

CONSTITUANT
ASSEMBLY
OF THE
SCIENTIFIC FILM
ASSOCIATION

Paris,
2nd October, 1947.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC FILM ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the CONSTITUANT ASSEMBLY held in Paris at the CINEMATHEQUE FRANCAISE, 7 Avenue de Messine, from 2nd - 7th October, 1947. (Sessions 2nd, 3rd & 7th Oct.)

M. Jean Painleve as director of ICS of Paris, opened the first session on the 2nd October 1947 at 3 p.m.

He greeted the many delegates who had come on the invitation of the ICS of Paris and of the Scientific Film Association of London. (See list of delegates, annex 1.) He proposed to the Assembly the following AGENDA.

1. Reading of the Regulations, governing procedure at the present meeting.
2. Opening speech by the Chairman of the Session.
3. Report from each delegate present on the scientific, technical and also the teaching film in his own country.
4. Preamble, discussion thereof, and voting on the necessity for forming an ISFA.
5. Adoption of the Constitution by a three quarters majority of delegates present.
6. Practical action for the coming year.
7. Definition of the types of films covered by this Association.
8. Reports which each country be asked to present at the 1948 Assembly.
9. British Report, summarising the investigation of the British Delegation into Scientific Film activities in various countries.

1.

M. Painleve read the text of the regulations which formed the basis of the present constituent assembly (see Annex 2.) He called upon the Assembly to select a Chairman for the session.

M. Painleve was himself elected to this office.

The Chairman asked each delegate present to give a brief account of the scientific film in his own country.

Mr. L.C. Key - Australia. The scientific film was naturally not as far developed in Australia as it was in Europe. What had been achieved elsewhere was being closely followed and Australia as a user of scientific films was greatly interested in the proposed ISFA. Although local production was not yet large, certain films were being made. For example, the Committee for Post-Graduate Research in Medicine at Sydney University was active in the field of medical films; films had been made by the Departments of Agriculture of some of the six states of the Commonwealth; the Australian National Film Board had produced a number of documentaries, some of scientific value, and had collaborated in certain cases with other bodies such as the University of Adelaide. The Australian Wool Board and other organisations had also produced scientific and technical films. The Commonwealth Council

for Scientific and Industrial Research had just decided to establish a film unit to develop the use of film as an aid to scientific experiment, and as a means of recording the results of research. No Scientific Film Association yet existed but it had recently been proposed that one should be sponsored by the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. The Commonwealth National Library was responsible for a Central Film Library, including scientific films.

Professor Otto Storch - Austria. In Austria there were already a certain number of documentary and educational films. The Ministry of Education had entrusted to him (Prof. Storch) the task of co-ordinating existing efforts and of creating a Scientific Film Association. In spite of the country's complete impoverishment, it was anxious to link its activities with those of other countries. There were also educational films in Austria for the primary schools, but nothing yet existed for the secondary schools and the Universities.

Belgium. The Belgium delegate had excused himself from the present session and in his place the Chairman gave the following details:- A Belgium Scientific Film Association had been founded this year. It collaborated with the Universities of Brussels and of Liege amongst others. There existed therefore in Belgium an organisation exactly of the sort which was hoped to see in each country, according to the terms of the constitution.

Brazil. M. Jean Painleve reported the following details:- There existed in Brazil a Scientific Film Association created by Prof. Pinto himself, and already of some years standing. Brazilian production was well advanced and versions of its films had been made in several languages. Production was also many-sided, covering education, research and popular science.

M. Jacques Brunet - Canada. For the past seven years, our National Film Board has produced Documentary films of which a great number were of direct scientific interest. Such scientific documentaries have been and still are being made by the NFB, on behalf of various government departments - Agriculture, National Research Council, etc. Through its important distribution circuits, the NFB takes its films to Canadians wherever they may be. From Atlantic to Pacific, the entire population receives visits regularly by the Board's projection units. Critical discussion follows each projection of films. In addition, regional libraries are available to the general public. But more recently, a Canadian Scientific Film Association has been formed. Its aims are:- 1. to promote and co-ordinate the use of the scientific film, 2. to encourage the production of scientific films illustrating the work of Canadian scientists and solving purely national problems, 3. to catalogue and assemble the greatest possible number of scientific films produced throughout the world, 4. to seek the help of specialists to assure the truth and authenticity of Canadian scientific films, 5. to do all possible to see that English and French versions are made of important scientific films produced in other languages, 6. to publish specialised catalogues as well as a journal and other publications, 7. to encourage throughout the country the formation of scientific film societies, 8. to co-operate with UNESCO and all other scientific film organisations in order to establish the international exchange of scientific films. The various committees of the Canadian Scientific Film Association are extremely active.

M. Tsien - China. The present very difficult circumstances made any real effort at production impossible for China. But China was very interested in the scientific film, now more than ever, since the cinema was one way of helping to meet the lack of text books and other means of instruction. China had greatly developed microfilm and she hoped now to create a Scientific Film Association to co-operate with other countries of the world.

M. Soren Melson - Denmark. Nothing existed in the way of a Scientific Film Association yet in Denmark. But interest was great and the country was represented at the Congress in order to study and to find examples it might follow.

Professor L. Joramillo - Ecuador. The country did not possess at present any Scientific Film Association. There were only certain amateurs who had made films of ethnographical interest. The Ecuador Government was anxious to see the scientific film being developed in its country. It warmly invited research workers to come to Ecuador; they would find there facilities and full support. As regards the distribution of films, Ecuador was already acquainted with Brazilian and American films but would be very happy to see films made in other countries.

M. Painleve - France. The ICS of France was created in 1930 on the basis of personal efforts made since 1922. But the origins of scientific cinema in France go further back. Marey first used the cinema for research filming the locomotion of the Medusa, pointing to the possibilities of slow-motion and speeded-up cinematography, and analysing the flight of gulls and the gait of the horse. He was followed in this field by Comandon (Vegetable and Animal Biology) (Astronomy, filmed the Solar Corona, invented the Coronagraph and already in 1927, utilised phase contrast.) In surgery, hundreds of films have been made first by DOYEN then PAUCHET, then De MARTEL and CLAUUE with some thousands of feet of records of plastic surgery. In other fields we have THEVENARD who solved the delicate problem of magnification plus one, the technical films of CANTAGREL, of ICHAC, of PRUDHOMMEAU on abnormal children, of BUSNEL, of MAITAIN, of POUCHON etc. The totality of the work of the ICS of Paris is not covered by its meagre budget. We hope that ISFA will give us the chance, in the name of international cooperation, of achieving results by making films in different countries thus fulfilling the ideal of a genuine union of scientific film makers.

Great Britain. The British Delegates pointed out that Mr. Basil Wright, President of Scientific Film Association, was present, though not as a delegate, and asked the Chairman if he might be allowed to speak for Britain. The Chairman, welcomed Mr. Wright and paid tribute to him. Mr. Wright explained that the temporary duties he had recently undertaken at UNESCO would prevent him from being present at all the meetings of the Congress. He then gave the following details:- In Britain the production of scientific films was varied and extensive. There were, first of all, individuals, scientists, who worked with 16 mm cameras; then there were scientific films for the general public, especially the Secrets of Nature films and the other films of Percy Smith. The Government also sponsored many scientific or quasi-scientific films. Last of all, there were the major industries (Oil and chemicals for example) which supported production of scientific films related to their work. There was therefore in the normal way a considerable volume of scientific film production in Britain. The Scientific Film Association was, above all, an Association of people using the scientific film, and their influence on production was important. Its work was divided amongst various committees (Education, Medical, General Sciences, Appraisal for example) but the main strength of the movement came from the Scientific Film Societies. It was from them that the Association had originally sprung. The Association had published many lists, catalogues and brochures. More recently it had been engaged in discussions with the British Film Institute (the organisation which received a state grant and which concerned itself with the cultural aspects of the film.) These discussions were aimed at reaching agreement with the British Film Institute so that while keeping its independence the Scientific Film Association hoped shortly to obtain a fairly substantial subvention from the State.

Mr. Rayon Elton - Malaya. Though young, Malaya had a lively organisation for the production of scientific films. Malaya was well equipped and enthusiasm was great for the non-commercial film. Its colleges made great use of the scientific film. Production was not yet very extensive, but it was hoped that it would soon be possible to exchange films with Europe. The beginnings had been difficult, but now, they in Malaya, were ready to work in any of the countries of South East Asia where films in four languages were necessary, Chinese, Malay, Tamil, and English. For the moment, they had at their disposal only a few films on food and on rice. They hoped to produce shortly a film on malaria and other tropical diseases. They were trying to create a permanent film library. They were very happy to welcome any expert who might wish to help them with advice.

Mr. Harris - New Zealand. I bring from New Zealand good wishes for the success of this conference from the N.Z. Association of Scientific Workers, N.Z. Film Institute Society, N.Z. National Film Unit (chief film-makers of N.Z.) and the N.Z. National Film Library, the chief distributors of Educational and Scientific Films.

I think I would be right in saying that no country has greater need than New Zealand of the proposed new international Scientific Film organisation, for while New Zealand schools and Universities make considerable use of instructional films, almost a hundred percent of the films are imported. About imported films we have two complaints with which the international body should be able to deal. The first is that we have at present no means of checking the quality of a film before it is bought, of finding whether a given film makes an adequate and well presented cover of its subject. This difficulty would be removed once we had access to an up-to-date and authoritative international graded list of scientific films, (a list to which we would have to contribute acceptable evaluations of N.Z. productions as our share of the international job.) A second difficulty which we have to contend with, and which I hope the international body we form here will be able to eliminate, is that we all too often receive extremely poor prints of films which we know to have been well produced. Prints of such poor quality that if they had been made by our New Zealand laboratories would have been destroyed after an enquiry, laboratories in Europe and America are quite happy to send to New Zealand as samples of their work. It is obvious that New Zealand with its small population will always have to import the majority of its instructional films. We need an international body to help us to select the best films to import, and further, to help us to get good prints of these good films.

Film Production in New Zealand is undertaken by the N.Z. National Film Unit, at the Government Film Studios in Wellington, and at present the greater part of their time goes into the making of a weekly newsreel or cine-magazine called "New Zealand Weekly Review". Documentaries are also produced, mainly to meet the requirements of Government Departments. These 35 mm films are distributed through the public cinemas, but few overseas documentaries reach the public screens, because of the prevalence of double-feature programmes.

16 mm distribution is carried out by one or two private firms, and most importantly by the National Film Library which is financed by the Department of Education, and lends its films free to organisations but not at all to individuals. The National Film Library is situated in Wellington, but most educationists would like to see it extended to have branch libraries in the "Four Main Centres", that is to say, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. In addition to distributing overseas films, the National Film Library receives prints of National Film Unit productions three months after their release to commercial theatres.

A speaker at the recent Science Congress of the Royal Society of N.Z. mentioned that of the non-fiction books borrowed by the public from

the Wellington Public Library, 10% were works of science. It is perhaps worth mentioning that the "Weekly Review" of the New Zealand National Film Unit meets public taste by containing about 10% of scientific news. The scientific films which I hope to show to you later in the Congress are all taken from issues of our newsreel.

While "popular science" for the general public is to some extent supplied by the local weekly release, there is undoubted need for the production of scientific films within the Dominion. An example which has been quoted to me is as follows: Biology instructors wishing to use a film to illustrate the life-cycle of a bird find that the best film they can get is one on the American Robin, a bird which does not occur in New Zealand, and which few New Zealanders have ever seen, whereas there are many species of birds which are familiar to New Zealanders and deserving of film study. Similarly many other subjects need to be covered by New Zealand-made films. Film production is well established, and it is to be hoped that when these films which we need are made, they will be of as much interest to the outside world as they are to New Zealand itself.

Messrs. de Roos and Loose - Holland. There was an educational film Institute, subsidised by the state. In addition, to make up the rest of a still slender production, the film industry and several big firms made films to meet their own needs. Certain individuals, mainly biologists, made films, but the Universities had little equipment. Utrecht proposed to make a series of medical films. There was little to report concerning distribution. The Dutch National Film Library had only been concerned up to the present with cultural films. Apart from the Ministry of Agriculture the state had generally undertaken little in the way of production, but future plans included the production of Dutch scientific films and the preparation of a critical list of these.

M. Jean Korngold - Poland. Before the war, no scientific films were produced in Poland. Just after the war, Film Polski created a Film Institute with funds from the Government which has followed its work with sympathetic understanding. This Institute seeks to establish the Educational and Scientific cinema and possesses 800 mobile 16 mm. projectors serving the schools. Unfortunately, we have very few teaching films and we are negotiating with various countries, particularly Great Britain for the exchange of films non-commercially. Up to now we have used Czech, Russian and French films. The Institute has created two scientific film laboratories in the exact sense of the word, at Cracow and Zyradow. We have produced films in these laboratories, some of which were shown at the Paris Congress, but we calculate that the formation of ISFA should help us to develop our national scientific film production and to its work Film Polski will give full material aid. We are ready to study with foreign scientific cinematographers, any projects for making scientific films in Poland. We wish to see ISFA organising the exchange of scientific film technicians whom we should be pleased to welcome to our country. As a beginning, we have invited Jean Painleve who has offered all his films to Polish science and education, a gift which will provide a nucleus for our scientific film library.

M. Sallaz - Switzerland. The Federal ICS established under the Presidency of Professor Maurice Lugeon, had been quite recently formed. Up to the present in Switzerland there had been no coordinated production, but there had been very praiseworthy efforts by isolated specialists and research workers by several industries and by the Polytechnikum of Zurich. The immediate aim of the Institute was therefore one of co-ordination and of informing scientific circles about the possibilities of the film in research and providing them with the means of making films. From the international point of view Switzerland was looking for a regular system for the exchange of films and the closest possible collaboration with other countries. She was therefore very pleased at the initiative taken by the British and the French organisations in

Messrs. Holub and Hejny - Czechoslovakia. Scientific film activity was concentrated in Prague, amongst University teachers. A first step had been taken - the formation of an Institute for research into and production of scientific films an Institute which had the same aims as Scientific Film Associations of other countries. In addition, there existed a film institute which was part of the Ministry of Education and dealt with teaching films. Scientific films were not distributed outside the Universities whereas documentary and teaching films were distributed by a fairly wide national network of distribution throughout Czechoslovakia. They would like to receive from other countries information about possibilities of exchanges of films on the widest scale.

M. Maric - Yugo-Slavia. Before the war there was absolutely nothing in the way of scientific films in Yugoslavia. Immediately after the war a growing interest became apparent not only in the cinema generally, but in documentary and scientific films among all classes of the population. Documentary and scientific films are shown as widely as in other countries. The scientific film being the "Benjamin" of the Government, it would obtain all the support it needed. Already quasi-scientific films are being made of ethnographical interest, popular dances, village life, etc. There was as yet no production of scientific films, strictly speaking. But an extraordinary interest was being shown in the question even in the most remote villages where the peasants absorbed information much better through images than through abstract speech. A scientific film section was being formed in Belgrade which would be glad to receive help and support from the ISFA.

Mr. Basil Wright rose with the Chairman's permission at this point, to inform the Assembly of the great interest that UNESCO had in all endeavours towards a greater understanding between the peoples, and offering to the ISFA, in the name of UNESCO, all help and cooperation. He concluded by expressing the warm moral support of UNESCO. The Congress could rest assured of this support.

4.

The Chairman of the Session read the preamble of the draft constitution (see annex 3.) He put to the vote the question of the adoption of this text while explaining that such a vote would be regarded as an affirmation of the need for creating the ISFA. The voting delegates adopted the text of the preamble unanimously. In reply to an enquiry, Mr. Maddison (Great Britain) pointed out that the Preamble was an integral part of the constitution and this interpretation was accepted.

5.

The English name was accepted and the French name was altered to Association Internationale du Cinema Scientifique, as being the briefest and most concise title. The word "technique" was not added in the French since it occurs in the preamble and there could therefore be no ambiguity.

As discussion of Article 2 of the constitution would have more than exhausted the time available at this Session, the Assembly passed to the discussion of the central office of the International Association. It was made clear that this office would not replace the office of any national association in its own country. It could moreover, be changed if a future General Assembly wished it.

Mr. Maddison proposed that a provisional central office for one year be decided on.

Mr. Michaelis of the British Delegation proposed Paris, in view of the pioneer efforts given by France.

Mr. Harris of New Zealand proposed London.

Dr. MacKeith of the British Delegation thought that London would present certain advantages.

Mr. Loose (Holland) found that communications of a great many countries would be more easy with London.

This was not the opinion of M. Sallaz (Switzerland). He felt that Paris was in every way the central point indicated. In any case it would be preferred by Eastern and Central European countries.

As the discussion was becoming lengthy, it was decided to postpone the matter until the following day.

Mr. Harris expressed the hope that certain practical matters would be completed before the textual discussions were continued. He particularly wished that distribution of the films to be shown to delegates would be discussed.

Dr. MacKeith of the British Delegation distributed the report of the British delegation concerning the Scientific Film in Other Countries, and invited the delegates from these countries to provide comments and corrections by Tuesday morning, 7th October.

The Session ended at 6.45 p.m.

Second Session of the Congress at 3 o'clock on 3rd October, 1947.

Mr. E.J. Sallaz (Switzerland) was elected chairman of the session. Mr. Sallaz greeted Mr. Boden the South African delegate, who had been prevented by an unfortunate incident from taking part in the proceedings of the first session.

The Chairman read a telegram from Mr. Haesearts, Belgian delegate who asked to be excused for not being able to be present until the following session.

The assembly passed the consideration of article 2 of the Constitution. Various amendments were proposed and were embodied in the text of the Constitution.

M. Painleve proposed the preparation of a plan of production. He gave as his reason for this the avoidance of several films being made with the same subject matter.

The Chairman proposed that, as a practical step, an attempt should be made to establish a practical objective, valid for the first year, rather than one which should become lost in unreal theories and discussions. He felt that everything would depend on the manner in which the word "international" was interpreted and what would be done about it.

The Assembly thereupon agreed the following additional paragraph:-

"To encourage voluntary international cooperation to avoid overlap and to stimulate the production of films for which there is a need."

- para. 3. the word "national" to have a small letter to avoid any impression of government bodies being involved.
- para. 5. add the phrase "and corresponding members".
- para. 4. add the phrase "and the publication of lists and critical catalogues."

Article 3 of the Constitution. Since it was impossible to arrive at a rapid agreement of this article, the chairman proposed the adoption of a provisional constitution as it stood, revisions to be made the following year when practical experience had brought out actual needs. Such revision was possible under the terms of Art.10.

Mr. Maddison believed, nevertheless, that any serious objections ought to be voiced immediately.

The Chairman proposed that two sub-committees be appointed to prepare more suitable texts, one sub-committee of five members to work on the meaning of the text and another sub-committee, consisting of two english-speaking and two french-speaking persons, to work on style and the exact matching up of the terms employed in both languages. The following delegates were nominated to these sub-committees: Austria, Great Britain, Yugo-Slavia, Australia, Switzerland. Mr. Key, of Australia, was elected chairman of these sub-committees.

Article 6. Mr. Maddison maintained that, when a member was elected an officer of the Association, it would be understood that it was in the first place on account of his personal qualities and only afterwards the nationality of the member elected would be taken into account.

Professor Storch, Austria, felt that in case of death etc., another member of the Council might be named by the other officers to fill the seat vacated until the next Assembly.

Article 7. Subscriptions.

Mr. Maddison proposed a maximum of £100 and a minimum of £25 p.a. It would be open to any country for reasons of national prestige to give more. It being necessary that the subscription should be paid in a free and stable currency, it was finally agreed that the annual subscription be:- 1,700 Swiss francs maximum and 400 Swiss francs minimum.

Mr. Key proposed the extension to one year (instead of as at present 6 months) of the period granted to each country for paying subscriptions. He had particularly in mind financial difficulties likely to arise for newly-created associations. This was agreed.

M. Painleve suggested that, in each country, the Association established there should seek a government grant or the financial support of industry.

Discussion of the Constitution was then adjourned. The Chairman raised the question of the Central office of the Association.

Miss Urquhart, in the name of the British delegation, proposed that the Central office of the ISFA be in Paris. This was unanimously agreed.

The session ended at 7.40 p.m.

Third Session - 7th October, 1947 at 2 p.m.

Mr. J. Maddison (Great Britain) was elected as Chairman of the Session.

Mr. Key (Australia) as Chairman of the Sub-committee charged with preparing the text of Articles 3, 5 and 6 (6 and 7 in the revised text), reported his Committee's findings.

Mr. Sallaz (Switzerland) added certain details to those given by Mr. Key, and read the text established and explained the reasons for the changes introduced. The most important of these concerned the size of the Council, its functions and the period of office, and the quorum (see annex 4).

The Chairman thanked the Sub-committee for its work. He hoped that since five members of the Assembly had already accepted this text, it would be possible for the others to accept also.

The adoption of this text was put to the vote, and was carried, nem con.

It was agreed that each delegate should receive from the central office of the ISFA the agreed text in English and in French.

The Chairman drew attention to the several important items remaining on the Agenda. Place and date of the next Congress, election of the officers and Council, and preparation of a plan of action.

Place and Date of the Next Assembly.

M. Jean Painleve in the name of the French delegation, proposed that this should take place in England, in view of the tremendous effort made by Great Britain towards the furtherance of the scientific film.

M. Sallaz in the name of the Swiss delegation fully supported the French delegation's proposal.

Mr. R. Elton (Malaya) proposed rather that a "user" country, as for example Poland or Switzerland, should be chosen.

Mr. Sallaz thanked Mr. Elton for his proposal but felt that Switzerland was only at the beginning of its work and they hoped on the contrary to learn a great deal in Britain the following year.

Mr. Korngold (Poland) thanked the Malayan delegate but could do no better than have recourse to the arguments of the Swiss delegate.

The Chairman put this proposal to the vote.

It was unanimously agreed that Great Britain should be the country to organise the next General Assembly.

It was unanimously agreed that it should take place at the beginning of October 1948.

Election of Officers and Council.

The Assembly proceeded to fill the following offices:- President, two Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, those elected to remain in office for one year.

M. Jean Painleve proposed that the Presidency be given to Poland in the person of M. Korngold. He thought that we would be able in this way to express our friendship towards Poland which Mr. Elton had already voiced a short while before.

Miss Urquhart in the name of the British delegation seconded this proposal.

M. Sallaz in the name of the Swiss delegation proposed that the two Vice-Presidents be elected at the same time.

Mr. Key thought that this procedure would be unusual.

M. Korngold was elected President of the ISFA.

M. Korngold replying thanked the Assembly for the honour done to Poland in his person. The distinction thus conferred would be an encouragement to his country's scientific film activities.

Election of the two Vice-Presidents.

These office bearers would clearly have equal rights and powers.

Miss Urquhart proposed as Vice-President the delegate from Brazil.

M. Sallaz supported this proposal because of the great effort by Brazil - an effort that we had been able to estimate by seeing her films during the last few days. He would like to propose Great Britain for the other Vice-President.

M. Painleve supported the British proposal as regards Brazil as a recognition of the great effort made by Prof. Pinto. He also seconded the Swiss proposition concerning Great Britain. There was no need to insist on the work done by Basil Wright and John Maddison; it had long been known to them.

M. Painleve added that the proposals were by name of person since we were not only nominating a country but equally a person. He wished to propose Prof. Pinto for Brazil and Mr. Maddison for Great Britain.

These two persons were elected.

Election of the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Korngold proposed M. Jean Painleve. Since all the work would fall on the Secretary of the Association, M. Painleve would by his previous experience of such work, be a candidate whose nomination was clearly desirable. He would be well fitted to do the work.

Mr. Harris proposed that the Swiss delegate be the Hon. Secretary.

M. Sallaz expressed his thanks but felt that the Hon. Secretaryship should be kept in France, where the central office of the Association was. Moreover, Switzerland was not yet ready to take on a task of this sort.

Miss Urquhart seconded M. Korngold's proposal.

M. Painleve was elected unanimously.

M. Painleve thanked the Assembly for this honour. The French delegation would endeavour by its efforts to justify the confidence thus placed in it.

The Chairman expressed the general pleasure at the election of M. Painleve, who he described as not only a remarkable scientist but also a remarkable film director. M. Painleve was a pioneer and an apostle, and a genius of the scientific cinema.

Election of Hon. Treasurer.

M. Korngold proposed the Swiss delegate M. Sallaz, as the Hon Treasurer.

Mr. Harris seconded this proposition.

M. Sallaz was unanimously elected to this office.

M. Sallaz expressed his sincere thanks and also the rather mixed feelings with which he accepted the office. Only a few days ago he had painted a picture of the unenviable role of the Hon. Treasurer waging constant battles with the clearing houses of countries with controlled currencies. The Bete Noir of all those from whom he would be asking money.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure at seeing M. Sallaz being elected Hon. Treasurer, not only because the subscriptions would have to be paid in Swiss Francs, but also because M. Sallaz had shown himself to be, throughout the Congress, a tower of strength and a remarkable person in every way.

Election of the seven other members of the Council.

M. Sallaz felt that the election of these members should be a question not only of the feelings of esteem and friendship that certain personalities inspired in us, but equally the desire to gather together centrally on the Council, personalities coming from all quarters of the globe, in order that the Council as a whole would be truly representative of all the member countries. He had therefore drawn up the following list which he wished to propose:- Belgium, we all knew the work of M. Haesaerts; Belgium would form a link with Holland and Luxembourg.

Canada, as being from the North American continent.

Mexico, as being a Spanish speaking Latin-American country.

Malaya, whose work we appreciate, which prepares films in four languages and would provide an excellent link with SE Asia.

Australia, as representing Australasia.

Czechoslovakia, as representing Eastern Europe.

Austria, as representing German speaking countries, which we hope to see returning one day into the European picture, and to express our esteem for her achievements in truly difficult conditions.

Mr. Arthur Elton whom the Chairman introduced as the first President of the British Scientific Film Association, felt that one should especially bear in mind those delegates who were present.

Mr. Harris pointed out that the African continent was not represented.

M. Painleve agreed but replied that one ought also to bear in mind the density of population which was low in Africa and the degree of activity which was much greater elsewhere.

Mr. Paz (Mexico) explained that he was there as an observer by his Government. He had not any instructions about such a nomination.

The same was true of Mr. Key of Australia and Mr. Harris of New Zealand, who moreover might later be replaced in their official positions, which positions kept them in Europe temporarily.

This discussion of representation on the Council prompted M. Painleve to speak of the USA, which had sent by its Embassy some very interesting films but which was not represented at the Assembly. In American Universities there were known to be some extremely interesting films, but there were hundreds of independents which were extremely difficult to contact. Usually this was only possible by letters of personal recommendation. M. Painleve suggested that a telegram be sent to some coordinating Ministry in the USA, inviting them to study how best to meet this problem, and expressing at the same time our hopes that at the next Congress there would be an American delegate with us and our thanks for the films supplied.

A similar telegram might be sent to the USSR, who like the USA had provided some remarkable films but was not yet represented in our organi-

The Chairman expressed the reliance which was placed on our Canadian friends that they should keep in touch with American colleagues in this matter.

M. Sallaz asked to be excused because of the fact that he had had to omit peoples and such persons as Mr. Boden and Dr. Joramillo, but he hoped that a democratic rotation would be established and that it was in this spirit that the question ought to be considered.

Dr. Joramillo (Equador) asked if the constitution provided for the election to the Council of those persons who were only observers and not delegates.

The Chairman explained that the constitution laid down no ruling on this point, but at this stage it was not desirable to interpret it too narrowly.

After some discussion, it was agreed that members could be considered as nominated provisionally until they were able formally to accept. Should this be impossible, the consequences would not be serious, since the constitution envisaged a possible maximum of 12 members of Council without making this figure essential. If there were a country amongst those proposed by M. Sallaz who was not yet a member such a nomination might be considered as the equivalent of an invitation addressed to that country.

The Chairman put M. Sallaz's proposal of the 7 countries to be members of Council to the vote.

The 7 countries were elected by 10 votes to 0; the 7 countries concerned abstaining.

M. Sallaz again excused the fact that his proposal might not have given satisfaction to everybody. There would of course, next year be a change. There were no reserved seats on the Council of the ISFA. The Assembly was not electing a Council with the four great Powers but a democratic Council.

Exchange of views had brought out the fact that the constitution did not in its present form meet all the needs.

The Chairman therefore proposed that a suggestion made by Mr. Boden and Mr. Key be accepted, that the constitution be considered as being provisional capable of amendment in London next year.

It was not felt that any vote was necessary on this point, because until there was membership the constitution was by nature provisional.

Definition of types of scientific films.

M. Painleve stressed the importance of this to avoid too frequent infringements. In France five categories of scientific films had been established:

1. Research films.
2. Films teaching established facts.
3. Films for popularising science.
4. Documentary films.
5. School teaching films for various grades.

M. Sallaz suggested that this question be postponed until the 1948 Assembly. It called for thought and for time to allow for exchange of views between delegates via the central office, so that concrete proposals might be tabled.

Prof. Storch (Austria) proposed that next year there be a meeting, specially convened to discuss and criticise films presented during the Congress.

Mr. Arthur Elton felt that one should not classify scientific films but to look at all films from the scientific point of view.

M. Painleve said that in the beginning the Association had been generous in its interpretation since it had even accepted for projection documentaries of a general nature. But we ought to regulate our action, he felt, in such a way as not to enter into competition with organisations concerned with documentary teaching and other types of films.

It was unanimously agreed to carry forward this discussion until next year.

M. Painleve introduced the Peruvian delegates, who had just arrived; Mr. Bernardo Boca Rey and his assistant.

Mr. Rey explained that no scientific films had been made by his country, but he intended immediately to suggest that it should produce a film on a specifically Peruvian disease, the Peruga fever so that Peru might make its contribution to the 1948 Congress in London.

The Chairman thanked the Peruvian delegate in appropriate fashion and M. Sallaz provided a translation into Spanish of great eloquence.

Reports to be called for from each country.

After discussion it was agreed that each country would send a report by the end of April 1948 to the British delegation which was entrusted with the task of collating these reports, along the lines it had already begun.

Each report would fall into two parts; first part, a summary of past events and a note on the outlook and general attitude of mind towards the scientific film. Secondly, precise data about present scientific film production, the importance of the films produced, and future projects. Each country would indicate at the same time what measures had been taken by it to encourage the production of scientific films within its borders.

This decision was arrived at unanimously.

Mr. Loose (Holland) offered to the delegates a report he had prepared on the situation in Holland.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Loose.

The Chairman proposed that a memorandum should be prepared to serve as a guide to those countries setting up Scientific Film Associations. Such a memorandum would not only include articles of constitution, but would give quite precise detail about the origin of the scientific film movement in each country, its evolution, experiments undertaken and their success, such as for example, scientific film societies. Each country which had already organised an SFA would prepare such a memorandum for the other countries.

It was agreed unanimously that this should be done.

Mr. Sallaz said that for countries only at the first stage of their evolution it would be very useful if they could inform their scientists about the techniques that were available to researchers. The report ought therefore to include an aide-memoire of the techniques in use in each country.

Mr. R. Elton thought that one would achieve this end by exchanging bibliographies of scientific processes.

Miss Urquhart thought that the Council ought to call upon one country to assemble these bibliographies. It ought too, to ask each member for suggestions concerning the catalogue and appraisal form.

It was agreed that the central office would indicate in the minutes to be circulated of the present meeting the address to which each report should be addressed.

M. Sallaz advised against becoming lost in the details which properly were the function of the officers and Council which had been elected. It was through the centre that action must now be directed, and through the centre that one member could call on another member to act. There should be confidence in the Council.

Mr. Harris pointed out that a number of films had been projected during the meetings. What, he asked, was the possibility of obtaining these films for each member to use in his own country. What steps were necessary to achieve this end, what steps could the Council take so that these films did not disappear once again into oblivion?

M. Painleve replied that two sorts of films had been screened, films made by government and other bodies for a non-profit making purpose, and commercially produced films like Paysages du Silence which Comandeu Gustau had made and had to sell to cover his expenses. It might be possible to ask him to provide copies free of charge or for a small sum on condition that a guarantee was given that the film would not be used for commercial gain.

Mr. Key proposed that each country should provide exact information about the films it had projected; producer, distributor, if a negative existed, format, existence of commercial rights, present existence or future possibility of versions in different languages, etc. Each country could then indicate which of the films shown it would like to be able to use in its own territory.

This proposal was accepted unanimously.

Mr. Korngold pointed out that at the last meeting of UNESCO the Sub-commission on Cinema had proposed that UNESCO should appeal to each country to allow films of non-profit making nature to be exempt from customs duty.

Mr. Loose felt that it was very urgent that one should know the exact position concerning the formalities to be fulfilled at the customs of each country before films could enter.

M. Painleve was not very optimistic about this matter. For 25 years, he said, intellectuals in many countries had been concerned about this question of customs duty. It was not possible to envisage placing upon consulates and other diplomatic missions, the widespread exchange of the sort we had in mind. As long as we did not possess an unambiguous definition of the scientific film there was no hope of seeing customs duties abolished by some system by a certificate of guarantee by the ISFA. For the International Federation of Film Societies M. Painleve had suggested that each country should deposit a guarantee according to its commercial quotas, this guarantee payment to be refunded when this film was returned to its country of origin. But this procedure would only cover a small part of the exchanges the ISFA had in mind.

The Chairman proposed that each country should furnish a report on the customs regulations in its territory by the 31st December 1947.

It was agreed unanimously that this proposal be accepted.

Cooperation in the production of scientific films on an international basis.

M. Painleve had proposed this and to illustrate his proposal he used the following practical example. He had himself written a scenario for a film on animal locomotion, an extremely detailed scenario which envisaged several years of work and requiring some 33 hours of projection. It would treat the subject from the vibratile cilium up to a bird's wing. It would seem logic in such a case, to ask the Council to undertake to inform the different producing countries, so that each one could select that part of the scenario which it was particularly well placed to film.

It was unanimously agreed that M. Painleve be asked to make his scenario available to all members.

The delegates from Malaya, New Zealand, Canada and Poland expressed their willingness to provide the Council with full information about production facilities in their respective countries.

Mr. Key suggested that a full list of delegates be added to the minutes (see annex 1).

The Chairman reported that Dr. MacKeith of the British delegation had brought various of the publications of the British Scientific Film Association, and these were available for inspection. On request, the SFA would provide copies to other countries.

M. Painleve raised again the question of the despatch of telegrams to the USA and the USSR whose governments had officially sent films to the Congress.

It was agreed that the Hon. Secretary would send these telegrams thanking the governments in question and requesting them to consider the sending of delegates to the next General Assembly of the ISFA.

This completed the Agenda before the Assembly, and in conclusion the Chairman expressed the thanks of the Assembly to the French delegation for the magnificent fashion in which delegates had been received.

M. Painleve, in his turn, thanked Mr. Maddison for the contributions he had made towards the preparation of these meetings of the Assembly and for presiding over this final session.

The meeting closed at 6 p.m.