INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY

MINUTES OF 86th MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT LE BISCHENBERG, STRASBOURG

MONDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 1976: 9.00

PRESENT:

Dr. R. W. Cairns - President, in the Chair
Prof. Sir Harold Thompson - Past-President
Prof. G. Smets - Vice-President
Prof. G. Ourisson - Secretary General
Prof. O. Horn - Treasurer
Prof. Sir Derek Barton
Prof. N. Suomalainen

ABSENT:

Prof. N. M. Emanuel

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. H. Egan - President, Applied Chemistry Division (in part)
Dr. B. W. Rossiter - Chairman, CHEMRAWN Planning Committee (in part)
Dr. M. Williams - Executive Secretary
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Minute 14/76

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

A letter of apology for nonattendance, because of illness, had been received from Prof. Emanuel.

The Executive Secretary reported that the files for the meeting (and those for that of the Bureau on 14-15 September) had been lost in transit from London. It was decided to work from the agenda and partial documentation circulated beforehand.

Minute 15/76

MINUTES OF 85th MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

15.1/76 Amendments and Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the 85th Meeting of the Executive Committee were approved.

15.2/76 Matters Arising from Minutes

15.2.1/76 Increasing Relationship with WHO (Minutes 2.2.1 and 9.2/76) (Dr. Egan in attendance)

It was noted that expenses incurred by Prof. R. Bourdon, when representing IUPAC in a WHO Task Group on Environmental Health Criteria for Lead (Geneva, 23.4-5.575), had now been reimbursed in accordance with the directive of the Executive Committee (Minute 23.4/75, 83rd Meeting - Madrid).

WHO had reconfirmed its inability to provide any financial assistance towards IUPAC participation in the Environmental Health Criteria Programme. However, there might be a possibility for WHO to include from time to time among the members of its Task Groups, experts suggested by the Union. Relevant suggestions from the Applied Chemistry Division (Dr. H. Egan) and from the Commission on Toxicology in Clinical Chemistry (Prof. F.W. Sunderman, Jr.) had duly been conveyed to WHO.

Dr. Egan said that the Applied Chemistry Division had been collaborating informally with WHO (and FAO) over the past several years in areas such as food and pesticides chemistry. Accompanied by say the Secretary General of the Union, he would now like to go to Geneva to try and negotiate, at the right level, terms for funding legitimate IUPAC activities to provide expert advice in appropriate areas to WHO. Any money forthcoming should be used to convene meetings of IUPAC experts for discussion purposes and not to carry out any laboratory work. The President invited Dr. Egan to set out his ideas more definitely in a brief statement, so that a decision could be made whether to send IUPAC representatives to Geneva.

15.2.2/76 Recommendations of Usage of the Terms "Equivalent" and "Normality" (Minute 3.1.11/76)

Revised recommendations, prepared by Prof. H.M.N.H. Irving, had been discussed with Prof. D.H. Whiffen but without full agreement having been reached. It was hoped to make further progress when the reorganized Interdivisional Committee on Nomenclature and Symbols met in Oxford during the next few days. Meanwhile, the increasing concern was noted of ISO Technical Committees 12 (Quantities, Symbols, Conversion Factors, and Conversion Tables)
and 47 (Chemistry) at the delay in convening the agreed ad hoc meeting with representatives of IUPAC.

15.2.3/76 Increasing Relationship with SCOR (Minute 9.3/76)

Discussion of this relationship by the International Company Associates Group had been impossible because of cancellation of the ICAG meeting scheduled for Milan in May. Instead, the Secretary of the Applied Chemistry Division would participate in the forthcoming Joint Oceanographic Assembly (Edinburgh, 13-24.9.76) under SCOR and a number of other organizations. He could then report back to IUPAC on any areas where there might be useful collaboration, on whether an official representative to SCOR was warranted, and on whether there was a need for the Union to develop independent programmes on chemicals and chemistry of the oceans.

15.2.4/76 COSPAR (Minute 9.7/76)

The President of COSPAR had urged IUPAC to appoint a representative (not necessarily the same person) to attend meetings of its Executive Council and in particular the 19th Plenary Meeting in Philadelphia (8-19.6.76). Dr. Cairns had invited Prof. C. Ponnampерuma (USA) to act for the Union in Philadelphia and he had reported back on chemical aspects of various COSPAR Working Groups and Panels. It was agreed that Prof. Ponnampерuma should continue to represent IUPAC on the COSPAR Executive Council at least until mid-1977, but without financial consequences to the Union. Prof. Ourisson would solicit the views of the Division Presidents on three specific matters from the COSPAR President requiring chemical advice and on a memorandum from Dr. A. Bar-Nun (Israel) on the involvement of chemistry in various areas of space research.

15.2.5/76 SCOPE (Minute 10.4/76)

Dr. W. Gallay (Canada) had represented the Union at the 3rd General Assembly of SCOPE (Paris, 17-19.5.76), where he had offered the assistance of IUPAC on such chemical matters as

(i) continuation of work on analytical methods useful to groups on monitoring and ecotoxicology;
(ii) chemical interactions between pollutants and between a pollutant and a naturally occurring substance.

However, nothing definite was decided and it was left for consideration by the newly elected Executive Committee of SCOPE. Recommendations for a revised membership of the IUPAC Committee on SCOPE should meanwhile be delayed.

15.2.6/76 International Round Table Conference on Reference Materials (Minute 9.12/76)

After consulting appropriate IUPAC bodies, the Executive Secretary had advised ISO that the Union was ready, in principle, to participate in the proposed working group to deal with questions of terminology, gathering and disseminating information and certification concerning reference materials. Information on past and present IUPAC activities on reference materials had been submitted to ISO,
15.2.7/76  Revision of IUPAC Organic Nomenclature Rules  (Minute 12.8/76)

Prof. Ourisson anticipated that Société Chimique de France would provide the additional financial support needed to cover the work to the end of October 1975. In order to complete the revision at Chemical Abstracts Service, the President reported that CAS would absorb all further expenses to the end of 1976. This should result in a draft document, somewhat more limited in scope than originally envisaged, for submission to the Commission on Nomenclature of Organic Chemistry. The latter body could then recommend whether publication should be undertaken by IUPAC or only internally by CAS. The Executive Committee agreed to minute its appreciation of the assistance of Dr. Cairns and CAS in enabling the project to continue to completion.

Minute 16/76

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

16.1/76  Committee on Publications

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Publications held in Oxford (24-25.5.76) were recorded as having been received officially by the Executive Committee. Several important points had already been drawn to its attention by Prof. Ourisson (letter of 31.5.76).

The concern of IUPAC at the billing by Pergamon at the US-$ rate of 1976 subscription to Pure and Applied Chemistry (PAC) for all countries except UK and Eire, had proved unfounded. Paid subscribers to 30.4.76 were slightly higher than those for 1975 taken over from Butterworths. The Executive Committee approved the proposal to produce one volume (Vol.49) of 12 issues in 1977, with a subscription rate of US-$220 plus US-$20 postage and handling charge (in UK: £100 including postage and handling). No royalty would be payable to the Union on postage and handling charges. In contrast with previous arrangements with Butterworths, the subscription rate was now fixed in US-dollars alone, with the pounds sterling price related to it according to Pergamon general practice at the time.

The Treasurer was asked to write formally on 1.12.76 to remind Pergamon that by contract the guaranteed minimum royalty of US-$ 40,000 must be paid on 31.12.76. In order to be included in the Union's accounts for 1976, the money should actually be in the IUPAC Bank in Zürich on 31.12.76.

The proposals of Pergamon to make available a microform version for subscribers to PAC at 80% of the hardform journal price, but to nonsubscribers at the same price as for the hardform edition, the royalty to IUPAC to be 13% in all cases, were accepted by the Executive Committee.

Steps were being taken to improve the standard of papers published in PAC. This would entail calling for more help from Symposium Editors. Detailed instructions, in the form of a letter signed by the Scientific Editors of the Union, would be distributed to organizers with the Advance Information Questionnaire. In addition to the US-$2 per page paid for camera-ready copy, an honorarium of US-$100 would be granted to a Symposium Editor to help in discharging his extended duties. The Executive Committee agreed that, for a trial period of one year, the honorarium would be provided 50:50 by the publisher and the Union.
After a thorough review by the Committee on Publications of the present very complicated range of IUPAC publications, the following was recommended as a better structure for the future:

(i) PAC to continue as a journal, but confined to review papers and still based on lectures given at IUPAC symposia.

(ii) The Information Bulletin to be reshaped into an IUPAC News Bulletin, with journal character and appearing at regular intervals; to contain nomenclature recommendations and other Commission reports presently issued in PAC, material presently issued as Appendices to the Information Bulletin, and all relevant material from the present Bulletin and Comptes Rendus. The Comptes Rendus should be discontinued.

A policy decision would be needed on whether the reshaped Bulletin should be distributed free to members of IUPAC bodies.

(iii) Monographs, to include material presently issued separately from PAC, possibly under the title "IUPAC Chemical Reference Books".

(iv) Data, numerical or otherwise, under the title "IUPAC Chemical Data Series". Although microform would eventually be the usual commodity, for the time being material should also be issued in hardform.

Several members of the Executive Committee expressed concern that removing Commission reports from PAC might make the journal less attractive to subscribers. The idea of including reviews not presented at IUPAC symposia was acceptable only if they were related to the subjects of specific symposia. The Executive Secretary felt that the reshaped Bulletin implied a commitment which could not be met by the present staffing of the Secretariat. Sir Derek Barton suggested that the reshaped Bulletin should be distributed free only to Officers of IUPAC bodies. Sir Harold Thompson preferred to maintain the present structure for publications of the Union, but to issue an index detailing all IUPAC publications each year (in effect this is already being done and appears in the Information Bulletin).

The Executive Committee concluded that any reshaped PAC and Bulletin could not be introduced before 1978. Further discussion of the recommendations of the Committee on Publications was deferred to the next meeting.

The deliberations of the Committee on Publications regarding its future Chairmanship and membership were noted, together with suggestions made subsequently by the Swedish Chemical Society. It was agreed by the Executive Committee that Dr. H. Grünwald should be invited to act as Chairman for one year, with Prof. Ourisson to remain a member and Dr. C. T. Bishop (Canada) plus Prof. S. Claesson or Prof. M. Nilsson (Sweden) to fill the two vacancies.

16.2/76 Committee on Teaching of Chemistry

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Teaching of Chemistry held in Frankfurt (18-19.6.76) were recorded as having been received officially by the Executive Committee.
Minute 17/76

ITEMS FROM AGENDA OF 36th BUREAU MEETING REQUIRING DISCUSSION, RESOLUTION, OR RECOMMENDATION BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Item 4: Arrangements for 29th IUPAC General Assembly (Warsaw, 1977)

In presenting his report on the visit to Warsaw (28-30.6.76) with the Assistant Secretary, Miss A. Troughton, the Treasurer drew attention to the evident desire of the Polish authorities to acquire hard currency. Quotations for travel (and hotel accommodation) had been submitted by Trans World Conference Organisers and by VIP International Tours.

After careful consideration of the implications and some possible alternatives, the Executive Committee decided to recommend to the Bureau that:-

(i) the per diem allowance be US-$37.50, with the Grand, Metropole, and Polonia as our first choice hotels;

(ii) persons wishing to stay at the Forum must pay the extra costs themselves: no reservations be made for the present at the Victoria;

(iii) the possibility be offered for 2 men to share a double room at hotels in (i);

(iv) the best travel savings arose through TWCO, whose schemes should be mandatory: persons not using these schemes must pay the extra costs themselves;

(v) no formal arrangements be made for a banquet nor for a ladies' programme;

(vi) the Polish National Committee on Chemistry be reapproached to try and reduce Secretariat costs to the Union;

(vii) if necessary, Miss Troughton to visit Warsaw before the end of 1976 to clarify further the arrangements.

Item 6.1: Current Financial Status

The Treasurer expressed concern at the high order of 1976 subscriptions still outstanding from National Adhering Organizations (17 of 43 member countries unpaid). Several countries had been unable to move into a membership category equivalent to their annual chemical turnover, at which level they had been invoiced this year. The following countries were outstanding with respect to subscriptions for both 1975 and 1976:

- Argentina (no decision was taken by the Executive Committee on a letter dated 28.7.76 requesting the Union to grant an extension of time for payment)
- Colombia
- Mexico
- Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam no longer existed, and it had not proved possible to make contact with Vietnamese Chemical Society)

The Executive Committee would recommend the Bureau to allow Statute 9.2 to take its natural course for these four countries, which would automatically cease their membership of IUPAC on 31.12.76.
Item 10: Report of CHEMRAWN Planning Committee (Dr. Rossiter in attendance)

Dr. Rossiter referred briefly to the initial planning meeting (Ottawa, 17.5.76) to organize the proposed 1st International Conference on Future Sources of Chemical Raw Materials and Intermediate Supplies and to the further meeting held recently (Toronto, 8.9.76). The organizers had accepted the spirit of the general CHEMRAWN proposals made to Council at Madrid and of the Raw Materials Conference proposals made to the Executive Committee at Villefranche.

It had now been decided to restrict the scope to World Conference on Future Sources of Organic Raw Materials, with location as Toronto during 10-13.7.78. There were purposely to be few sponsors, but many supporting organizations. Very capable people had agreed to join the organizing committees, a broad financial outline had been prepared, and the programme format agreed. Tentative Conference objectives had been drawn up on which Dr. Rossiter would invite the Bureau in Strasbourg to comment. A draft motif for Conference documentation might be capable of use for other future CHEMRAWN activities.

Sir Harold Thompson stressed the need for the organizers to take full advantage of the Conference to improve the image of chemistry and of IUPAC by appropriate publicity.

Item 13.2: Interdivisional Committee on Nomenclature and Symbols

Prof. M.L. McGlashan had resigned as Chairman of IDCNS and Dr. K. L. Loening had accepted an invitation from the President to succeed him. It was agreed that Prof. McGlashan should participate, at IUPAC expense, as a representative of the Executive Committee to ensure continuity at the first meeting of the reorganized IDCNS: no formal vacancy existed to prolong his participation at further meetings.

Minute 18/76

REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING AND STAFFING OF IUPAC SECRETARIAT

The President said that it was necessary to review the work done by the Secretariat, because this had now exceeded the capacity of the present staff. Responsibilities and authorizations covering relations between the Executive Committee, Officers, and Executive Secretary had been drawn up originally in 1968 with a slight revision undertaken in 1972 (see Appendix D to Minutes of LXXIII Executive Committee - Paris).

Dr. Cairns and Prof. Ourisson had already held discussions with the Executive Secretary with the intention to simplify some of the paper work in the Secretariat. This might lead to a greater delegation of responsibilities in future and inevitably to a lesser involvement of the Executive Committee. Publications work in particular must be reorganized so as to involve the Executive Secretary to a much lesser extent. In order to attract experienced secretaries it was essential to pay realistic salaries for the Oxford area. There would probably be other financial repercussions for the Union in order to improve the whole situation.

It was left for the Officers, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to continue the review over the coming months and to report back at the next meeting.
Minute 19/76

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The President invited the Executive Committee to meet next at the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC. No travel costs would be required for Sir Harold Thompson if the meeting was held on 6-7 March 1977. An invitation from Prof. Suomalainen to meet in Helsinki would be reconsidered for another occasion.

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The Meeting closed at 17.40.

CHAIRMAN: R.W. Cairns

DATE: March 6, 1977