



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION of INVENTOR ASSOCIATIONS

SEPTEMBER 1968

BULLETIN

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(MR. A. W. RICHARDSON, LONDON)

THE world is getting smaller. People of all nations with similar interests and of like professions find it increasingly necessary to collaborate.

The exception until recently has been inventors and inventor associations.

With the formation of the International Federation of Inventors Associations at a London Conference last July the situation has largely been remedied. It might also be said to be the beginning of the first effective international co-operation between inventors, although it should not be overlooked that the Scandinavian countries had previously formed a union of inventor associations within their countries.

IFIA, as it will almost certainly become known, was formed by inventor associations from Denmark, Finland, West Germany, Gt Britain, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Israel has since applied and been accepted for Membership.

One of the foremost objects of the Federation was to obtain recognition as official observers at the Geneva meetings of BIRPI, the international body composed of Representatives of Government and other official organisations from the civilised countries of the world together with industrial and professional associations connected with patents and invention.

It is with great satisfaction that we are able to report that IFIA has been accepted by BIRPI and invited to participate in future BIRPI Meetings relating to patents and inventions. This means that your elected Representatives will be present when the Patent Co-Operation Treaty comes up for re-examination at Geneva next December. It is of the utmost importance that inventors should be represented at BIRPI Meetings, and for their elected Representatives to have a voice in the discussions which are expected to lead to changes in patent laws and international conventions. Governments, industry,

patent agents and lawyers are already represented at such meetings and it is known that the BIRPI Administration welcomes the balance which the presence of IFIA Representatives will provide.

Our new Federation will work to attain the standards which will cause its contribution to BIRPI and to any other justifiable cause on behalf of inventors to be taken seriously. Similarly the Federation will look for these standards in inventor associations which seek to join it. It is hoped that countries not yet providing Member Associations will seek to prove that they have at least one Member Association which will satisfy the Federation's requirements. It will undoubtedly become recognised that these requirements can only strengthen the inventor associations concerned and benefit in turn the Federation, the Association itself and inventors in its country.

In addition to the publication of this Bulletin other important projects of the Federation include:

1. The exchange of information between countries concerning the patent and inventor situation.
2. The survey of the international situation regarding employee inventors.
3. The survey of taxation on receipts from patents and inventions.
4. Promotion of a world Inventors Congress.

In these remarks perhaps the first to be addressed formally to inventor associations and inventors by an international authority, it would be an unwarranted omission not to mention something of the origins of IFIA. The formation of such a

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Federation had been envisaged by more than one person connected with inventor associations in different countries, but one man saw clearly that for such a Federation to have any influence it must start from a position of strength, and that its constitution must be practically drawn up and jealously guarded.

For some years Mr. Harald Romanus, Director of the Swedish Inventions Office, in collaboration with Mr. Leif Nordstrand collected information and made contacts in other countries and worked quietly away preparing the ground for the formation of an international inventors body. It was appropriate that a man who is himself a successful inventor, sympathetically and closely associated with the problems of inventors and their contribution to society, and with the clearest ideas as to how the problems might be tackled on both national and international levels, should bring inventor associations together. When this unification contributes in the future to the advancement of technical and economic progress through the recognised efforts of inventors, Harald Romanus' own contribution towards it will come to be appreciated.



AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE
from left to right: Dr. Burmester, Lt. Col. M. Terä,
Mr. Kaira, Mr. Carstensen, Mr. Pfäffli

Photos by H. ROMANUS

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS INTERNATIONAL INVENTORS CONFERENCE

LONDON, 11-12 JULY, 1968

The following Associations and their Representatives were present:

Dansk Forening Til Fremme Af Opfindelser,
COPENHAGEN

Suomen Keksinnöry, HELSINKI

Deutscher Erfinderverband e.v., NURNBERG

Institute of Patentees and Inventors, LONDON

Norsk Uppfinnerforening, OSLO

Svenska Uppfinnareforeningen, STOCKHOLM

Erfinder Verband der Schweiz, ZURICH

Mr. S. A. Carstensen

Mr. R. Kaira

Lt. Col. M. Terä

Mr. F. Buchner

Dr. F. Burmester

Mr. A. W. Richardson

Mr. S. Green

Mr. A. L. Cotterell

Mr. A. M. Berggreen

Mr. L. Nordstrand

Mr. H. Romanus

Mr. S.-E. Angert

Mr. F. Pfäffli

Mr. O. Frank

Mr. F. Meister

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. A. W. Richardson (Gt. Britain) was elected Chairman of the Conference.

At the invitation of the Chairman a Representative from each country gave a short summary of the inventor situation in his country.

AIMS AND OBJECTS

Mr. Romanus (Sweden) spoke of the aims and objects of an international organisation as set out in the invitation to each Association. It was not the aim to get every inventor association in the various countries as Members of the new Federation, but to accept only qualified associations ready to work for the mutual benefit of inventors rather than for professional gain from the Federation for themselves. The main object therefore would be co-operation between inventor associations—giving and taking and working for international recognition.

STATUTES

The draft Statutes which had been circulated, were considered in conjunction with certain amendments proposed by the Scandinavian Associations and the British Association. The full Statutes adopted by the following Meeting will be reproduced in a subsequent issue of this Bulletin.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

The Representatives of Gt. Britain offered to provide, as an additional contribution to the new Federation, an insert to their quarterly Journal without charge, for a period of one year.

FINANCIAL YEAR

It was decided that the financial year of this Association should end on 31st December annually.

OFFICERS

After the formal resolution which inaugurated the new Federation, its General Assembly elected the following Officers:

President:

Mr. A. W. Richardson

Vice-Presidents:

Dr. F. Burmester (W. Germany)

Mr. S. Green (Gt. Britain)

Mr. H. Romanus (Sweden)

Mr. F. Pfäffli (Switzerland)

Chairman:

Mr. S. Green

SECRETARIAT

It was decided that the most convenient place to open the Secretariat was London and Mr. A. L. T. Cotterell, Secretary of the British Association, was elected as Secretary of the Federation.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

It was agreed to accept with gratitude the invitation of the Swedish Association to hold the next Annual Meeting in Stockholm.

APPLICATION TO BIRPI

It was resolved to make formal application immediately for the Federation's Representatives to attend BIRPI Meetings, in particular those connected with the Patent Co-operation Treaty; also to invite BIRPI to send Representatives to Annual Meetings of the Federation. Copies of the Patent Co-operation Treaty were to be obtained and distributed to Member Associations and their Representatives for consideration and submission of their views to the Federation. The following were elected to represent the Federation at BIRPI Meetings:

- Lt. Col. M. Terä (Finland)
- Dr. F. Burmester (W. Germany)
- Mr. S. Green (Gt. Britain)
- Mr. H. Romanus (Sweden)
- Mr. F. Pfäffli (Switzerland)

OTHER OBJECTS OF THE FEDERATION

The following objects were proposed in addition to those set out in the Statutes:

1. A survey of the employee inventor situation.
2. A survey of taxation on patents and inventions income.
3. Consideration of the value of inventions exhibitions.
4. Consideration of promotion of a world Inventors Congress.
5. Consideration of the best means to assist and advise inventors.



Mr. Richardson, President, speaking at the dinner.

Seated from left to right are Mr. Green, Mr. Romanus, Sir John Maitland and Mr. Gordon Grant

THE INAUGURAL DINNER

The Council of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors, London, gave a dinner on Thursday, July 11th at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, London, to commemorate the inauguration of the new Federation.

The President of the Institute, Commander Sir John Maitland, presided at the dinner which was attended by all the Representatives of the Associations taking part in the Conference.

The Comptroller-General of the British Patent Office, Mr. Gordon Grant, was among the guests.

In proposing the toast of the new Federation, Sir John Maitland referred to the achievement of the Inventor Associations in forming it, and pointed out that it was only the beginning and that much hard work remained before any results might become apparent.

Mr. Harald Romanus (Sweden) replied to the toast, and was followed by the President of the new Federation, Mr. A. W. Richardson (Gt. Britain) who proposed the toast of the Guests.

In reply to this toast, Dr. F. Burmester (W. Germany) stressed the importance of knowing the opinions of our partners in connection with mutual problems. It was obvious that the problems imposed on mankind in relation to our technical and scientific civilisation must be solved. It was also obvious that no single country could solve such problems working solely on a national basis.

In science and technology, art, literature and music, European peoples are mentally related in spite of their other differences. Looking back over his life, Dr. Burmester had found how politicians were working under an out of date diplomatic conception. It was our duty during the relative peace of Europe to circumvent politicians and to take such a resolution as had been made that day of forming our own union in our own intellectual field. While the Eastern and the Western worlds lived dangerously divided, the Far Eastern races will rise in technology and science, bringing both competition and new stimulus into our older European civilisation.

The problems of a technological society cross all conventional, geographic and financial borders, and if we are to survive we must begin to think in new dimensions.

PATENT CO-OPERATION TREATY

THE following Progress Report has been issued by the United International Bureau for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIRPI), on the Plan for a Patent Co-operation Treaty.

1. Pursuant to the directives of the Conference of Representatives and the Executive Committee of the International (Paris) Union for the Protection of Industrial Property, BIRPI is continuing the search for means designed to simplify the patenting of any given invention in a number of countries. By patenting is meant also the obtaining of inventors' certificates in countries in which this form of protecting inventions is also available.

2. Under present circumstances, not only is patenting in each country a wholly independent affair but the national laws of most countries take virtually no account of the fact that protection may be sought for the same invention also in other countries.

3. This fact results in much duplication of effort and considerable waste of talent, time, and money, both for the applicant and for the national Patent Offices, because:

- the applicant must draft his application and prepare the drawings accompanying it according to prescriptions differing as to form, most of these differences not resulting from different needs but merely from a lack of coordination;
- each national Patent Office considers the form and contents of the application alone, in almost complete isolation; in other words, the Offices of all countries repeat more or less the same work.

4. It is in the reduction of the repetition of essentially the same efforts by the applicant and the national Patent Office that BIRPI is looking for possible solutions.

5. After publishing a first Draft Treaty in 1967, BIRPI has published, after ten months of consultations with governments and private interested circles, a second Draft, on July 15, 1968.

6. As to the phase of application, the Draft provides that any applicant would be allowed to file—with his own national Patent Office—an international patent application, the effect of which would be the same as if he had filed separately in each of the Contracting States in which he desires to obtain a patent.

7. Every international application would be subject to international

search the result of which would be reflected in the so-called *international search report*. Such report would consist of a bare citation of the bibliographic data of such documents as appear to be likely to affect the novelty and non-obviousness of the invention the patenting of which is applied for. Such reports would be established, under special arrangements with BIRPI, by one of the major national Patent Offices or by the International Patent Institute, using identical documentation and similar methods for searching. Both would be prescribed in detail, and constant working relations would ensure the maximum possible degree of uniformity.

8. The applicant could then go a step farther and ask for what is called an *international preliminary examination report*. This report, too, would be established by one of the major national Patent Offices or by the International Patent Institute. The report would indicate, in relation to each claim, whether the claim appears to meet the criteria of novelty, inventive step (non-obviousness), and industrial applicability. Such indication would be accompanied by brief explanations and the citations of the documents held to be relevant.

9. The Treaty would result in much cheaper and simpler procedures for both the applicant and the national Patent Offices, and would have beneficial effects for everyone having to do with inventions and for all countries, including developing countries.

10. The applicant would not only (as already stated) obtain the effect of applications in several countries by filing a single application in his own country, but he would be given at least eight months more than he has at present for filing translations and paying national fees. Thus he would

have more time to consider whether he wishes to seek protection abroad and in which countries. Furthermore, his decision would be substantially facilitated by the international search report or international preliminary examination report, which would give him a rather precise idea of the worth of his invention.

11. As far as the national Patent Offices are concerned, the most costly part of this work—search and examination—would be substantially reduced, if not practically eliminated, in all cases where applications using the proposed Treaty reach them.

12. Competitors would see patent applications published together with the international search reports. Consequently, it would be much easier for them to evaluate the worth of the invention than it is today.

13. Developing countries could, without having to set up the costly machinery of examination, more easily screen out worthless applications on the basis of the search or preliminary examination reports prepared by internationally recognized authorities.

14. The Draft issued on July 15, 1968, will be discussed at a Committee of Experts to which representatives of more than 80 governments and more than 20 international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will be invited. This Committee is scheduled to meet at Geneva from December 2 to 10, 1968. If its results are encouraging, plans for conclusion of an international treaty will be made.

15. Copies of the text of the Draft Treaty and other preparatory documents for the December meeting may be obtained, in English or French, from BIRPI, 32 chemin des Colombettes, Geneva, Switzerland.



from right to left: Mr. Berggreen, Mr. Nordstrand, Mr. Cotterell (standing), Mr. Romanus, Mr. Frank, Mr. Pfaffli, Dr. Burmester and Mr. Buchner