

will give us the facts about the disease and tell us that leprosy is not such a contagious disease, and that the stigma need not be, the hatred need not be.

I know that you are engaged in a noble task. You are committed to the cause of leprosy. You serve selflessly with no attachment to future awards or personal rewards. Therefore, it may be said of you:

I cannot call you God  
in fear of God.  
But you are my god,  
the god of mercy,  
the god of wrath,  
the god of miracles.

With these words, I inaugurate this Congress.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 19 February 1984

The President, Dr. M. F. Lechat, took the chair.

He called the meeting to order, and intimated that the Council was meeting validly, since a quorum of members was present out of a possible total of 24. The agenda was approved.

1. *Death of Dr. R. Guinto.* The President paid a tribute to the life and work of Dr. Guinto, stressing his pioneering activities in the Philippines and his reputation in the areas of epidemiology and research. He also referred to the passing of three former Councillors: Drs. F. Contreras Duenas, T. Frank Davey, and C. G. S. Iyer. The Councillors stood in silent tribute to the memory of their late colleagues.

2. *Apologies for absence* had been received from Drs. Bechelli, Hanks, and Rees.

3. *Nominations for Officers and Councillors.*

No nominations had been received that conformed with Article 2 of the Bylaws of the Association, that is, the proposal should be made in writing (by any member of the Association) at least six months before the opening date of the next Congress.

### *Councillors.*

According to Article 4(d) of the Constitution, Councillors who have served for two terms may be recommended for renomination only by a two-thirds vote of the Council. By a two-thirds majority vote, the Council decided that Drs. de las Aguas, Baliña, Job, Rees, Schaller, and Shepard should

be recommended to the General Meeting of Members as Councillors for a further term.

As a result of a ballot, the following names were recommended to the General Meeting of Members as Councillors for Europe/Africa: Dr. Waters (having served one term), Drs. de las Aguas and Rees (having received a two-thirds vote of the Council), Drs. Nkinda and Sansarricq (both new nominations).

As a result of a ballot, the following names were recommended to the General Meeting of Members as Councillors for Asia/Far East: Dr. Desikan (having served one term), and Drs. Abe, Christian and Ramasoota (all new nominations).

As a result of a ballot, the following names were recommended to the General Meeting of Members as Councillors for the Americas: Dr. Wayne Meyers (having served one term), Dr. Shepard (having received a two-thirds vote of the Council), and Drs. Azulay, Opromolla, and Trautman (all new nominations).

### *Vice-Presidents.*

The Council proceeded to vote for Vice-Presidents for the geographical areas. As a result of balloting, Drs. Schaller, Job, and Baliña were named as the Council's nominees for Vice-Presidents for Europe/Africa, Asia/Far East, and the Americas, respectively.

### *Officers of the Association.*

The following were recommended by the Council for the offices indicated:

President	Dr. M. F. Lechat
Secretary	Dr. R. H. Thangaraj
Treasurer	Dr. W. F. Ross
Editor	Dr. R. C. Hastings

*Honorary Vice-Presidents.* The Council decided that the three retiring Vice-Presidents should be nominated as Honorary Vice-Presidents and that the retiring Secretary, Dr. Browne, should also be accorded this honor.

*President Emeritus.* The immediate past President, Dr. J. Convit, would be relinquishing his place on the Council at this Congress and would not be seeking renomination as a member of the Council. As a mark of appreciation of his services to the Association and to leprosy, the Council decided to nominate him President Emeritus, to join Dr. Robert Cochrane in this select category. Since it was realized that there is no provision in the Constitution for such an office, the President gave notice that he would propose an amendment to the Constitution to permit this honor to be accorded to any suitable person in the future. The amendment would be considered at the General Meeting of Members at the next Congress.

#### 4. Revised Constitution and Bylaws.

The Secretary reported that no comments had been received from Councillors about the working of the new Constitution, approved at the Mexico Congress, except from Dr. Job, who referred to the criteria for admission of new members. After discussion on the desirability of defining precisely the wording of Article 3 of the Constitution and hearing reports from Dr. Job and the Secretary, the Council decided to leave matters as they are and to reconsider the question at the next meeting of the Council.

The Secretary reported that since the Mexico Congress there have been 261 applications for membership; of these, five had been asked to furnish further particulars of their active connection with leprosy work, and two had been rejected. The total membership at present is 561.

In the future, the President and the two Councillors to be nominated by him to form a Credentials Committee will scrutinize each application very closely.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer reported on the state of the

Association's finances with special reference to members' subscriptions and the grants from organizations (particularly from ILEP members) that ensured the continued publication of the JOURNAL and the financial viability of the Association.

The total membership changes very little, but every year there are about 50 resignations and about the same number of new members admitted.

The Treasurer advised that it would be unwise to expect any increased subsidization from voluntary organizations at this time.

The expenses of the Association were largely concerned with the production, printing, and dispatch of the JOURNAL. All costs were rising with inflation; postal charges have risen, and the editorial office expenses were increasing (quite apart from the recent purchase of office equipment).

The ideal course for balancing the budget would be an increase in the circulation of the JOURNAL. Up to 1200 copies, the cost per copy is \$12.74; above 1200, it is \$7.38. One suggestion made to the Treasurer was that he should approach pharmaceutical companies for financial assistance.

The possibility of payment being made in local currency would be of great help to members living in countries in which it was difficult to obtain hard currency for the payment of the annual dues.

The Council agreed with the Treasurer's recommendation that annual dues be increased from \$40 to \$60 (\$80 for subscribers). It was noted that under Bylaw 8, the Council had the power to determine the amount payable as annual dues.

Various ways of cutting costs were discussed, such as publishing the alphabetical list of members every two years.

The Treasurer was thanked for his untiring activities on behalf of the Association and congratulated on his report.

#### 6. Editor's Report.

Various problems had been faced and overcome during the past five years, and the JOURNAL was now appearing regularly and will shortly be up to date.

There has been difficulty in including the author-subject index in the last number of the year.

The increase in the workload of the Editorial Office was a good sign, since it in-

dicated that more articles were being submitted.

The Editor gave an analysis of the lapse of time at the various stages of an article's passage from receipt to eventual publication or rejection. He paid tribute to the work of referees to whom he submits papers for their expert opinions. He was gratified at the number and the high standard of papers submitted from India (31.3%); the United States (18.9%), the United Kingdom (9.1%), and Japan (7%) were also sources of good publishable material.

Guest editorials of high quality had been much appreciated.

The Editor was very desirous of receiving articles in French or Spanish, and urged Councillors to encourage likely authors who would submit articles in these languages.

#### 7. Venue of Next Congress.

The President called on the Secretary to report on the invitations he had received from cities that would welcome the XIII International Leprosy Congress.

Preliminary inquiries had been received from the following, but no definite invitations had been forthcoming from them: Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, Montreal, and Israel.

Firm invitations had come from: West Berlin, Hamburg, The Hague, and Abidjan. The first three had prepared detailed reports. The last invitation was backed by the Government of the Ivory Coast but since it had been received so recently, neither the

President nor the Secretary had had the opportunity of inspecting the facilities available, the hotel accommodations, or the organizational possibilities.

The Council took due note of the need to encourage African countries in their anti-leprosy campaigns, which a Congress in Africa would do, but they regretted the lateness of the invitation and were not assured that the promises tentatively made would be fulfilled. However, the decision had to be left to the General Meeting of Members, who would have the arguments for and against presented to them by the Secretary.

#### 8. Other Business.

The President called upon the Treasurer to pay tribute to the outstanding work of the Secretary and his wife during the 18 years since he assumed office. The Treasurer paid a special tribute to Mrs. Mali Browne for her careful detailed work in keeping the card index of Members of the Association.

In reply, the Secretary expressed his sense of satisfaction at having served the Association over such a long period, since 1963, when he was made a Councillor of the Association. He assured the Council that his interest in the treatment and control of leprosy in the world would not flag when he relinquished the position of Secretary, especially since he maintained many international commitments.

The President declared the Council meeting closed.

## PLENARY SESSION

Saturday 25 February 1984

- General Meeting of the Members of the International Leprosy Association

## INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION General Meeting of Members

A General Meeting of Members of the International Leprosy Association was held on Saturday, 25 February 1984, during the XII International Leprosy Congress in New Delhi, India.

The President, Dr. M. F. Lechat, took the Chair and declared the meeting formally constituted, 246 Members being present.

**Deaths of Association Members.** The President, having paid tribute to the mem-