

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - Committees -  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
- minutes

Minutes of Meeting, Saturday, January 19, 1980 2:00-4:00 p.m., Palmer House Hotel, Room 1365, Chicago, Illinois

Present: Ralph Blasingame, Richard Gardner, Doralyn J. Hickey, E. J. Josey, Allen B. Veaner, Louella Wetherbee, Jean Lowrie, Chair.

Absent: Jane Franck (excused)

Guests: Paul-Emile Filini<sup>ON</sup>, Donald Jay, Alice B. Ihrig, Charles S. Fineman, Jeanne English, Marva L. DeLoach, Hans E. Panofsky, T.K.S. Iyengar.

Staff: Jane Wilson, International Relations Officer

FIRST SESSION

- I. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jean Lowrie. Minutes of the 1979 Annual Conference meetings of the Committee were approved with the note to eliminate the last two pages of the Second Session which were given to the Committee in error by RTSD.
- II. Herbert White, FID Treasurer, described FID and its membership policies. Following discussion and a statement by E. J. Josey, the following motion was carried without dissent:  

That ALA notify FID of its intention to suspend its institutional affiliation in FID at the end of 1980 until the South African National Member, which is a government body, makes it clear that it does not support apartheid; furthermore, that ALA find some other mechanism to procure FID publications.
- III. Alice Ihrig, member of the September 1979 Library Delegation to China, reported that the main concern of L.C. in organizing the trip was to further the exchange of library materials. She feels that the Chinese are very aware of the deficiencies in their libraries and they are starting to rectify the situation. During the visit, she ran her own test on the availability of current materials by requesting to see what they had on "non-destructive testing". She found that they did have current materials, many of which were photocopies. The Chinese are concerned with computerization of libraries and William Welsh repeated his paper on the subject on various occasions. Ihrig presented a paper on public libraries at the seminar sessions and is now getting

letters asking her to explain about our methods of taxing ourselves to support such libraries. The Chinese appear to have few public libraries; however, they expect eventually to have libraries in most of the communes and/or cultural centers in the neighborhoods. Most of today's library managers are of an older generation, some educated in the U.S. in the 1930's and, because of the cultural revolution, there is a shortage of trained middle management. Suggestions were made for special exchange programs of short duration. Library education is beginning to come back. Although the delegation was shown the stack areas of university libraries, they had to ask to see the acquisitions area. She noted that they receive a great number of British textbooks for the study of English and also a large number of books from Australia.

- IV. E. J. Josey, Chair of the Subcommittee which prepared the "Criteria for the Selection of Consultants to Serve Abroad", reported on the latest revision. Following discussion, several editorial changes were suggested. It was agreed that the Chair could make additional editorial changes before the document was presented to the Executive Board. A motion was passed to present the "Criteria" to the Executive Board and Council for their approval. Lowrie thanked Josey and his Subcommittee for their contribution.
- V. The Committee considered the latest proposed revision of "The Library Bill of Rights". Following discussion, the Committee voted to notify the Intellectual Freedom Committee that they reaffirm their recommendations of June 1979 to the IFC regarding the "Library Bill of Rights". A copy of these recommendations were to be sent to the IFC. [The Committee was so notified by the Chair of the IRC.]
- VI. The Committee considered the proposed "Statement on Professional Ethics". Following discussion, the Committee recommended that the last section of the document be changed as follows:  
  
"Has an obligation to insure equality of opportunity in all personnel actions." [A memo was sent by the Chair to the Committee on Professional Ethics advising them of this recommendation.]
- VII. Jane Wilson reported that the proposed ALA IFLA Manila/China tour, approved earlier by the IRC by mail ballot, will go to the Executive Board for approval on Tuesday, January 22. She also reported on two other IFLA tour proposals received by the Association for consideration: one from Convention Destinations Unlimited for an eight-day tour to Manila; two from the American

Express Company: one for a South Pacific/Manila Program, the other for a tour to Hong Kong, Singapore and Manila, both would have IFLA as the final stop. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to present a proposal for an eight-day tour only to the ALA Executive Board.

VII. Jane Wilson reported orally on her activities since June: efforts to obtain the proxy votes of U. S. institutional members not present at Copenhagen to insure the election of Jean Lowrie to the IFLA Executive Board; meeting in Copenhagen with the Soviets to discuss the Second Soviet American Library Seminar in Moscow; preparation of a report on the IFLA meeting for the Executive Board; preparation of an ALA statement to be sent to the Department of Library Science at the University of Ankara on the occasion of their 25th anniversary; completion of a report to USICA on the First Soviet-American Library Seminar; preparation of a proposal for funding of U. S. participation in the Second Soviet-American Library Seminar to be held in Moscow in the fall of 1980; activities relating to the U. S. National Committee for the UNESCO General Information Program; the White House Conference; visitors to headquarters; and programming of the Chicago portion of the December visit of the Survey Delegation from the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China. The IRO suggested that the Committee, as part of the Association's program of encouraging the professional development of its members in the international area, develop a method of implementing the requests the Association receives for participation of U. S. librarians in meetings sponsored by foreign library associations or similar groups. She also urged that the Committee develop an ALA brochure on international relations. The Committee concurred on this last item and directed the IRO to prepare a proposal for such a brochure to be circulated to the Committee.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.