

R E P O R T

of

The Fortieth Meeting of the Council

First Sitting: Monday September 29th, 1952, at 11.00 a.m.

Present : The Members, Experts, Observers and Guests.

The President opened the Meeting in the following words:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to open the 40th Meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

You will, I think, wish me to send a telegram to His Majesty, the King of Sweden, expressing the Council's gratitude for the initiative taken by King Oscar II for the foundation of the Council 50 years ago. According to tradition you will also wish me to send a telegram to His Majesty the King of Denmark. This was agreed.

As those present at the last meeting of the Council in Amsterdam will remember the shadow of the recent death of the Council's beloved General Secretary, Dr. H. Blegvad, hang over the meeting, a shadow which was becoming no less by the sudden serious illness of Dr. P. Jespersen, whom Delegates and Experts had on the very day welcomed as the new General Secretary. Dr. Jespersen was transferred directly from Amsterdam to a hospital in Copenhagen, where he was hovering between life and death for two and a half months before he passed quietly away on 20th December 1951. The Bureau had considered the Council very lucky having secured for the post of General Secretary, not only an outstanding scientist but an old friend acquainted with the Council since 1917. Although his Services were shortened to a mere minimum his death has left an immense feeling of emptiness.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I ask you to stand for a moment in silence as a tribute to his memory.

After an interval of silence the President resumed as follows:

I am sorry to announce that two of the delegates will be missing this year on account of illness: Professor le Gall, who is substituted by Mr. Rousselet from the French Foreign Office, and Mr. de Watteville, who is substituted by our friend Dr. Lucas. In your name I bid both substitutes a hearty welcome.

You will be grieved to learn that the chairman of the Consultative Committee, Mr. Graham, is also prevented from attending, and that he has even for health reasons found it necessary to withdraw from the chairmanship of the Consultative Committee, a chairmanship which he has carried out to the entire satisfaction of all. His many suggestions for improvements are well known to all of us.

I propose to the Council that telegrams be sent to Professor le Gall, Mr. de Watteville and Mr. Graham. Agreed.

On your behalf I beg to welcome a number of new Delegates and Experts, whose names you will find on the list distributed.

Among the Delegates we have the pleasure of greeting the following, who have formerly taken part in the meetings: Mr. Dinesen from Denmark, M. Perier from France, and M. Urcelay from Spain, as well as Mr. Gibson from Ireland, who is attending for the first time.

Among the Experts for this year we are very happy to welcome our old friends from Norway: Professor Gran, and Messrs Bjerkan, Koefoed and Lea, but I hope I will be forgiven for not mentioning the many new Experts attending for the first time.

I have the pleasure of welcoming especially the Observers:

Dr. Finn from FAO.

Drs. Graham and Walford from the United States Fish and Wild Life Service,
Dr. Martin from the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

Dr. Needler from the Atlantic Biological Station, St. Andrews, Canada,
Mr. Munroe and

Dr. Harold Thompson, both representing the Scientific and Industrial Organization, Division of Fisheries, New South Wales as well as the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council.

The Council, on the occasion of the Jubilee had invited several distinguished personalities as well as old friends, in response to which invitations we have the pleasure to see Dr. Mary Sears representing Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. We had had the hope to see our old friend, Professor Bigelow, who had accepted the invitation, but about three weeks ago he informed me that he had been prevented from attending.

Among our invited guests we are sorry not to see our old friends Professor Hans Pettersson and Professor Walfried Ekman.

The leader of the great "Galathea"-Expedition, Dr. Bruun, is invited to attend the scientific sittings. To the same sittings we also have invited Messrs. Dunbar, Oppenheimer and Pike from the other side of the Atlantic. They are at present studying at the laboratories in Charlottenlund and Oslo respectively.

To all these observers and guests, on your behalf, I extend the warmest welcome. May they profit by their stay with us in the coming days.

I am glad to report that several research and patrol vessels have arrived at the harbour on the occasion of the meeting:

The Belgian "Léopold/Zee V. Billët",

The French "Ailette",

The Irish "Maev",

The Dutch "Luijmes",

The Norwegian "G.O. Sars"

From the United Kingdom: "Coquette", "Welcome" and "Clupea" and also "Dana" is berthed at Langelinie.

The research vessel "Président Théodore Tissier" also was announced, but I am sorry to inform you that I have just received the following telegram:

I think it would be your wish that officers of vessels present be cordially invited to attend the coming meetings of the Council and the Committees, perhaps the respective Delegates would see that this invitation is extended to the right quarters.

At last Council Meeting it was decided to publish a Jubilee Report. In spite of the very short time this report is now ready. The Report will be distributed after the usual list. Should, however, anyone present here who are not on our distribution list, desire a copy, I ask you kindly to apply for it at the Central Office.

I take this opportunity to extend to all those who have written contributions to the report a hearty thank. This thank I also wish to extend to the Central Office and the printer for having succeeded in finishing the report in such a short time.

Before passing to item 2 of the Agenda I have the pleasure of informing you that according to the Statutes the Bureau has appointed as new General Secretary Mr. Villy Dessau.

Point 2 of the Agenda.

As you will remember Germany last year applied for^{re} admission to the Council. I now have the pleasure of informing you that Germany has become a member as from 1st November this year and has appointed Dr. Meseck and Dr. J. Claussen delegates. Dr. Claussen is attending the meeting together with the following Experts:

Dr. Böhnecke, Dr. Bückmann, Professor Kändler, Dr. Krey and Dr. Lundbeck.

I ask you to bid the German representatives welcome.

Point 3 of the Agenda. Progress Report as regards Overfishing Convention.

Mr. Dobson said that, as he had reported last year, all countries had ratified except Spain, which was expected to ratify within 2 or 3 months. When all had ratified, and the Convention came into force, the British Government would lose no time in calling a meeting of the standing committee set up under the Convention.

Point 4 and 5 of the Agenda. Presentation of Administrative Report and estimated Statement of Accounts for 1951-1952.

The General Secretary drew attention to the Administrative Report, and the estimated Statement of Accounts for 1951-1952, which had just been distributed.

Meeting terminated at 12²⁰ p.m.
