

tant parts. I hope they will find this Congress useful and that your deliberations will not only enthuse those already in the field but will create an atmosphere where this work can gain greater importance and urgency all over. I hope those who have come from

abroad will have an interesting as well as an enjoyable stay while they are in our country.

I give you my greetings. I wish success for your deliberations. And, once more, all my good wishes.

Inauguration by the President of India Sri Giani Zail Singh



Respected Prime Minister, Cabinet Members, Mother Teresa, President of the International Leprosy Congress, Delegates, Sisters and Brothers:

We commend and support the efforts of many great men for the eradication of leprosy.

We long to create on this earth a family, a society, a world that would be free of lust, of anger, of greed, of possessiveness, of disease, of sorrow, of indulgence and fear. For in the riddance of such may be peace for society.

Leprosy is known to be an invincible disease which can be controlled but cannot be cured. There are many other diseases in the

world for which lifetime therapy is indicated. Leprosy could be simply one of those invincible diseases, but the great sorrow of leprosy is that it defaces its victims and society ostracizes them. True, the dearest of dear brothers, the parents and the closest of relatives cremate their dead, but the victims of leprosy are discarded alive. This societal hatred, this banishment makes this affliction unbearable.

A great effort is needed to eradicate not only the disease but also the myth and stigma attached to it. Our great men who have tried to generate sympathy for the victims of leprosy were not all medical experts. They simply wanted to appeal to the world to stop hating the sufferers. I hope that our experts

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: