

RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONING ON THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGISTS - RECAPITULATION

Authorized by the Head Council of the Polish Parasitological Society, in the month of May 1960 I had sent out more than 100 copies of the "Remarks in the matter of the International Society of Parasitologists". In reply I received just up to day 76 fulfilled questionnaires with many extensive letters and declarations, discussing the problem. These declarations and letters came from parasitologists well known in the world of science, representing 20 countries as follows: Argentina (8), Australia (2), Austria (1), Bulgaria (6), Brasil (1), Canada (1), Colombia (1), Czechoslovakia (8), Denmark (1), Spain (1), France (2), Germany West and Ost (13), Hungary (2), Indonesia (1), Italy (1), Yugoslavie (1), Netherlands (1), Mexico (1), USA (24). In some cases our propositions were discussed by a group of parasitologists, who had given then a collective reply. In Poland the questionnaires were not published, for our general opinion is represented by the Polish Parasitological Society. Our questionnaires had not yet reached many parasitologists interested in this problem, so we don't know their opinion. Nevertheless the material we just possess is quite rich enough to be analysed and recapitulate it's results.

A part of scientifics, filling out the questionnaires, had given reply for all 10 questions, a part replied only for some questions or replied in a special letter without filling the questionnaire, so some responses are difficult to be taken into consideration and to count them in our statistics.

All the ~~replies~~ ^{replies} for the question No. 3 (on the project of creating the international organisation of parasitologists) were positive ones, some of them were quite enthusiastic, no reply was negative one.

The majority of the questioned people had confirm that they have no general objections (question No. 4) . In one case we have found the opinion that the organisation may not possess any political aspect or character (that was very distinctly marked in our first project).

The 5th question in the matter of a seat of the Organizing Committee (the country or the persons proposed) had given many various opinions and a great part (24 persons) gave no reply. Some

single declarations had proposed generally Europe, neutral countries or the country where the secretary would settled in. Among the concrete propositions the most (35) replied had proposed Poland, and the cities Warsaw and Wroclaw. In the next places one proposed France or Paris (7 cases), England (one proposed the Molteno Institute in Cambridge) - 4 cases, Switzerland (Geneva or Zurich) - 3 cases, Czechoslovakia (2 cases). Austria, Denmark or other countries as Scandinavia, DDR, Italy were proposed also, each in one single case.

As the members of the staff were proposed (for enter into the Organizing Committee) : J.Baer (1 v.), R.Dollfus (1 v.), J.D. Fulton (1 v.), C.Jirovec (3 v.), Z.Kozar (19 v.), M.B.Mirga (1 v.), S.Moshkowski (1), Lapesca (1 v.), H.Ricci (1 v.), Sergijew (1 v.), Simić (1 v.), W.Stefanski (4 v.), H.Vogel (1 v.).

The 6th question concerned the names of the country representatives in the Organizing Committee. 6 persons had driven a conclusion that the representatives of the countries must be the representatives elected directly by the organisations like the American Society of Parasitologists etc. The concrete names that were mentioned out were: from USA: W.H.Wright (3 votes), H.W.Brown (2 v.), W.M.Balemuth (1 v.), P.Beaver (1 v.), R.M.Cable (1 v.), Coatney (1 v.), E.C.Faust (1 v.), A.C.Foster (1 v.), Hall (1 v.), C.H. Herman (1 v.), C.G.Huff (1 v.), L.Jacobs (1 v.), F.Kruidenier (1 v.), H.Most (1 v.), D.B.McMullen (1 v.), G.F.Otto (1 v.), H.W.Stunkard (1 v).

From Argentine one had proposed the names : C.Rice (7), M.A.Casas (6), O.Astrada (5), F.Nino (3), A.Panzeri (2 votes).

From Australia one mentioned : J.D.Smyth, J.F.A.Sprent, D.P.Stewart. From Brasil was mentioned L.Travassos, from Indonesia - R.Tandjung.

The European parasitologists, mentioned in the questionnaires, were: from France A.Galliard (2v.), and A.G.Chabaud; From Germany twice mentioned were : K.Enigk , G.Piekarski and A.Westphal, a single vote had : A.Erhardt, H.Vogel, H.Peters, H.Stammer, O.Gebauer, H.Engelbrecht; from Spain the candidates were D.G.Pozo and D.J.Basea; from Austria - R.Supperer; from Bulgaria - G.Genow (4 v.), A.Popow (3 v.), and K.Matow (1 v.), from Czechoslovakia - O.Jirovec (6 v.), B.Rosicky (4 v.), J.Howerka (2 v.), J.Weiser (1 v.) J. Kramar (1 v.) and S.Sebek (1 v.). As many as 23 persons

had given no reply in this question.

The 7 th question related to proposed place and time of the 1st International Congress. 23 persons give no reply, 4 persons proposed that the Organizing Committee must decide this problem, one person proposed that the place must be chosen there, in what a country will be organised the Secretary. Among the concrete propositions were mentioned : Poland (or Warsaw) - 20 votes, Paris - 13 votes, England - 4 votes, Italy and Switzerland - each 3 votes, Vienna, Prague or DDR - each 2 votes, Berlin, Budapest and Denmark - each 1 vote.

With reference to the proposed time of the Congress the most of questioning people proposed the year 1962 (27 votes), 13 votes were done for the year 1961 and 2 votes for the year 1963. Among the months proposed were mentioned: generally Summer (4 v.), Autumn (4 v.), Spring (2 v.), March (1 v.), May (2 v.), June (10 v.), July (5 v.), August (4 v.), September (1 v.).

As eventual organizers of the futur Congress were proposed 3 persons only : E.Biocca (1 v.), H.Galliard (1 v.), Z.Kozar (2 v.).

The 8th and 9th questions concerned the remarks on the general propositions about the organisation and the purposes of the futur Society. The first question was positively appreciated by 64 persons, the second question - by 65 persons. Others had given no reply. There were mentioned some provisions, i.e. on the frequency of the futur congresses. Some persons have told that organizing the congresses each 5 years it's too seldom, the congresses must taken place each 3, even each 2 years.

Let's publish some literal exceptions from the letters received, especially those with quite new propositions.

A.O.Foster, USA :

" Concerning the proposed International Society of Parasitology, I feel that the proposal is a good one, yet I am provisionally uncertain that an international society and periodic international meetings are likely to achieve the closeness of relationship that I should personally hope can be attained. Perhaps, in addition to these and irrespective of their immediate successes or failures, some provision should be made for the various national societies to invite the others to send delegates to their annual meetings and thus set up the machinery for close personal cooperation and change of ideas. It might be desirable, also, to

establish means of exchanging information among the various organizations. There are other avenues of approaching close cooperation which should be explored by all societies and which I trust our own Society will pursue. Your expressions of concern about increased departmentalization, specialization, and schisms among parasitologists, and the statement of differences of viewpoint that you have encountered are fully appreciated, and you may be certain that my own viewpoint was expressed fully and directly in the address to which you made reference. There is assuredly no indictment of specialization, and it is undesirable and impossible to avoid it, yet there must be provision for association and exchange of information on the part of all who are dedicated to research and teaching about the phenomenon of parasitology. I should like to think that there would be wholesome interest in all facets of this phenomenon in the broadest sense."

N.D.Lewine, President of Soc. Of Protozoologists, USA:

" I am in wholehearted agreement with your ideas about the need for and value of such a Society and of periodic international congresses".

H.C.Faust, USA:

" I believe your idea is an excellent one. All of us in the field of Parasitology need to know more about the activities of our colleagues."

G. M.Rico, Argentine:

" En la presente adjunto una lista de profesionales médicos y veterinarios interesados en formar parte de la futura Sociedad Internacional de Parasitología a crearse y en donde proponemos su nombre como integrante del Comité Organizador de la misma. Esperamos confiados en que se concrete y haga realidad la creación de dicha Sociedad de investigación científica, que nos permitirá no solamente aclarar los puntos oscuros del campo parasitológico, sino también el de estrechar aún mas los fraternos vinculos culturales."

J.D.Smyth, Australia:

" I can see no objection to the general principles you have laid down, but I shall discuss the question fur-

ther with Professor Sprent and Dr. Stewart as soon as I have an opportunity. There are obviously many matters of detail to be settled, but you can be sure that your proposals will have general support."

J.F.A. Sprent, Australia:

" I agree with what you have written in your Memorandum although I personally consider that the cornerstone of parasitology is the study of parasitism. There is a growing body of biologists who call themselves immunologists but who are in reality students of a particular biological association i.e. parasitism. I think this should be stressed so that immunologists may feel a closer bond with parasitologists."

E. Biocca, President of Soc. Italiana di Parassitologia:

" I have discussed with our Italian parasitologists (Corradetti, Starkoff, etc.), your proposal for a next international meeting and we all agree in considering it absolutely useful and important. Probably the Country in which could be easier to gather the most important members of foreign parasitologists would be a neutral one, as Switzerland. Professor Beer is a well known and important parasitologist, and the meeting could be organized in Neuchâtel or in another Swiss town. Austria could be another country, but it seems that our branch of work is not very active there in this moment. Naturally I should prefer your Country and the city of Warsaw, but I am afraid that should be more diplomatical to have the first Congress elsewhere and to call for the next one in Poland."

P.C. Beaver, USA:

" While I am strongly in favor of putting forth every possible effort to bring together workers in the various countries of the world, and would favor the establishment of any new organizations that would serve to promote better communication between parasitologists everywhere, I would raise the question of whether the Zoological Congresses and the Congresses on Tropical Medicine and Malaria may not already serve those needs. I am sure they cover the interests of parasitologists. On the other hand, the programs of the meetings of both

organizations are always much too crowded, and the organizations themselves tend to divide the parasitologists into separate groups. It could, therefore, be argued that great advantage to the field of parasitology would result from organizing an International Society of Parasitologists. I would be more than willing to help with the establishment of such an organization.

K. Enigk, West Germany :

" Ich bin durchaus Ihrer Ansicht, dass eine solche Gesellschaft notwendig ist. Der Zustand muss endlich beendet werden, dass die Parasitologie "das Mauerblümchen" auf anderen Kongressen ist. Wir werden voraussichtlich auch in Deutschland eine solche nationale Gesellschaft gründen, die dann der Repräsentant für die die Internationale Gesellschaft ist."

H. Engelbrecht, DDR :

" Das beiliegende Rundschreiben in der Angelegenheit der Internationalen Parasitologischen Gesellschaft haben wir dankend erhalten. Ich habe die Ehre, Ihnen im Auftrage des Präsidiums der Biologischen Gesellschaft in der DDR für die Arbeitsgruppe Parasitologie mitteilen zu dürfen, dass die Biologische Gesellschaft in der DDR Ihre entwickelte Initiative begrüsst, und Ihnen in jeder Hinsicht Unterstützung zukommen lassen wird, so weit es unsere Möglichkeiten erlauben."

J. Jansen, Netherlands:

"I am in accordance with the directive lines of the organisation, but I must point that the members of the Organising Committee, for the sake of utility, should not be too numerous. Also for the same reason should the election of national representatives and secretaries not mean a national committee. "

M. Laird, Canada:

" I disagree with the suggested representative & voting procedure, for the reasons given below I could not agree with the principle of one representative, with voting rights, for each 20 members of the Society. While doubtless serving the purpose you intend it to preventing the country organizing the Congress, or its near neighbours, from controlling voting - this would also give unfair advantage to countries having

the largest numbers of parasitologists. There being no grounds whatsoever for assuming that quantity is necessarily linked with quality in this connection (i.e. , the collective judgement of enthusiastic but relatively inexperienced delegates from one of the younger States having its population measured in tens or hundreds of millions, may obviously be inferior to that of the relatively few delegates of a smaller but older State such as, for example, Switzerland), such a rule could, and probably would, lead to abuses."

Summarizing the results of the discussion received up to now we must state, that the problem caused much interest and a goodwill for our projects and propositions. We are very obliged to all who had sent us their letters and replied with such a sympathy , without sparing not their opinions and good advices.

It appears that the project of organizing the International Parasitological Society is quite enough ready to be realised. Some people intend to see the first Congress as soon as possible (in the year 1961), and the next congresses organized more frequently than each 5 years. But the calling out of the Organizing Committee is a very hard problem, the difficulties are with the settling of the place of the 1st Congress and the seat of the Organizing Committee. Received opinions, summarized there above, are very valuable, but they can't be quite competent, as they don't represent all the views of the most eminent parasitologists.

Most people proposed Poland as the seat of the Organizing Committee's secretary. In principle we are ready to take off such a duty, although the conditions of the work of the Polish Parasitological Society are hard enough. We do see also difficulties coming from the political situation, so we should like to see the 1st Congress organized in some neutral country. On account of such a reason we are ready to resign the honour of organizing the 1st Congress, in spite of a great support for our country. Our first aim is the calling of an independent international organisation of parasitologists.

Our project has mostly interested USA, which have one of the most numerous and very well organized society - the American Society of Parasitologists. The authorized representatives of this Society - Dr.B.Schwartz and the Secretary of the Head Council Dr.F. Kruidenier were in Warsaw in September 1960 to discuss

the organizing problems. Dr. F. Kruidenier had also a letter of attorney from the American Protozoological Society.

After some talks and discussions on all of the actual difficulties we decided to call out the International Federation of Parasitologists that would group all actually existing numerous home societies. That will help us very much in all organizing problems, and does not forbid to group the specialists from such countries, where parasitological societies does not exist yet.

The representatives of the Polish Parasitological Society and of the American Society of Parasitologists, on the session held on the day of September 16th, 1960, in Warsaw, passed a resolution as follows:

International Federation of Parasitologists.

- 1) In view of the increasing importance of parasitology in human health, in livestock production, in conservation of wild life, in the fisheries industry, and as a biological discipline, we believe that an international organization of parasitologists to promote research in this field of knowledge will serve a useful purpose by cementing friendly relations between the workers in this field and by coordinating efforts for the solution of problems for the benefit of mankind.
- 2) The purpose of this organisation is to promote a better understanding between individual parasitologists and parasitological societies the world over, to unite them in promoting the progress of this science by encouraging research in parasitology in relation to human welfare; and to exchange information and ideas on developments in parasitology by means of international gatherings and in other ways.
- 3) To realize the proposed objectives we recommend the establishment of an International Commission to consist of representatives of each of the parasitological Societies. A representative is to be chosen by each cooperating Society. The Commission shall appoint an Executive Committee consisting of a chairman, a secretary and four or more members.

The following initial Executive Committee is recommended:

- 1) Dr. Th. W. M. Cameron - chairman (Canada and British Commonwealth)
- 2) Dr. F. J. Kruidenier - secretary (United States)
- 3) Dr. Paul Beaver - (United States)
- 4) Dr. Jean Baer - (Western Europe)
- 5) Dr. Z. Kozar - (Eastern Europe)