

The 1968 International Congress

DR. HANS HARRY, *President*†
International Society of Photogrammetry
Bern, Switzerland

I AM DELIGHTED to be here in Washington at the Convention* of your two eminent societies and to see so many old friends and acquaintances. You have done me a great honor by inviting me, as President of the International Society of Photogrammetry, to address this meeting of the American Society of Photogrammetry. By your invitation, you have shown your appreciation of the work of the International Society, and I am grateful to you for this consideration and kindness. Let me give you here the greetings of the Council of our International Society.

It is about the life of the International Society, and about the manner in which the officers of this Society see the next International Congress of Photogrammetry, that I wish to speak to you. You probably already know that the Lisbon Congress of last year selected Switzerland to be host to the next Congress in 1968. The statutes of the International Society (incidentally, the next General Assembly will enact new statutes) stipulate that the President, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer of this Society have to be drawn from the country entrusted with the organization of the next Congress. This is why a Swiss citizen is speaking to you, and I take this opportunity to convey to you the best regards from your Swiss friends and to express to you the admiration of a little old democracy for her great sister in democratic freedom.

You are aware of the difficult problem of languages in all international cooperation, and I wonder if you can understand my Swiss-school English. In my school days I often felt embarrassed when the time for English lesson arrived. I shall be happy if you manage to understand my English as well as Briand understood Henderson's French. At the Disarmament Conference, after the 1st World-War, Henderson, the English Government Representative, wished to compliment his colleague Briand, so he delivered his closing

speech in French. Briand replied with an expression of great delight that for 40 years he had been unsuccessful in his endeavour to learn the English language but now, for the first time in his life, he was able to understand an English address, which was Henderson's closing speech (in French!).

THE PRESIDENT of the International Society of Photogrammetry (ISP) and his Council are charged with two tasks:

We first have to influence the activities within the International Society so that also during the four years between two congresses the purpose of our international association, which is to promote the advancement of photogrammetry, may be continued, if possible, without interruption;

The second, a tremendously important task consists of the preparation and in the staging of the next International Congress of Photogrammetry in 1968.

If I speak here about these two tasks, it is with the desire to enlist the support of the greatest National Society Member, the American Society of Photogrammetry.

The common opinion exists that within ISP there is lack of continuity in the progress of photogrammetry from each congress to the next. At the time when the distinguished Prof. Dolezal founded ISP in 1910, the founders had only in mind incidental meetings of the researchers with practitioners and utilizers of photogrammetry, and with designers and sellers of instruments, on the occasion of periodically-held international congresses. The main object to them was the publication of the results of the congress in the *International Archives of Photogrammetry* founded by Prof. Dolezal in 1913. Today, however, the tempo of the scientific technical development is quite different from that of 50 years ago. There is now a need for a continuous exchange of knowledge and experience in photogrammetric development and for suggestions arising from meetings and discussions.

* Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Society of Photogrammetry, Washington, D. C., March 31, 1965.

† See photograph, Figure 11, page 654.

If this conception still needs to be confirmed, then we have only to consult the heavy program of this annual ASP-ACSM Convention in Washington which displays a great many new ideas, proposals and developments. In the course of this week you discuss here about photogrammetric automatic mapping, electronic digital solutions of photogrammetric problems, about measuring around the earth by electronic tracking of satellites and by photogrammetric registration, about lunar photogrammetry and other hypermodern techniques. A few decades ago, one was not yet in such a heaven-storming disposition: the researchers still strived to design or to change mechanically the central perspective of a photograph into an orthogonal projection. The scientific commissions of the ISP know what should be undertaken today in order to cope with the investigation of the geometrical and physical basis of photogrammetry and with the rapid development. At the Congresses of Photogrammetry they make important resolutions which, unfortunately, can scarcely be realized during the four years prior to the next congress. All organs of the ISP, especially the Presidents, Secretaries and Rapporteurs of the seven scientific commissions, need continuous contact for the exchange of proposals, for decisions and their execution. We shall try to proceed in this respect as follows:

The preparation of ISP Statutes which will prescribe the permanent occupation of a few important posts within the Society to allow continuous operation during the period between the congresses, and which also will provide the necessary financial means for the promotion of more intensive activities. The President of the Statutes Commission, General Brown, proposed a time schedule for approval in Lisbon, ensuring rapid establishment and introduction of the new statutes.

Enactment of Provisional Guiding Rules for the organization and procedure of work for the commissions and working groups with the purpose of improving the working efficiency. These Guiding Rules, together with the Lisbon resolutions, are in the hands of the ISP members, the Presidents, Secretaries and Rapporteurs of Commissions. May we strongly urge all interested parties to study, disseminate and apply these rules.

Appointment of a Council member as Commission Coordinator whose particular task shall be to follow and, if necessary initiate commission activities and to co-

ordinate them. The Council has entrusted these functions to Dr. Fagerholm in Stockholm, Vice-President of the ISP, who has in the past addressed himself in an exemplary way to the promotion of commission work. May I request the Commission Presidents kindly to accept Dr. Fagerholm's propositions which will on no account restrict the scientific freedom of the commissions and working groups.

Promotion of holding Symposia and of Publications of the Commissions and Working Groups. We propose that a symposium of the commissions should take place in spring 1966 with the particular task to select the work subjects of special importance and to clear the work programs. We are now negotiating with two National Member Societies of the ISP for the organization of these symposia at a suitable location.

WE HAVE come to an agreement with the Chief Editor of *Photogrammetria*, Prof. Dr. W. Schermerhorn, that this official ISP periodical shall serve as a means of intensive information exchange between ISP organs, particularly for the discussion of the scientific problems of commissions. The periodical *Photogrammetria* now has this possibility since it will be more voluminous and will appear at shorter intervals in the future. We also ask the Member Societies that have their own periodicals (especially the American Society for Photogrammetry with its PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING) to publish the information of the ISP organs if news of valuable and general interest is concerned.

We shall try to make known as much as possible all photogrammetric manifestations of our member societies, photogrammetric educational and research institutes and international organizations, and to stimulate them for information exchange at such activities. In October 1964, the ISP was admitted by the UNESCO, Category C, Mutual Information Relationship, and we now enjoy an improved opportunity for a fruitful exchange of information. We have contacted the Cartographic section of the UN for an exchange of information and for a coordination of conferences.

Finally I shall endeavor to see that the members of the Council will expedite an intensive exchange of information and suggestions for the purpose of stimulating the activities of all organs of the ISP. The Council must meet at least once a year.

I am aware of the fact that the main point

of the photogrammetric scientific activity does not lie with the International Society, but with the National Societies, the research centers, the universities and the instrument makers. However, what the ISP can do for the exchange of information, for the stimulation of development work, and for the gathering of specialists, this ISP must do more and more. We shall therefore always ask all ISP organs to make their contribution toward this goal and for a fruitful cooperation beyond their national borders.

IN ORDER to obtain useful results at a Congress during the short time at its disposal for commission work, the following working procedure was chosen for the last two Congresses of Photogrammetry:

Selection by the Commission of the three to five of the most important topics and problems within the jurisdiction of the commission as early as possible prior to the Congress;

Designation, by the commission, of a "Rapporteur" and two or three specialists to discuss and study the problem according to the latest standards of science and technology;

Printing of "Invited Papers" written by the Rapporteurs, to be mailed to the Commission members and to Congress participants six months before the Congress, perhaps together with the confirmation of Congress registration;

Efficient treatment of the topic at the Congress in the Commission meetings: introduction by the Rapporteur (about 10 minutes), panel discussion between the prepared specialists (20 minutes), floor discussion (60 minutes) with a time limit for floor speakers. Thus, the available time at the Congress shall be mainly, but not exclusively, used for Invited Papers and the discussion of their subjects. "Presented Papers" may be announced in suitable groups; short periods of time, if the Commission President can spare them, may be allotted for the discussion of an important presented paper.

This procedure is good—we can't think of a better one. But its application is still to be improved considerably. The precious short time for the Commissions at Congresses is wasted far too much with speeches and monologues while efficient discussion and the fruitful meeting of minds come off badly. In spite of doing our best in preparation, the 1968 Congress will still not prove to be perfect

with respect to commission work. However, together with the Commission Presidents, we shall endeavour to attain the ideal as nearly as possible. The success will be the responsibility of the Presidents of the Commissions. Determined Commission Presidents with a knack of combining resoluteness with courtesy and consoling humor will achieve a great deal.

WE HAVE already spoken of our second task; the preparation and staging of the International Congress of Photogrammetry and its associated exhibition in the year 1968. To serve the main purpose of our International Society, which is the furthering of the aims of photogrammetry and its allied subjects as well as its application to the various branches of science, technology and economics, we shall first of all endeavour to offer excellent operating conditions to the Working Commissions and Working Groups—well equipped rooms for commission meetings, for simultaneous meetings, and for discussions among small groups. In cooperation with the Commission Presidents we shall try to find an arrangement ascertaining a minimum of concise resolutions and a continuity of Post-Congress Work in Commissions.

As location for the 1968 Congress, we have chosen the *Palais de Beaulieu* in Lausanne. This building is constructed as if it had been built specially for the International Congress of Photogrammetry. All Congress functions will be held under one roof, in beautiful well-equipped rooms; not only the Commission Meetings, the large exhibition, the cinema showings, but also the Opening Session, the Delegates and General Assemblies, even the Banquet and the Ball.

The Swiss Society for Photogrammetry has already started forming the "General Staff" for the preparation and staging of the Congress. Prof. Dr. W. Bachmann in Lausanne, Secretary-General ISP, has been appointed Congress Director. The finances of the Congress will be in the hands of the Treasurer ISP, Ing. E. Huber, Director of Topographical Survey of Switzerland, Wabern-Bern.

In the year 1968 the Federation Internationale des Geometres (FIG) will also hold its International Congress of Surveyors. We have arranged with our English friends that the Congress of Surveyors shall close its doors in London on June 28th, 1968, and the Congress of Photogrammetry be opened in Lausanne on July 8th, 1968. This will enable overseas participants to combine both the congresses in one journey.

Lausanne is a charming University city on Lake Geneva. Vineyards clothe the banks of the lake, and wherever there is wine, there is also a merry population. The surroundings are rich in beautiful scenery and picturesque architecture. The Congress will also allow visitors to get an unforgettable impression of the magnificent Alps and will enable them to become acquainted with the progressive Swiss surveying and cartographic procedures, and with a world-famous instrument industry. We thus hope that a great many Americans will attend the 1968 Congress in Lausanne, and that above all the ladies will enjoy the wonderful scenery offered by the Lake of Geneva region.

AS YOU CAN SEE, the chances are rather favorable for a successful Congress in Lausanne. We shall receive all congress visitors, and they will all be very welcome in Lausanne—not only the serious scientist and the head of a State survey department, or an important private survey enterprise, but also the salesman and the contractor. However, face to face with the colorful picture of the congress participants, we must not forget the

foremost goal of the international meeting: the progress of photogrammetry and the application of science and technology to the improvement of the natural sources of our welfare and the enrichment of economy. We can achieve these goals best when:

National Societies stimulate contributions;

Research and development work is undertaken and published long before the congress;

The publications are studied prior to the congress so that discussions and not lectures take place;

The deliberations are restricted to a few important problems in order to gain time for deeper penetration of a concept;

Newly developed instruments and displays of new and important applications of photogrammetry are prepared and executed for the exhibit.

I thank you very much for your attendance and for your listening to me. I am most grateful for having been afforded this opportunity to speak to you.