



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RADIATION RESEARCH

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MINUTES OF THE IARR INTERIM COUNCIL MEETING **held in The Cardinal Room, Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas** **at 2 p.m. Thursday 25th March 1993, continued 9 a.m. Friday 26th March**

Agenda

1. Opening announcements by the President and adoption of the Agenda
2. Minutes of the Council Meeting held in Toronto, 12th July 1991 (previously circulated 14th August 1991)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered by the Agenda
4. Venue for the 11th ICRR:
 - (a) Proposal and presentation by Australian representatives
 - (b) Proposal and presentation by Irish representatives
 - (c) Proposal and presentation by South African representative
 - (d) Proposal from India
 - (e) General discussion
5. Ballot on the venue of the 11th ICRR
6. Final Report on the 9th ICRR (G. F. Whitmore) (tabled)
7. Preparations for the 10th ICRR (C. Streffer)
8. Secretary/Treasurer's Statement and balance sheets (tabled)
9. Adoption of criteria for IARR support for meetings other than ICRRS (previously circulated 14th August 1991) and provisional budget
10. Decision on financial support for the 10th ICRR
11. Notice of Call for Nominations for the H. S. Kaplan Distinguished Scientist Award of the IARR
12. Appointment of Nominating Committee for the 1995 IARR Council
13. Appointment of Finance Committee to audit the IARR accounts in 1995
14. Any other business, followed by close of meeting

Present: G.F. Whitmore (President); J.J. Broerse (Vice-President); E.M. Fielden (Secretary/Treasurer); E.J. Hall (Biology); Y. Hatano (Chemistry); J. Overgaard (Medicine); C. Streffer, R.J.M. Fry and H. Takebe (Councillors at Large); J.D. Zimbrick (RRS); C. Seymour (ARR); A. Shima (JARR); M.R. Edgren (Swedish Rad. Biol. Soc.); L. Tallone-Lombardi (Italian Societies); C. Mothersill (Irish RRS); and R. Cooper (AINSE, Australia). Others attended as minuted for items 4(a) to 4(c) only.

Apologies were received from: H.G. Paretzke (Physics); H.B. Kal (Netherlands Radiobiol. Soc.); E. Riklis (ESRB); J. Kroh (Polish RRS) and Ge Xhong-Liang (Chinese RRS)

1. The President welcomed everybody present and asked them to introduce themselves.

The President said that one of the main purposes of the meeting was to select a venue for the 11th ICRR, for which four supporting documents had been pre-circulated. Although the Constitution was not clear on this point, he felt that it was important that the country selected had an overall majority of votes cast and if this was not achieved on the first ballot he would propose to take a second ballot to select between the two venues that scored best in the first ballot. This was agreed by all present. As there were a number of presentations under Item 4 it was agreed that the meeting would stand adjourned after 4(e) and begin on the next morning with Item 5. Item 4 would begin at 2.30 p.m. with a maximum of 45 minutes permitted for each proposal.

The ARR had given written notice of a change of representation for this meeting.

The President called for the adoption of the Agenda, which was approved.

2. No errors or omissions were noted and the Minutes were accepted.
3. There were no matters arising not covered by the Agenda.

As there was time before the scheduled start of Item 4, Item 6 was brought forward.

6. Dr. Whitmore tabled a report of the 9th ICRR. The meeting had been successful, both scientifically and socially, with 1,200 proffered abstracts/posters and a full programme of plenary lectures, symposia and workshops. The final number of attendees, including accompanying persons, was 1,774, making it the largest congress to date. Approximately \$100,000 was provided to support 100 junior investigators, selected by an international committee. All registrants received the programme book and bound abstracts at the meeting and a bound copy of the invited papers provided subsequently. The accounts of the meeting had not been finalised but it had been a financial success, with a total revenue of \$731,000. A surplus of approximately \$23,000 was divided between the IARR (see Treasurer's report) and the 10th ICRR. Dr. Whitmore was thanked for all the efforts he and his colleagues had made in organising such a successful meeting.
4. Dr. Cooper and Dr. Overgaard indicated that they would be unable to attend on the next morning for the vote and requested that they be allowed to leave their vote in a sealed envelope, to be opened next morning under Item 5. This was agreed.
- 4(a) Dr. Cooper outlined the breadth of, and support for, radiation research in Australia and the facilities, e.g. reactors, accelerators etc., that were available. National scientific meetings were held regularly and students were encouraged and helped to attend these. He felt that the Australian proposal provided an attractive venue with a range of accommodation prices and a meeting that would be organised by a strong scientific and professional team. Australia was actively trying to co-operate scientifically with other countries in the Southern Pacific area. Mr. R. Gilmore, representing the Queensland Tourist Authority, spoke about the attractions of the venue in particular and Australia in general, and presented a short video.

There was a discussion in which questions were asked about the conference facilities and the space available for posters. The relatively high cost of travel to Australia from the Northern hemisphere

was discussed, but Dr. Cooper pointed out that on the occasion of the 1979 meeting in Japan charter flights/package tours had been arranged from the U.K. and U.S.A. which had resulted in substantial savings.

- 4(b) Dr. Mothersill outlined the scientific interests of the radiation research community in Ireland. Although Ireland did not have a nuclear energy programme it was particularly strong on environmental and health aspects of radiation, in addition to physics, radiobiology and cancer research programmes. Mr. L. Ganter from the Irish Tourist Board and Convention Bureau outlined the help and services that his organisation could provide for the planning of the meeting. By means of a video and additional publicity material he also drew attention to the attractions of Ireland as a venue for a congress and associated tourism.

In response to questions regarding the lecture accommodation, Mr. D. Hurley, representing the Conference Department of University College, Dublin, emphasised that all lecture accommodation was purpose built and all halls were in close proximity to each other.

- 4(c) No member of the South African scientific community was present, but Mr. Wilson, representing Sun City, the proposed venue for the Congress, outlined the hotel facilities and opportunities for tourism in South Africa by means of a video. In response to questions he said that Cape Town was not capable of hosting such a Congress, and that although some other cities were, the proposers had selected Sun City. Not all questions raised by Council could be answered to their satisfaction.
- 4(d) In the absence of any scientific or tourism representatives from India only the written proposal could be considered.
- 4(e) At the President's request, the Council members directly associated with the bids, Drs. Cooper, Mothersill and Seymour, left the room. There followed a full discussion on the pros and cons of the various proposals. The Secretary had been given a letter from the Netherlands Radiobiological Society which expressed the views of that Society on the merits of the four proposals. Although postal votes were not permitted, the opinion of the Society was read out.

The meeting adjourned at 6.00 p.m., to be reconvened at 9.00 a.m. the next morning.

5. The President said that if there were no more points or queries to be raised he proposed to hold a secret ballot forthwith. It was agreed that in respect for the effort put into the proposals by the various countries the actual number of votes cast for each venue would not be made public and Council agreed to Dr. Broerse and Dr. Fielden acting as tellers. Voting slips were distributed and, after collection, were counted, together with the two from the Councillors who had left the previous evening. The result was that of the total votes cast (15) an absolute majority were in favour of the Irish proposal. Dr. Mothersill was congratulated.
7. Dr. Streffer discussed the plans for the 10th ICRR in Würzburg. The scientific programme would include lectures, symposia and workshops, as well as posters. The meeting would begin with a plenary opening session on the Sunday evening in the City of Würzburg. The general scientific programme would begin on the Monday morning and continue through till Friday afternoon. This

part of the meeting would be held in various lecture halls at the University of Würzburg, which was a short bus ride from the City. Social events would be planned for the delegates and accompanying persons. The committees were now being formed and the First Announcement was almost ready to be distributed. Dr. Streffer requested the Secretary to send him a list of all the contact addresses for the IARR member societies so that the distribution of the First Announcement could be targeted in this way. Fund raising was in progress, with support from the City and University. DM60,000 had already been promised, \$9,000 had been received from the 9th ICRR, and an additional \$25,000 had been voted by the IARR. In response to a question, the registration fee was not finally fixed but would be approximately DM500.

8. Secretarial Matters:

At the beginning of the meeting the Secretary had circulated a written statement with a complete print-out of bank transactions since January 1991 and an analysis of likely income and expenditure up to the end of 1994. During the handover of the Secretariat Dr. Fielden and Dr. Broerse had gone through all the documents and discarded trivia, so that the Association's records were much more manageable and there was no immediate need to archive any material. Ireland and South Africa had now joined the IARR and there were now sixteen countries/societies affiliated to the IARR. In addition to the four proposals for hosting the 1999 Congress discussed above, correspondence had been received from Professor Sztanyik in Hungary, indicating that they would, in principle, be interested in hosting the meeting. However, due to the ongoing reorganisation in the political and scientific community they could not provide all the details required for proper consideration at this time. China and Japan had written formally to say that they would not be making a proposal for the 1999 meeting. Financial support (\$1,500) had, with the agreement of Council, been provided for the meeting 'Pathways to Radiation Damage in DNA' at Oakland University, Detroit in June 1992. A total of five Young Investigators had been supported and a copy of the accounts had been received by the Secretary.

Financial Matters

The Association's bank accounts had been moved from The Netherlands to the United Kingdom and monies were held in both Dollar and Sterling accounts. The level of arrears of subscriptions from member societies had been greatly reduced. The Treasurer thanked the member societies for their co-operation and urged that all remaining arrears were brought up to date as soon as possible. In addition to receipt of membership fees, \$13,403.65 had been received in 1992 from the closing of the 9th ICRR accounts. For the purposes of discussion, the Association's assets, income and liabilities up to the end of 1994 were (in round figures):

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Assets and Projected Income | \$65,000 |
| Projected Liabilities | \$35,000 |

leaving a potential surplus of \$30,000. With the current membership of the IARR, the anticipated annual income from member societies was \$10,000, resulting in a total income over a four-year period (less any arrears of subscriptions) of \$40,000. Standing liabilities of the Association to support all ICRR meetings and the Kaplan Award were running in excess of \$30,000. This only left a small surplus to cover administrative costs and support for other projects. The apparently healthy state of the finances was in fact due to the surplus accruing from the 8th and 9th ICRRs (total \$20,000). Since the International Congresses normally budgeted to break even, a surplus could not be guaranteed, and in the absence of any such additional income the Association's finances were on a knife edge. The Treasurer wished to draw the attention of the organisers of the

10th and subsequent ICRRs to Item VI.3 of the Constitution, which requires the return of an agreed proportion of any financial surplus directly to the IARR. The subscription was last raised in 1990 and the next feasible date for increase would be 1996, if agreed by the 1995 Assembly.

The President thanked the Secretary/Treasurer for his report and statement of accounts, which were accepted. Dr. Hall asked if the Association could raise money by becoming associated with a suitable journal, in the same way that the RRS and ASTRO did. There was some discussion on this point, with Dr. Fry pointing out that the two societies mentioned were actively involved in the operation of their associated journals and that the structure and infrequent meetings of the IARR Council could make any such active involvement difficult. It was decided that this suggestion should be investigated in more depth and, by common consent, a Sub-Committee chaired by the Secretary and having Dr. Broerse and Dr. Hall as members was established, with the remit to report back to Council.

9. The criteria for supporting other meetings had been circulated to Council earlier and no adverse comment received. The exclusion of support for national society meetings was established by resolution of Council at their 1979 meeting. The criteria had been applied to the support provided for the Detroit meeting (referred to in Item 8) and the recipients had co-operated with the terms and conditions. Since the grants that the IARR could provide for such meetings were small and limited in number, it was questioned whether such support was worthwhile and should be available. Dr. Fielden said that small meetings were grateful for relatively small sums and, in fact, the \$1,500 provided for the Detroit meeting had provided support for three Young Investigators. The principle of supporting meetings other than the ICRRs was covered by the Constitution and it was up to Council to decide the budget for this purpose and to judge the merits of applications. Applications were circulated to Council for consideration on a 6-monthly basis, in June and December of each year. There were currently no applications in hand, although the Secretary indicated that one or two were expected. A discussion of the budget for the support of such meetings was deferred, to be taken with Item 10.

10. At the previous Council Meeting, \$25,000 had been earmarked for support of the 10th ICRR, with a decision on any additional sums to be made at this meeting. None of the \$25,000 had yet been called for. In addition, the President said that the 9th ICRR had already made a donation of \$9,000 via Dr. Streffer for support of the 10th ICRR. Dr. Streffer said that fund raising for the 10th ICRR was proceeding and, while additional monies would be welcome, he was reasonably happy with the financial situation. There was, however, a new dimension, in that scientists in the former USSR and East European countries were now able to travel freely and attend meetings, but were without funds to do so. Formerly attendances by such scientists at meetings in the West had been restricted by their own countries and thus had not posed too great a call on support from meeting organisers. He felt that it was highly desirable that financial provision was made for the attendance of such scientists, in the same way that Young Investigators were supported. After some discussion, it was decided that the previously agreed sum of \$25,000 be made available to the 10th ICRR and, in recognition of the need to support scientists from countries with severe economic problems, the Council agreed unanimously to a proposal by Dr. Hall and seconded by Dr. Broerse, that an additional \$10,000 should be made available, through the organisers of the 10th ICRR, to support such scientists. Although this money was to be routed through the 10th ICRR it was requested that the recipients be made aware that the grants were from the IARR. As the principle of providing such support was a new one, Dr. Fielden said it would be appropriate to consider that this money came from the pool of monies accumulated from the 8th and 9th ICRRs. He also said that, in view of the low interest rates on Dollar deposits, he was prepared to make \$25,000 available to the 10th

ICRR as and when requested. The additional \$10,000 could be made available in 1995, to avoid running the balance too low; this was agreed.

The budget for supporting other meetings, deferred from Item 9, was then discussed. The Treasurer said that, in view of the additional money voted for the 10th ICRR, he felt that a maximum of \$5,000 in total for the period of 1993-1994 was all that could be afforded for such additional meetings. This was agreed.

11. The Kaplan Distinguished Scientist Award will be presented at the 10th ICRR in Würzburg and provision for \$3,000 prize money and up to \$3,000 travel support for the recipient and partner had been made in the budget. The Secretary would advertise this award and call for nominations in various international journals in early 1994, with a closing date in October of that year. In addition, Dr. Fielden urged national society representatives to discuss potential names in their committees. Endorsement of a particular nominee by a member society of the IARR would no doubt carry weight. After the deadline the nominations would be considered by a committee composed of Dr. Whitmore (Chairman), and Dr. G. Adams and Dr. J. Broerse, as Immediate Past and Vice President respectively. A decision on the recipient should be reached by the end of January 1995 so that arrangements for the presentation and lecture can be made in good time for the Würzburg meeting.
12. The President said that under the Constitution, Item IV.2, and Byelaw 9, a Nominating Committee of five persons, not more than two of whom should be currently serving on the Council, has to be appointed at the Interim Meeting. This Committee is charged with the task of producing two nominations for each of the elected officers and councillors. The Committee should report to the Secretary in sufficient time so that he can inform Council and member organisations at least six months before the Assembly at the Würzburg meeting. It was proposed that Dr. Fry chair this committee and that Dr. Hatano should be the other Council member. Both were willing to serve and the meeting agreed. Bearing in mind the need to maintain a balance of scientific disciplines and geographical representation, three other names were suggested: Dr. V. Covelli (Italy), Dr. D. Goodhead (U.K.) and Dr. M. Guichard (France). In the event that one of these was unable to serve, Dr. H. Suit was suggested as a reserve. This was agreed by all present.
13. The Council has to appoint a Finance Committee to audit the accounts of the Secretary/Treasurer before the Würzburg meeting. This Committee normally consists of three people, a Councillor (Chairperson) and two others not serving on Council. It was proposed that Dr. Edgren chair this Committee. Dr. Edgren was willing to serve and the meeting agreed. Following a brief discussion, Dr. W. Hanson (U.S.A.) and Dr. M. Coppola (Italy) were suggested as the remaining two members of the Sub-Committee, with Dr. van der Kogel (The Netherlands) as a reserve as necessary. This was agreed. This Committee would audit the accounts for the period January 1991 to December 1994. The accounts should be available in March 1995 and the Committee should have completed its report before the Würzburg meeting.
14. There being no other business, the President declared the meeting closed at 11.00 a.m.