweiz, *Thiersteinerallee 14, CH 4002 Basle.*

Affiliated societies (1964): 505; shops: 3,200; membership: 780,000; retail turnover of affiliated societies: Frs. 1,700 mill.; wholesale turnover: Frs. 1,100 mill.

Verband ostschweiz. landwirtschaftlicher Genossenschaften (V.O.L.G.), *Schaffhauserstrasse 6, Winterthur.*

Verband sozialer Baubetriebe, *c/o SBHV., Sihlpostfach, Zürich.*

Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, *Aeschenplatz 3, CH 4002 Basle.*

CO-OP Lebensversicherungs-Genossenschaft Basel, *Aeschenvorstadt 67, CH 4002 Basle.*

Tanzania: Co-operative Union of Tanganyika Ltd., *National Co-operative Building, P.O. Box 2567, Dar-es-Salaam.*

Tunisia: El Ittihad, *37, rue de Cologne, Tunis.*

Turkey: Türk Kooperatifcilik Kurumu (Turkish Co-operative Association), *Mithatpasa Caddesi 38, Yenisehir, Ankara.*

Uganda: Uganda Co-operative Alliance, *P.O.B. 2215, Kampala.*

U.S.S.R.: Central Union of Consumers' Co-operative Societies of the U.S.S.R. and RSFSR, "Centrosoyuz", *Tcherkassky per no. 15, Moscow.*
Consumers' societies (1967): 16,489; members: 55 mill.; shops: 356,700.

United Kingdom: Co-operative Union Ltd., *Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 0AS.*

Affiliated retail societies (1968): 539; membership: 12,794,228; share capital: £203,882,214; retail sales: £1,095,033,517.

Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., *P.O.B. 53, New Century House, Corporation Street, Manchester M60 4ES.*

Affiliated societies (1965): 746; sales: £487,859,688; Bank turnover: £9,764,603,821; reserve and insurance funds: £40,791,711; total assets: £300,463,985.

Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd., *Miller Street, Manchester 4.*

Assets (1964): £369 mill.

Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd. *Centenary House, 100 Morrison Street, Glasgow C.5.*

Affiliated societies (1967): 153; sales: £89,008,059; reserves and insurance funds: £9,474,291; total resources: £23,139,384.

Co-operative Permanent Building Society, *New Oxford House, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.*

U.S.A.: Co-operative League of the U.S.A., *59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Ill. (60605), and 1012 14th Street, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.*

Yugoslavia: Glavni Zadruzni Savez FNRJ. *Terazije 23/VI, Belgrade.*

Zambia: Eastern Province Co-operative Marketing Assoc. Ltd., *P.O.B. 108, Chipata.*

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Organization of the Co-operatives of America,
G.P.O. Box 4103, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936.

Nordisk Andelsforbund (Scandinavia), *3 Axel-
torv, Copenhagen V, Denmark.*

International Co-operative Bank Co. Ltd.,
*Dufourstrasse 54, P.O.B. 711, CH 4002 Basle,
Switzerland.*

International Co-operative Petroleum Associa-
tion, *11 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.
10036, U.S.A.*

Sociedad Interamericana de Desarrollo de
Financiamiento Cooperativo, *1012, 14th Street,
N.W., Room 1401, Washington D.C., U.S.A.*



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THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

was founded in London in 1895 as an association of national unions of co-operative societies, which seek to promote a non-profit system of production and trade, organised in the interests of the whole community and based upon voluntary and mutual self-help.

It comprises organisations in every continent, and its total affiliated membership through national organisations exceeds 255 million. The consumers' movement accounts for about half the membership, the other half consisting of agricultural, credit, workers' productive, artisanal and fishery societies.

Its purpose is to propagate co-operative principles and methods and to promote friendly and economic relations between co-operative organisations of all types, both nationally and internationally.

It promotes, through auxiliary trading, banking and insurance organisations, direct commercial and financial relations between co-operative enterprises in different countries so as to enable them to exert on the world market, as well as at home, an influence beneficial at once to consumers and primary producers.

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Its official organ is *The Review of International Co-operation*, published bi-monthly.

The study of International Co-operation takes place under the auspices of the 'Henry J. May Foundation', the Permanent Centre of International Co-operative Study.

The ideological work of the Alliance also finds expression in the annual celebration in July of International Co-operative Day.

Review of INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The official Organ of the International Co-operative Alliance

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The ICA Office for East and Central Africa

by Arne Holmberg



The ICA Office for East and Central Africa, with its headquarters in Moshi, Tanzania, was inaugurated on October 1st, 1968, but only preparatory work for its activities had been undertaken during the first three months; however, a meeting of the three apex organisations had already taken place in August 1968.

From the start of the Office, the author of this article had been seconded by

the Swedish Co-operative Centre (SCC) as Regional Director. He returned to Sweden on August 18th, 1970, and from August 1st, Mr Dan Nyanjom, formerly the Commissioner of Co-operatives in Kenya, succeeded him. Mr Rune Forsberg had been seconded as Administrative Secretary from the beginning of July and Mr Bengt Nordlof was also seconded by the SCC as Study Organiser. He is concentrating on

organising seminars, particularly those for co-operative education secretaries of marketing unions, and will accompany selected co-operative education secretaries to Sweden in August 1971 for another international seminar of the SCC. Mr Samuel Mshiu, who has worked at the Co-operative Education Centre in Moshi for three years, was employed in October 1969 as the ICA Office's Training Officer.

The Governing Body of the ICA Office is the Advisory Co-operative Council consisting, for the time being, of three representatives from each of the member organisations in the area covered by the Office, which are the Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives Ltd. (KNFC), the Co-operative Union of Tanganyika Ltd. (CUT) and the Uganda Co-operative Alliance (UCA).

The Council found it important to appoint, in addition to the Chairman and Secretary General of each apex organisation, one member from their committees. The motivation for this was that, until it would be possible to make the ICA and the ICA Office well known to the primary societies and unions within the region, it would be important to have a third person from each organisation, who, in addition to the chief officers, was well informed about international and East African co-operative questions and who could assist in informing the national co-operatives.

The Council usually meets at least twice a year: in October, to consider the plans and the budget for the coming year, and in February, to consider the annual report of the past year. It had been possible for the Co-operative Council to meet four times in 1969 and this gave the East African co-operators the opportunity to get to know each other, to discuss questions of mutual interest as well as ICA matters.

Co-operation with Commissioners

Already from the beginning, the ICA Office aimed at assuring close co-operation with the Co-operative Commissioners of

the three member countries and, later, with the Director and Registrar of Co-operatives in Zambia.

The Regional Director of the Office was invited to the Commissioners' Conference, held in Dar-es-Salaam from the 14th to 18th April, 1969, in which the policy and work of the Office had been discussed and the decision taken that the Regional Director should call together the Commissioners for consultation whenever necessary. He did so twice in June and once in December 1969. The main issues discussed at these conferences related to staff questions of the ICA Office and its five-year finance plan for 1970 to 1974.

On February 2nd, 1970, a Commissioners' meeting had been organised in Kampala, Uganda, in which the Director of Co-operatives of Zambia participated for the first time. This Conference was also honoured by the presence of the President of the ICA, Dr M. Bonow. It was decided that the Regional Director should have the right to invite Commissioners from neighbouring countries as observers to the meetings of the Commissioners of the three member countries and that he should attend them.

This collaboration with the national Co-operative Departments brings the ICA Office into very close contacts with the co-operative development in the region. Through Working Parties, it should be possible to sift the common co-operative problems, analyse them and make proposals to the apex organisations and the Commissioners.

Working Parties

So far, three Working Parties have been established: on co-operative education; accountancy, statistics and audit; and on credit and finance.

The *Working Party on Co-operative Education* has met several times, usually in connection with the Co-operative Council meetings, and one of its important tasks is the planning of ICA Seminars and

preparing the budget for education for the Council's approval. It also deals with the agenda of meetings and receives reports from seminars held. Another function of the Working Party is to organise the exchange of information and material between the apex organisations, co-operative colleges, etc., and to investigate whether it is possible to use similar patterns of organisation and methods in co-operative education.

A first paper on the subject of "Organisation of Co-operative Education" has been finalised after discussion not only in meetings of the Working Party but also in Seminars and Commissioners' meetings. It is not possible to go into the details of this paper here. The main proposal in it concerns the integrated approach to co-operative education. The task of a Co-operative College should be co-ordinated with that of the Co-operative Wings, working on a regional or provincial level, as well as with local co-operative educators. Separate plans should be worked out for staff, committee-men and member education. It is also suggested that a national co-operative education committee be established with an equal number of representatives from each apex organisation and the co-operative departments. This committee should, first of all, guide the work of the Co-operative College and the Co-operative Wings and produce a co-operative education plan for a certain number of years. The paper on "Organisation of Co-operative Education" has been submitted to the national apex organisations and the Co-operative Commissioners for consideration. A paper on "High level manpower training" should follow. The possibility of further education for senior staff, e.g., by way of study trips to co-operatives of neighbouring countries, should be looked into, as well as the question of staff training overseas.

The Working Party has also taken an interest in the possibility of producing study material for common use in East

Africa. This constitutes a considerable demand on the present limited resources of the ICA Office, but some work has already been undertaken with the intention of publishing a correspondence course in elementary book-keeping.

Both the Commissioners and the Working Party have initiated the production of films to be used in committee-men and member education and, thanks to the Nordic Co-operative Kenya project, work is under way to produce a 12 minute film in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda respectively, which is to be put into one film of 36 minutes.

The *Working Party on Accountancy, Statistics and Audit* has met twice and is concerned with a very important technical problem. In the three East African countries, it is the policy to convert primary societies and unions to multi-purpose co-operatives. It proved impossible to use the present book-keeping system in more integrated co-operatives without incurring considerably increased costs. Work on standardised accountancy in various types of co-operatives is being undertaken in the three countries and, so far, it is most advanced in Kenya. The Working Party is discussing how far this standardisation could be achieved in East Africa and to what extent it would be possible to use the same forms. The task envisaged for the Working Party was a considerable one, as not only statistics and audits would depend on the changes in the accountancy system but also the organisation of inspection and supervision and, not least important, the study material to be used, whether by correspondence or in the teaching at Co-operative Colleges.

The *Working Party on Credit and Finance* has so far met only once, but it has been able to survey existing agricultural credit schemes in some detail and to make recommendations regarding an exchange of staff for the purpose of studying these and that the ICA Office should organise seminars for co-operative staff and committee-

men involved in agricultural credit schemes. At its next meeting, the Working Party intended to divide into two sub-committees on the first day: one sub-committee would continue to survey rural savings, thrift and credit and the other concentrate on the urban side of the same problem. On the second day, the full committee would consider the work of the two sub-committees and prepare a first report for submission to the apex organisations and the Commissioners. The questions of urban savings, thrift and credit are of particular interest, as the Africa Co-operative Savings and Credit Association (ACOSCA) has been formed, with Nairobi as its headquarters. It is the intention of the ICA Office to co-operate with ACOSCA in every possible way.

Seminars

In April 1969, the ICA Office organised a seminar for 30 committee-men from the apex organisations in East Africa. This seminar was of considerable importance, as it was the first of its kind, and the participants appreciated this chance of getting to know not only each other but also their respective co-operative movements. The recommendations of the seminar were duly considered by the Council and resulted in several decisions. One concerned the language problem, since the participants in the seminar felt that, if English were only to be used in future seminars of this kind, almost all committee-men from Tanzania would be excluded, or if only Swahili were to be used, that would exclude most committee-men from Uganda. Even if interpretations from one language into the other were considered to be rather tedious, it was much more important for participants to come together and, therefore, a bilingual seminar should be arranged every year. Work was going on in this Office to prepare as much material as possible for a second East African Seminar at the Co-operative College in Nairobi in May 1970.

An institution such as the ICA Office must concern itself with a multi-

licity of activities. The Commissioners and the Working Party on Co-operative Education came to the conclusion that the teaching of co-operative teachers must be one of the most important tasks of the ICA Office. It was agreed that three seminars for teachers be organised, one in each country, but with participants in each of them from the three East African countries. Thus, seminars for co-operative teachers were held in Nairobi, Kampala and Moshi for a total of 91 teachers from Co-operative Colleges, the Co-operative Education Centre in Moshi and from the Co-operative Wings in all three countries. A number of expatriate study organisers from Co-operative Wings and some expatriate teachers from Colleges also participated in these seminars. In this connection, the seminar for co-operative training officers and co-operative teachers, held at the Co-operative Training School at Luanshya in Zambia, from the 19th to 29th January 1970, should also be mentioned. By arrangement with the SCC, altogether 24 teachers were selected from amongst the participants of these seminars for the 9th International Seminar of the SCC, organised in Sweden from the 30th March to 6th June of this year.

Even in 1968/69, the ICA Office had participated in a similar scheme organised in conjunction with the SCC. A Study Organiser from the SCC held fortnightly courses for managers of co-operative unions. Two courses had been arranged in Uganda, two in Kenya and two in Tanzania, and participants of these courses were also participants of the 8th International Seminar of the SCC.

The system of seminars in East Africa, followed by overseas seminars for co-operative teachers and managers of marketing unions, as described above, could be put into practice for different groups of senior staff. Therefore, the ICA Office should seek contact with various co-operative educational institutions overseas. In addition, the Working Party on Co-

operative Education was of the opinion that this system should result in educational programmes at national levels for different groups of senior staff and that the ICA Office should continue to hold annual regional seminars for groups of senior staff.

At the time of writing, the ICA Office was organising its first national seminar on "Some Problems of Marketing" at the Co-operative College in Moshi, Tanzania, and similar seminars would be organised later in Uganda and Kenya. The decision of the Working Party was that, when all three seminars had been held, the ICA Office should then prepare a report and suggest a programme of common interest for an East African seminar.

Research Officers

The Co-operative Commissioners and the Co-operative Council had agreed that, starting in October 1970, a one-year course be held at the ICA Office for four government officers coming from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia and should first of all be trained in research techniques. This would partly be done in conjunction with the Co-operative College at Moshi. These officers should also assist in organising seminars and serve as group leaders and secretaries to the seminars. A considerable problem for the ICA Office is to prepare the background work for the Working Parties, namely, looking into, and comparing, the systems used in the co-operative movements of the countries involved. It is expected that these research officers would greatly assist in this work and that their knowledge of how essential co-operative problems were tackled in the neighbouring countries would be of important use in the co-operative departments of their own countries when returning there after the year in Moshi.

Finance

The running expenses of the ICA Office are included in the Office Budget, of which 75 per cent are covered by the ICA itself

and 25 per cent by the Development Fund. The Education Budget is guaranteed by the SCC and, through it, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) pays 65 per cent of the costs of seminars and certain other educational programmes. Through the SCC, SIDA has also allocated funds to the ICA Office for women seminars. The first two of these seminars were held in Kenya, two others in Uganda and two more will take place in Tanzania.

Extension of the Office

The co-operatives of East Africa have many things in common, especially regarding their history and tradition. However, due to the gaining of independence of this region's countries in recent years, their respective movements show certain national characteristics which are natural, particularly as the development of the co-operatives is in most cases closely linked to the national development plans. The call for a rapid development of co-operatives in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda has resulted in an increased need to know how co-operative problems were solved in the neighbouring countries combined with the obvious desire to look into the methods which could be applied in East Africa.

This new approach had given the ICA Office more work than it could cope with during the first year and, consequently, a possible extension of the Office had been discussed. The ICA Office followed this up by contacting co-operatives and other institutions in several East and Central African countries, but, so far, the general opinion prevailed that an expansion of the Office and a larger membership of the Co-operative Council, as well as a regular education programme should not be rushed but develop gradually and naturally.

Contacts had been made with the Co-operative Movement of Zambia and, as a result, the ICA Office organised, in conjunction with the Ministry of Rural Development, a National Co-operative

Conference in Lusaka in January 1970. A number of important lectures were given at this Conference, which was opened with a one and a half hour statement by the President, Dr. Kaunda. The Conference adopted various important resolutions, amongst them one, establishing the National Co-operative Education Committee and another one, creating the National Co-operative Development Committee. It is believed that the latter will be the fore-runner of the co-operative apex organisation in Zambia. Observers from Zambia will participate in some of the ICA seminars as well as in the Co-operative Council meetings, and a seminar on savings, thrift and credit will be organised in Zambia at the beginning of 1971.

Information

Although it has not yet been possible to

publish a co-operative news bulletin for East and Central Africa, the Office has endeavoured to assist in information work in several ways. There have been some radio programmes and articles in newspapers and magazines about the ICA and its Office for East and Central Africa in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

For the International Co-operative Day in 1969, the Office had prepared a booklet in English and Swahili, as well as posters, and also produced a badge. This Day was celebrated widely in Uganda and, to a lesser degree, in Kenya and Tanzania. It had been decided that the International Co-operative Day should be celebrated on the first Saturday in August every year and that the ICA Office should again prepare a booklet for that occasion in 1970, which has already been carried out.

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The International Working Party of Co-operative Librarians and Documentation Officers

by C. Kamp

Start and Development

At the end of April 1954, ten co-operative librarians and documentation officers met at the International Co-operative Alliance in London to examine what could be done with regard to international collaboration of co-operative libraries and documentation services. The Executive Committee of the ICA had sent out invitations for the meeting, following an article by Mr. Walter Sjölin (the then librarian of Kooperativa Förbundet, Stockholm) in the Review of International Co-operation of December 1952, entitled "Self Help and Library Assistance". In this article, Mr. Sjölin pleaded for a co-ordination of co-operative libraries "as far as possible". It was noted that, since the end of the Second World War, "the need for information about sources of co-operative literature had increased greatly in all countries, but particularly in the so-called under-developed countries where co-operation was introduced at a later date, and in those countries which suffered severe damage as a result of the war. Many States were hard at work trying to create or develop co-operative

organisations, but were handicapped by a lack of knowledge as to where appropriate information could be obtained".

The ICA library made an inquiry amongst the co-operative libraries and documentation services in the autumn of 1953 as a preparation for the meeting. From this inquiry, it appeared that international collaboration was not a superfluous luxury.

Mr. Sjölin prepared a number of proposals in collaboration with Mr. Hans Handschin (at that time librarian of Co-op Switzerland, Basle) and Mr. C. Kamp (CO-OP Nederland, Rotterdam). During the meeting, it became apparent that the discussion of these points was most valuable but, owing to the small number of participants, no decision could be made. There was one exception, however, on the revision of the U.D.C. 334—Co-operation. This part of the Universal Decimal Classification was so illogical that a revision was an absolute necessity. A small committee, composed of Mr. Handschin and Mr. Kamp, was elected to draft a project of revision for U.D.C. 334.

This two-man committee also took the opportunity to circulate a questionnaire to co-operative libraries during the winter of 1954–1955 together with Mr Sjölin. The basis for this questionnaire was the proposals put to the participants at the meeting in London. The response to this questionnaire was most encouraging. Twenty-five co-operative libraries wanted to become members of a Working Party and collaborate in the realisation of the proposals. The Executive Committee of the ICA decided to convene a second meeting, which was held in Basle in April 1956. This second meeting became the constituent Conference of the International Working Party of Co-operative Librarians and Documentation Officers. Since that Conference, six other meetings had been held: in Rotterdam (1958), Cologne (1961), Oslo (1963), Stockholm (1965), Manchester (1967) and Vienna (1969).

Though the Working Party was originally meant for libraries and documentation services connected with co-operative organisations affiliated to the ICA, the Director of the ICA decided in 1957 that there should also be a possibility for the libraries of the co-operative scientific institutes to become members. At present, there are 55 members, amongst whom is a number of scientific libraries connected with co-operative institutes and colleges in France, England and Poland, and co-operative institutes of universities in the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Finland.

Mutual Aid between Members

Nearly all the libraries affiliated to the Working Party make lists of books, pamphlets, annual reports, year books, etc., and sometimes also of articles in periodicals obtained by the library. These accessions lists are meant for internal use and this is the reason why the various lists differ one from another. As the lists form a good source of information for other libraries, it was proposed in 1956

that they should be made on some basic lines to ensure uniformity. Thus, they would be better suited for international exchange and information. This proposal, accepted in 1956, had to be revised in 1967, because it was decided in 1965 to start an International Co-operative Bibliography in the library of the ICA on the basis of the accessions lists received by it. The rules for making accessions lists for international use had to be very rigid, otherwise it would be impossible to obtain the uniformity necessary for the Bibliography and, therefore, new rules were formulated for the accessions lists in 1967. In 1969, it was recommended that the accessions lists be published in such a form as to make it possible to cut the lists and to paste the information on 3 inch x 5 inch (7.5 x 12.5 cm) cards in the ICA library.

The idea of mutual exchange of co-operative publications, which was put forward at an early stage, has been most helpful in the acquisition of co-operative publications (books, pamphlets, annual reports, periodicals). Those published by the central co-operative organisations are sent to all the members of the Working Party.

Completing the mutual exchange, there is the possibility of reciprocal help in obtaining other publications. The meeting in 1958 decided that this "literature service" should be used only if the publications needed were unobtainable through normal bookselling channels.

The mutual exchange of publications has only one disadvantage: each member of the Working Party receives all the publications, whether needed or not. Therefore, a suggestion was accepted in 1969 to make an inquiry amongst the co-operative libraries to find out their interests and their fields of activities in connection with the character of the organisation they serve. The Working Committee is at present working on this project.

Another proposal recently adopted by the Working Party refers to the

creation of a clearing-house of co-operative publications; it is intended to establish a register of publications for disposal in order to facilitate passing them on to libraries that wish to obtain them.

Two other matters examined at great length have been the possibility of compiling and publishing a co-operative vocabulary and the establishment of an international co-operative reference centre at the ICA. It has been decided that the Working Party should refer both proposals to the ICA.

Libradoc

During the meeting in 1963, the question was raised on how to maintain contact between the members of the Working Party in the period between meetings and, moreover, how to help them if they had problems in the library and documentation field. In particular, the less advanced libraries often had, and even still have, problems which have been solved in other libraries with more experience.

The question was answered by publishing a periodical called "Libradoc". This mimeographed bi-monthly contains contributions from members of the Working Party, questions and answers, book reviews, etc. The contributions do not only give information about the libraries of members, but also about developments in the library and documentation field in general.

The contributions received from the members of the Working Party are published in the original language. In case this is not English, French or German, an English translation is published with the original text.

"Libradoc" was originally meant only for the members of the Working Party, but after it had been circulated for some time, it was decided to send it to all co-operative organisations building up a library. Even outside the Co-operative Movement, there is now an interest in "Libradoc", though it is not a scientific library review.

The circulation of "Libradoc" to co-operative organisations in developing countries led to the question whether it would be possible also to publish a list of co-operative literature, and thus a bibliography of co-operative literature has formed an annex to "Libradoc" since 1965. This bibliography does not only contain information on books and pamphlets, but also on articles in periodicals. This latter part is given in U.D.C. order, so that a certain systematisation is possible. It is especially this bibliography which has brought the circulation of "Libradoc" to about 150 copies.

Advice and Information to Co-operatives in Developing Countries

One of the tasks of the Working Party is "advising and instructing organisations on library problems and referring them to competent experts when necessary". In practice, this means assistance to co-operative organisations and institutes in developing countries in organising a library or a documentation department.

Initially, queries received were answered by letter. In 1958, it was decided to compose a Handbook for Co-operative Libraries and Documentation Services. Since the writing of such a Handbook would take some years, a "Short Guide for Co-operative Libraries and Documentation Services"¹ was first published containing the main parts of the Handbook.

The Handbook² itself was published in 1964-1965 in German, English and French. The writing and translating was a good example of practical co-operation. It was written by Dr. W. Kellerhals (Co-op Switzerland) and Mr. C. Kamp

¹Short Guide for Co-operative Libraries and Documentation Services by C. Kamp—London—International Co-operative Alliance. 1962. Free of charge.

²Handbook for Co-operative Libraries and Documentation Services by Dr. W. Kellerhals and C. Kamp—London—International Co-operative Alliance, 1964/1965. Price 15 shillings.

(CO-OP Nederland); the translations in English and French by Mr. C. Kamp were read by Miss E. M. Kerr (at that time librarian of the ICA) and Mrs. J. Emmerchts (Société Générale Coopérative, Brussels) and Miss F. Baulier (Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommation, Paris).

There are three parts in the Handbook: the first dealing with the activities of the Working Party; the second containing the technical part; the third, introducing the Universal Decimal Classification (U.D.C.) and in particular U.D.C. 334—Co-operation.³

The Handbook has served its purpose very well, and the few special questions now received can be answered in "Libradoc" or directly by letter.

A special feature of the assistance offered to co-operative organisations in developing countries has been advice on the spot. This followed a request made by the then Director of the ICA, Mr. W. P. Watkins, during the meeting in 1961, which referred to contacts between the Working Party and the Regional Office for South-East Asia in New Dehli. The result of this contact was an advisory tour to co-operative organisations and colleges in West and East Pakistan, Ceylon and India by the writer of this article in January and February 1966. A visit was also made to the Co-operative College in Moshi (Tanzania) in October 1967, at the request of the ICA.

One outcome of the visit to South-East Asia has been the publication of a quarterly Documentation Bulletin for Co-operative Organisations in the South-East Asian Area.⁴ During the visit,

³This Classification of U.D.C. 334 accepted officially in 1961 by the Fédération Internationale de Documentation, was the amended project prepared by Hans Handschin and C. Kamp.

⁴Documentation Bulletin for Co-operative Organisations in the South-East Asia Area. Editor: C. Kamp, CO-OP Nederland, P.O. Box 6008, ROTTERDAM 7, The Netherlands.

it was noted that the Heads of the libraries and documentation services had difficulties in reading languages other than their own and English. It was, therefore, decided that a quarterly bulletin should be compiled, containing abstracts of articles in periodicals on the problems of all types of co-operatives in various countries and on economic and social problems, mostly in developing countries. It is now issued regularly and the abstracts are published in a logical order.

An inquiry made amongst the recipients of the bulletin has shown that the bulletin is of value, not only to the libraries themselves but also to the co-operative press in South-East Asia.

Since the beginning of 1969, a similar bulletin has been circulated to co-operative organisations in Central and East Africa at the request of the Director of the ICA Office for this area.

Conclusion

When one examines the activities of the Working Party and of the Working Committee of Co-operative Librarians and Documentation Officers, it can be said that the suggestions put forward by Mr. Sjölin in his article "Self Help and Library Assistance" have led to practical results. Of course, there have been some disappointments, but, in general, the activities have shown their value, not only for the libraries and documentation services but also for the co-operative organisations to which they belong. It is sincerely hoped therefore that still more co-operative organisations and institutions will use the possibility of instruction in the library and documentation field; that still more librarians and documentation officers will actually take part in the activities of the Working Party and will continue and enlarge the work of the pioneers, so that their efforts will not have been in vain.

Survey of the Co-operative Development in four African Countries

by Hebe Spaul

1. Ghana's Co-operatives Stimulated by New Constitution

The eve of the first General Election in Ghana, under its new democratic Constitution, was a significant moment to take a look at the Co-operative Movement there. This, in fact, was my privilege last year. Indeed, on the way to the office of the Alliance of Ghana Co-operatives, Mr. Atiemo, its Secretary, took me first to the Parliament building to watch the signing of the new Constitution by the Constituent Assembly.

It is only when one is in Ghana and talks to the leaders of the Movement that one realises how complete the material destruction of the co-operatives under the former dictatorship was. All assets—buildings, equipment, records, etc.—had been confiscated, and when the former co-operative leaders attempted to rebuild the Movement, it involved, in fact, a completely new start. At the time of the election last year, only a little over three years had elapsed since the overthrow of the dictatorship, the progress made since then was quite remarkable.

From the Registrar of the Co-operative Societies, Mr. E. F. Asiedu, I

obtained an over-all picture of the then existing position. There were, he told me, 1,786 registered societies and that figure excluded many that had ceased to function. The most important of the societies functioning at that time were the cocoa ones. Mr. Asiedu's staff consisted of seventy-five persons, of whom fifty-nine were inspectors—all qualified accountants. He did not, however, consider that number adequate for the necessary supervision of the societies, whose numbers and volume of work were steadily increasing. It was the old story of lack of education and training, when it came to recruiting senior staff. At the time of my visit, no Co-operative College existed, though there were definite plans—the Registrar informed me—to establish one. Temporary premises, previously occupied by the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, were to be taken over and adapted for that purpose. These premises were expected to be opened towards the end of 1971 and would house a hundred students. The College would be run by the Registrar's Department and the Alliance of Ghana Co-operatives as a joint enterprise. I was



told that the United Kingdom Ministry of Overseas Development had agreed to recruit a Principal for the College. It was intended to acquire later on a site for the erection of a new College. The Registrar admitted, however, that problems of finance would have to be overcome before this more ambitious scheme could be undertaken.

As all the Alliance's assets had been confiscated by the former régime, it had to rely, since its re-emergence, on a government grant for most of its finances. However, the affiliated organisations also make financial contributions to the Alliance and thus this source of income would gradually increase. The total staff of the Alliance numbers twenty-nine, of whom four are senior officers and amongst these is a woman executive, Miss Preedy.

Whilst the cocoa societies are the oldest and most important group within the Alliance, one of the more recent is the Ghana Co-operative Transport Association, set up in 1960 and now consisting of thirty-five primary societies, with eight regional Unions. They are mostly concerned with inter-urban transport, both of goods and passengers. Between them, the societies operate about two thousand vehicles of various types and the Unions have three maintenance workshops. One of the main tasks of the transport societies is to serve the cocoa societies in rural areas by carrying cocoa to the ports for shipment.

I learnt more about the cocoa societies from Mr. F. Mark-Addo, President of the Alliance of Ghana Co-operatives and Director of the Ghana Co-operative Marketing Association. This Association re-opened as a trading body in October 1966. There are 1,000 primary cocoa societies grouped in thirty-six district Unions, with a total membership of half a million. About one-sixth of the country's cocoa is now marketed by co-operatives. Mr. Mark-Addo is heading a labour force of 2,500 people operating in various parts of the country. Of these, 300 work in the

head office in Accra. The head office building, incidentally, was formerly used for political activities. The secretaries of the district Unions are educated men, some of whom had been abroad for training. As to other educational activities, the Association, the Director told me, depended on the Alliance. The Association does not itself engage in international trading and the co-operatives sell their produce to the State controlled Cocoa Marketing Board.

Asked about how he recruited his staff, Mr. Mark-Addo said that a selection was made mainly from amongst people with training in commercial schools who had taken courses in book-keeping. Some, however, had gained their book-keeping experience in business firms. A certain number was also recruited from primary societies. About 115 were employed as auditing staff and were working in various parts of the country. Although these people were employees of the Association, they came under the direction of the Registrar, whose statutory duty was auditing.

Later, I was able to visit one of the cocoa Unions. This was the Nswam-kibi Co-operative Union, with its headquarters twenty-two miles north-east of Accra. There I met the Secretary, Mr. Odusa-Akwa, and his two assistants as well as members of his committee. The Union embraces twenty-two primary societies covering a radius of about thirty miles. Each society has a full-time Secretary and, in the case of the bigger societies, one or two assistants, such as a watchman and a driver. Most of the transport, however, is undertaken by the Co-operative Transport Association. The tonnage handled by it was 4,000 tons annually. All Secretaries of the primary societies had attended a training course lasting three to six months. Practically all committee members of the primary societies had attended short courses of at least one day.

Another leader of the Co-operative Movement whom I met was Mr. K. B.

Ntim, who had been the Manager of the Co-operative Bank which was completely destroyed during the Nkrumah era and whose assets, amounting to £4 million, had been taken over by his régime. Mr. Ntim told me that Ghana's co-operators were looking forward to the re-establishment of the Bank, especially as a pre-election pledge was given by the Progress Party—the present Prime Minister's Party—that it would assist in its re-establishment. Asked where the finances for this purpose would come from, he replied that funds would come from a government guarantee as well as from the Movement itself. The general feeling in the Movement was that the £4 million taken over by Nkrumah should be restored.

I was informed that there had been an Insurance Society in existence which had also been taken over by Nkrumah. No steps, however, had so far been taken to resuscitate it, because it was felt that, until properly qualified staff were available, it would be unwise to attempt its re-establishment. There were two young men in the previous Insurance Society who had been trained in Britain, but they were now employed by the State Insurance Corporation. If they agreed to return to the Movement, steps would be taken to revive the Insurance Society.

Amongst the more unusual co-operatives are gin distilleries with 840 primary societies, grouped in nine regional Unions. The gin is made mainly from palm wine and sugar cane. The primary societies take their produce to their nearest co-operative distillery, but the main problem facing these societies is that of refining and marketing. At the time of my visit, efforts were being made to establish a co-operative refinery.

Other co-operatives of interest are those of the Co-operative Poultry Farmers' Association. I visited its headquarters and talked to its Secretary, Mr. J. F. Afpian. There are only about seven such societies,

but no district unions. These societies order and distribute poultry feeds and help in the organisation of egg and poultry shops. The Association has its own cold storage plants—a large one in Accra and another in Kumose. As regards marketing, the Association aims at securing contracts with schools and other institutions. Apart from several shops, the societies operate over two hundred kiosks. The total membership of the seven societies is 320. A few of the members operate on a big scale, one member having as many as 35,000 birds. Mr. Afpian anticipated an increase both in membership and trade, as the poultry trade was in general growing. Asked about transport, he said that most of it was carried out by the Co-operative Transport Association. The Poultry Association imports most of the feeding stuffs from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

The Consumer Movement has been slow in reviving and, at the time of my visit, there were only three societies which were in the Accra area. These societies had lost everything during the Nkrumah régime and were finding it difficult to pick up the threads.

There is a Fisheries Co-operative, whose members are engaged in maritime fishing. Recently, one of its members had been sent to Italy to buy one or more trawlers, and it was anticipated that this would result in a considerable expansion of the Co-operative's trade.

It is hardly necessary to state that, by reviving these numerous enterprises after a long period of inactivity, many difficulties had to be faced. Corrupt practices that had too often gone unchecked in politics and trade under the old régime did not disappear overnight. As an example of such problems, the Ghana Co-operative Marketing Association stated in its annual report last year that the marketing of cocoa in general had been plagued by three things: over-declaration, short weight and adulterated cocoa. The co-operative societies had been guilty of

offering short weight cocoa and this, very properly, had produced a sharp warning from the Cocoa Marketing Board.

These and other problems stress the necessity of co-operative education on a big scale. Unhappily, many of the tools for carrying out this work had been confiscated and it took time to recover or replace them. The Mobile Unit which the Alliance had formerly owned had been damaged beyond repair. It was hoped that a replacement would come as technical aid.

Another of these "victims" was the Co-operative Press which had its own printing press. Until this had been salvaged and made operative, the organ of the Alliance, "The Co-operative World", could not appear. The Press is once more functioning, and the first issue of the resuscitated "Co-operative World" appeared in March 1969. This monthly magazine appears in clear type and can hold its own by comparing it with similar small specialised publications. At the same time, the Co-operative Press expanded its functions and business comparable to those of general printers and printed also receipt books, calendars and other matters as a special service to the co-operative societies.

Pending the establishment of the Co-operative College, the main educational centre was at Bunso. This is a Government Agricultural School which was placed at the disposal of the Co-operative Movement for holding special courses there, accommodating as many as two hundred students—both men and women—at a time. The great majority of the trainees are, of course, men, but I was told that there were also a few women book-keepers. Another centre which the Alliance is able to use is the Tsito Adult Residential School which provides excellent accommodation and is close to the Lagon University.

The courses, organised by the Alliance of Ghana Co-operatives and lasting for three to six months, are for

those employees of the Movement who are entering service for the first time, usually to serve primary or district societies as assistant secretaries. The main subjects of the syllabus are, of course, book-keeping and accounts, and co-operative organisation and secretarial practice. The history of the Co-operative Movement, agricultural economics and an elementary study of management are other subjects being taught. At the conclusion of this course, the students who qualify are granted proficiency certificates by the Alliance.

Apart from these training courses, refresher courses, usually lasting a week or less, are held with the collaboration of the Registrar mainly for members of his staff. For committee members and others, one-day courses are arranged. At Easter and at certain week-ends, courses are being held together with the TUC and the Workers' Education Institute. This combining of interests with workers' organisations would appear to have distinct possibilities and may perhaps help to bridge the gap between urban and agricultural workers.

To carry out this educational programme, the Alliance has in its employ four residential tutors. Their work is supplemented by itinerary teachers from the Alliance and the Department of Co-operatives. The Alliance was able to report in August 1969 that it had run five two-month courses for proficiency certificates for about 880 men and women students.

A number of the senior staff has received, or is receiving, training in Co-operative Colleges abroad. Scholarships, granted on merit and previous study, have been awarded by Colleges in Loughborough, Antigonish, Japan and Denmark.

One of the more recent and more successful enterprises has been the revival of credit union and thrift societies which received special help from the Credit Union National Association of America and culminated in the formation of the Ghana National Credit Union and Thrift Association. The most rewarding achievement of this young body in 1969 was to act, in conjunction with the Alliance, as host to the first annual meeting of the Africa Co-operative Savings and Credit Association. I had the good fortune to attend the opening session, which was held at the Lagon University. Twenty-six countries were represented and their deliberations resulted in the planning of four regional programmes covering the African continent.

My all too brief visit to Ghana's co-operatives left me with the stimulating impression of a movement, determined by its own efforts, to rebuild on sound co-operative principles what had been so ruthlessly destroyed. The task is not an easy one and some mistakes and set-backs are inevitable, but Ghana's co-operators have already achieved much in a short space of time which augurs well for their future success.

2. Dahomey's Co-operatives' Progress with Swiss Help

It was in 1961 that Swiss co-operators decided to give special help to the French-speaking West African country of Dahomey. It was a few years later that sufficient money, Swiss personnel and equipment were assembled for the few

struggling co-operatives in Dahomey to face a new beginning under the guidance of Swiss co-operators, equipped with the necessary financial resources.

Help from Switzerland has come in two main streams. In the first place, the

financial aid came from individual co-operators in Switzerland, each family agreeing to give, over a period of five years, one per cent of their annual dividend to the Dahomey project. As half the families in Switzerland are co-operators, this guaranteed a formidable sum. The second and more recent aid has come from the Swiss Government which provided two and half million Swiss francs for establishing consumer co-operatives. A condition of this grant was that the executive body should be the Swiss Consumer Union. Part of this sum was a direct gift for setting up premises, providing equipment and the salaries of the Swiss personnel. The remainder took the form of a loan at a very low rate of interest.

How this aid is being developed for the benefit of the people of Dahomey, I was able to see for myself during my brief visit to Dahomey in the summer of 1969. It does not take long for the visitor to this relatively small West African country to discover that it is poor in natural resources in comparison with its giant neighbours, Nigeria and Congo. More than 90 per cent of the two and a half million population are peasants, nearly all using primitive methods of agriculture.

Co-operative methods were not entirely unknown in Dahomey before the arrival of the Swiss Mission, as I learnt when I met Mr Varaissov, Head of the Co-operative and Rural Development Department in Dahomey. There were, he told me, about forty agricultural co-operatives in various parts of the country, five small consumer co-operatives, two furniture co-operatives, three fisheries co-operatives and one credit society. The United Nations Special Fund undertook a project near Porto Novo to teach peasants improved methods of growing rice by use of flood water. An area of three thousand hectares was involved and about seven experts were engaged on the project. Amongst other things, they were teaching co-operative methods of farming.

In most cases, societies which had been created earlier, gave the impression that they were rather weak and therefore not really viable, mainly because of a lack in experienced personnel. Mr Varaissov told me that he had only one qualified book-keeper to supervise the accounts, but he was hoping to get two others in 1970. It is obvious that the need for the kind of assistance which the Swiss Movement was giving to Dahomey could hardly be greater. For instance, aid was provided to the consumer movement in two main towns, namely, Cotonou and Porto Novo, and I was taken to a big warehouse that was just being built to serve two new supermarkets, covering an area of one thousand square metres, being two storeys high and equipped with four cold storage rooms. Although it was not yet ready for use, a number of packaged goods—amongst them shop equipment—had already arrived there. In Porto Novo, which I visited later, work on the new supermarket was well advanced and it was anticipated that it would be ready for business within a few weeks. It would have all the up-to-date equipment of a modern supermarket, including refrigeration. Not far from the new supermarket, there is one of the older established consumer society's stores which seemed to be doing a brisk business, mainly in food, including meat and fish, but also in dry goods and textiles. It is not a self-service store, which the new supermarket will be. The society, known as the "Amicale", was formed in 1964 and its store had opened since then four small branch shops. Its membership had increased from 105 in 1964 to 386 in 1968 and its turnover from about 10 million francs to over 291 million francs during the same period.

Apart from the experts from the Swiss Co-operative Movement, there were also a number of young people from Switzerland in Dahomey serving as volunteers. Some of these were working together with the Swiss co-operators on a full or

part-time basis, others were engaged on co-operative development projects in rural areas. My first contact with these volunteers was during a visit to a furniture co-operative in Cotonou where they had arrived in 1966 to help this struggling small society. At that time, the Ministry of Public Works was responsible for its finances, and it was the volunteers' task to introduce new book-keeping methods with the objective of helping the society to gain financial autonomy. They found the society's premises entirely inadequate and in dire need of expansion. Thus, only three months after their arrival, they were supervising the construction of a new building, for which money was provided from various sources. At that time, the co-operative had only thirteen members, but when I visited it, their number had risen to eighteen, with fifteen apprentices. What is more important, however, is that the members had doubled their previous earnings and were able to put 12,000 French francs aside as working capital. This new prosperity had encouraged the members in their attempt to raise capital so that the co-operative could also undertake upholstery work.

When on a trip to the north of the country, I visited another furniture co-operative which was at Parakou and had been founded in 1967. It had seven members and two apprentices, and in addition to furniture, it also made window frames and boxes. Apart from private customers, the society supplied hospitals and schools. All the wood used comes from Dahomey, but metal had to be imported from Europe.

The main purpose of my visit to the north was to see the contribution which the Swiss Co-operative Movement was making to the development of the agricultural co-operatives there. The story is a fascinating one and, to understand it, one needs to know something of Dahomey's land law. The pilot schemes being carried out by the Swiss were on previously uncultivated bush land. Any prospective farmer could clear

and cultivate bush land without payment to the State provided that, if it adjoined land already being cultivated by another farmer, his consent had to be first obtained. This protected already established farmers who might wish to extend their cultivated area. About 228 hectares of bush land around N'Dali, the headquarters of the Swiss Mission, had been cleared and cultivated. Farm equipment, such as tractors, and a repair shop were maintained and seed and fertilisers stored there. Oxen also being used by the members of the co-operative had to be cared for. As to the crops favoured by the members, cotton was the most popular one, followed by groundnuts; but maize, sorghum and rice could also be found there.

My hosts were the Swiss Director and his wife, Mr and Mrs Morel, who told me that many difficulties had to be faced and overcome. One of the greatest problems was the language difficulty leading to misunderstandings through inadequacy of translations and interpretations. Although the medium of instruction in the schools was French, the majority of the peasants spoke only their own vernacular. Mr Morel emphasised that it was not easy to bring home to these people the fact that the whole object of the Mission was to show them how they could help themselves to a very much better and more prosperous way of life by adopting co-operative methods. Many of them thought that everything was coming to them as a gift and all they understood and wanted was to be on the receiving end. Others, however, were more ready to grasp the co-operative idea and they began to turn it into practice. The farmers involved in this co-operative enterprise had the use of a single tractor. For the first two years, they had not been required to pay anything towards its cost, but for the next three years, they were expected to pay 50 per cent of the cost, and the whole to be paid after a total of eight years' use. It was expected that this expenditure could be met by means of

the greatly improved crops grown on the same area of land. The tractor was used for ploughing and also to convey the cotton to the factory, the cost of such transport, however, being paid for by the factory. This payment, therefore, went to the credit side of the tractor. Not all the farm lands were worked by tractor. At the time of my visit, fifteen pairs of oxen had been used for ploughing as compared with only five the previous year.

One of the things on which emphasis was placed was the necessity for planting in regular lines, so as to facilitate weeding and harvesting. The care exercised by some of the co-operators in this respect as compared with others was very noticeable. As we walked through some of the cotton fields, Mr Morel sharply rebuked one member for allowing a mass of weeds to choke his cotton crop. The man was helping another member with his ploughing. A member who needed help was allowed by the rules to employ another member for such temporary help. This man, wanting ready cash, had neglected his own fields by hiring himself out in this way.

In spite of these and many other difficulties, real progress was reported. The cotton crop, thanks to the use of the tractor, realised a good return. The additional credit was used to pay for equipment and fertilisers.

Perhaps one of the most promising aspects of the work done by the Swiss Mission in this area was the way in which children were being taught co-operative methods of farming. In practically every African country that one visits one is being told of the problem of the drift from the villages to the town. A youth who can barely read and write thinks he would be able to find an office job, but inevitably joins the ranks of the urban unemployed. The problem was how to make agricultural work more attractive and rewarding to those leaving the village school. It would seem that the Swiss co-operators were

showing the way to a possible solution. They had not attempted to form true school co-operatives. The Mission was content when the children understood the value of the co-operative endeavour and would later be committed to the co-operative ideals as practised in the co-operative society. The method adopted was to enlist the help of the local schoolmaster, which was not always easy, as he might possibly be new to the job, because few village teachers remained in the same place for more than one or two terms. It was envisaged to encourage children, under supervision, to clear and plant the bush land. This was done in their free time, usually on an average of two hours a day. Sometimes, all the children were willing to take part in this work, with the little ones helping the older ones by carrying out the lighter jobs. The supervision of this work was entrusted to the Swiss volunteers who were working with the Mission. In the N'Dali area, there were four volunteers and in central Dahomey, where the Swiss were also giving aid, there were three. I had met the chief of the Swiss volunteers in Cotonou and he had given me an over-all picture of the work done by them, particularly in connection with that of the school co-operatives. Altogether, there were ten in the north and nine in central Dahomey. I was able to visit several of them in the north, but in one district, floods forced us to turn back before reaching the school. The school fields I had seen were more impressive compared to some of the fields cultivated by adults. The lines were straight and the fields reasonably well weeded. One of those at Bimbéréké, I was told, was one of the most satisfactory. The work was done mainly by children of nine and ten years of age. At another school co-operative, I met children between the ages of six and twelve, who had cleared the bush, built fences against sheep and goats and planted cotton, manioc, groundnuts and beans. When I inquired what the children did with the money obtained from the sale of their crop, I was told that their first idea—as in most

other schools—was to give a feast at the end of term to the whole village. The second most popular wish was to buy a football. As to the amount of money the individual school made, this varied considerably, but one which I had visited had made 330 French francs. Another enterprising school had spent its surplus in an unusual way. It was situated in a village where there was a nurse in charge of a first-aid post, and whilst her services were free, medicaments and bandages had to be paid for. This school decided therefore to set up a medicine chest and, if a pupil needed medical attention, he was sent to the first-aid post for treatment, taking with him bandages, ointments or anything else needed. Or, if need be, the nurse would come to the school.

Although these school projects had been in operation for only a short time, they had soon proved to the children and their teachers, who had participated in them, that money could be made out of agriculture and that it was no longer necessary to go to a town in order to seek work there. I put the question to one of

the Swiss leaders whether children, after leaving school, were less inclined to leave the village than it was the case before and, to my surprise, I was told that none of the school leavers, who had participated in the above described co-operative work as part of the curriculum of their school, had left the village for the town in search of work that was hard to come by. Probably in the past, most school leavers have only had the prospect of helping with the family farm with little chance of handling real money. Now they had discovered that, as members of a co-operative and using more up-to-date methods, they could grow the kind of crops that fetched a reasonable return on the market. Thanks to the work of the Swiss Mission, the co-operatives, which these young people could eventually join, were far more prosperous and viable than would otherwise have been the case. Thus, if the drain of the literate youth from the villages could be checked, these young societies would be enriched by a potential new leadership that knows, even before admission to membership, the value of co-operative effort.

3. ILO Aid for Ivory Coast and Niger Co-operatives

Two French-speaking countries in West Africa, the Ivory Coast and Niger, are receiving assistance from the International Labour Organisation in the development of co-operatives. In the summer of 1969, I was able to see something of what was being done in both countries as the result of this assistance.

Before visiting the ILO project in the Ivory Coast, I went to the Ministry of Agriculture in order to get a general information about the agricultural production and organisation in the country. It transpired that there was a more highly organ-

ised and Government controlled agricultural economy here than was to be found in most West African countries. At that time, the country held third place in the world for pine-apples, third place in Africa for timber and coffee, and fourth place for cocoa. Over 17,000 hectares were given over to the production of palm oil.

The Government has big plantations and gives assistance to farmers willing to grow trees. Most cocoa and coffee is produced by peasant farmers, but the marketing is done by companies with government control of exports. All pro-

duction of palm oil is done in government factories.

The Ministry operates ten Institutes for the training of agriculturalists. One of these, of a much higher level, is carrying out research work and there senior agronomists are being trained, while in most of the other Institutes studies of one or more crops are being made which form the subject of the courses for trainees interested in this particular field.

It was against this background that I visited the ILO co-operative development project. Its Centre, built at the cost of one million US dollars, is situated 25 kilometres from Abidjan and covers an area of three hectares. Close by is an agricultural school for animal husbandry and also a veterinary centre. The ILO Centre is, therefore, well placed and was only in its initial stages at the time of my visit. Its erection was started in January 1969 and sixteen buildings were planned. Personnel, consisting of seven experts, had arrived in May and preparations were then made for the opening of the Centre in October of last year. In addition to the ILO technical experts, there were fourteen specialists from the Ivory Coast. The ILO team was operating not only at the Centre but also in three different zones of the country.

The Head of the project was Mr Georges G. Welty who informed me of the planned programme. The co-operative law, under which the young societies in the Ivory Coast operated, was passed only in 1966. Mr Welty told me that, before the country's independence, there was only one banana co-operative society in existence, which was run by and for Europeans. Under the 1966 law, all would-be group co-operators had to serve a one-year apprenticeship before they could apply for registration as a co-operative in order to ensure that they were able to function properly. If, as a result of an inspection, they failed to qualify for registration, they were given the chance of two more at-



tempts. If, however, they failed the third time, the group was disbanded.

At the Centre, two-week courses had been planned for fifty or sixty participants, who had been chosen from the very few functioning co-operatives. Some of those who had attended a preliminary course could be selected to join a second, more advanced course at a later time.

The ILO project is to continue at least until 1973. At the end of two years, i.e., early in May 1971, the experiment was to be evaluated to see if any modifications were needed.

I learnt more about the co-operative plans in the Ivory Coast from an expert of the FAO,¹⁰ Mr Kanaan, who was the Planning Officer of the United Nations Mission for Lake Kossou, which was

being formed by building a dam on the Bandama River. About 100,000 to 120,000 persons will be displaced, and new villages were being built to which these people were to be moved by March 1971. It was hoped that in these new villages co-operative enterprises would be developed which would link up with the new societies that were being nurtured by the ILO project. One type of co-operative which was envisaged was a pumping co-operative. The dam will take anything from three to eight years to construct.

In Niger, I found rather a different situation, where a considerable number of co-operative societies existed, though many were in difficulties and needed assistance. Niger is divided into seven Departments, and in five of them there were 66 co-operative societies. Each society served a number of villages and thus covered a wide area. The majority of these societies were marketing ones, but most villages had also mutual co-operative credit associations. In some cases, there was also a consumer society. Each Department has an officer with a staff of instructors to assist the societies in his area. As to the crops grown by these societies, in the Niamey region it is rice, in the Dorso Maradi and Zinder regions groundnuts, and in Tanoua cotton.

Mr Artzy, an ILO expert, arrived in Niger in 1965 and found there a somewhat unusual situation regarding the marketing co-operatives, as they were established on a temporary basis. Once a society had brought its crop to market, it was wound up and then re-formed in time to deal with the following year's harvest. This meant that the societies were little more than collecting groups. This situation made it necessary to provide a training programme for the leaders of such co-operative groups with a view to forming permanent co-operatives.

At the Centre I had visited, I learnt that there were two separate institutions, namely the Union Nigérienne de Crédit et

Coopération and the Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole. Originally, both were embodied in the Union Nigérienne de Crédit et de Coopération (UNCC), but, although they were still under the same Administrative Council and the same Director, the Caisse Nationale was now registered as a Bank and was financially much more active than before. The National Centre was responsible for the promotion of co-operatives and the education of officers and members.

As to the structure of the UNCC, it was controlled by a Board of Directors and there were six Divisions dealing with reclamation, commerce, production, rural handicrafts, agricultural machinery, and the promotion of co-operatives. The last named division was headed by Mr Artzy. When I visited the Centre, a course for co-operative personnel had just been concluded. Mr Artzy stressed the need for training and was planning visual aids in the form of diagrams illustrating in the simplest form the way in which co-operatives should function. He commented that a very high proportion of the members of co-operatives were illiterate, which presented a great difficulty in ensuring the satisfactory functioning of societies, particularly in the field of accountancy.

Courses, usually lasting two days, had been held throughout the country. At the end of 1968, it was reported that about six thousand farmers had received some instruction in such two-day courses. In the region of Zinder, no fewer than 1,873 delegates from 391 villages and representing seven co-operatives took part in these courses.

Two-day courses in five centres were held for secretaries and chairmen of mutual credit societies. Instruction was also given to members of consumer societies in management and the functioning of their shops.

It was stressed that the co-operatives of Niger now covered a large sector

of the agricultural economy. This would be seen from the fact that sixteen markets bought the whole of the paddy trade (52 million CFA frs) in 1969 and fifteen markets bought a third of the groundnut trade. The co-operatives in 1969 distributed in the rural areas 1,337 million frs (CFA) which represented 46.4 per cent of the total revenue distributed by the principal traders. This was made possible by the agricultural credit provided by the *Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole*. The *Groupements Mutualistes Villageois* made it possible for the peasants to acquire the means of production, such as seeds, feeding stuffs, agricultural equipment, sold by the Union for Credit and Co-operation of Niger (UNCC) under flexible and less burdensome conditions.

By the end of 1968, Niger had fifty rice co-operatives and a similar number of cotton and groundnut societies. These were spread over five of the seven Departments of the country and supplied 30 per cent of the total marketing of all these products. One of the schemes introduced by the ILO team in 1969 was a fishermen's co-operative, the purpose of which was to collect and distribute fish products.

A co-operative, or a section thereof, was made up of five to ten *Groupements Mutualistes Villageois* which decided to sell their agricultural produce jointly. Each GMV chooses three representatives who are charged with representing the village at conferences and elections and to pass on information and communications given to them.

At the annual meeting of a co-operative, a weighing machine operator, a secretary, members of the committee and workers are elected and their respective salaries are being fixed. The weighing machine operators are, by tradition, the

most important persons of the market, as they are doing the buying and paying. Nevertheless, their prestige tends to be supplanted by that of the head of the market. The secretaries are charged with registering the groundnuts as they were brought in and, in the case of their being sufficiently literate, they also have to calculate the dividend. The committee of the co-operative, usually consisting of three members, is charged with controlling and supervising the various operations and those responsible for these.

At a meeting of committee members (fifteen to twenty for a co-operative market), the chief of the market is elected and the trustee chosen. All those responsible for the market, once they are elected, must attend a technical course where they receive instructions about the elementary skills necessary for them to carry out their functions. These courses are basically concerned with the marketing of agricultural products.

The *Groupements Mutualistes Villageois* can, on request, receive credits necessary to buy the means for production. Each GMV chooses a president and a treasurer. Applications for loans are approved by the GMV which holds the guarantees of reimbursement and transmits them to the UNCC.

Perhaps the most promising outlook for the young co-operatives of Niger is the very comprehensive elementary training given to all those holding any kind of office within the movement. As in many other developing countries, the task of those responsible for the training is often hampered by the problem of illiteracy. The ingenious teaching methods and visual aids introduced by Mr Artzy are aimed at minimising this handicap as far as possible.



In the year of the centenary celebrations of the birth of Vladimir Lenin, the ICA publishes an account of that Russian Statesman's influence on the development of co-operation in the USSR. The Alliance is pleased having the President of the Board of Centrosoyus and a Vice-President of the ICA as the author of this commemorative article.

Edit.

Lenin and Co-operation

by Alexander Klimov

Vladimir Lenin, continuing the revolutionary teachings of Marx and Engels, was the founder of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the leader of the greatest socialist revolution and founder of the first socialist state in the world. He had worked out a detailed Co-operative Plan, which formed a component part of the theory of proletarian revolutions and of socialist transformations of society.

In many of his theoretical works, articles, speeches, letters, documents and legislative acts, Lenin analysed profoundly many problems of the Co-operative Movement under capitalist and socialist conditions and became the first practitioner and leader of the co-operative socialist development. An analysis of the most important social and economic aspects of the Co-operative Movement was made by Vladimir Lenin in his works "The Final Word in the Tactics of Iskra" (1905), "The Question of Co-operative Societies at the International Socialist Congress in Copenhagen" (1910), "The Immediate Tasks of the Soviet Government" (1918), "On the Food Tax" (1921), "On Co-operation" (1923), as well as in his speeches at the 9th Congress of the R.C.P.(B.)* in 1920, at the meeting of Representatives of the Moscow

Central Workers' Co-operative, at the 3rd Congress of the Workers' Co-operatives (1918) and many others.

Such words as "kolkhoz" and Lenin's "Co-operative Plan", which are closely interconnected, are known throughout the world. "Kolkhozes" are productive agricultural co-operatives which make up the basis of modern, major public agriculture in the Soviet Union; and Lenin's "Co-operative Plan" is a scientifically based programme of establishing co-operative farms, of ridding the working peasantry of continuous poverty, hunger and ignorance with the help of co-operatives. The aim of the Co-operative Plan was the transformation by way of collectivisation of the basic means of minor, individual, economically unstable production to major, public, highly productive economies by co-operating small producers.

The Co-operative Plan formed an integral part of Lenin's teaching of ways of building up socialism and solving the agrarian-peasant problem. Its basic principles and methods of application were the result of his teaching of the role of the peasantry in the historic process as an ally of the working class in the liberation struggle.

*Russian Communist Party (of Bolsheviks).

Lenin proved scientifically that the peasant economies could take the road of prosperity, increasing the production forces and socialisation, that is, serving the interests of the whole society only after the workers had gained power and had taken over the key positions in the economy, and when collectivisation of the basic means of production, such as plants, factories, transport, banks, land and its resources, etc. had been achieved. He came to the conclusion—the correctness of which was proved by historical facts—that the victory of the socialist revolution and the building up of socialism were impossible without the alliance of the workers and peasants. He considered that the working class united with the peasantry was the main social force capable of liquidating the supremacy of capital and able to carry out radical social and economic transformations during the transition period from capitalism to socialism.

In solving the problem of gaining power, the proletariat helped to maintain the working peasantry as a social class which, under capitalist conditions, was degraded, ruined and evicted from agricultural production. When power was obtained, the working class realised the building up of socialism in alliance with the peasantry. That was why it transformed the property of its class enemies—capitalist big business, bankers and large landowners—to socialist property, by means of expropriation and socialisation, while the property of its class allies—the peasantry, handicraftsmen and other small producers—was transformed to public property in another way.

Marx, Engels and Lenin considered this way to be by means of co-operation. Marx and Engels stipulated a general, principal thesis on the *necessity* of organising major agricultural production in a proletarian state *under the control of society*. They put forward as a *scientific forecast* the idea of enlarging the

productive forces in agriculture by introducing agricultural co-operation.

Lenin was the first man in history to work out, on the basis of a detailed analysis of extensive material on agrarian relations in Russia, Europe and America, a concrete plan of socialisation of small production, discovering the basic characteristics of this process, its forms, methods and principles. He justly deserves credit for the discovery and scientific analysis of one of the objective laws of building up socialism, appropriate for the development of all countries which had taken the road of socialist construction, which was co-operation in production of small producers, with the aim of increasing the productivity and changing their economies, adopting as the basis for their economy a social one.

Lenin and the party led by him proclaimed that the socialisation of the means of production, which was obligatory for the radical social and economic transformations during the transition period from capitalism to socialism, must be carried out in the country-side not by means of expropriating small, individual producers, but by means of their co-operation.

Lenin considered that, as after the victory of the proletarian revolution one of the two main classes making up the new society, was the individual peasant, who based his economy on private property and on small production, the only possible and acceptable way out was the development of commodity and monetary relations, trade turnover between town and country-side, which corresponded to the psychology of small producers, by means of strengthening their alliance with the working class and attracting them to socialist construction.

Lenin taught that the small producer, as long as he remained one, must have personal interest, feel direct advantages and must have materially encouraging incentives and privileges corresponding to his economic basis, i.e., small

private property. And the organisational form of trade turnover, which was best understood by, attainable and advantageous for, the peasant was consumer and supply-sale co-operation. Using this form, the peasantry gradually got used to co-operation, i.e., socialisation of agricultural production itself. Simultaneously, with the help of co-operation, the working class and the urban population could give the peasantry material and cultural wealth to accelerate this process, which was the result of socialising the means of production and to influence actively the socialist transformation of agriculture. The development of agriculture by means of raising productivity was of interest to the whole society.

Therefore, an important feature of Lenin's "Co-operative Plan" was the organic combination of the personal interests of the members of the co-operatives and the interests of the society as a whole. Co-operation, on the one hand, as a form of collective property and method of management, had its own internal impulses of development as a result of the material incentives of the activities of the members, and, on the other hand, was a reliable method of carrying out the policy of regulating social and economic processes in the country-side, corresponding to the interests of the whole society. As an organisationally unified, centralised apparatus, Co-operation made it possible for the society to exert a guiding influence on the development of minor agricultural production, to expand its ties with socialist industry, direct it to ways of enlargement and mechanisation and to help the improvement of social relations in the country-side and their transformation to socialist ones.

Lenin believed that the process of building up socialism in the rural areas was simultaneous with the development of, and mutual influence on, two basic organisational forms of management in agri-

cultural production based on public property: co-operative "kolkhozes" and State "sovkhozes" serving as examples of the most progressive, scientifically based, highly productive economies and giving assistance to the co-operatives.

Lenin thought that the transition to a socialist economy could be guaranteed only when the peasant could be convinced, on the basis of his own personal experience, of the advantages of that economy. That was why he formulated the most important principles of realising the Co-operative Plan: complete *voluntary* membership, use of the force of the example, as well as the resulting co-operation—development of co-operatives from simple to more complicated forms—thus giving the peasants an opportunity to gain skills in collective management, at first in the most simple forms of co-operatives, carrying out their activities in the sphere of commodity circulation (consumer, sale-supply, credit), and then in primary production (collective tilling of the land, joint use of machinery, etc.), with the aim of gradually preparing them to unite into production co-operatives of the highest type, in which the basic means of production (including the land) and labour of their members was socialised.

Lenin deemed that the principle of voluntary actions must, as a result, be accompanied by the principle of material incentive of the co-operative members under the condition of combining private, individual interests of the peasants with the interests of the whole society.

An important part of Lenin's theory of co-operation and the Co-operative Plan was the scientific conclusion that the victory of the co-operative system in agriculture was possible only under the condition of financial, organisational, political and ideological assistance on the part of the socialist state. Lenin's view was that socialism in the country-side, having less productive forces than the industrial

towns, could not be built on the efforts of only the peasantry; it must be developed on the basis of socialisation of all the means of production on a national scale through a continuous growth of the productive forces of agriculture.

It was Lenin's belief that co-operation of the peasantry was not a spontaneous, unconstrained process and not like a simple evolution or the penetration of non-socialised, small production into socialism, but a conscious process of liquidating the system of exploitation in the country-side and the conditions giving rise to the establishment of capitalist elements in small commodity production.

He considered that the gradual and voluntary socialisation of the means of production of small agricultural producers and the transition of the peasant economies from the lowest to the highest forms of co-operation, that is, the development of socialist production relations in agriculture required a whole string of necessary conditions, such as the constant promotion of the social consciousness and cultural level of the peasantry, the realisation of organisational measures directed at the creation of a modern material and technical basis for agriculture, the training of qualified specialists, as well as the financing of all these operations.

Lenin believed that, although the simplest unification of the ordinary means of production and the combined management of the economies on socialised land were proof of the growth of socialism and gave paramount economic effect and direct benefits to the peasantry, the conditions for the maximum utilisation of the advantages of public management could not be ensured by the co-operative sector alone without active external assistance. In particular, the establishment of a modern technical basis for reconstruction and development of large-scale agricultural production was unthinkable without the simultaneous development of industry.

That was why Lenin said that the working class, headed by its vanguard—the party and the proletarian state—must ensure the active guiding force of the process of transforming social relations in the rural areas, as well as the creation of the necessary conditions for the most successful and rapid growth of agricultural production by means of co-operation. The primary conditions were: industrialisation of the country as a prerequisite of the development of agriculture on the basis of modern engineering and raising the material well-being of the peasantry; the realisation of a cultural revolution, i.e., the inducement of the peasant masses to knowledge, cultural wealth, mastering modern machines, fundamentals of agronomy and other sciences; and, finally, constant financial and organisational assistance of the State in the development of all forms of co-operation in the villages.

The Communist Party and the Soviet State were guided by these principles of Lenin's "Co-operative Plan", in the transformation of social relations in agriculture at all stages of socialist construction.

On the basis of this Co-operative Plan, 25 million small, backward peasant economies were transformed to 36,200 modern, large-scale agricultural production co-operatives, uniting 33 million members. The consumer co-operatives were also developed on the basis of this Plan and account now for 30 per cent of the trade turnover in the USSR and are the major purveyors of agricultural produce and raw materials, carrying out diversified production activities. They have 58.6 million members of urban and rural inhabitants. During the process of agricultural co-operation, consumer co-operatives, besides acting as credit, sale-supply and producers' co-operatives, provided the primary training for collective management of the peasants, preparing them to understand and accept the supreme form of

production co-operation. The consumer societies carrying out trade in the country-side supplied the peasant population with consumer goods as well as cultural items, such as books and a great variety of cultural, educational and social mass activities, resulting in the successful culmination of the cultural revolution in the country-side and the creation of a surplus for the country's industrialisation. The co-operatives in the USSR had become one of the component parts of the system of socialist democracy and, as organisations based on self-management, they helped to improve this system.

Lenin's "Co-operative Plan", as is well known, proved to be the striking test of life itself and is of all-round historical importance: it has been or is being introduced in the majority of the socialist countries and its ideas and principles are the guiding light for the progressive forces in the developing countries in realising democratic social and economic transformations directed at the establishment and development of an independent national economy and, first and foremost, an agrarian reform; state and political leaders and scientists of the capitalist countries are paying close attention to the theory and practice of Lenin's "Co-operative Plan".

Lenin deserves credit for working out the scientific basis for the changes of the social and economic nature and the role of co-operation in the social process after the gaining of power by the people and the socialisation of the basic means of production.

He came to the conclusion that the socio-economic nature of co-operatives, their place and role in the economic and social life of society, the degree of their usefulness to the workers creating them and, finally, the prospects and possibilities of development were determined first and foremost by the concrete social and economic system, the existing production

relations, amongst the most important of which were the relations to property.

The logical, main conclusions which, in the opinion of the writer, could be drawn were: that Co-operation in its essence was of a capitalist nature under a capitalist system and, under conditions of socialism, a socialist enterprise; that the conditions and possibilities of its development and, consequently, its usefulness to the workers, united by the co-operative, and to the whole of society under conditions of private capitalist property, were limited; and that only after the victory of the socialist revolution and the socialisation of the means of production, Co-operation could show its true worth to society.

In his theoretical works, Lenin unmasked the duality and contradictions of Co-operation, in its economic essence, under capitalism and showed convincingly that this democratic organisation, created by the workers in the struggle against capitalist exploitation, under the pressure of concrete social and economic conditions and under the influence of objective economic laws of capitalism, under conditions of anarchy and competition, could not be anything else but a collective capitalist enterprise.

The domination of capitalist monopolies and their overwhelming power, especially during the period of state monopolistic capitalism, inevitably subjected and placed the co-operative property, particularly consumer co-operatives, under their dependence. The overwhelming mass of goods marketed by the co-operatives was produced by private capitalist enterprises in towns or villages, and the profits from this marketing were nothing but a part of the surplus value, including the form of rent created as a result of the exploitation of hired labour in the sphere of production and yielding to the capitalist producer by the co-operatives as the trade intermediary.

That is why Lenin, coming out in support of the co-operative movement and

stressing its usefulness to the workers, simultaneously warned of the danger of over-stressing the role of co-operatives as a means of solving the social problem in the struggle for liquidating capitalist exploitation. He considered that co-operation could not be the basic and independent means of solving the social problem and achieving social justice, namely, "transformation" of capitalism to socialism. Lenin always stressed that co-operatives could only be an auxiliary, supplementary weapon in the political class struggle of the workers and that the efficiency increased only when co-operatives combined their fate with that of other organisations of the workers and the exploited and, above all, with their parties and trade unions. If co-operatives lost their social aims, they would discontinue to be of use in the liberation struggle of the workers.

Lenin came to the conclusion that co-operatives would become a tremendous force of transformation serving the inter-

ests of the whole society and the working masses only after the achievement of profound social and economic changes, the main ones being the establishment of peoples' governments and the socialisation of the means of production. He saw the reason for changing the role and importance of co-operation in social development after the socialist revolution in the transformation of the social and economic nature itself of the co-operatives: under those conditions, the predominant public property of the instruments and means of production became the source of development of co-operative property. The purpose of these two types of property coincided: their common aim was to best serve the interests of all members of society.

These conclusions form precisely the basis of Lenin's scientific theory of Co-operation and of his ingenious "Plan of Co-operation", having proved their vitality and won world historical importance.

Book Reviews

Co-ownership, Co-operation and Control

Edited by Paul Derrick and John Francis Phipps. Longmans. Price 50s.

Co-operators should not assume from the title of this book that it is about co-operative societies; it is about community experiments and about a wider application of co-operative principles in a more or less co-operative way. The John Lewis Partnership, for example, applies the co-operative principle of a limited return on capital and elects a Central Council by the equal vote of members, but the Chief Executive nominates his successor. In the Scott Bader Commonwealth, also in Britain, the election of the Board is a little more complicated than in co-operative productive societies, and the enterprise is required by its constitution to give to charitable causes as much as it distributes to worker shareholders. Being a company limited by guarantee without a share capital, it has no individual shareholders.

The book is a collection of essays by different people discussing these and other experiments in industrial partnership, including workers' management in Yugoslavia, Kibbutzim in Israel and collective farms in the Soviet Union; and it should be of interest to advocates of more participation, industrial democracy and workers' control, since it deals with the way in which some notable experiments in this field have worked out. In the opening essay, Mr Derrick suggests that industrial democracy and social ownership could be extended by fundamental changes in company law, involving a wider application of the co-operative principles of a limited return on capital and democratic control. He argues that the return as well as the liability of the shareholder should

be limited by law in companies as well as in co-operative societies. The book would have been more useful if it had had a bit more to say about co-operatives.

H.M.G.

Consumers and the Economy

By F. Knox, B.Sc.(Econ). Harrap. Price 25s.

This is a book that should be of interest to many co-operators and to other people interested in consumer questions. It is a discussion of measures other than monetary, fiscal and incomes policies, which could be used to help stabilise prices and argues that fuller and more accurate consumer information, as through informative labelling and comparative testing, could be more important than measures designed to bring monopolies under control and also more important than referring prices thought to be excessive to a Prices and Incomes Board, as in Britain.

It discusses price controls as a way of stabilising prices and also possible alternative measures, such as the introduction of low cost alternatives to conventional products, and the channelling of scientific and industrial research into fields where it is most likely to offset price increases. It is concerned with conditions in Britain and suggests a large increase in research spending by, or on behalf of, the building industry and more effective consumer representation in the nationalised industries—as by a single consumer representative body for all the fuel industries. It also proposes legal and economic measures designed to increase the life span of consumer durable goods, the reduction of housing and transport costs by closer control over employment location by local

and national authorities, a further reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers to international trade and an extension of the management consultancy functions of the Prices and Incomes Board.

The author of this important and valuable book also argues that direct controls over prices are more important than controls over incomes as a means of

stabilising prices. The control of inflation and the stabilisation of prices are, of course, very urgent problems in many countries, and co-operators and, indeed, all consumers should be grateful to Mr Knox for putting forward new ideas about the measures most likely to be effective in achieving greater price stability.

P.D.

The International Co-operative Alliance 1895-1970

by **W. P. Watkins**

This volume of ICA history commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the International Co-operative Alliance tracing its evolution from its first manifestation as a phrase on the lips of a few 19th century co-operators to its present status as the largest consultative organisation recognised by the United Nations, with over 240 million adherents.

The first chapter shows how the idea of the ICA arose out of the growth of co-operative association at local roots through national organisation to international level, to be finally realised when the basis of its constitution was laid at the London Congress of 1895.

The second chapter traces the development of the ICA's democratic constitution, its efforts to recruit members, hold them together and devise effective administrative organs and working methods in its first fifteen years.

The third chapter relates the struggles of the Alliance to maintain its existence and keep on its proper course amid the successive wars, political revolutions and economic depressions and upheavals which shook the world between 1914 and 1945.

The fourth chapter outlines the growth of the ICA, its expanding activities in the newly-developing regions, the development of its auxiliary, technical, economic and financial organisations from the start of a new era of international collaboration, inaugurated by the Charter of the United Nations in 1945, to the opening of the United Nations Second Development Decade.

English Edition, 1970. Price: 50 shillings

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Affiliated Organisations

Algeria: Société Coopérative Musulmane Algérienne d'Habitation et d'Accession à la Petite Propriété, 6 et 8 rue du Cercle Militaire, Oran; also at - 21 rue Edgar Quinet, Algiers, and 9 rue Mathurin Régnier, 75 Paris 15.

Argentina: Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Consumo, Avda. Suárez 2034, Buenos Aires.

Intercoop, Editora Cooperativa Limitada, Rivadavia 4426 (1er piso), Buenos Aires.

Asociación Argentina de Cooperativas y Mutualidades de Seguros, Belgrano 530, 5 Piso, Buenos Aires.

Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Crédito Ltda., Pueyrredon 468, 2 Piso, Buenos Aires (RC 24).

Australia: Co-operative Federation of Australia, 569 Wellington Street, Perth, Western Australia.

Austria: "Konsumverband" Zentralverband der österreichischen Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.

Membership (1967): 476,200; turnover: retail trade: Sch. 4,646 mill. (thereof consumers' societies: Sch. 3,895 mill.; department stores: Sch. 713 mill.; other retail trade: Sch. 38 mill.); wholesale society (G.Ö.C.): Sch. 1,821 mill.; own production: consumers' societies: Sch. 472 mill.; G.Ö.C. and subsidiaries: Sch. 415 mill.

Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft A.G., Seitzergasse 2-4, Vienna 1.

Zentralkasse der Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.

Österreichischer Verband gemeinnütziger Bau-, Wohnungs- und Siedlungsvereinigungen, Bösendorferstrasse 7/11, Vienna 1.

1967: Affiliated organisations: 313 (comprising 201 societies and 112 associations); membership: 130,286; dwellings administered: 288,157 (comprising 127,954 societies and 160,203 associations); balance at 1966: 33.8 milliard Sch. (divided as to societies Sch. 15.7, associations Sch. 18.1).

Österreichischer Raiffeisenverband, Seilergasse 16, Vienna 1.

Belgium: Société Générale Coopérative, 26-28 rue Haute, Brussels 1.

Affiliated consumers' societies: 21; membership: 300,000; turnover (1968): Frs. 4,180 mill.; shops: 1,409; Wholesale society turnover (1968): Frs. 1,272 mill.

Société Coopérative d'Assurances "La Prévoyance Sociale", P.S. Building, 151 rue Royale, Brussels 3.

Premiums (1966): Frs. 1,903 mill.; reserves: Frs. 6 milliards; insurance funds, life: Frs. 20 milliards.

Fédération Nationale des Coopératives Chrétiennes, 135 rue de la Loi, Brussels 4.

(1967): 1,250 shops; turnover: Frs. 1,430 mill.; Savings Bank: 2,050 branches; 500,000 members; deposits: Frs. 12 milliards; Insurance Society: 290,000 policy holders; premiums: Frs. 450 mill.; reserves: Frs. 1,300 mill.

L'Economie Populaire, 30 rue des Champs, Ciney (Namur).

Branches (1968): 460; membership: 92,000; turnover: F.B. 1,069,000,000; savings deposits: F.B. 592 mill.; capital and reserves: F.B. 184 mill.

L'Institut Provincial de Coopération Agricole, 42 rue des Augustins, Liège.

OPHACO (Office des Pharmacies Coopératives de Belgique), 602 Chaussée de Mons, Anderlecht-Brussels.

Union of 28 co-operative societies owning 360 pharmacies, 68 optical departments and counters, 7 drug stores, 14 wholesale depots. Turnover (1963): Frs. 1,250 mill. Surplus distributed to 400,000 members: Frs. 95 mill.

Brazil: Aliança Brasileira de Cooperativas (ABCOOP), Rua General Jardim 645, 3º Andar, São Paulo.

Bulgaria: Central Co-operative Union, Rue Rakovski 103, Sofia.

Central Union of Productive Co-operatives, Boulevard Dondoukov 41, Sofia.

Cameroon (West): West Cameroon Co-operative Association Ltd., P.O. Box 135, Kumba, Meme Division, West Cameroon.

Canada: Co-operative Union of Canada, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.

A federation of English-language co-operative organisations, organised in 1909.

Conseil Canadien de la Coopération, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.

Ceylon: Co-operative Federation of Ceylon, P.O. Box 1669, Co-operative House, 455 Galle Road, Colombo 3.

Chile: Federación Chilena de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Credito, Ltda., *Dieciocho 246, Clasificador 760, Santiago de Chile.*

Cooperativa Sodimac Ltda., *Casilla 3110, Santiago de Chile.*

Cooperativa de Empleados Particulares Ltda., *Teatinos 601, Casilla 424, Santiago de Chile.*

Instituto de Financiamiento Cooperativo, IFICOOP, Ltda., *Agustinas 853, Oficina 547, Casilla 1118, Santiago de Chile.*

Colombia: Cooperativa Familiar de Medellin Ltda., *Calle 49, No. 52-49, Medellin.*

Cyprus: Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., *P.O. Box 1447, Nicosia.*

Cyprus Turkish Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., *P.O. Box 791, Nicosia.*

Vine Products Co-operative Marketing Union Ltd., *P.O. Box 314, Limassol.*

Czechoslovakia: Ustredni Rada Druzstev, *Tesnov 5, Prague 1.*

Denmark: De samvirkende danske Andelselskaber (Andelsudvalget), *H. C. Andersens Boulevard 42, 1553 Copenhagen V.*

Representing 30 national organisations, comprising: consumers' societies, agricultural production, marketing and purchase societies, other production and marketing societies, insurance societies, banking societies. Membership: 750,000 individual members.

Det Kooperative Faellesforbund i Danmark, *Kronprinsensgade 13, 1114 Copenhagen K.*

Affiliated societies (1963): 634; total sales: D.Kr. 1,582 mill.; employees: 12,500; comprising consumers', workers', artisans', productive and housing societies, etc.

Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger (FDB), *Roskildevej 65, Albertslund.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 1,742; members: 839,000; turnover: 4,032 mill. D.Kr.; wholesale turnover: 2,198 mill. D.Kr.; own production: 741 mill. D.Kr.

Dominica: Dominica Credit Union League, *14 Turkey Lane, Roseau.*

Eire: Irish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd., *The Plunkett House, 84 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.*

National Organising and Advisory Body for Agricultural Co-operatives. Affiliated societies: 333; membership: 127,000; turnover (1967): £152 mill.

Co-operative Development Society Ltd., *35 Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin.*

Finland: Suomen Osuuskappojen Keskuskunta (S.O.K.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; wholesale turnover: Fmk. 1,377 mill.; own production of SOK: Fmk. 270 mill.

Yleinen Osuuskappojen Liitto r.y. (Y.O.L.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; turnover of societies: Fmk. 2,543 mill.; total production of the affiliated societies: Fmk. 47 mill.

Kulutusosuuskuntien Keskusliitto (K.K.), r.y., *P.O. Box 10740, Mikonkatu 17, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 81; members: 579,400; turnover: Fmk. 2,009.4 mill.; own production: Fmk. 302.6 mill.

Keskusosuusliike O.T.K., *P.O. Box 10120, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 81; turnover: 1,189.1 mill.; own production: Fmk. 336.1 mill.

Pellervo-Seura, Central Organisation of Farmers' Co-operatives, *Simonkatu 6, Helsinki K.*

Affiliated organisations (1963): 10 central organisations; 1,102 societies.

France: Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommation, F.N.C.C., *89 rue la Boétie, 75 Paris VIII.*

Affiliated societies (1964): 475; membership: 3,460,000; shops: 9,900; turnover: NF. 3,600 mill.

Société Générale des Coopératives de Consommation, *61 rue Boissière, 75 Paris XVI.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production du Bâtiment, des Travaux Publics et des Matériaux de Construction, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Générale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Banque Coopérative des Sociétés Ouvrières de France, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Nationale de la Coopération, de la Mutualité et du Crédit Agricoles, *129 Bd. St. Germain, 75 Paris VI.*

Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole, *91-93 Boulevard Pasteur, 75 Paris XV.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives d'Habitations à Loyer Modéré (H.L.M.), *17 rue Richelieu, 75 Paris 1er.*

Confédération des Coopératives de Construction et d'Habitation, "L'Habitation", *3 ave. du Coq, 75 Paris 9e.*

Confédération des Organismes de Crédit Maritime Mutuel, *18 bis, Avenue Hoche, 75 Paris VIII.*

Gambia (The): Gambia Co-operative Central Banking and Marketing Union Ltd., *P.O. Box 505, Bathurst.*

Federal Republic of Germany: Bund deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften G.m.b.H., *Besenbinderhof 52, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Affiliated societies (December 1969): 115; membership (end of 1969): 2,235,000; turnover (1969): D.M. 4,827 milliards.

Grosseinkaufs-Gesellschaft deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften m.b.H., *Besenbinderhof 52, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Total turnover incl. subsidiaries (1969): D.M. 2,462 milliards.

Gesamtverband gemeinnütziger Wohnungsunternehmen, *Breslauer Platz 4, (22c) Cologne.*

Volksfürsorge Lebensversicherung Aktiengesellschaft, *An der Alster, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Volksfürsorge Deutsche Sachversicherung Aktiengesellschaft, *Steinstrasse, 27, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Deutscher Raiffeisenverband e.V., *Adenauerallee 127, 53 Bonn.*

Ghana: The Alliance of Ghana Co-operatives Ltd., *Post Office Box 2068, Accra.*

Greece: Pan-Hellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Co-operatives (S.E.S.), *56 El. Venizelou Street, Athens 142.*—Membership suspended.

Guyana: Guyana Co-operative Union Ltd., *Ministerial Buildings, High Street and Brickdam, Georgetown.*

Haiti (W.I.): Caisse Populaire Dominique Savio, *57 Rue Rigaud, Pétion-Ville.*

Hungary: Federation of Hungarian Co-operative Societies, *Szabadság 14, Budapest V.*

National Federation of Producers' Co-operatives (OKISZ), *Pesti Barnabás 6, Budapest V.*

Iceland: Samband Isl. Samvinnufélaga, *Reykjavík.*

India: National Co-operative Union of India, *72 Jorbagh, New Delhi 3.*

Iran: Sepah Consumers' Co-operative Society, *Avenue Sevvom Esfand, Rue Artèche, Tehran.*
Credit and Housing Co-operative Society of Iran, *20-22 Shahabad Avenue, Tehran.*

Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran, *357 Pahlavi Avenue, Tehran.*

Israel: General Co-operative Association of Jewish Labour in Eretz-Israel "Hevrat Ovdim", Ltd., *P.O.B. 303, Tel-Aviv.*

Affiliated societies and companies (1963): 1,855 in all branches.

"Merkaz" Audit Union of the Co-operative Societies for Loans and Savings, *44 Rothschild Bd., P.O. Box 75, Tel-Aviv.*

"Haikar" Audit Union of Agricultural Societies of the Farmers' Federation of Israel, *8 Kaplan Street, P.O.B. 209, Tel-Aviv.*

"Bahan" Audit Union of Agricultural Co-operative Societies in Israel, *47 Nahmani Street, P.O.B. 622, Tel Aviv.*

Italy: Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, *Via Guattani 9, Rome.*

Confederazione Cooperative Italiane, *Borgo Santo Spirito 78, 00193 Rome.*

Associazione Generale delle Cooperative Italiane, *Via delle Quattro Fontane 16, 00184 Rome.*

Jamaica (W.I.): Jamaica Co-operative Union Ltd., *14-16 Barry Street, Kingston.*

Japan: Nippon Seikatsu Kyodokumiai Rengokai (Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union), *1-13, 4-chome, Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.*

Zenkoku Nogokyodokumiai Chuokai (Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives), *5, 1-chome Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.*

Zenkoku Gyogyo Kyodokumiai Rengokai (National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations), *Sankaido Building no. 9-13, 1-chome, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo.*

Jordan: Jordan Co-operative Organisation, *P.O.B. 1343, Amman.*

Kenya: Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives Ltd., *P.O.B. 9768, Nairobi.*

Korea: National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, *75, 1st Street, Chung-Jong-Ro, Sodaemun-ku, Seoul.*

Malaysia: Co-operative Union of Malaysia Ltd., *Peti Surat 685, Kuala Lumpur.*

Sarawak Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., *Kuching, Sarawak.*

Malta: Farmers' Central Co-operative Society Ltd., *New Building, Middleman Street, Marsa.*

Mauritius: Mauritius Co-operative Union, *Co-operation House, Dumat Street, Port Louis.*

Netherlands: Coöperatieve Vereniging U.A., Centrale der Nederlandse Verbruikcoöperaties, "CO-OP Nederland", *Postbus 6008, Vierhavensstraat 40, Rotterdam 7.*

Association of Enterprises on a Co-operative Basis, *Bloemgracht 29, Amsterdam.*

Nigeria: Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria, Ltd., *c/o Co-operative Buildings, New Court Road., Ibadan.*

Lagos Co-operative Union Ltd., Co-operative Office, *147 Broad Street, Lagos, W. Nigeria.*

Mid-Western Nigeria Co-operative Federation Ltd., *c/o Ministry of Co-operative and Rural Development, Co-operative Societies Division, P.O.B. Benin City.*

Norway: Norges Kooperative Landsforening, *Revierstredet 2, Oslo 1.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 783; membership: 392,000; turnover of local societies: Kr. 3,030 mill.; of N.K.L.: Kr. 1,044 mill.

Trondeholmsveien Landsforbund (NBBL), *Trondheimsveien 84-86, Oslo 5.*

Pakistan: East Pakistan Co-operative Union Ltd., *9/D-Motijheel Commercial Area, 8th floor, Dacca 2.*

West Pakistan Co-operative Union, *5 Court Street, P.O.B. 905, Lahore 1.*

Karachi Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., *14 Laxmi Building, Bunder Road, Karachi 2.*

Karachi Central Co-operative Consumers' Union, *Iqbal Market and Cold Storage, Soldier Bazar, Karachi.*

Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies' Union, *Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.*

Karachi Co-operative Union Ltd., *Co-operative House, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.*

Karachi Fishermen's Co-operative Purchase and Sales Society Ltd., *West Wharf Road, Karachi.*

Sind Baluchistan Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd., *Provincial Co-operative Bank Bldg., Serai Road, P.O. Box 4705, Karachi 2.*

Provincial Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd., *Iqbal Road, Patharghata, Post Box 27, Chittagong.*

Peru: Cooperativa de Seguros "INCA" Ltda. No. 181, *Camilo Carrillo 225, Of. 602, Lima.*

Cooperativa de Seguros del Peru, *Maximo Abril 542, Lima.*

Philippines: Central Co-operative Exchange Inc., *P.O.B. 1968, Manila.*

Poland: Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives, *Kopernika 30, Warsaw.*
Central Union of Building and Housing Co-operatives, *Ul. Jasna 1, Warsaw.*

"Spolem" — Union of Consumer Co-operatives, *Grazyny 13, Warsaw.*

Central Union of Work Co-operatives, *Surawia 47, Warsaw.*

Roumania: Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor de Consum "Centrocoop", *Calea Victoriei 29, Bucharest.*

1969/70: Associated 1,728 Consumers' Co-operatives in 39 District Unions; membership: 7 mill.; 28,000 retail shops; of which 8,100 public catering units; 7 processing and marketing enterprises; 18 production enterprises; 17 building enterprises; 20,400 servicing units; 18 educational centres.

Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor Mestesugaresti, "Ucecom", *Calea Plevnei 46, Bucharest.*

Singapore: Singapore Co-operative Union Ltd., *Post Box 366; Office and Library: 3-JJK Clifford House, Singapore 1.*

Sweden: Kooperativa Förbundet, *S-104 65 Stockholm 15.*

Affiliated retail societies (1969): 246; membership: 1,534,000; total turnover of consumer societies: Kr. 7,237 mill.; turnover of K.F.: Kr. 5,686 mill. (thereof Kr. 4,156 mill. to affiliated consumer societies); K.F.'s own production: Kr. 2,654 mill.; total capital (shares, reserves and surplus) of K.F.: Kr. 1,132 mill. and of affiliated retail societies: Kr. 1,290 mill.

Hyresgästernas Sparkasse- och Byggnadsförningars Riksförbund (H.S.B.), *Fleminggatan 41, Fack, S-100 21 Stockholm 18.*

Affiliated Building Societies: 100; with individual members: 340,000; number of flats administered by local societies: 300,000; value of real estate: Kr. 15,000 mill.

Svenska Riksbbyggen, *Hagagatan 2, P.O. Box 19015, S-104 32 Stockholm 19.*

Folksam Insurance Group, *Folksam Building, Stockholm 20.*

Sveriges Lantbruksförbund, *Klara Östra, Kyrkogata 12, S-105 33 Stockholm 1.*

Kooperativa Gilllesförbundet, *S-104 65 Stockholm 15.*

Switzerland: Co-op Schweiz, *Thiersteinerallee 14, CH 4002 Basle.*

Affiliated societies (1964): 505; shops: 3,200; membership: 780,000; retail turnover of affiliated societies: Frs. 1,700 mill.; wholesale turnover: Frs. 1,100 mill.

Verband ostschweiz. landwirtschaftlicher Genossenschaften (V.O.L.G.), *Schaffhauserstrasse 6, Winterthur 8401.*

Verband sozialer Baubetriebe, *c/o SBHV, Sihlpostfach, Zürich.*

Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, *Aeschenplatz 3, CH 4002 Basle.*

CO-OP Lebensversicherungs-Genossenschaft Basel, *Aeschenvorstadt 67, CH 4002 Basle.*

Tanzania: Co-operative Union of Tanganyika Ltd., *National Co-operative Building, P.O. Box 2567, Dar-es-Salaam.*

Tunisia: El Ittihad, *37, rue de Cologne, Tunis.*

Turkey: Türk Kooperatifcilik Kurumu (Turkish Co-operative Association), *Mithatpasa Caddesi 38, Yenisehir, Ankara.*

Uganda: Uganda Co-operative Alliance, *P.O.B. 2215, Kampala.*

U.S.S.R.: Central Union of Consumers' Co-operative Societies of the U.S.S.R. and RSFSR, "Centrosoyuz", *Tcherkassky per no. 15, Moscow.*
Consumers' societies (1967): 16,489; members: 55 mill.; shops: 356,700.

United Kingdom: Co-operative Union Ltd., *Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 0AS.*

Affiliated retail societies (1969): 469; membership: 12,500,000; share capital: £181 mill.; retail sales: £1,132 mill.

Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., *P.O.B. 53, New Century House, Corporation Street, Manchester M60 4ES.*

Affiliated societies (1965): 746; sales: £487,859,688; Bank turnover: £9,764,603,821; reserve and insurance funds: £40,791,711; total assets: £300,463,985.

Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd., *Miller Street, Manchester 4.*

Assets (1964): £369 mill.

Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., *Centenary House, 100 Morrison Street, Glasgow C.5.*

Affiliated societies (1967): 153; sales: £89,008,059; reserves and insurance funds: £9,474,291; total resources: £23,139,384.

U.S.A.: Co-operative League of the U.S.A., *59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Ill. (60605), and 1012 14th Street, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.*

Yugoslavia: Glavni Zadruzni Savez FNRJ, *Terazije 23/VI, Belgrade.*

Zambia: Eastern Province Co-operative Marketing Assoc. Ltd., *P.O.B. 108, Chipata.*

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Organization of the Co-operatives of America, *G.P.O. Box 4103, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936.*

Nordisk Andelsförbund (Scandinavia), *3 Axel-torv, Copenhagen V, Denmark.*

International Co-operative Bank Co. Ltd., *Dufourstrasse 54, P.O.B. 711, CH 4002 Basle, Switzerland.*

International Co-operative Petroleum Association, *11 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036, U.S.A.*

Sociedad Interamericana de Desarrollo de Financiamiento Cooperativo, *1012, 14th Street, N.W., Room 1401, Washington D.C., U.S.A.*

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THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

was founded in London in 1895 as an association of national unions of co-operative societies, which seek to promote a non-profit system of production and trade, organised in the interests of the whole community and based upon voluntary and mutual self-help.

It comprises organisations in every continent, and its total affiliated membership through national organisations exceeds 255 million. The consumers' movement accounts for about half the membership, the other half consisting of agricultural, credit, workers' productive, artisanal and fishery societies.

Its purpose is to propagate co-operative principles and methods and to promote friendly and economic relations between co-operative organisations of all types, both nationally and internationally.

It promotes, through auxiliary trading, banking and insurance organisations, direct commercial and financial relations between co-operative enterprises in different countries so as to enable them to exert on the world market, as well as at home, an influence beneficial at once to consumers and primary producers.

It convenes international congresses, furthers the teaching and study of co-operation, issues publications and research data, and collaborates closely with the United Nations, as well as with voluntary and non-governmental international bodies which pursue aims of importance to co-operation.

In the United Nations, its Economic and Social Council, as well as in some of the Specialised Agencies, it enjoys the right of participation in their meetings and work as an International Organisation with Consultative Status, Category I.

Its official organ is *The Review of International Co-operation*, published bi-monthly.

The study of International Co-operation takes place under the auspices of the 'Henry J. May Foundation', the Permanent Centre of International Co-operative Study.

The ideological work of the Alliance also finds expression in the annual celebration in July of International Co-operative Day.

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

6 November 1970

It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the efforts of the International Co-operative Alliance to promote friendly economic relations between co-operative organizations on both national and international levels.

I am glad to note that your organization will designate the decade of the seventies as the Co-operative Development Decade. By mobilizing the many co-operative organizations throughout the world to stimulate the development of co-operative movements in the developing countries, you will be making a greatly needed contribution to the implementation of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

I welcome the effective co-operation which exists between the International Co-operative Alliance and the United Nations and I look forward to the strengthening of our common bonds in the furtherance of economic and social development throughout the world.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "U Thant", is written over a horizontal line.

U Thant



The Co-operative Development Decade

The first of January, 1971 is CDD-Day, the day on which the international co-operative movement launches its Co-operative Development Decade.

What is this Co-operative Development Decade? To start with, it is a pronouncement of a determination to succeed. It is the ICA's way of telling the world that over the next ten years the international co-operative movement intends, as its contribution to the UN Second Development Decade, to undertake a concerted and intensive campaign for the promotion of co-operatives in developing countries.

Looked at in this way, the Decade is a Resolution, a statement of intent, a focus for publicity—but it is all of these things with action in view. The value of publicity itself should not be underrated: its influence is obvious in the world of today. Enterprises and causes without number compete for popular attention and support, and no serious drive can hope to succeed without the techniques of persuasion.

Co-operation is a voluntary, evolutionary, democratic process resulting from initiative and enterprise at the "grass roots" by individuals motivated by the principles of self-help and mutual aid. Co-operatives cannot be imposed by edict

from above. Neither governments nor the ICA can plan or direct their formation or expansion. A true co-operative grows spontaneously from below.

But if co-operatives cannot be decreed, they can be nurtured. A great deal can be done, particularly in the less advanced countries of the world, to encourage their growth—through information, advice, co-ordination, education, training, research, financial help and expertise.

So the Co-operative Development Decade is much more than a slogan. It is a means of channelling to developing countries that tangible help essential for bringing strength to the young co-operative movements of those areas. This help can come from co-operators in developed countries, from governments in both developing and developed countries, from private groups like trade unions, churches, farmers' associations, and from UN and other international agencies. And CDD publicity can provide a powerful impetus to the flow of such resources.

The ICA intends to act as a nerve centre for this Decade operation of marshalling, co-ordinating and channelling resources to co-operative development in the less advanced countries. It will provide leadership; it will disseminate publicity

and information; it will help identify needs, the kind of help required to meet those needs and the potential sources of such support; it will advise on the designing of appropriate administrative machinery for matching needs with resources; and it will collaborate with all other agents of co-operative development.

There have been in recent years a number of examples of fruitful collaboration between the ICA and these agents. It will be the ICA's purpose as the Decade develops to multiply these instances of collaboration, and to seek to blend the various and sometimes overlapping activities into a coherent whole. The projects which are mobilised and publicised under the banner of the Decade will in many cases be activities which might in any case have taken place. It is hoped that the effect of the Co-operative Development Decade will be to co-ordinate and intensify these efforts and that there will be a considerable "snowball" effect as the Decade operations get under way.

If in the year 1980 co-operators are to look back on a fully successful Co-operative Development Decade it will be because the United Nations agencies, the governments and co-operative movements of developed and developing countries and many private organisations have all included in their programmes practical and successful schemes for the promotion of co-operatives. Full success will also imply that all these authorities have managed to co-ordinate their efforts rather than dissipate their strength in overlapping or unnecessary rivalry.

Clearly the ICA, in embracing the concept of the Decade, cannot itself directly determine the widespread series of decisions that will be involved in the achievement of these objectives. It can only seek to persuade, to prod, to cajole, to influence the decision-makers in a vast complex of power centres throughout the world. Its task therefore in 1970 is to

decide how it can deploy its own forces so that its efforts are maximised in this process of persuasion and influence.

* * *

How did the Co-operative Development Decade come about?

Obviously public interest in promoting co-operatives in developing countries does not date from 1st January 1971. The CDD follows a long period of evolution of strategy development—both general development and development through co-operatives.

There has been a distinct change in recent years in general development theory and practice. Increasing attention has been given to the enduring significance of the rural sector of life in developing countries and the "false start" of an earlier development strategy which neglected this factor. The stress is now on utilisation of local materials, on decentralised industry, on appropriate technology, on providing employment in rural communities and reversing the population flow to cities, and on developing human resources. A development strategy of this kind clearly provides a greater opportunity for deployment of co-operative ideas. Within it we can look forward to increasing recognition of co-operatives as vital instruments of economic development.

Also the Co-operative Development Decade is timely from the point of view of the historical development of the ICA itself. In the first half of the century the membership, activities and interests of the Alliance were largely confined to the developed world. Since the Second World War and particularly in the last fifteen years, the needs of the developing countries have played an increasing part in the deliberations of the Alliance. Our growing membership includes a progressively higher proportion from these countries. High-

lights in the evolution of the development activities of the ICA were the adoption by the 21st Congress at Lausanne in 1960 of the Long-Term Programme of Technical Assistance and the subsequent establishment of ICA Regional Offices in Delhi and in Moshi and a close relationship with the Organisation of the Cooperatives of America. Moreover a number of our national movements have mounted significant programmes of aid to co-operatives on a bilateral basis. Thus a sound base has been formed from which to launch the new ten-year programme of co-operative development.

This is the background, but the specific developments which gave rise to the CDD concept relate largely to UN Resolutions. The first was an ILO Resolution in 1966 (Recommendation No 127) which characterised co-operatives as "important instruments of economic, social and cultural development as well as human advancement in developing countries". It was recommended that governments should aid and encourage co-operatives through economic, financial, technical, legislative and other measures, and that co-operative development should be integrated in national development plans.

In December 1968 the General Assembly passed a Resolution (2459/XXIV) which stressed the important role of co-operatives in economic and social development; asked the UN Economic and Social Council to consider the role of co-operatives in the United Nations Second Development Decade; urged UN member states to increase their help to co-operatives in developing countries; and requested the ILO and other UN specialised agencies and the ICA to assist in implementing the Resolution. Six months later the Economic and Social Council responded with a decision (Resolution 1413, June 1969) to undertake an assessment of the contribution which the co-operative movement can make to the

achievement of the goals and objectives of the Second Development Decade.

At the request of ECOSOC the ICA, as well as the FAO, ILO and UNESCO, submitted evidence which formed the basis of the comprehensive Report of the Secretary General on *The Role of the Co-operative Movement in the Achievement of the Goals and Objectives of the Second Development Decade* (E/4870, 27th March 1970).

The ICA reacted in yet another way by itself adopting at its 24th Triennial Congress in September 1969 a Resolution which warmly welcomed the initiatives of the UN and its specialised agencies and requested the administrative organs of the Alliance to prepare a programme for implementing those recommendations. As a direct consequence, the Executive Committee at its meeting in January 1970 decided to embark on a ten-year programme of enhanced activity in developing countries to be known as the "Co-operative Development Decade". This decision was confirmed by the Central Committee at its meeting in October 1970.

In the report on the Co-operative Development Decade which was approved by the Executive and Central Committees it was pointed out that the Co-operative Development Decade shows the determination of the ICA that "the resolution within the United Nations shall not become, as so many resolutions do, mere pious expressions of hope but should lead on to positive action and practical, visible consequences.

"We Co-operators must first recognise that within the United Nations there is at present no part of its machine and no central will which can ensure the implementation of the Resolutions. There is plenty of *goodwill* towards cooperatives but a lack of *will* to get things done. The ICA can supply this will and intends to do so. If co-operatives are to flourish throughout the world it will be co-operators who

will see to it. No one else will provide the leadership for us.

“This need neither surprise nor deter us because ‘do-it-yourself’ is at the heart of the co-operative philosophy. Nor does this mean that we must do everything by ourselves alone and that the only resources available for the task are those which we ourselves can muster from our own members. There are powerful allies whose aid we must enlist, notably the World Bank and the UN Specialised Agencies as well as those governments which take a positive and progressive attitude concerning development aid. Others would be international organisations, cognate to the ICA, such as the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, trade unions and other non-governmental organisations which have an interest in social and economic development.”

Meanwhile the UN impetus continues. In May 1969 a Resolution was adopted by UNIDO which stressed “the importance for industrial development of mobilising local human, natural and financial resources which could be assisted by the co-operative movement leading to the economic activation of less developed regions”. The Resolution requested that proper attention should be given to government requests from the developing countries for technical assistance in the industrial co-operative sector, where UNIDO as well as the specialised agencies can play an important role.

Subsequently at the Spring 1970 meeting of the ECOSOC there was a full-scale debate on the Secretary General’s Report, and in June 1970 the definitive ECOSOC Resolution was adopted. This Resolution (1491)

affirms that promotion of co-operatives should be an important element in the strategy of the Second Development Decade;

asks the Secretary General to collaborate closely with the directors

of ILO, FAO, UNIDO and other specialised agencies and with the ICA and other non-governmental organisations in putting into effect a concerted programme of co-operative development in the less advanced countries;

urges the developed countries to assist and support the developing countries by maximising the co-operative contribution to economic and social development;

invites those developing countries which have experience in the field of Co-operation to advise other developing countries on the promotion of co-operatives;

invites governments, especially in the developing countries, to review their policies on Co-operation to ensure maximum participation of the population in the co-operative effort and also to increase their own support to co-operatives;

recommends that UN agencies should give particular attention to requests from developing countries which want to promote co-operatives; and

asks the Secretary General to report to the Council in 1972 on measures taken to implement the Resolution.

* * *

Whose responsibility is the CDD? The ICA’s objective in launching the Decade is to ensure the growth in numbers and in strength of co-operatives as instruments of economic and social development. But it is important to understand that the ICA is not in control of co-operative societies or its affiliated national movements. It cannot, and would not wish to, plan or direct their formation or development. Nevertheless there are various ways in which existing co-operative societies and

national movements, national governments, the UN and other international bodies, and the ICA itself can encourage, advise, develop and support co-operative enterprises in less advanced countries. These are the agents of co-operative development and it is on them that the responsibility for the Co-operative Development Decade rests. Let us deal with them one by one.

* * *

The Contribution of Co-operators to the Co-operative Development Decade

The leading role in the CDD is naturally that of co-operators themselves. However successful Decade efforts may be in engaging the interest and support of governments and international agencies, co-operators themselves must be prepared to provide the leadership, the “know-how” and the spirit of mutual aid. Therefore any help which co-operative movements can muster, whether in money or in expertise, is more important pound for pound, and man for man, than the assistance which comes through governments—not merely for the material help provided but also as a symbol of mutual aid on a voluntary basis. It is not only bricks and mortar and capital equipment which matter, valuable though these are. The human and co-operative links between people are of even greater significance.

It is co-operators in developed countries who are in the best position to support co-operative development in poorer countries. This is because they have more experience and expertise. Over recent years and at an increasing rate they have been making significant contributions. But it is the hope and the expectation that during the Co-operative Development Decade these contributions will be stepped up dramatically and that their effectiveness

will be enhanced through coordination and planning in collaboration with the recipient movements and with other donor agencies.

There are many different ways in which national movements in industrialized countries can help their fellow co-operators overseas. These include:

— raising money from members and giving it either bilaterally to specific co-operative projects abroad or to the ICA Development Fund;

— training courses and the preparation of training materials designed to acquaint members with co-operative principles and to impart basic administrative, managerial, bookkeeping and occupational skills to co-operative officials and staff. These may take place either in the donor country or in the country of the co-operators at the receiving end;

— sending of co-operative experts to provide technical assistance in building up specific co-operative projects and in training local counterpart personnel. Such co-operative expertise is valuable even when financed by international agencies, but where it is possible for co-operators themselves actually to second skilled personnel at their own expense, this represents a double contribution;

— similarly, co-operative volunteers for overseas development work can provide leadership, enthusiasm, training in co-operative principles and basic skills.

Although co-operators in *developing* countries are considered to be mainly recipients in the Decade operation, there is much that can be done by national movements in these areas, especially movements which have acquired some experience over the years.

Firstly and most important, it is crucial to have their collaboration in identifying the technical assistance needs of co-operatives in their countries, in bringing their co-operative planning into line with national development plans of their governments, and in co-ordinating

and preparing technical assistance requests by their governments. Such careful preparation in the field has enormous potential for increasing the effectiveness of aid to co-operative development.

Secondly, it would be appropriate for national movements in the developing countries to be asked to make some contribution, however small, to the ICA Development Fund. This follows from the fact that the Decade operation is conceived on a world-wide scale and that all kinds of organisations are to be encouraged to play a role in the programme. Hitherto the Development Fund has been built up exclusively by contributions from the co-operative movements of developed countries, although member movements in developing countries have been sharing the costs of the activities of ICA's Regional Offices. It is clear that the potential is there and if a practical arrangement could be worked out to obviate the problem of foreign exchange, such contributions might be used, for example, to underwrite intra-regional training programmes. Although it would be clearly understood that large sums would not be expected, the principle is of some importance insofar as it emphasises the value of mutual aid. Moreover the Fund might gain considerably since even small contributions from a large number of contributors could add up to an appreciable amount.

* * *

The contribution of governments to the Co-operative Development Decade

In a number of *developing* countries governments regard co-operatives as important instruments of economic and social development and accordingly give them substantial financial and technical support. This help takes various forms: loans, grants, subsidies, purchase of share capital, training facilities, agricultural extension

services and special trading concessions. In many cases this government support has been crucial, particularly in the initial phases of co-operative development. It is one of the objectives of the CDD to stimulate further help of this kind and to encourage governments to incorporate planning for co-operative development in their national development plans.

Governments of *developed* countries can promote the CDD cause in either or both of two ways: (a) by making a contribution to the ICA Development Fund, or (b) by channelling funds bilaterally to developing countries either via their own co-operative movement or via the government of the overseas country.

(a) Implementation of Decade proposals will require a Development Fund considerably larger than can result from even more generous contributions by member organisations. Therefore governments should be asked to make contributions from their Technical Assistance funds. Some governments with a progressive attitude towards aid for development are looking for opportunities to work with voluntary agencies for specific programmes, particularly voluntary agencies of a multilateral kind.

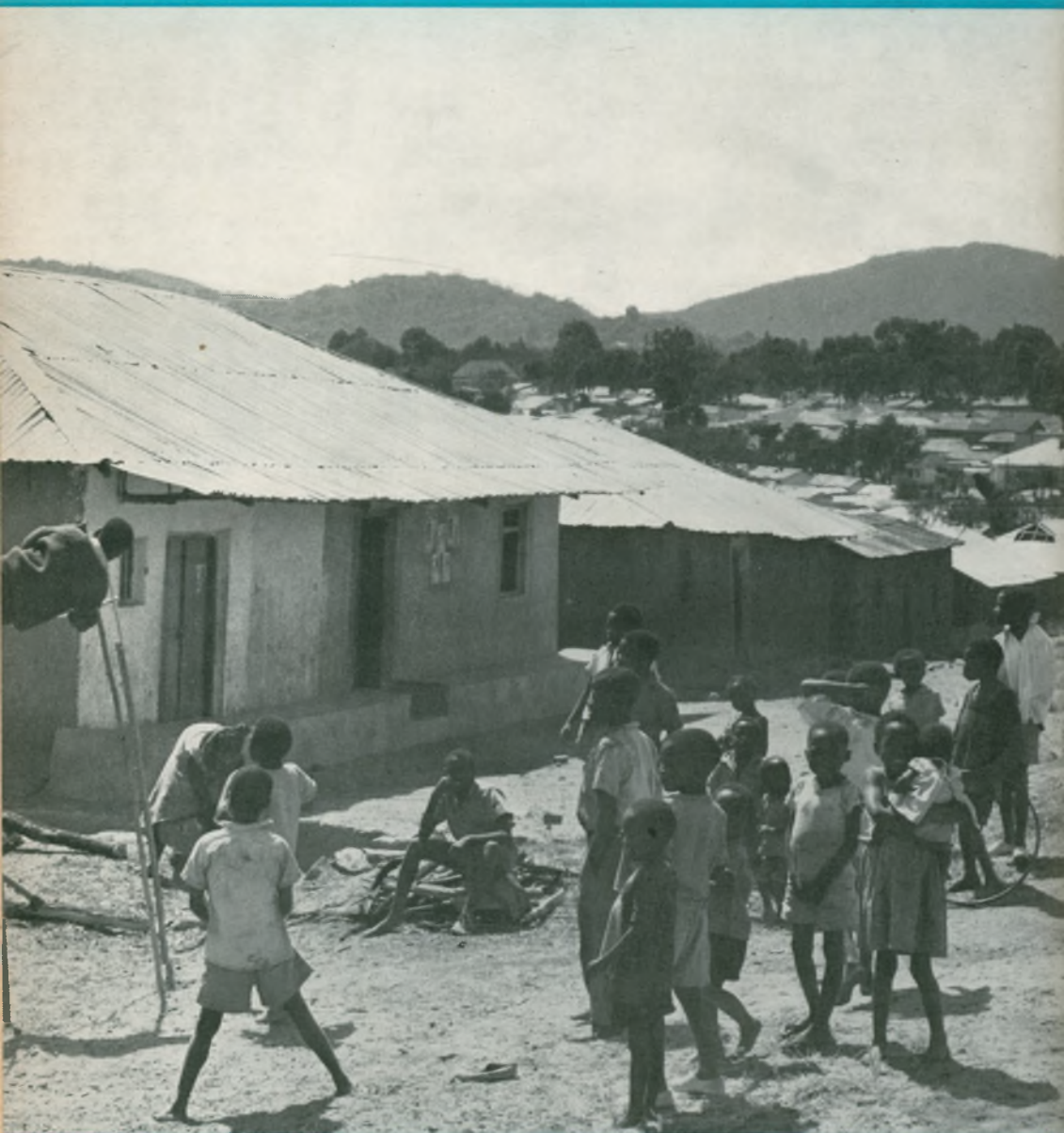
(b) The possibilities for bilateral assistance from governments of industrialised countries are too diverse even to be listed here. Outstanding examples which spring to mind include the complicated and extensive network of co-operative aid which is channelled from the US AID through US co-operatives to Latin America, Africa and Asia; the many co-operative projects underwritten by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA); and support by the British Ministry for Overseas Development (ODM) to courses at the Co-operative College in Loughborough for overseas co-operators, to a new Co-operative College in Uganda and to a conference on Technical Assistance for Co-operatives to be held in April at Loughborough.

The Co-operative Development Decade can mean . . .



. . . *more Food*

*The Co-operative Development
Decade can mean . . .*



. . . more Housing

The contribution of voluntary organisations to the Co-operative Development Decade

There are many examples in the developing world of co-operative promotion by missionaries and church welfare workers, and this is a source of help which will be encouraged during the Decade.

Of even greater potential, perhaps, is the work of international trade union federations in developing countries. It is noteworthy that co-operatives and trade unions share the same fundamental objectives. Both are designed to combat poverty, ignorance and lack of equal opportunity for the working classes. And both emphasise the spirit of service, of collective efforts and of making man rather than capital the basis for distribution of economic power and resources.

Trade unions are searching for a role in the developing countries and the indications are that this role may well be, in part, that of promoting co-operatives. Accordingly efforts should be made to stimulate closer collaboration on development projects between international trade union federations and the international co-operative movement. Already it is clear that fruitful fields for such collaboration include the use by trade unions of co-operatives as channels for recruitment, extension services and savings programmes; trade union promotion of production, supply, marketing, consumer, credit and labour contracting co-operatives; trade union and co-operative co-ownership of productive or trading units; and joint trade union and co-operative research and training facilities.

* * *

The United Nations contributions to the Co-operative Development Decade

The UN and its specialised agencies have been doing much more than pass reso-

lutions. For many years they have in a number of tangible ways actively supported the promotion of co-operatives in developing countries. Concretely this has meant that financial resources were channelled from the UNDP via ILO, FAO, UNESCO and UNIDO into specific co-operative projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia. These investments have taken the form of capital equipment, buildings and installations, or they have financed the sending of technical experts.

The ILO has been a pioneer in this work. It has many co-operative experts in the field; it has supported a large number of specific co-operative projects; and it has published monographs and studies on various aspects of co-operative development (including a study under sub-contract to the ICA). More recently the ILO has been promoting the concept of Co-operative Enterprise Development Centres. These centres are technological institutes, intended to promote practical activities by giving technical, administrative, financial and accounting advice and training to co-operative staff and members as well as through basic research.

Similarly the FAO has a co-operative section, sends experts to the field, supports specific projects and undertakes co-operative studies; recently, for example, it has been collaborating with the ICA on a joint project involving case studies on agricultural processing.

Several important phases of UNESCO's work have a bearing on co-operative activity, including out-of-school education, adult education and functional education, and efforts are being made to forge closer links between UNESCO and the ICA. Meanwhile UNESCO has co-sponsored conferences such as the UNESCO/ICA Conference on Co-operative Education held in Switzerland in December 1970, and has provided travel grants for participants in co-operative seminars.

Finally UNIDO, the youngest member of the UN family, has expressed an active interest in the role of co-operatives in the industrialisation of developing countries. It is currently preparing a report on industrial co-operatives with the advice of the ICA. Also it proposes to finance the sending of co-operative experts to advise developing countries on promotion of industrial co-operatives. It would do this through a series of service contracts under which the ICA would undertake to locate and service the expert and supervise him in the preparation of his report.

These are major developments in themselves; but viewed from the perspective of the potentialities for co-operative development if the financial resources of the UN could be married to the expertise available within the co-operative movement throughout the world, they represent only very small and tentative first steps. If a small fraction, say 5 per cent, of the total resources which the UN now pours into development of the Third World were channelled into implementing its recent resolutions on promotion of co-operatives, the dimensions of the co-operative programme in these areas would be dramatically expanded—indeed transformed from a mere beginning to a serious, comprehensive broadly-based promotional campaign. And if the World Bank (IBRD) and the regional development banks for Asia, Africa and Latin America were to be involved—and they have already shown an interest—the prospects would be even more staggering.

* * *

How can these various contributions to Co-operative Development be Co-ordinated within the framework of the CDD?

The Need for Co-ordination

We have pointed to individual contributions by various parties interested in

promoting co-operatives in the developing countries, including national co-operative movements, governments, UN agencies and private organisations such as church groups and trade union federations. But what has not been conveyed is the complexity and flexibility of the collaborative network through which these separate bodies join forces in giving this help.

From a sample of a few dozen selected from hundreds of available cases of assistance to co-operatives in developing countries, the ICA recently made a rough analysis of the different patterns of collaboration involved. This revealed an impressive variety of combinations.

In Maharashtra State in India, West German consumer co-operatives contributed earmarked funds via the ICA Development Fund and collaborated with the Indian Government and the ICA Regional Office in building and operating a co-operative dairy.

In Ecuador, a rice growers' co-operative was set up with the help of funds lent by US co-operators and guaranteed by US Aid and with the backing of the government of Ecuador.

In Dahomey, Norwegian, Swiss, and French co-operators contributed funds (some of them earmarked in the ICA Development Fund) and collaborated with the FAO in setting up fishing, marketing and supply co-operatives for Dahomey fishermen.

In the Congo, the Congo Protestant Relief Agency collaborated with village livestock co-operatives to provide them with cattle; and in Colombia, the West German Catholic Aid Society (MISEREOR) has set up a co-operative factory for industrial clothing.

In Mehrauli, India, the Co-operative League of the USA collaborated with the government of India and the Ford Foundation to provide co-operative irrigation.

In Panama, CUNA International collaborated with US AID and the Panama Housing Institute and US Peace Corps volunteers on a co-operative self-build housing project.

In Anand, India, FAO and OXFAM collaborated with the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Products Union Ltd to install a cattle feed factory.

In Chile, the International Co-operative Bank collaborated with the Inter-American Co-operative Finance Development Society (SIDEFCOOP) to finance expansion of facilities for an industrial co-operative, SODIMAC, which manufactures building materials.

In Brazil, the National Rural Electrical Co-operative Association (US), the Inter American Bank, the state electric companies and the National Agricultural Development Institute collaborated to set up rural electricity co-operatives.

In Moshi, Tanzania the governments of Tanzania, Sweden and Denmark together with Swedish co-operators collaborated to provide mobile co-operative educational units. Also in Moshi the Co-operative Educational Centre collaborated with a UNESCO work-oriented literacy project in the Lake Victoria region.

In Kenya, the governments and co-operators of four Scandinavian countries collaborated on a comprehensive programme of assistance and advice to marketing co-operatives.

In Pakistan, the many-sided co-operative experiment at Comilla represented the combined efforts of the Ford Foundation, Michigan State University, the Academy of Rural Development, Japanese farm experts and the governments of the United States and of East Pakistan.

In Latin America, the American Institute for Free Labor Development installed rural service centres financed by funds from the trade union federation AFL-CIO and the US AID.

The world's largest co-operative business transaction, a co-operative fertiliser production complex now under construction in India, has been made possible by the collaboration of co-operators in the USA and India with the British, US and Indian governments.

This variety and profusion in sources of good will and material support for co-operative development is highly encouraging for the Decade cause. At the same time, however, it does create problems from the point of view of administering a co-operative aid programme. Obviously in relation to aid there cannot be "too many fingers in the pie"; but without co-ordination a lot of pie can be wasted.

Profusion can create confusion in several different ways. The various donors may not be fully briefed on the real needs of the recipients in terms of priorities. They may not be aware of even more pressing needs elsewhere in the area. They may be duplicating other efforts being made to fill the same needs. They may be pursuing objectives that do not accord with the development plans of the government concerned. They may be making unnecessary mistakes simply because they are not informed of relevant co-operative experience elsewhere in the world. And they may not be utilising the most competent experts simply because they do not know of their availability. As a result efforts and resources are wasted, valuable time is lost, and the effectiveness of co-operative aid is seriously diluted.

Thus the need for co-ordination is acute—co-ordination within the United Nations family of agencies, co-ordination within the international co-operative movement, and co-ordination between these two spheres and with voluntary organisations.

The Role of COPAC

There has recently come into being a Committee which can be highly valuable for co-ordinating efforts at the United

Nations level. This is the Joint Committee for Promotion of Agricultural Co-operatives. Its purpose is described in its name. Its constituent bodies are the Food and Agricultural Organisation, the International Labour Organisation, the International Co-operative Alliance, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers. It is an infant organisation which has yet to prove itself, but clearly it has the structure for performing all three of the co-ordinating roles described in the last paragraph. Already it is sponsoring a major study on the international financing of co-operatives in developing countries.

The Role of the ICA

On a number of scores the ICA qualifies as co-ordinator of the Decade programme of co-operative aid to developing countries.

Its most important asset is the direct contact which it has with co-operators at the grass roots. This contact is maintained through several channels of communication and influence: through its affiliated member organisations; through its Executive and Central Committees composed of leading co-operators who represent national movements; through its Regional Offices in East Africa and in South East Asia which are linked via Advisory Councils with national movements, and its close association with OCA in Latin America; and through its Auxiliary Committees which are organised on a functional basis comprising responsible co-operative officials in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, wholesaling, retailing, banking, insurance, housing, workers' productive societies, petroleum, consumer protection, co-operative libraries and documentation, women co-operators and the co-operative press.

The ICA's consultative status with the UN is invaluable, enabling it to make official representations at meetings of the

UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and to work closely with the co-operative branches of the UN specialised agencies. Similarly the ICA has over the years built up close working relations with a number of non-governmental organisations, including particularly the IFAP, various research institutes and foundations and a number of international trade union federations.

With respect to financial resources the ICA is also in a position to play a useful co-ordinating role. It cannot itself directly contribute funds to co-operative development since its income derives primarily from subscriptions of member organisations, and these barely cover operating expenses. However it does administer the ICA Development Fund which so far has been largely built up from donations by affiliated national movements. It is hoped that Decade efforts will increase the Fund, through increased contributions from affiliated movements, governments and international organisations, to a level which could be of real value in the development campaign. •

Another major asset of the ICA is its capacity to make available expertise for co-operative development. To a limited extent such expertise is provided by the specialised staff at the London Secretariat and in Regional Offices. More significant is the functional know-how which can be mobilised through the Auxiliary Committees and Working Parties.

Over the years the ICA has in a minor way served as a clearing house for technical assistance requests from member co-operatives by contacting member movements in developed countries in an effort to locate advisory services or field experts to meet the requests. On occasion it has performed this same function in respect of UN attempts to find experts for co-operative projects. The ICA hopes, with the collaboration of member organisations and its auxiliary bodies, to increase the

efficiency of this operation—in part by compiling and maintaining an up-to-date register of available co-operative experts in various fields of specialisation, and in part by rationalising its procedures.

As noted earlier, publicity has a major and constructive function in the CDD operation by way of evoking interest and stimulating potential collaborators to greater efforts. As the Secretariat for the international co-operative movement, and because of its close links with governments, the UN and other international bodies, the London headquarters of the ICA has a unique role to play in this respect. Already steps have been taken to explain the Decade concept—by briefing the newly created Co-operative Press Working Party; by planning for a quarterly “wall newspaper” or poster with international and local CDD news items; by projecting an annual CDD calendar to be sold for the benefit of the ICA Development Fund; by sketching a series of syndicated articles on the CDD to be published fortnightly in the co-operative press of member organisations; by accepting an offer from the Czech co-operative movement to manufacture metal CDD badges for sale in various countries with the proceeds going to the ICA Development Fund; and by publication of a descriptive brochure on the Co-operative Development Decade.

Information is an indispensable work tool for co-operatives interested in supporting specific aid projects; and here again it is clearly the function of ICA, with its wide network of communication with member organisations and national and international organisations, to ensure that up-to-date data are made available on all aspects of co-operative development in the less advanced countries—including particularly the needs of recipients, the resources required, the aid plans and projects of various donors, and the kind of documentation which can be made available on co-operative development ex-

perience throughout the world. The ICA is already active in the field of information through its various publications including, the *Review of International Co-operation*, its monthly *Co-operative News Service*, *Agricultural Co-operative Bulletin*, *Consumer Affairs Bulletin*, its series of *Special Studies*, a series of calendars and directories with specific details on member organisations, international meetings, technical assistance projects, co-operative educational institutions, co-operative travel agencies, bibliographies, etc, a wide range of special publications on particular subjects; and of course through maintaining a specialised library of Co-operative publications. Over the period of the Decade strenuous efforts will be made to increase the range and the effectiveness of these activities.

Underlying both publicity and information is the fundamental co-operative research which provides the data to be disseminated. Clearly a good deal more research will be required for Decade purposes, and particularly during the preparatory phase, in order to provide the hard facts on which realistic projects must build. To an extent the ICA itself can and will initiate such studies with the support of its member organisations and international organisations. Research is already under way on international finance for co-operatives in the developing countries, on co-operative legislation in developing countries, on co-operative processing, on co-operative trade between developed and developing countries, and on various aspects of co-operative education and of co-operative housing. But much remains to be done by way of stimulating and co-ordinating investigations into a number of other fields—including co-operatives as instruments of technology transfer, collaboration between trade unions and co-operatives, co-operative farming, marketing and supply co-operatives, fishery co-operatives, multi-purpose co-operatives, co-operative insurance, consumer co-op-

eratives and the co-operative role of women in developing countries.

Above all it is important to accumulate much more data on existing co-operative movements in developing countries. For preparing a Decade action programme it would be useful to have an overall view, separately for each area, of what has been achieved so far in terms of development of co-operatives and their economic viability and leadership potential; what development plans there are for the years immediately ahead; and what the major requirements are in terms of finance, training and other forms of technical assistance. For South-East Asia such an investigation is under way with advice from the Regional Office and financial assistance by the Japanese Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives. It may be that similar surveys will be undertaken in Africa and Latin America by interested organisations. Meanwhile an attempt should be made, with the help of member organisations and the Working Party of Librarians and Documentation Officers, to accumulate at ICA headquarters as complete and up-to-date a collection as possible of existing country and regional surveys of co-operatives in developing areas.

The ICA does not, however, approach the problem of co-operative research primarily in terms of what can be accomplished by its own efforts. It is well aware that a great deal of such research is taking place not only within national movements, but also in various universities, colleges and research institutions and in international bodies. To increase the practical value of such work and to avoid duplication of effort it hopes to compile a central research register and a system for keeping it up to date, and making the information available to co-operatives and other organisations throughout the world.

* * *

In one sense there is scarcely anything in the Co-operative Development Decade

that is new except the will to act. In another sense it is an innovation of vast potential. For the last twenty years and more, co-operatives have been recognised by some as vital instruments of development. Resolutions have been passed. Aid has been given by governments and by movements. The UN agencies have a history of involvement in co-operative development. But the efforts have been piecemeal and unco-ordinated. The ICA has conceived and promulgated the Co-operative Development Decade as the means of supplying six things which have hitherto been lacking or inadequate.

It is a call to action, on a co-ordinated world-wide front, for the development of co-operatives in order to accelerate social and economic growth.

It is a challenge to the co-operative movements of the developed countries to provide increased technical assistance to co-operatives.

It is a challenge to the co-operative movements of the developing countries to formulate more clearly their short- and long-term needs for assistance.

It is a stimulus to governments of donor nations to work more closely with their own co-operative movements in aiding developing countries.

It is an opportunity for voluntary organisations such as church and civic groups and trade unions to contribute to the promotion of co-operatives.

Finally it is an opportunity for the UN agencies to co-ordinate their co-operative programmes not only with each other but also with the ICA and with the bilateral assistance programme both of governments and of co-operative movements.



The ICA Central Committee prepares for the Seventies

From the vantage point of the ICA's seventy-fifth birthday its President, Dr Bonow, looked forward into the seventies when he opened the meeting of the Central Committee of the Alliance in London on 1st October 1970.

"Where now?" he asked. "From the vast complex of our activities I choose two sign-posts to the future. First, there

are our Auxiliaries and Working Parties, now covering wholesaling, retailing, banking, insurance, housing, workers' productives, women's activities, petroleum, agriculture and fisheries, consumer affairs, librarians and the press. Through them we bring together co-operators with the 'know-how' in this wide range of human activities. We can look forward to their

growing strength and to an ever closer working partnership with the ICA itself. It was an historic occasion last November when the Chairmen and Secretaries of the Auxiliaries met in Basle, and we are glad that the principal officers for the first time are joining us here in our deliberations.”

“My second sign-post is development. I mean development in the sense of overcoming world poverty. I have already noted our recent expansion in terms of geographic spread throughout the world. Because of this we are inevitably and willingly coming to devote increasing attention and resources to finding ways in which co-operators can help meet this great challenge of our age.”

The ICA's resources in general and mobilising new ones for use in developing countries were the two main themes of the Committee meeting.

The Secretary for Administration, Mr Robert Davies, presented a special paper outlining in detail the ICA's resources and commitments and showing the current trends of income and expenditure. The Committee endorsed certain suggestions recommended by the Executive Committee, including an increase in the Congress fee to £15, to take effect from the next Congress; to encourage co-operative organisations to apply for Collective Membership; to explore the possibilities of Auxiliary Committees meeting more of the expenses of their own meetings; to consider holding only two meetings of the Executive Committee per year. In 1971 this matter will be again reviewed with a view to making recommendations about rates of subscriptions. The Committee was opposed to any reduction in the official languages of the ICA and to any automatic increase in subscriptions.

Resources of expertise were also reviewed in connection with the Auxiliary Committees. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Com-

mittee that the Chairmen and Secretaries of Auxiliaries should attend Central Committee meetings if they were not included in national delegations. Reports of the Auxiliary Committees' work were given, including the formation of the new “INTER-COOP”, an amalgamation of the Cooperative Wholesale Committee and the Committee on Retail Distribution. The Committee agreed that the work of the Auxiliaries was of outstanding importance in the Alliance and that this work should be reflected in the proceedings of the Central Committee and at Congress.

The Director, Dr S. K. Saxena, opened the debate on the Co-operative Development Decade. He presented the special report which the Executive Committee had approved at its June meeting. This report explained the purpose of the CDD and its connection with the United Nations' Second Development Decade and with UN resolutions and statements favouring co-operatives.

Dr Saxena made it clear that the role of the ICA was not itself to carry out or to direct the developments hoped for during the Decade. Its role was to be that of a nerve centre stimulating the activities of a wide range of agencies, co-operative, governmental and international.

There ensued a long discussion with welcoming speeches from delegations with widely different origins, from Europe, East and West, from North America, from Asia, Africa and South America. A retiring Executive Committee member, Lord Taylor of Gryfe, gave it as his opinion that the future of Co-operation would be in the developing countries, a view that the Central Committee seemed to endorse when later, for the first time, it elected an African to the Executive Committee—Mr J. A. Muhaville of Tanzania. There were two vacancies, the other being filled by the election of Mr H. W. Whitehead of the United Kingdom.

*The Co-operative Development
Decade can mean . . .*



. . . more Manufacture

*The Co-operative Development
Decade can mean . . .*



. . . more Education

Some delegations were able to announce from the rostrum specific contributions which their movements had already decided to make to the ICA Development Fund. Sweden handed over £20,000 and Norway £2,500. 1,000,000 Zlotys for the ten-year period came from the Polish co-operative movement and 1,000,000 Florints over the ten-year period from the Hungarian co-operative movement. Other delegations, including France, Austria and

the USA, not having specific pledges to announce were nevertheless able to give confident assurances that financial support for the Fund would be forthcoming from their countries.

The Committee agreed to accept the report and to endorse the CDD proposals while noting that the Russian delegation had submitted a number of suggestions upon which the Director undertook to submit a report at the next meeting.

English issue of the new edition of the F. W. Raiffeisen Book

“Die Darlehenskassenvereine” (The Credit Unions)

The English translation of the new edition of the Raiffeisen Book “Die Darlehenskassenvereine” (The Credit Unions) which was republished in German by Drüsedau/Kleinhans as an anniversary issue during the Raiffeisen year in 1968, has just been printed.

In the new edition of the book the fundamental co-operative principles remained the same, but the rules and methods were adapted to present-day requirements.

Credit must be given to the editors that the original fifth edition, edited by Raiffeisen himself, has been made more comprehensible to readers of our time by a thorough revision, abbreviation and commentary revealing anew the essence of the old work.

The supporters and pioneers of Raiffeisen’s ideas who were outside the German group are mentioned in a Roll of Honour in the Appendix. At the end of the book are illustrations of co-operative institutions in Germany and abroad.

The price of the English edition is **£1.00**.

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

Co-operatives and Development

by Dr A. F. Laidlaw

Professor of Adult Education and Co-operative Studies, Coady International Institute, St Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada



A paper prepared for the Conference on the role of the International Co-operative Press in the field of education and information on the subject of development and developing countries.—Vienna 8-10 December 1970.

Much has been written about the financial and economic benefits which flow to groups of people from participation in co-operative enterprise, and the success of innumerable co-operatives in many parts of the world is evidence of these benefits. Indeed, co-operatives are generally interpreted in terms of the economic advantages that members derive from their association, and if it were not for these advantages, few people would remain long in membership. Fauquet sees these economic advantages as the main purpose in co-operation: "The primary aim of the co-operative institution is the improvement of its members' economic position."¹ He is right in this viewpoint. For all their dedication to social values, co-operatives are economic institutions first and must prove themselves in an

economic way before they can fulfil their higher purpose.

But here we are concerned with co-operatives in terms of general economic development, their benefit to the larger community of citizens, their role in regional development and their influence in national economic planning. The question is: Should co-operatives be viewed in this broader sense? Can their influence be felt in overall national development? And if we agree that they have this larger, extended role, what effect is it likely to have on individual co-operatives and the movement generally? Is there a danger that the essential character of co-operative organisations will suffer from this far-flung commitment and perhaps be eroded seriously by "non-co-operative" influences? These are questions that cannot be lightly dismissed, especially in the developing countries,

¹ G. Fauquet: *Le Secteur Coopératif*.

where co-operatives are strongly linked with development plans and frequently thought of solely from the standpoint of their development potential.

The Old and the New View

The older and indeed original concept of co-operatives often described them solely in terms of the members, how they were owned and controlled by the members, and how the benefits flowed to the members. Furthermore, the pace of growth and direction of co-operatives were determined by the members. If they preferred a slow, deliberate rate of growth, that decided how the co-operatives grew. Anyone who wanted to modify the co-operative or change the orientation of its policies had to do so from within the membership.

Now, to attach the connotation of development, especially national development, to co-operatives obviously means to orient them outwards and to evaluate their work and benefits in terms of the community at large and the nation in general, instead of that smaller circle, the membership. Thus, where the original view made co-operatives introverted, the newer view associated with development would prefer to see them extroverted, with a wider commitment to society and to national aims. It also implies that members will have to reassess their co-operative in terms of the common good and begin to see it as part of a very large mural, rather than a small painting with a suitable frame around it.

It will be the theme and argument of this paper that, given suitable safeguards and the proper conditions, there is no contradiction in the concept of co-operatives engaged in development plans and that, far from being a threat to the co-operative movement, involvement in general economic development may herald the beginning of a new era of vitality and expansion that will fulfil some of the wildest dreams of pioneer co-operators, even though the theory might have been viewed by them with suspicion.

Resolutions on Co-operatives in Development

Official resolutions in support of the role of co-operatives in development are much in vogue nowadays. Some of these resolutions are sanguine statements leading one to believe that, if co-operatives fail to rise to the present challenge, certain sectors of economic development will almost certainly fail in their goals.

This new orientation in co-operative thinking began to appear about 25 years ago in the aftermath of World War II. Economic planners as well as social thinkers were seeking new paths to a saner world and began to look upon co-operatives with favour. A United Nations study on the place of co-operatives in agricultural development stated:

“It is also evident that voluntary co-operation, with its promotion of full knowledge, discussion, confidence, equality in control and the greatest possible degree of self-reliance, has no complete substitute. Its results can be cumulative and permanent. For this reason many supervised credit departments, agricultural credit corporations, land settlement authorities, administrations for the affairs of indigenous inhabitants and for community projects, agricultural development boards and other official and semi-official bodies have come to recognise the need to promote the formation and development of true co-operatives.”²

Various national governments were saying much the same thing in other words. The report of the All-India Rural Credit Survey stated:

“For several important reasons, borne out by the experience not only of India but of many other economically undeveloped countries, it may be regarded as axiomatic that at the rural base, that is to say in the village itself, no form of

² United Nations Department of Economic Affairs: *Rural Progress Through Co-operatives*, 1954, p. 100.

credit organisation will be suitable except the co-operative society.”³

and it added:

“Co-operation has failed but Co-operation must succeed. The foremost objective of policy then becomes the positive and deliberate creation of conditions in which co-operative credit will have a reasonable chance of success.”

An international panel of experts on Co-operation, meeting in Geneva in 1962, stated as one of its conclusions:

“Co-operatives can make an important contribution to economic and social progress, and should be given a definite place in national planning.”

and also:

“The co-operative movement should follow closely the formation and development of economic zones and should be represented on the relevant consultative and policy-making bodies.”⁴

More recently came the ILO statement, finally worded after widespread consultation and three years of debate, known as *Co-operatives (Developing Countries) Recommendation* 1966, which said:

“The establishment and growth of co-operatives should be regarded as one of the important instruments for economic, social and cultural development as well as human advancement in developing countries.”

and it proceeded to spell out the particulars of such a commitment by governments to the encouragement and expansion of co-operatives.

Finally we have the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on *The Role of the Co-operative Movement in Economic and Social Development*, passed unanimously last May, which states in part:

³ *General Report* (abridged edition), p. 171.

⁴ ILO: *Developments and Trends in the World Co-operative Movement*. Conclusions, Nos. 11 and 7, p. 149.

“The promotion of the co-operative movement should be an important element of the strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade, as a means of broadening the base for popular participation in the development effort and for the equitable sharing in the benefits of development.”

All this casts the co-operative movement in a leading role in development. It looks like Cinderella being invited to the ball after all. Of course she has certain rules to observe—otherwise the whole thing may end in disaster.

What is Development?

The word “development” is bandied about nowadays to the point of being overworked, with the result that its meaning has become blurred and vague. In this paper it is used in the sense of “change accompanied by growth and improvement accompanied by growth and improvement”. We are therefore discussing the link between co-operatives and the far-reaching changes being set in motion by governments in almost all parts of the world with a view to raising the standard of living of the people.

Looking at the other side of the coin, it is difficult to phrase a definition for a country or a people suffering from lack of development, but for our purpose we can accept this one given some years ago by the UN: “An underdeveloped country might be described as one in which the natural and human resources are used for economic purposes to only a very limited degree.”⁵

All plans of modern national development have certain features in common. They all involve planning by government experts, mainly economists; they are particularly concerned about raising the GNP and per capita income through the best use of available resources,

⁵ UNESCO *Courier*: “The Anatomy of Underdevelopment.” Sept. 1962, p. 17.

both natural and human; their professed aim is to serve the greatest possible number of people; there are varying degrees of coercion, according to the political and economic system, to have individuals and institutions comply with official guidelines; and targets are set in order to measure the success of the particular scheme.

Any Place for Co-operatives?

The question may be asked if the co-operative movement has any place in overall development planning. To suggest that it does not seems absurd. We live in an environment of economic planning—the modern world is development-oriented—and it would be folly for the co-operative movement to imagine itself existing outside this mainstream. Moreover, for all their commitment to social concerns, co-operatives are basically economic institutions, and to maintain that they can go their own sweet way without regard to national economic planning is to adopt an indefensible posture in modern society.

This was the view taken by the Royal Commission which recently studied the co-operative movement in Ceylon. Its report reads:

“We wish to make perfectly clear what we regard as the prime and paramount consideration for the co-operative movement in Ceylon: we have started from the assumption that the whole co-operative system must be a major component of national economic development. In a developing country with chronic problems of poverty, shortfall in food production, unemployment and underemployment, lack of opportunity for youth, and low industrial productivity coupled with great waste of manpower, co-operatives must either gear themselves to massive economic development or recede into the background.”⁶

⁶ *Report of the Royal Commission on the Co-operative Movement in Ceylon*, Section 24.2, p. 334.

The issue of Co-operatives and Development would therefore seem to boil down to delineating the appropriate role of co-operatives in developing planning and ensuring that this role is played in such a way as to preserve the integrity of Co-operation as a voluntary popular movement.

Special Values of Co-operatives in Development

The many generous references to co-operatives by both national and international planning bodies, as indicated above, are not without foundation. The strong connection between co-operative enterprise and overall development is easy to see.

(1) Good co-operatives have many facets, social, educational, and cultural as well as economic, and they therefore have the effect of humanizing economic planning and relating it directly to people's needs and wishes. They ensure that human considerations will not be overlooked in national development planning and thus they tend to obviate the disastrous conditions that result from industrial and economic development far outrunning social development. We have all seen too much of “the lonely crowd” overawed by colossal economic institutions which they cannot understand and never be part of.

(2) Co-operatives can serve as a people's organisation to interpret and apply national development policies. They can also provide “feedback” to national planning bodies and help to modify plans when necessary. In short, they are a means, and often the only means, whereby large numbers of people can be represented in economic planning.

(3) By their very operation, co-operatives tend to spread the benefits of development as widely as possible and thus implement one of the professed aims of planning bodies.

(4) Effective co-operatives tend to reduce the needs for State action and thus

lighten the load carried by government. Fauquet tells us: "The experiments multiplying before our eyes show that no sooner does the State undertake the organisation of the economy than it has to recognise the limitations of its own power and competence."⁷

(5) Many government services to citizens need an intermediary agency, not only to escape the sheer weight of a monolithic bureaucracy, but also to provide a contact sensitive to community needs and desires. Various kinds of co-operatives (credit, health services, housing, agriculture supplies, etc) are ideal for this purpose. They thus serve the function of economic transformers between central authority and communities, with voltage adjusted to local needs.

(6) Co-operatives can often operate successfully in remote and neglected areas that might otherwise be passed by in development planning.

(7) Co-operatives can often succeed where government fails, because official action so often rests on the brittle and uncertain power of compulsion.

(8) There is a certain social discipline in the operation of a co-operative, a voluntary kind of self-discipline which the State cannot duplicate but which is an important ingredient of development. Colombain explains it this way:

"The co-operative movement frees its members not only from usurers and profiteers, but also from themselves and their bad habits. It teaches them virtues which are not always natural to them, such as orderliness, foresight, punctuality and a strict respect for engagements entered into."⁸

(9) Another point often missed in the development dialogue: co-operative ownership is native, indigenous ownership. It represents the sector of economic

development which cannot be piped outside the country or dominated by foreign interests. There can be no lasting economic development in a country where vital economic decisions and planning for industry and commerce are made elsewhere, and profits drained off to shareholders far from where they are created.

(10) At the risk of making this sound like a litany of co-operative virtues, it can be fairly stated that, in some situations where the components of development must be brought together, there seems to be no alternative to co-operative action. This is particularly true in rural communities, where co-operatives seem to possess a uniqueness to the point that no other solution appears possible. Thus the Rural Credit Survey (India) says at one point:

"There is no real alternative to some form of co-operative association at the all-important rural base of agricultural credit . . . even at levels higher than the base, there is eventually no alternative more suitable than a co-operative form of credit organization."⁹

In summary, if we may quote him once more, Fauquet says: "Without its own virtues being impaired—and indeed thanks to them—Co-operation can thus easily be associated with a partially centralized economy of a moderate kind".

However, it is hardly necessary to add that co-operatives have their limitations from the viewpoint of development. There is no magic in co-operatives. They cannot always be expected to do what other institutions fail to do or cannot do. They cannot create resources which do not exist. They cannot market products which members do not produce or produce very badly. Nor can they thrive in an environment devoid of the social values and moral fibre that are inherent in the very idea of Co-operation.

⁷ *Le Secteur Coopératif*.

⁸ Maurice Colombain, *Co-operatives and Fundamental Education*. UNESCO, 1950, p. 13.

⁹ *All-India Rural Credit Survey* (abridged edition), p. 106.

Obstacles and Impediments

There are certain influences and conditions, both internal and external, which can limit the effectiveness of co-operatives as instruments of development and even rule them out altogether when development plans are being made. These impediments must be identified and eliminated as far as possible if co-operatives are going to be an important factor in development strategy.

(1) It is obvious that any tradition, prejudice or social distinction which tends to restrict membership, or make co-operative membership meaningless, acts as a counter-force to development, since development aims to benefit as large a number of people as possible. For example, an agricultural credit society which deliberately limits membership to a small circle of farmers automatically disqualifies itself as an agent of development.

(2) The size of co-operative has much to do with development. Associations that are too small to be viable business organisations have little place in development. The Ceylon Report mentioned above had this to say: "A small un-economic business unit is in no position to help general economic development; more often than not it is only busily engaged in rearranging the ingredients that make for poverty." (Section 9.15.) And again: "Whatever may be said of the social values of small co-operatives—and it cannot be denied they are often great—their economic benefits are often slight and of short duration." (Section 11.6.) The report also discards the theory that was once fashionable, that every village, no matter how small, must have a separate and autonomous co-operative.

(3) There is mounting evidence that the multi-purpose type of co-operative is best in rural development. The Japanese experience provides strong support for this view.

(4) The level of managerial competence, is clearly of utmost importance.

Cooperatives with weak, untrained and poorly-paid managers are unreliable agents in any programme of development. Though co-operatives are a popular movement, they are primarily business undertakings, and co-operators must learn that they cannot cross the economic stream riding an ideological horse.

(5) Coupled with this is the calibre of voluntary leadership within the co-operative. Summing up thus far: a large, well-managed co-operative with a strong leadership team can hardly be ignored when development plans are being made or implemented.

(6) Of utmost importance too in relation to development is the strength and integrity of co-operatives as a national grouping. A co-operative movement is much more than the sum of its individual societies, just as the human body is infinitely greater than the totality of its parts. It is conceivable that even a very large number of co-operative societies, collectively labelled as "co-operative movement", may be quite feeble and ineffective in relation to national economic development because they lack integration, adequate educational and research services, overall planning and purpose at secondary and apex levels, and intellectual leadership capable of viewing co-operatives within the total framework of society. Co-operative leaders who view co-operatives from the peephole of one particular type of organisation, or who interpret Co-operation solely in terms of savings and dividends, or whose focus is on day-to-day operations alone, will never lead the movement in the field of national development. Only leaders who see the dual role of Co-operation—a business system and at the same time a massive reform movement for economic and social change—will make their presence known and felt in the field of national planning and development.

(7) Finally, the role played by government in co-operative development is of paramount importance. If the govern-

ment in power looks upon co-operatives as a convenient tool of political expediency, then there will be no true co-operative movement, and co-operatives will not be able to play their proper and unique role in development. Moreover, as long as government occupies a dominant position of control over co-operatives, makes the major decisions and even goes so far as to dismiss elected officers and put others in their place, the movement will never produce its own leaders and we will wait in vain for the best type of voluntary leader to come forward and put his talents and experience at the service of a co-operative society.

Dangers in the Development Role

It would be foolhardy indeed to recognise no dangers to co-operatives as a result of involvement in development plans. The ILO Recommendation (1966) shows that those who framed it were fully conscious of this. It says that government policy should be formulated so that "co-operatives receive aid and encouragement without losing their independence"; and it goes on to state that "the policy should be integrated in general development plans in so far as this is consistent with the essential features of co-operatives".

The Ceylon report attempts to reconcile involvement in development plans with the primary co-operative aim and purpose of serving the members. It says:

"We certainly do not advocate a return to pre-war concepts of a small, slow movement made up of select groups catering to their own needs rather than the needs of the community and the nation. Our recommendations are based on a new perspective in which co-operatives will become a major force in total uplift and economic growth. We are confident that, with the movement drawing its power from a mainspring of voluntary action but operating within

broad guidelines of national planning, co-operative societies can perform two functions simultaneously: they can serve the needs of their members and at the same time make a massive contribution to national development." (Section 24.5.)

This concept of co-operatives fitting into the larger picture of national planning is stated nicely in a report from Latin America:

"Village co-operation in Peru is an internal, induced agent of change, with its own distinctive purpose and with local, district and regional plans which are dovetailed into the national development programme."¹⁰

The crucial point in this whole question is that co-operatives must never be regarded simply as tools for government planning; nor can they become mere handmaids of ministerial policies. The moment they do, they cease to be co-operatives though they continue to carry the label. It is for this reason that co-operators resent the official language sometimes used to describe co-operative participation in development. One brochure, for example, says that "governments may employ . . . co-operative institutions . . . to meet the above requirement". This is very close to objectionable phrasing—actually no external agent has the right to "employ" co-operatives to do anything—that is the prerogative of the members collectively.

What seems above all necessary is partnership at the planning stage, carried out in such form and spirit that co-operators have every opportunity to influence and sometimes deflect government policy if they see danger signals when economic plans are being formulated. It was with this in mind that the Ceylon Commission submitted as one of its major

¹⁰ Jaime Llosa Larrabure, "Cooperacion Popular in Peru", *International Labor Review*, Sept. 1966, p. 223.

*The Co-operative Development
Decade can mean . . .*



. . . more Services

The Co-operative Development Decade can mean . . .



. . . more Finance

proposals that a National Co-operative Development Council should be formed, with representation from both co-operatives and government, charged with the responsibility of overall planning for the co-operative sector and its role in national development.

The Situation in Advanced Countries

There remains one aspect of the subject that must not be overlooked: the situation in countries with a developed economy. Too often discussion about the role of co-operatives in development is carried on with only the developing countries in mind—in fact, the ILO and UN resolutions referred to here specify that they apply only to developing countries.

This is unfortunate—and indeed there is a certain inconsistency about this official viewpoint, with the result that statesmen and their spokesmen from economically advanced countries can fervently recommend co-operatives for disadvantaged people in developing countries without implying that they are needed by disadvantaged people in their own too. While it is true, of course, that the great world problem of economic retardation lies mainly in the developing countries, we cannot turn a blind eye to the analogous problem of poverty in the affluent nations. Perhaps the time has come to change our terminology from “developing countries” to “developing peoples”, and our thinking might then embrace the under-privileged everywhere.

We have

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New Horizons of Social Development

by **Curio Chiaraviglio**

(member of ICA Central Committee representing Argentina)

The International Co-operative Alliance has frequently called attention to the growing gap between the rate of economic and social progress in developing and in industrialised countries, and has reconfirmed that in co-operation through self-help mankind has a proven instrument which can, if rightly applied, help to banish poverty, hunger and ignorance.

I feel that certain achievements of the “self-help” technique realised in Latin America are a great interest in this context. I refer to Latin American experience not only as a representative of these countries in the ICA’s Central Committee but also because I believe they demonstrate the possibilities of exploring new ways for attacking the problem of poverty. Also they avoid the common mistake of relying primarily on the development methods which have been successfully applied in advanced countries. Precisely because the difficulties in backward areas are more pressing and are peculiarly related to indigenous circumstances, it is important to look for new ways, indigenously applicable, of solving these problems.

Demographic pressures in Latin America, where population growth is faster than in India or China, have led in recent years to experimentation with the technique of “aided self-help” (“auto-construcción”). This is because the classical method of financing low-cost housing by

loans is not practical where poverty is associated with low standards of education and technical skills, low propensity to save, and endemic inflation. In low income groups families are incapable of managing the household budget in order to repay housing loans even at low interest rates.

A New Technique

In response to these problems there has been a revival of the old practice of primitive populations of building for themselves huts or “ranchos”—small houses with walls of pressed mud and thatched roof. This self-build technique has been modernised and supplemented through technical help of three kinds.

(1) The construction process for one-family houses and small farm buildings has been greatly simplified to bring it within the capacity of unskilled labourers anxious to have a home of their own.

(2) Centralised services have been organised which make it possible for unemployed workers to build their own homes thus capitalising their productive capacities which would otherwise be lost through idleness.

(3) A new form of ownership tenancy—the homestead—has been introduced; the homestead cannot be sold,

mortgaged or seized for debts, thus giving the family a sound basis of security.

Simple as it appears at first glance, this three-fold technique of self-help is extraordinarily complex, not only in its adaptability to various social environments but also for its potentialities in offering a completely new approach to the problem of poverty. Here I will try to give only a brief idea of the new horizons opened by this technique. My purpose is merely to suggest a deeper study of this whole problem, which really calls for a book to cover experiments already realised and the new possibilities that they reveal.

To my knowledge the most systematic and advanced research in this field has been done by the "Centro interamericano de vivienda y planeamiento" (CINVA) founded in 1951 by the Pan American Union with a contribution from the Republic of Colombia. This institute has undertaken a wide range of practical experiments in various countries under different social conditions.

From this experimentation there has resulted nearly a dozen project designs for one-family houses to meet a variety of family requirements and planned to combine the advantages of prefabrication and work on the site. For each design there is a corresponding number of blocks of specific shapes and dimensions.

These range from the simplest blocks for walls to special patterns for doors and window cases, bathroom equipment and so forth. The blocks are made from a mixture of cement and earth and are as strong as bricks or more so. They are shaped in a machine designed for inexperienced operators. Similarly the manufacture of prefabricated parts has been extremely simplified. One particularly promising innovation is a block specially shaped for construction of solid walls without mortar; in cases where a higher resistance is required the blocks are fixed

with liquid cement which is easily applied with a brush.

With such simplification a high proportion of the labour requirements for "self-help" housing projects can be covered by unemployed and unskilled workers; in Guatemala for example, the proportion is 95 per cent. With traditional construction methods the ratio of the unskilled labour costs to total investment costs in construction of simple one-family dwellings is only 8 per cent. With CINVA methods 60 per cent or more of the total investment in simple one-family houses is represented by unskilled labour. This means that given adequate organisation, poor, ignorant and unemployed people can create from their own labour 60 per cent of the cost of building their own homes. This represents a capital saving which would have been lost if they had remained idle.

CINVA has also developed practical methods and field organisations for planning and producing working centres for housing projects. These are designed to overcome the particular difficulties created by resistance to new productive methods from persons at the lower end of the social scale. These are too complex to be described in a short article, especially since they vary according to different social and cultural situations. One example only will be mentioned; namely that in some areas it has been found preferable for families to be allocated sites and to select their houses at the very beginning of the project, while in other cases it has proved wiser to allocate the houses after construction.

Social Impact of Advanced "Self-help" Techniques

As a basis for further exploration I outline here two ways of helping poor families acquire ownership of a sound and liveable house. One case is adapted to employed workers, the other to unemployed workers or those who have no other opportunity to

acquire savings to be invested in their own homes.

The first case is illustrated by a co-operative project in Argentina for building houses at a total cost of approximately 8,000 dollars each, 40 per cent cash and the balance through a loan repayable in 20 years. Those who do not have the money for the cash payment have the option of covering it through a specified number of hours of idle time (holidays, vacation, temporary illness, etc) to be spent either in the working centre on preparing prefabricated materials or in helping on construction tasks which do not require special skills.

The second case is a housing project in Puerto Rico under which families are given materials and technical assistance enabling them to build their own houses.

Puerto Rico, an island with a population density of 766 persons per square mile or nearly twice that of India, once had nearly 100,000 families living in precarious shelters. These were unskilled workers without fixed occupation, 90 per cent of them illiterate, undernourished and in poor health, and unemployed during the seasonal suspension of agricultural activities. In 1940 when the development plan was started the per capita income was 140 dollars. The development plan attacked poverty on two fronts. The economic approach was to promote investment and manufacturing and hence employment through special loans, tax exemption and other physical devices. On the social front the chief measure was the land reform which broke up large estates and set a limit of 500 acres for individual land holding. This provided the foundation for a more specific social programme designed to give each of the 70,000 poorest families—13 per cent of the total population—a plot of ground.

With the help of CINVA these 70,000 families have been lifted from the

lowest poverty level to become independent owners of the capital represented by a home and the security and healthy environment provided by it. These homes constitute a factor of social stability which in turn attracts capital investment to underdeveloped areas; they also increase the living standard of workers by providing them not only with dwellings but also the land from which they can derive in their free time vegetables, fruit and poultry.

For this reason various Latin American countries have established branch factories in Puerto Rico, some in the neighbourhood of the 384 villages built through "self-help" techniques. Meanwhile per capita income has risen from 140 dollars in 1940 to 1,149 dollars in 1966 and is now at the highest level for any Latin American country.

Similar community development programmes have been successfully mounted in other countries such as Chile, Guatemala and Colombia. Kennedy City in Colombia is a practical demonstration of the ability of "self-help" techniques to meet extremely pressing housing problems on the fringe of a big and rapidly expanding city like Bogota.

Rôle of Co-operation in Social Development

The technological revolution, rising expectations and demographic expansion confront humanity with tremendous responsibilities and dangerous problems. At the same time there is a serious dearth of ideas on how to meet these pressing problems.

Birth control has been widely accepted as a method of narrowing the gap between industrialised countries and underdeveloped areas and maintaining the balance between the population growth and the development of the vital resources necessary to sustain this population. In my view co-operators should not accept birth control as a *substitute* for research, investments and practical projects for develop-

ing the fundamental resources—food, shelter and education required to meet the vital needs of the population. We cannot allow the discussion on birth control to postpone action for attacking poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease.

If we consider the financial resources and scientific research dedicated to perfection of armaments it becomes clear that the resources now devoted to killing could make a tremendous contribution to a better life for the common people. Regardless of views on birth control or on defence spending, there is undoubtedly a wide measure of agreement that the following should be the basic objectives of co-operation:

— self-help techniques constitute a practical way of ensuring a healthy environment and the security of home ownership for poor families;

— various groups in society have a contribution to make to the organisational structure which can make it possible for unemployed persons to build their own homes. The unemployed group can make the effort required for thus improving their social situation; those higher in the social scale can use other technical skills for reducing the gap between rich and poor;

— progress in this field could be greatly accelerated if the same financial, scientific and technical resources were utilised as in other fields, for instance, in the space programme.

With these objectives and practical possibilities in mind it becomes clear that

the rôle of co-operatives in social development and its capability for introducing a better order in this unbalanced world through self-help and mutual assistance is far greater than has yet been appreciated. The principle of transforming a long standing evil like unemployment into a source of capital for the poor classes can be applied in many fields.

Great strides in this direction have been taken by UN agencies. In a number of ways they make a contribution which could be greatly extended through the co-operative form of organisation. This is true in the fields of co-operative housing, the use of agricultural surpluses to finance community development programmes, etc.

Conclusion

Various experiments in self-help construction have been made in a number of countries. I have referred here to only a selected few in Latin America which I consider sufficient to give an idea of the new horizons which could be opened up by improving and extending capital formation through offering every unemployed person with the will to work an opportunity to work for his own profit and to create his own capital. Thus home ownership could be extended to the “have-nots” as a first step to reducing the social gap between wealthy and indigent classes. Co-operators throughout the world might well study, promote and extend this method as one of their fundamental objectives.

Recruitment and preparation in Sweden of Co-operative experts for developing countries

by Alf Carlsson, Swedish Co-operative Centre

There is a growing need of co-operative experts in various fields in developing countries. The development of the Nordic co-operative projects in Kenya and Tanzania has sharply increased the demand for experienced co-operative personnel from the Nordic countries, but through co-ordinated recruiting procedures and a joint preparatory programme they have been able to meet this increased demand satisfactorily. This has been described by Mr Aage Bo in No 4 of the *Review of International Co-operation*, 1969. In this article I want to give some additional views of general character on recruitment of co-operative personnel for various assignments in developing countries and problems in this context.

By including a limited number of Swedish participants in the international co-operative seminars held in Sweden since 1962, some Swedish co-operative employees have been given at least some preparation for service in a developing country. In addition to an often very thorough and solid co-operative experience and knowledge, they have gained some insight into the problems and prac-

tices of co-operatives in developing countries. For example, eight out of twelve co-operative employees given various assignments in developing countries before 1967 had availed themselves of this kind of preparation. In the seminars they are expected to be of special assistance to their fellow participants from abroad when it comes to assimilating experience from the work of Swedish co-operatives.

Already in 1965 it was foreseen that the demand for co-operative experts abroad would rise considerably within the near future. This was before the start of the Nordic Co-operative Project in Kenya. A Nordic group of educationalists was appointed to look into the questions of recruitment, training and re-employment of Nordic co-operators given assignments in developing countries. The intention was to create regular training opportunities for potential candidates to co-operative assignments in developing countries. The work of the group came, however, to serve very suitably as a basis for an annual preparatory course for Nordic co-operators selected for various assignments in Kenya and Tanzania.

At present Nordic co-operators find themselves in a situation similar to the one of 1965. Co-operation as a technique for economic and social development has been brought into focus in connection with the urgent need for increased agricultural productivity in the developing countries. In Sweden, where the Swedish Co-operative Centre has been entrusted with the administration and implementation of the co-operative technical collaboration between Sweden and certain developing countries in Asia and East Africa, we anticipate very soon a yearly demand of between 20 and 30 co-operative workers for various assignments abroad. The recruitment of these experts is carried out in close collaboration with the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), on behalf of which the Swedish Co-operative Centre endeavours to procure co-operative expertise and experience, mainly for East Africa.

Again, however, the curve of demand for co-operative experts is rising. In Sweden as well as in the other Nordic countries the Co-operative Movements consider this to be a real challenge, since this demand can hardly be met from any other source than from the Co-operative Movements themselves. Co-operators are therefore getting increasingly aware of the necessity of matching this increased demand, and consequent increased financial involvement from the governmental bodies, with an increased supply of experienced co-operators willing to work for some time in developing countries.

Many problems remain to be solved in connection with finding suitable candidates for assignments abroad. The Nordic Co-operative Movements, which have formed a special committee for joint consultation on questions relating to co-operative technical assistance to developing countries, give special attention to the problem of locating, recruiting and training co-operative workers for special

assignments overseas. One important aspect is, of course, the possibilities of re-employment guarantees for co-operators returning home from assignments abroad. Kooperativa Förbundet, for example, has given such guarantees to facilitate recruitment for various assignments.

For some period of time we shall have to face the problem of language. Many very qualified and willing candidates cannot be considered because of their comparatively poor knowledge of English—not to mention French. We must probably start at that end—simply giving training in English and, later on, perhaps in French—in order to be able to communicate whatever experience and knowledge we may have acquired in the field of co-operation. In this context the governments should be prepared to give support financially. As regards other preparation before departure, the experts returning home prove more and more to be an extremely valuable source of information for their inexperienced successors.

The important work of recruiting qualified and able personnel must go hand in hand with an intensified information activity which can mobilise public opinion for a more wholehearted and practical involvement in technical and financial assistance to developing countries. By contributing annually, on a voluntary basis, funds for technical support to co-operatives in developing countries Swedish co-operators are at the same time acquiring more effective information about the needs of co-operatives in developing countries. The various branches of the co-operative movement in Sweden are increasing their involvement in questions connected with technical collaboration with developing countries. It is hoped that this development will continue, allowing us to play our role in an ever increasing international collaboration between co-operatives in various parts of the world.

Book Review

Co-operatives in Asia

By *Mohinder Singh, Praeger Special Studies in International Economics and Development, New York, NY, 1970. 490 pp.*

Dr Singh's study is one of the most useful and readable references on co-operatives that has come to our attention. The carefully designed structure of the work is based on a dual approach to the analysis of co-operatives in Asia, first in terms of the *functional sectors* of co-operation (Part I on Agricultural co-operatives including co-operative credit, co-operative banks, primary societies and, marketing and supply co-operatives, and Part II on non-agricultural co-operatives including consumer co-operatives, urban credit co-operatives, industrial co-operatives and housing co-operatives), and secondly, in Part III, in terms of ten selected country studies (Ceylon, India, Iran, Japan, West Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand).

This framework facilitates use of the book as a ready reference for specialists. More important, it has enabled the author to interweave in a purposeful way a wealth of factual information with penetrating analytical insights into the fundamental problems of co-operatives in the area with solidly based proposals for constructive approaches to those problems. The combination makes for a refreshing objectivity. Dr Singh is almost brutally frank in describing the weaknesses and limited coverage of co-operatives in Asia (with the notable exceptions of Japan and Taiwan), but in every instance he offers specific suggestions to justify his reasoned optimism as to co-operative prospects in the event of a well

planned and co-ordinated programme for channelling technical assistance and financial support to the right places and in the right way.

Certain basic themes run through all three parts of the book. These include: the emphasis on integrating co-operative credit with the supporting services essential to ensure increased productivity, for example, extension services, supplies of production requisites and marketing arrangements to stabilise markets and minimise trading risks; stress on training for management efficiency; the need for larger, more viable societies and stronger, more efficient apex organisations; and the constructive role that governments of the area can play in promoting co-operatives through such measures as appropriate legislation, extension services, financial support, trading concessions and the use of co-operatives as marketing and supply agents to the government.

The author's specific suggestions with respect to particular sectors of co-operative activity are so numerous and so detailed that they cannot even be summarised here; but the following represents a selection of those which seem particularly worthy of note.

Agricultural Co-operatives

Expansion in the volume of institutional agricultural credit is socially desirable to protect the farmer from the onerous terms of the private money lender, but credit can contribute to increases in productivity and production only if there is a well-organised extension service working in close contact with farmers and supported by specialists attached

*The Co-operative Development
Decade can mean . . .*



. . . more Trade

The Co-operative Development Decade can mean . . .



. . . more Shops

to regional agricultural experiment stations, as well as arrangements for an adequate and timely supply of production credit, agricultural requisites and marketing. The responsibility for providing long-term credit generally vests in separate institutions outside the co-operative framework, but the possibility of using co-operative institutions at the secondary or primary level as agents to channel long-term credit to farmers could be considered. Multipurpose co-operatives integrating credit with extension, supplies and marketing should be promoted. It may be necessary to work out suitable administrative arrangements for a closer relationship between the government extension services and the co-operatives. Supply business, at least to begin with, should be restricted to agricultural requisites, but if consumer goods are handled, it might be better to cover only a limited range of articles. Trading risks can be minimized by ordering goods on the basis of firm orders, and where possible handling goods as agents of government departments or manufacturers. The multipurpose co-operative should not be burdened with too many activities, especially those of a specialised character or functions that can be handled appropriately by a welfare organisation. It is also important that (1) accounts of the credit section are maintained separately; (2) there are restrictions on the use of funds of the credit section for trading activities; and (3) when funds of the credit section are used for trading functions, they should bear suitable rates of interest.

In most countries of the area more emphasis is needed on building up deposits. This may require creating larger societies, taking over certain functions on behalf of governments to increase prestige and win the confidence of depositors, and use of deposit-insurance schemes. Unless supplies of short-term credit are adequate not only for the direct expenses of carrying on production but also for meeting the consumption needs of the farmer, there will be either "misdirection" of credit or resort to the private money lender. It is also important to make short-term credit available on the basis of "repaying capacity" of the farmer rather than of property owned. Simplification of lending procedures should be attempted within the framework of suitable arrangements for recovery. In the case of medium-term and long-term loans, co-opera-

tive legislation should permit farmers to create charges against their land in favour of the co-operative.

The need to improve the management of agricultural co-operatives in almost all the Asian countries is both crucial and complex. It involves the role of directors, the role of paid employees and the role of members.

Consumers' Co-operation

Consumers' co-operatives are being promoted by some governments as a supplementary channel of distribution, to cushion the impact of rising prices on the cost of living for consumers in urban areas. In some cases co-operatives are also being promoted with a view to securing increased participation of the nationals of a country in retail trade.

Many of the consumers' co-operatives are small in terms of membership, share capital and volume of business. In most of the countries the wholesale societies at the secondary or apex level do not have effective business links with retail stores. Also in most cases the financial accommodation available to consumers' co-operatives is limited and its terms not so favourable as those available to agricultural co-operatives. Wholesale societies should be provided with adequate share capital and working funds, and effective business links established with primary stores on the one hand, and with manufacturers, importers or distributors on the other: above all they must be provided with staff competent to handle business operations.

The working relationships of primary and wholesale societies with co-operative financing institutions needs to be re-enforced. Employees of primary co-operatives should be given short orientation or refresher courses and provided with on-the-job advice on organisation, management and business practices. Consideration could be given to the desirability of establishing special institutions to: (1) undertake action-oriented research; (2) provide advisory services, including on-the-job training or guidance; and (3) organise short-term orientation, training and refresher courses.

Urban Credit Co-operatives

Urban credit co-operatives are financially stronger than those engaged in providing credit to agriculture. Nevertheless the proportion of the urban population served is small; the geographic coverage is uneven, and the services provided to members are limited. Larger, more viable units should be created.

In most cases the facilities provided by urban credit co-operatives cover acceptance of savings, and (or) fixed deposits and provision of loans. An extension of these facilities to cover some of the common banking facilities (eg, acceptance of checking or current accounts, facilities for withdrawal through checks, remittance and safe deposit) would be desirable. Also steps need to be taken to strengthen efforts directed toward mobilization of savings by introducing savings schemes carrying competitive rates of interest and designed to meet the requirements of different groups or for different purposes. Governments could help in this respect by introducing appropriate deposit-insurance schemes.

Some co-operatives face the problem of finding outlets for investment. This may require action in two directions. In the first place, action needs to be taken to strengthen the working relationships between urban credit co-operatives and co-operative financing institutions, if necessary by establishing separate financing institutions for urban credit co-operatives or for non-agricultural co-operatives. Secondly, the urban credit co-operatives could evolve schemes to finance acquisition of durable consumer goods or houses by members.

Industrial Co-operatives

In few other fields are the activities covered by co-operatives so wide or the problems involved so complex as in industry. Co-operatives in this field cover on the one hand traditional industry undertaken by artisans or craftsmen, often with the help of family members and frequently using manually operated tools, and on the other hand modern small-scale industry. Also the possible range of activity is very wide and may include provision of credit, raw materials and other services; credit guarantees; marketing; provision of common facilities for certain phases

of production at a central place, individually or jointly; joint production in a workshop; and various other types of services, individually or in combination with one or more of the above.

Except in Japan and South Korea, reliance is mostly on co-operative banks common to all types of co-operatives. Owing partly to their limited experience in the field of financing small industry, partly to their own limited resources, and partly to lack of adequate finance support from central banks for such purposes, these banks have played a limited role in the financing of industrial co-operatives. Consideration needs to be given to the desirability of separate financing institutions in this field of activity.

No less important is the need for a substantial increase in the loan funds, especially for working capital, available to these co-operatives. This may imply more liberal short-term accommodation by central banks to co-operative banks that finance industrial co-operatives: or the promotion of credit guarantee institutions so as to facilitate borrowing by industrial co-operatives from commercial banks. Also it might be desirable to review the structure of interest rates with a view to adopting rates that are realistic and would help ensure the efficient use of credit.

The problems of business management of industrial co-operatives are far more complex than those of some other types, inasmuch as they involve arrangements for credit, purchase of supplies, manufacture or processing, sales, inventory control, cost accounting, etc. Experienced full-time paid employees are essential. One approach would be to select persons with business aptitude and experience (either from the co-operative movement or outside) and arrange for them short-term training courses of a practical nature. The second method is to provide co-operatives with advisory services on business management and economic guidance.

Housing Co-operatives

One of the factors limiting development of housing is the lack of low-interest long-term loan funds. To deal with this problem, it might be necessary for governments to estab-

lish, at the national level, special financing institutions that would: (1) mobilize savings of individuals and members of co-operatives; (2) secure long-term loans from insurance corporations or companies and other institutions for financing these co-operatives; and (3) channel financial assistance from governments to co-operatives. Governments could also help these institutions in securing loan funds by guaranteeing interest on their debentures.

Governments could establish research institutes to undertake research in building design, building materials and methods of construction with a view to reducing costs of construction. Standardization of design and promotion of prefabrication of materials could also help reduce costs. Since urban land is often held unused by private individuals in anticipation of large price increases, governments may have to help co-operatives in acquiring land. Again, governmental assistance may be necessary to arrange supplies of scarce building materials.

There should be established apex-level organisations to service housing co-operatives.

These could maintain a staff of experts (architects, lawyers, etc) and provide advisory services to primary societies, arrange short-term orientation or refresher training courses for employees and place joint purchase orders for certain types of building materials and arrange direct dispatch to co-operatives.

There is a need to strengthen primary co-operatives. Consideration might be given in some cases to establishment of primary co-operatives by other co-operative organisations such as urban banks, thrift and loan societies and insurance co-operatives. Also it might be advantageous to promote societies for selected groups of the population, *eg*, factory workers or government servants.

Steps need to be taken to encourage savings by members for the specific purpose of acquiring ownership of an apartment or a house. The establishment of apex financing institutions could help in mobilizing savings by offering facilities to members to open special savings accounts, either directly or through their co-operatives.

L.S.

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PO Box 946, Moshi, Tanzania**

Affiliated Organisations

Algeria: Société Coopérative Musulmane Algérienne d'Habitation et d'Accession à la Petite Propriété, 6 et 8 rue du Cercle Militaire, Oran; also at - 21 rue Edgar Quinet, Algiers, and 9 rue Mathurin Régnier, 75 Paris 15.

Argentina: Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Consumo, Avda. Suárez 2034, Buenos Aires.

Intercoop, Editora Cooperativa Limitada, Rivadavia 4426 (1er piso), Buenos Aires.

Asociación Argentina de Cooperativas y Mutualidades de Seguros, Belgrano 530, 5 Piso, Buenos Aires.

Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Crédito Ltda., Pueyrredon 468, 2 Piso, Buenos Aires (RC 24).

Australia: Co-operative Federation of Australia, 569 Wellington Street, Perth, Western Australia.

Austria: "Konsumverband" Zentralverband der österreichischen Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.

Membership (1967): 476,200; turnover: retail trade: Sch. 4,646 mill. (thereof consumers' societies: Sch. 3,895 mill.; department stores: Sch. 713 mill.; other retail trade: Sch. 38 mill.); wholesale society (G.Ö.C.): Sch. 1,821 mill.; own production: consumers' societies: Sch. 472 mill.; G.Ö.C. and subsidiaries: Sch. 415 mill.

Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft A.G., Seitzergasse 2-4, Vienna 1.

Zentralkasse der Konsumgenossenschaften, Theobaldgasse 19, Vienna VI.

Österreichischer Verband gemeinnütziger Bau-, Wohnungs- und Siedlungsvereinigungen, Bösendorferstrasse 7/11, Vienna 1.

1967: Affiliated organisations: 313 (comprising 201 societies and 112 associations); membership: 130,286; dwellings administered: 288,157 (comprising 127,954 societies and 160,203 associations); balance at 1966: 33.8 milliard Sch. (divided as to societies Sch. 15.7, associations Sch. 18.1).

Österreichischer Raiffeisenverband, Seifergasse 16, Vienna 1.

Belgium: Société Générale Coopérative, 26-28 rue Haute, Brussels 1.

Affiliated consumers' societies: 21; membership: 300,000; turnover (1968): Frs. 4,180 mill.; shops: 1,409; Wholesale society turnover (1968): Frs. 1,272 mill.

Société Coopérative d'Assurances "La Prévoyance Sociale", P.S. Building, 151 rue Royale, Brussels 3.

Premiums (1966): Frs. 1,903 mill.; reserves: Frs. 6 milliards; insurance funds, life: Frs. 20 milliards.

Fédération Nationale des Coopératives Chrétiennes, 135 rue de la Loi, Brussels 4.

(1967): 1,250 shops; turnover: Frs. 1,430 mill.; Savings Bank: 2,050 branches; 500,000 members; deposits: Frs. 12 milliards; Insurance Society: 290,000 policy holders; premiums: Frs. 450 mill.; reserves: Frs. 1,300 mill.

L'Economie Populaire, 30 rue des Champs, Ciney (Namur).

Branches (1968): 460; membership: 92,000; turnover: F.B. 1,069,000,000; savings deposits: F.B. 592 mill.; capital and reserves: F.B. 184 mill.

L'Institut Provincial de Coopération Agricole, 42 rue des Augustins, Liège.

OPHACO (Office des Pharmacies Coopératives de Belgique), 602 Chaussée de Mons, Anderlecht-Brussels.

Union of 28 co-operative societies owning 360 pharmacies, 68 optical departments and counters, 7 drug stores, 14 wholesale depots. Turnover (1963): Frs. 1,250 mill. Surplus distributed to 400,000 members: Frs. 95 mill.

Brazil: Aliança Brasileira de Cooperativas (ABCOOP), Rua General Jardim 645, 3º Andar, São Paulo.

Bulgaria: Central Co-operative Union, Rue Rakovski 103, Sofia.

Central Union of Productive Co-operatives, Boulevard Dondoukov 41, Sofia.

Cameroon (West): West Cameroon Co-operative Association Ltd., P.O. Box 135, Kumba, Meme Division, West Cameroon.

Canada: Co-operative Union of Canada, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.

A federation of English-language co-operative organisations, organised in 1909.

Conseil Canadien de la Coopération, 111 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ont.

Ceylon: Co-operative Federation of Ceylon, P.O. Box 1669, Co-operative House, 455 Galle Road, Colombo 3.

Chile: Federación Chilena de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Credito, Ltda., *Dieciocho 246, Clasificador 760, Santiago de Chile.*

Cooperativa Sodimac Ltda., *Casilla 3110, Santiago de Chile.*

Cooperativa de Empleados Particulares Ltda., *Teatinos 601, Casilla 424, Santiago de Chile.*

Instituto de Financiamiento Cooperativo, IFICOOP, Ltda., *Agustinas 853, Oficina 547, Casilla 1118, Santiago de Chile.*

Colombia: Cooperativa Familiar de Medellin Ltda., *Calle 49, No. 52-49, Medellin.*

Cyprus: Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., *P.O. Box 1447, Nicosia.*

Cyprus Turkish Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., *P.O. Box 791, Nicosia.*

Vine Products Co-operative Marketing Union Ltd., *P.O. Box 314, Limassol.*

Czechoslovakia: Ustredni Rada Druzstev, *Tesnov 5, Prague 1.*

Denmark: De samvirkende danske Andelselskaber (Andelsudvalget), *H. C. Andersens Boulevard 42, 1553 Copenhagen V.*

Representing 30 national organisations, 'comprising: consumers' societies, agricultural production, marketing and purchase societies, other production and marketing societies, insurance societies, banking societies. Membership: 750,000 individual members.

Det Kooperative Faellesforbund i Danmark, *Kronprinzengade 13, 1114 Copenhagen K.*

Affiliated societies (1963): 634; total sales: D.Kr. 1,582 mill.; employees: 12,500; comprising consumers', workers', artisans', productive and housing societies, etc.

Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger (FDB), *Roskildevej 65, Albertslund.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 1,742; members: 839,000; turnover: 4,032 mill. D.Kr.; wholesale turnover: 2,198 mill. D.Kr.; own production: 741 mill. D.Kr.

Dominica: Dominica Credit Union League, *14 Turkey Lane, Roseau.*

Eire: Irish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd., *The Plunkett House, 84 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.*

National Organising and Advisory Body for Agricultural Co-operatives. Affiliated societies: 333; membership: 127,000; turnover (1967): £152 mill.

Co-operative Development Society Ltd., *35 Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin.*

Finland: Suomen Osuuskappojen Keskuskunta (S.O.K.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; wholesale turnover: Fmk. 1,377 mill.; own production of SOK: Fmk. 270 mill.

Yleinen Osuuskappojen Liitto r.y. (Y.O.L.), *Vilhonkatu 7, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1968): 298; members: 561,851; turnover of societies: Fmk. 2,543 mill.; total production of the affiliated societies: Fmk. 47 mill.

Kultusosuuskuntien Keskusliitto (K.K.), r.y., *P.O. Box 10740, Mikonkatu 17, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 81; members: 579,400; turnover: Fmk. 2,009.4 mill.; own production: Fmk. 302.6 mill.

Keskusosuusliike O.T.K., *P.O. Box 10120, Helsinki 10.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 81; turnover: 1,189.1 mill.; own production: Fmk. 336.1 mill.

Pellervo-Seura, Central Organisation of Farmers' Co-operatives, *Simonkatu 6, Helsinki K.*

Affiliated organisations (1963): 10 central organisations; 1,102 societies.

France: Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommation, F.N.C.C., *89 rue la Boétie, 75 Paris VIII.*

Affiliated societies (1964): 475; membership: 3,460,000; shops: 9,900; turnover: NF. 3,600 mill.

Société Générale des Coopératives de Consommation, *61 rue Boissière, 75 Paris XVI.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production du Bâtiment, des Travaux Publics et des Matériaux de Construction, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Générale des Sociétés Coopératives Ouvrières de Production, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Banque Coopérative des Sociétés Ouvrières de France, *88 rue de Courcelles, 75 Paris VIII.*

Confédération Nationale de la Coopération, de la Mutualité et du Crédit Agricoles, *129 Bd. St. Germain, 75 Paris VI.*

Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole, *91-93 Boulevard Pasteur, 75 Paris XV.*

Fédération Nationale des Sociétés Coopératives d'Habitations à Loyer Modéré (H.L.M.), *17 rue Richelieu, 75 Paris 1er.*

Confédération des Coopératives de Construction et d'Habitation, "L'Habitation", *3 ave. du Coq, 75 Paris 9e.*

Confédération des Organismes de Crédit Maritime Mutuel, *18 bis, Avenue Hoche, 75 Paris VIII.*

Gambia (The): Gambia Co-operative Central Banking and Marketing Union Ltd., *P.O. Box 505, Bathurst.*

Federal Republic of Germany: Bund deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften G.m.b.H., *Besenbinderhof 52, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Affiliated societies (December 1969): 115; membership (end of 1969): 2,235,000; turnover (1969): D.M. 4,827 milliards.

Grosseinkaufs-Gesellschaft deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften m.b.H., *Besenbinderhof 52, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Total turnover incl. subsidiaries (1969): D.M. 2,462 milliards.

Gesamtverband gemeinnütziger Wohnungsunternehmen, *Breslauer Platz 4, (22c) Cologne.*

Volksfürsorge Lebensversicherung Aktiengesellschaft, *An der Alster, (2) Hamburg 1.*

Volksfürsorge Deutsche Sachversicherung Aktiengesellschaft, *Steinstrasse 27, (2) Hamburg 1.*
Deutscher Raiffeisenverband e.V., *Adenauerallee 127, 53 Bonn.*

Ghana: The Alliance of Ghana Co-operatives Ltd., *Post Office Box 2068, Accra.*

Greece: Pan-Hellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Co-operatives (S.E.S.), *56 El. Venizelou Street, Athens 142.*—Membership suspended.

Guyana: Guyana Co-operative Union Ltd., *Ministerial Buildings, High Street and Brickdam, Georgetown.*

Haiti (W.I.): Caisse Populaire Dominique Savio, *57 Rue Rigaud, Pétion-Ville.*

Hungary: Federation of Hungarian Co-operative Societies, *Szabadság 14, Budapest V.*

National Federation of Producers' Co-operatives (OKISZ), *Pesti Barnabás 6, Budapest V.*

Iceland: Samband Isl. Samvinnufélaga, *Reykjavik.*

India: National Co-operative Union of India, *72 Jorbagh, New Delhi 3.*

Iran: Sepah Consumers' Co-operative Society, *Avenue Sevvom Esfand, Rue Artèche, Tehran.*
Credit and Housing Co-operative Society of Iran, *20-22 Shahabad Avenue, Tehran.*

Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran, *357 Pahlavi Avenue, Tehran.*

Israel: General Co-operative Association of Jewish Labour in Eretz-Israel "Hevrat Ovdim", Ltd., *P.O.B. 303, Tel-Aviv.*
Affiliated societies and companies (1963): 1,855 in all branches.

"Merkaz" Audit Union of the Co-operative Societies for Loans and Savings, *44 Rothschild Bd., P.O. Box 75, Tel-Aviv.*

"Haikar" Audit Union of Agricultural Societies of the Farmers' Federation of Israel, *8 Kaplan Street, P.O.B. 209, Tel-Aviv.*

"Bahan" Audit Union of Agricultural Co-operative Societies in Israel, *47 Nahmani Street, P.O.B. 622, Tel Aviv.*

Italy: Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, *Via Guattani 9, Rome.*

Confederazione Cooperative Italiane, *Borgo Santo Spirito 78, 00193 Rome.*

Associazione Generale delle Cooperative Italiane, *Via delle Quattro Fontane 16, 00184 Rome.*

Jamaica (W.I.): Jamaica Co-operative Union Ltd., *14-16 Barry Street, Kingston.*

Japan: Nippon Seikatsu Kyodokumiai Rengokai (Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union), *1-13, 4-chome, Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.*
Zenkoku Nogyokyodokumiai Chuokai (Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives), *5, 1-chome Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.*

Zenkoku Gyogyo Kyodokumiai Rengokai (National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations), *Sankaido Building no. 9-13, 1-chome, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo.*

Jordan: Jordan Co-operative Organisation, *P.O.B. 1343, Amman.*

Kenya: Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives Ltd., *P.O.B. 9768, Nairobi.*

Korea: National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, *75, 1st Street, Chung-Jong-Ro, Sodaemun-ku, Seoul.*

Malaysia: Co-operative Union of Malaysia Ltd., *Peti Surat 685, Kuala Lumpur.*

Sarawak Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., *Kuching, Sarawak.*

Malta: Farmers' Central Co-operative Society Ltd., *New Building, Middleman Street, Marsa.*

Mauritius: Mauritius Co-operative Union, *Co-operation House, Dumat Street, Port Louis.*

Netherlands: Coöperatieve Vereniging U.A., Centrale der Nederlandse Verbruikscoöperaties, "CO-OP Nederland", *Postbus 6008, Vierhavensstraat 40, Rotterdam 7.*

Association of Enterprises on a Co-operative Basis, *Bloemgracht 29, Amsterdam.*

Nigeria: Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria, Ltd., *c/o Co-operative Buildings, New Court Road., Ibadan.*

Lagos Co-operative Union Ltd., Co-operative Office, *147 Broad Street, Lagos, W. Nigeria.*

Mid-Western Nigeria Co-operative Federation Ltd., *c/o Ministry of Co-operative and Rural Development, Co-operative Societies Division, P.O.B. Benin City.*

Norway: Norges Kooperative Landsforening *Revierstredet 2, Oslo 1.*

Affiliated societies (1969): 783; membership: 392,000 turnover of local societies: Kr. 3,030 mill.; of N.K.L. Kr. 1,044 mill.

Norske Boligbyggelags Landsforbund (NBBL), *Trondheimsveien 84-86, Oslo 5.*

Pakistan: East Pakistan Co-operative Union Ltd., 9/D-Motijheel Commercial Area, 8th floor, Dacca 2.

West Pakistan Co-operative Union, 5 Court Street, P.O.B. 905, Lahore 1.

Karachi Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., 14 Laxmi Building, Bunder Road, Karachi 2.

Karachi Central Co-operative Consumers' Union, Iqbal Market and Cold Storage, Soldier Bazar, Karachi.

Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies' Union, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.

Karachi Co-operative Union Ltd., Co-operative House, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi 5.

Karachi Fishermen's Co-operative Purchase and Sales Society Ltd., West Wharf Road, Karachi.

Sind Baluchistan Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Provincial Co-operative Bank Bldg., Serai Road, P.O. Box 4705, Karachi 2.

Provincial Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd., Iqbal Road, Patharghata, Post Box 27, Chittagong.

Peru: Cooperativa de Seguros "INCA" Ltda. No. 181, Camilo Carrillo 225, Of. 602, Lima.

Cooperativa de Seguros del Peru, Maximo Abril 542, Lima.

Philippines: Central Co-operative Exchange Inc., P.O.B. 1968, Manila.

Poland: Central Agricultural Union of "Peasant Self-Aid" Co-operatives, Kopernika 30, Warsaw.

Central Union of Building and Housing Co-operatives, Ul. Jasna 1, Warsaw.

"Spolem" — Union of Consumer Co-operatives, Grazyny 13, Warsaw.

Central Union of Work Co-operatives, Surawia 47, Warsaw.

Roumania: Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor de Consum "Centrocoop", Calea Victoriei 29, Bucharest.

1969/70: Associated 1,728 Consumers' Co-operatives in 39 District Unions; membership: 7 mill.; 28,000 retail shops; of which 8,100 public catering units; 7 processing and marketing enterprises; 18 production enterprises; 17 building enterprises; 20,400 servicing units; 18 educational centres.

Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor Mestesugaresti, "Ucecom", Calea Plevnei 46, Bucharest.

Singapore: Singapore Co-operative Union Ltd., Post Box 366; Office and Library: 3-JJK Clifford House, Singapore 1.

Sweden: Kooperativa Förbundet, S-104 65 Stockholm 15.

Affiliated retail societies (1969): 246; membership: 1,534,000; total turnover of consumer societies: Kr. 7,237 mill.; turnover of K.F.: Kr. 5,686 mill. (thereof Kr. 4,156 mill. to affiliated consumer societies); K.F.'s own production: Kr. 2,654 mill.; total capital (shares, reserves and surplus) of K.F.: Kr. 1,132 mill. and of affiliated retail societies: Kr. 1,290 mill.

Hyresgästernas Sparkasse- och Byggnadsför- eningars Riksförbund (H.S.B.), Fleminggatan 41, Fack, S-100 21 Stockholm 18.

Affiliated Building Societies: 100; with individual members: 340,000; number of flats administered by local societies: 300,000; value of real estate: Kr. 15,000 mill.

Svenska Riksbyggen, Hagagatan 2, P.O. Box 19015, S-104 32 Stockholm 19.

Folksam Insurance Group, Folksam Building, Stockholm 20.

Sveriges Lantbruksförbund, Klara Östra, Kyrko- gata 12, S-105 33 Stockholm 1.

Kooperativa Gillesförbundet, S-104 65 Stock- holm 15.

Switzerland: Co-op Schweiz, Thiersteinerallee 14, CH 4002 Basle.

Affiliated societies (1964): 505; shops: 3,200; member- ship: 780,000; retail turnover of affiliated societies: Frs. 1,700 mill.; wholesale turnover: Frs. 1,100 mill.

Verband ostschweiz. landwirtschaftlicher Ge- nossenschaften (V.O.L.G.), Schaffhauserstrasse 6, Winterthur 8401.

Verband sozialer Baubetriebe, c/o SBHV., Sihlpostfach, Zürich.

Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, Aeschenplatz 3, CH 4002 Basle.

CO-OP Lebensversicherungs-Genossenschaft Basel, Aeschenvorstadt 67, CH 4002 Basle.

Tanzania: Co-operative Union of Tanganyika Ltd., National Co-operative Building, P.O. Box 2567, Dar-es-Salaam.

Tunisia: El Ittihad, 37, rue de Cologne, Tunis.

Turkey: Türk Kooperatifçilik Kurumu (Turkish Co-operative Association), Mithatpasa Caddesi 38, Yenisehir, Ankara.

Uganda: Uganda Co-operative Alliance, P.O.B. 2215, Kampala.

U.S.S.R.: Central Union of Consumers' Co- operative Societies of the U.S.S.R. and RSFSR, "Centrosoyus", Tcherkassky per no. 15, Moscow. Consumers' societies (1967): 16,489; members: 55 mill.; shops: 356,700.

United Kingdom: Co-operative Union Ltd., Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 0AS.

Affiliated retail societies (1969): 469; membership: 12,500,000; share capital: £181 mill.; retail sales: £1,132 mill.

Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., P.O.B. 53, New Century House, Corporation Street, Man- chester M60 4ES.

Affiliated societies (1965): 746; sales: £487,859,688; Bank turnover: £9,764,603,821; reserve and insurance funds: £40,791,711; total assets: £300,463,985.

Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd., *Miller Street, Manchester 4.*

Assets (1964): £369 mill.

Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., *Centenary House, 100 Morrison Street, Glasgow C.5.*

Affiliated societies (1967): 153; sales: £89,008,059; reserves and insurance funds: £9,474,291; total resources: £23,139,384.

U.S.A.: Co-operative League of the U.S.A., *59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Ill. (60605), and 1012 14th Street, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.*

Yugoslavia: Glavni Zadruzni Savez FNRJ, *Terazije 23/VI, Belgrade.*

Zambia: Eastern Province Co-operative Marketing Assoc. Ltd., *P.O.B. 108, Chipata.*

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Organization of the Co-operatives of America, *G.P.O. Box 4103, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936.*

Nordisk Andelsförbund (Scandinavia), *3 Axel-torv, Copenhagen V, Denmark.*

International Co-operative Bank Co. Ltd., *Dufourstrasse 54, P.O.B. 711, CH 4002 Basle, Switzerland.*

International Co-operative Petroleum Association, *11 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036, U.S.A.*

Sociedad Interamericana de Desarrollo de Financiamiento Cooperativo, *1012, 14th Street, N.W., Room 1401, Washington D.C., U.S.A.*