

F.V.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MISSION STUDIES

Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes

November 26 - 27, 1976, Amsterdam.

Present: Prof. A. Camps (President)
Prof. J. Aagaard (Vice-President)
Rev. P. Clifford (Treasurer)
Rev. L. Egan (Member)
Dr. F.J. Verstraelen (Secretary-General)

The meeting started with a prayer by the President and with an inventory of additional points for the agenda.

To all present a photocopy of Mr. Chao's letter commenting on several points of the agenda was given.

Points discussed and/or decided upon

1. Evaluation of the San José IAMS-meeting:
 - 1.1. The evaluation was done with help of critical written remarks sent by several IAMS members-participants (Bieder, Digan, Taber) and by the Exec. Ctee members themselves. The following points were mentioned:
this conference had nothing specifically Latin American (why were there no influential Lat. Am. theologians?!); there was a lack of depth (insufficient planning on scientific level); a very deficient even not-existing organizational planning on the local level; the meeting took place in an unacceptable place (high-ranking and costly hotel); a remarkably low number of R.C. participants; nevertheless the San José Conference became something like a happening with - compared with the little input - a remarkable output (of varying quality and importance). However, there was a general agreement that such a haphazardly improvised type of Conference has to be avoided in the future by all means.
 - 1.2. In view of future Conferences some suggestions were voiced: much attention and preparation should be put not only in content but also in the process of a Conference; a good local organizing committee is a must; there should be room for more plurality in subjects/topics (like done in parallel scientific organizations) with at the same time an attempt to synthesize; learning from previous Conferences, a balance should be found between introductory papers and a maximum involvement of all participants; short papers could circulate among participants in advance of a Conference; those who profit by a travel-grant should give something in return e.g. by way of a scientific paper; the locality in which a Conference takes place should also co-determine the type of content and orientation of the Conference - - - -
 - 1.3. Resolution no. 1: To send a letter of appreciation to Rev. Parig Digan PMV for his thorough and critical analysis of the San José Congress and the implied suggestions for improvement.
Resolution no. 2: In principle only IAMS members will be admitted to IAMS Conferences.

2. Restructuring the IAMS

It would be an ideal situation if the IAMS could have strong regional (continental) groups, which would be active in between intercontinental meetings. For the time being IAMS membership in Africa, Latin-America and Asia is still weak. By stressing too much separate activities of IAMS in Europe and North-America its intercontinental character could be endangered. It was felt that what is needed first is to re-establish confidence in the IAMS as an intercontinental body. However, there is a growing uneasiness especially in Europe as regards missionary challenges which need missiological analysis and reflection. Since the "Missiological Week of Louvain" is being abolished a rally-point for (mainly Catholic) missiological reflection in Europe has disappeared too. The IAMS could assist in making known important workshops and bring them - if feasible and wanted - under its auspices (in cooperation with the Institute/Centre which takes the initiative).

Resolution no. 3: For the coming period the IAMS will recommend to its members the participation at

- a. An international workshop on "New Religious Movements in Europe" organized by the Nordic Institute for Missiology and Ecumenics (NIME) at Aarhus, December 16-18, 1977,
- b. A workshop on "Islam in Europe" to be organized at Selly Oak in August (?) 1978.

(If the organizers of both - and eventual other - workshops agree, the programme and other necessary information will be brought to the attention of the IAMS members).

3. Financial Reports and Perspectives

- 3.1. Two reports were submitted by Rev. P. Rowntree Clifford and after some questions and explanations accepted:
 - a. Dr. J.B.A. Kessler's report on income and expenses re San José Congress (dated 8.9.76)
 - b. Treasurer's Interim Financial Report concerning
 - balance available to travel and conference expenses of Third World delegates.
 - balance available for general expenses.

Resolution no. 4: to send a letter of appreciation and thanks to Dr. Kessler for his effective assistance (signed by President and Secretary-General).

Resolution no. 5: not to make known the names of organizations/institutions which made donations to the IAMS.

- 3.2. Two papers were signed, authorizing the Treasurer, Chairman, Secretary and one nominated representative (Dr. David B. Kerr) to deal with Coutts & Company, bankers of the IAMS.
- 3.3. Special Fund: in order to make the IAMS in the future more financially independent (of continued begging, the President proposes to consider the creation of a Special Fund. The money given up till now for specific purposes will have to be used "ad intentionem dantis". However, if we want to go in for more efficiency, the financial base of IAMS will have to be broadened (making e.g. possible the attendance at Executive Committee meetings of members living in other continents, at least once during their term of office). The President says to know ways and means to get contributions for such a Fund. Rev. Egan says he could try to do the same in the U.S.A., provided there will be a clear description of the Special Fund's aims, the use made of its money and a list of (prospective) contributors.

Resolution no. 6: The President will prepare a description of the Special Funds as required in the preceding paragraph.

Resolution no. 7: the Treasurer is authorized to take professional advice and act upon it in making the best possible profit out of the money belonging or falling to the IAMS; the interest produced by the Travel Fund can already be switched to the Special Fund.

4. Application for membership:

4.1. The names of 4 persons applying for IAMS membership were given. Of only two sufficient information as regards their academic degrees etc. were available. In discussing the criteria it was stressed that the character of the Association as a learned society should always be taken into account. Individuals and institutions "engaged in mission studies" may be admitted (if Article 3 of IAMS constitution where this point should be made more explicit). Applicants should also give reference - addresses of two sponsors.

As regards the applicants:

- a. Dr. Jane E. Ratcliffe, Dept. of Geography, De Paul University, Chicago: admitted
- b. Dr. S.T. Ola Akande, The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomosho, Nigeria: his degrees and curriculum vitae are convincing; however, information about him will be gained from Principal S. Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky (by Rev. P. Clifford) and from our member Dr. Tasie.
- c. Mr. Phillip M. Sandahl: academic degrees not clear; Dr. A. Glasser will be consulted.
- d. Aulden D. Coble, San José: Since only his name is known without any particulars, an application form will be sent to him.

Resolution no. 8: Rev. P. Clifford will prepare a draft of an application form.

4.2. The problem of members not paying their subscription-fee was being discussed. Because of a deficient communication with the members in recent times, it was decided that this point will be considered in a later stage.

4.3. The Committee deeply regretted the announced withdrawal of Dr. Max Warren from the IAMS (apparently for financial reasons).

Resolution no. 9: to propose to Dr. Max Warren the acceptance of being a honorary member of the IAMS.

5. Special responsibility of each Exec. Committee member: it was pointed out that each member should be alert to bring into the Association suitable persons out of the Region (Continent) he represents; if not present, a member could send in his remarks and suggestions before an Exec. Ctee meeting and he should react to the minutes of a meeting held.

6. Communication within IAMS: besides sending out a Newsletter regularly (2x a year?), exchange of relevant documentation should be promoted. By way of example are mentioned: a list of missiological publications by Orbit; the sending of a Newsletter on New Religious Movements (to be published at Aarhus; Prof. J. Aagaard is prepared to send two issues of this Newsletter to all members of IAMS).

Resolution no. 10: in order to re-establish communication a letter will be sent very soon to all members, giving some information on change of address of Secretariat and on this Executive Ctee meeting (a list of IAMS members will be enclosed); this letter will be followed after about two months by the Report of the San José Conference (this will be done in extenso).

Resolution no. 11: in order to cut down postal expenses special documentation will be sent from two centres: by Rev. L. Egan to North- and Latin-America; the rest by the Secretariat.

7. Relationships with important missionary and church organisations: several of these organisations were mentioned, but discussion about it was postponed till the next meeting; a suggestion was made that a special consultation of corporate IAMS members should be envisaged in the future.

Resolution no. 12: Prof. J. Aagaard was commissioned to explore the implications and possibilities of relationship with the W.C.C.

Resolution no. 13: The newly established Association of Third World Theologians will be contacted for mutual exchange of information etc.

8. Planning next IAMS Conference:

- 8.1. the four formal invitations made at San José were considered; the Committee felt however free to consider also other possibilities. Taking into account: the relative small and one-sided attendance at San José; the fact that the bulk of membership is still in the North-Atlantic; that already three Conferences had taken place in Europe, the Committee was inclined to consider North America as a suitable place for the next meeting. At the same time the Committee felt concerned with the necessary development of the Association outside Europe and North-America; it therefore was of the opinion that, if the next meeting would take place in the U.S.A., the following one should again happen outside the North-Atlantic area.

However, since the invitation to Bangalore was considered to be the most feasible (of the three Third-World invitations), the Exec. Ctee came to the following conclusion:

Resolution no. 14: to present to the IAMS members (in the first letter) this case and give them an opportunity to express their views on meeting.

a. either in the U.S.A. (Rev. L. Egan promised to explore the possibility for the meeting in Maryknoll Seminary, near New York; but this can take place only in 1979!)

b. or in Bangalore (August 1978 or December/January 1978/79; Dr. Amalorpavadass will be contacted to provide the necessary information).

- 8.2. Discussion on content of the next Conference was postponed to the next meeting. In the letter sent to all members they will be asked to send in their suggestions in this regard.

9. Varia.

- 9.1. Letter of Dr. Taber re publishing monograph series: Dr. Taber sent a letter accompanied with a memo to the Secretary-General to get to know in an informal way his views with respect to IAMS involvement in a truly international monograph series in missiology. This memo was briefly discussed by the Executive Committee. It was mentioned that there exists already an international monograph series on the European level (cooperation Fribourg, Hamburg, Birmingham; publisher Lang; 7 books in German, one appearing soon in English and French). Nevertheless the possibility for a broader cooperation in this field should be further explored. What would IAMS sponsorship in this mean? To give publicity to such a series; to look for good books for publishing in such series; to take up financial co-responsibility and/or editorial co-responsibility?

Resolution no. 15: the Secretary will write to Dr. Taber to inform him about the interest of the IAMS in further exploring the possibilities of a monograph series while trying to find out what kind of IAMS participation is wanted. More specific questions could be put to the next Exec. Ctee meeting (25-27 March, 1977).

- 9.2. Revision of the constitution: in view of new developments and a lack of clarity in some articles a proposal is made to review the constitution and to prepare some bylaws (concerning e.g. members not paying their subscription; Special Funds etc.).

Resolution no. 16: Rev. L. Egan (in cooperation with Prof. J. Aagaard) will prepare such necessary additions and clarifications (to be submitted to the next General Meeting of IAMS).

- 9.3. The Secretary-General is requested to visit his predecessor Prof. Andrew Walls in order to guarantee continuity of the work and to take along all the relevant IAMS material which is still at Aberdeen.

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Next meeting: Prof. Johannes Aagaard invites the Executive Committee to Aarhus, Denmark for its next meeting to be held from March 25 - 27, 1977.