MINUTES OF THE THIRD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF SILENT CHESS which took place on 24th-25th February 1956 in the HALL OF THE STATE DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION IN WARSAW

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Election of the Chairman.
5. Summoning of the Delegate Commission.
8. Discussion of the Report and free comment.
9. Formation of Commissions for:
   (a) the Statutes
   (b) the Regulations for the International Chess Tournament and other I.C.S.C. functions.
11. The Question of the Membership of the I.C.S.C. in the F.I.D.E.
16. Any other business.

1. At 10 a.m. on 24th February 1956 the President of the I.C.S.C., Herr Oskar Punschke, opened the Proceedings of the 3rd International Committee of Silent Chess Congress with a short speech in which he welcomed the delegates from Bulgaria, Germany, England, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and also the invited guests consisting of the following members of the Polish National Council:

   Minister Stefan Matuszewski
   Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Stanislaus Zawadzki
   Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Physical Culture, Paul Procek
   Representative of the International Sport Committee of the Deaf, Stanislaus Sila-Nowicki
   Members of the Committee of the Chief Council of the Polish Deaf and Dumb Association, President Roman Petrykiewitz and Vice-President Stanislaw Morawski.

2. President Punschke, after the Agenda had been read, proposed the Polish delegate Kazimierz Włostowski as Chairman of the Congress: this was agreed to by verbal vote.

Herr Włostowski expressed his thanks for the honour and invited the following to join him on the Presidential
Committee, in addition to Herr Punschke:

St. Mateuszewski, Minister of the Polish Republic.
St. Sawadowski, Minister of the Polish Republic.
P. Procek, Vice-President of the Chief Committee for Physical Culture.
St. Sila-Nowicki, Representative of the C.I.S.S.
President R. Petrykiewicz.
Secretary - Mrs Helena Sila-Nowicki of the Organisational Committee of the 2nd International Championship.

3. Thereafter, the Chairman of the Congress invited the guests to take part in the speeches of welcome on the occasion of the first Congress of the Deaf on Polish soil.

Speaking first, Minister St. Sawadowski bade the delegates heartily welcome and hoped that the proceedings and decisions of the Congress would contribute to the progress of chess-playing among the deaf of the whole world. In connection with the Individual Deaf Championship in Zakopane, the speaker stressed the truly sportsmanlike attitude of the participants and the cordial atmosphere of friendship among the competitors and hope that this atmosphere and friendship would always remain as strong in future activities.

In the course of further official remarks, President R. Petrykiewicz said the following:

"In the name of the Polish Deaf and Dumb Association I have the honour to welcome the Representative of the World Federation, Herr Punschke, the General Treasurer, Mr. Wood, and all the delegates to Warsaw, our capital. Two days ago the World Championship Silent Chess Competitions ended in Zakopane in a true atmosphere of sporting friendship, competitions which have fostered the growth of cordial relations between the participants in this admirable undertaking.

Filling with enthusiasm for the efforts towards peaceful activities between peoples, which have achieved so much for us deaf and dumb, we hope that this, the first International Silent Chess Congress in the history of our organisation, will be a true manifestation of friendship and collaboration among the deaf and dumb of the entire world. With this thought, gentlemen, I wish you the most fruitful discussions and the building up of a firm foundation for the World Silent Chess Federation and to the high ideal of the brotherhood of all peoples."

4. On Item 4, the Chairman, K. Wlostowski, made the following report in the name of the Organisational Committee of the 1st Individual World Silent Chess Championship in Zakopane:

"During the 2nd International World Silent Chess Competition in Oberammergau in 1955, the I.C.S.C. entrusted the Polish Deaf and Dumb Association with the organisation of the Individual World Silent Chess Championships in 1956. The Chief Committee of the Polish Association invited 34 Federations from all over the world and formed an organisational committee for the preparation and carrying through of the tournament. Eleven countries responded to the invitation to take part. These were Bulgaria, Denmark, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal German Republic, England, Finland, Yugoslavia, Norway, Poland, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. Of these, however, four countries did not take part (Denmark, Finland, Norway and the Soviet Union), either because the competitors were ill or because they could not obtain permission to do so.

Accordingly, since only seven countries announced their intention to take part, the entry of the first Polish Deaf Chess Team in the tournament was out of the question."

5. In the discussion that followed about the possibility of participating in the 3rd International World Silent Chess Championship, according to the regulations, it was decided that:

a) an International Organisational Committee would be set up to determine the place and date of the event, which would have to be announced in six months from receipt of the application to participate.

b) each country, whether it is a member of the I.C.S.C. or not, can express an interest in participating in any number of countries.

The Chairman then announced the names of the members of the Organisational Committee.
was approved in accordance with the Statutes. As the number of competitors was smaller than expected and not great enough for a World Championship Competition in which at least ten matches are supposed to be played, it was decided in agreement with representatives of the I.C.S.C. to hold a tournament of two rounds.

The results of the 14 rounds in the matches played from 11th to 21st February 1956 were:-

1st - World Champion - Dr. Mojmir Svabensky, Czechoslovakia - 12 points
2nd - 2nd" " - Atanas Nedeff, Bulgaria - 9 "
3rd - Roland Walter, D.D.R. - 8.5 "
4th - Juliusz Smolka, Poland - 7 "
5th - Janusz Zak, Poland - 7 "
6th - Kurt Geyer, D.D.R. - 6 "
7th - Branko Petani, Yugoslavia - 5 "
8th - Cedric White, England - 1.5 "

The tournament was carried through under the supervision of the international referees, Messrs. Zbigniew Miller and Leon Radzikowski of the Polish Committee for Physical Culture.

At the conclusion of the foregoing report, there followed the ceremonial distribution of the prizes. The President of the I.C.S.C., Herr O. Funschke, presented Dr. Svabensky with the gold medal and diploma of the I.C.S.C. The Chairman of the Honorary Committee, Minister St. Matuszewski, presented the silver medal to A. Nedeff, the bronze medal to R. Walter and diplomas as souvenirs to all participants in the competition.

For his outstanding performance in the tournament, Minister St. Zawadzki presented Dr. Svabensky with the prize given by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. The special prize for 2nd place was presented to A. Nedeff by Vice-President Procek. The special prize awarded by the Polish Deaf and Dumb Association was presented to Herr R. Walter by the Association's President, R. Petrykiewicz.

After the presentation of the prizes, the Chairman declared a ten minute break.

After the break, the delegates were assembled for the election of the Delegale Commission which would be charged with examining the credentials of the delegates and fixing the proportions of votes. The President proposed the election of the German Delegate, Herr Dude, and of the Yugoslav Delegate, Herr Petani; and the congress accepted this suggestion unanimously.

The Delegale Commission, after examining the credentials of the delegates, reported the following:-

The delegates to the 3rd I.C.S.C. Congress, representing six countries, had 12 votes in this proportion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Delegate</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Herr Koteff</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Messrs. Dude &amp; Woller</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Mr. Wood</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>Herr Petani</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Messrs. Wlostowski &amp; Bielanko</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Dr. Tyl</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a result of the foregoing report, the Chairman of the Congress, Herr Wlostowski, declared that the decisions of the Congress in respect of the Agenda would be fully effective.
The President of the Congress read out the draft rules of the Congress, copy of which is attached to these Minutes. After a short discussion the draft was unanimously approved.

The President of the I.C.S.C., Herr O. Funeschke

I should like to make my report on the activities of the I.C.S.C. for the period from the first I.C.S.C. Congress until today:

As a result of a suggestion regarding collaboration by the Deaf Chess-playing countries of Holland, Denmark, Norway and Finland, a World Deaf Association was founded in Copenhagen on 14 August 1949. The name chosen for this new association was "INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SILENT CHESS (ICSC).

The Governing Committee was composed of the following:-

President - L.G. Dronkers, Rotterdam (Holland)
Secretary - A. Olson, Oslo (Norway)
General

The I.C.S.C. held its first international Silent Chess tournament in Oslo on 21 and 22 February 1953 in connection with the International Deaf Winter Sports. Six countries had announced their intention of taking part in the chess tournament in Finland, Yugoslavia, Germany, England, Holland and Norway. However, only England and Norway actually played any matches in Oslo, as the others could not turn up, due to financial and technical difficulties. The tournament was played with first and return matches, the Norwegians winning decisively 8-0. The second International Silent Chess tournament took place in Oberammergau (Germany) in 1955. Altogether six countries took part, Finland, Switzerland, Holland, Poland, Denmark and Germany. The results of the team matches were:-

Germany 19 points, Holland 13 points, Poland 11 points.

In the singles matches six countries took part for the first time, Denmark, Belgium, England, Norway, Holland and Germany, the winners being:-

V. Christensen (Denmark)
W. Klemm (Germany)
P. Schrock (Germany),
each of whom had 5 points.

After the tournament the second I.C.S.C. congress was held, in which 10 countries took part, Poland, Norway, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Holland, England, Denmark, Finland, Belgium and Germany; all of which countries paid the required subscription for 1955. The delegates of Yugoslavia and Belgium were not present at the congress. On the suggestion of the members present, it was agreed that the I.C.S.C. should have its own statutes and the Secretary General was charged with drawing these up. The following were newly elected to the Governing Committee of the I.C.S.C.:

1st President and Secretary General - O. Funeschke (Germany)
2nd President - L.G. Dronkers (Holland)
Treasurer - F. N. Wood (England)

When I took over office as 1st President and Secretary General of the I.C.S.C., the first I.C.S.C. Information Sheets containing the draft I.C.S.C. statutes and tournament regulations had already been sent out to member countries of the I.C.S.C. and C.I.S.S. In reply to my request for suggestions and new proposals regarding these statutes and regulations, only Poland, England, Holland, Yugoslavia, Spain, Romania.
Turkey, Denmark, Sweden and Germany answered. It should be noted that Spain, Turkey, Sweden and Rumania are newly registered members.

As the I.C.S.C.'s subscription for 1955 was fixed at 1 Dollar 20 (DM 5), the funds available to me were not sufficient to cover administrative costs, so that I had to distribute the first I.C.S.C. Information Sheets at my own cost.

I had also informed the Governing Committee of the F.I.D.E. of the acceptance of our organisation and F.I.D.E. had expressed their satisfaction and had promised us their support.

Thereafter I charged the Polish Deaf & Dumb Association with the organisation of the first world individual Silent Chess Championships in Poland and it is accordingly necessary to summon the third I.C.S.C. congress in that country. This congress will have to give a decision on the acceptance of the I.C.S.C. statutes and to elect a permanent Governing Committee of the I.C.S.C. I should like to say that the first individual Silent Chess Championships in Zakopane (Poland) were a brilliant success, as were the preparations for the I.C.S.C. Congress in Warsaw, principally by reason of the excellent work of the Organising Committee of the Polish Deaf and Dumb Association. For these efforts I should like to express my appreciation and to thank all delegates and participants in the tournament and those who responded to the invitation to attend.

At the conclusion of the I.C.S.C. report by President Punischka, he gave details of the I.C.S.C.'s financial position, in respect of which the Treasurer, F.N. Wood, was responsible. The details were as follows:

**I.C.S.C.-Poland Sheet for the year 1955-56.**

**Receipts.**

Annual subscription 1955.

Poland, Norway, Yugoslavia, Switzerland,
Holland, England, Denmark, Finland,
Belgium and Germany, at 5 DM each

DM 50

**Expenditure.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>26.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation Fees</td>
<td>27.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationary</td>
<td>6.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 I.C.S.C. Diploma (presented to Dr. Svobensky) (for World Championship in Poland)</td>
<td>11.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditure:**

DM 71.05

**Deficit:**

DM 21.05

8. Before going over to the discussion of the I.C.S.C. Report, the Chairman of the Congress, K.Włostowski, requested permission to lay aside his Chairmanship for the period of the discussion, in order that he might be able to take part in the discussion. This request was agreed to and, following his suggestion, the Congress called upon the representative of the C.I.S.S., Hr. Sio-Npwicki, to assume the Chairmanship.

After the speakers had been registered, the following delegates spoke:-

Petani (Yugoslavia) - I should not like to make any particular criticism of the activities of the International Chess Federation, as this organisation is still young and is only making its first steps in the international arena. How
it is working and what kind of results it is achieving we have 
already seen in Oberramergau and Zakopane, although these 
tournaments were organised by Deaf Associations in Germany and 
Poland. The organisation of the competitions in Zakopane was the 
best among all the comparable undertakings by the deaf that I have 
so far seen. We shall profit by the experience of Zakopane in our 
future activities.

I am wondering why so few associations have announced their 
affiliation to the I.C.S.C. up to now, in spite of the many 
announcements which President Punsakis has sent out. It is, after 
all, an unfortunate situation, that the work of the Governing 
Committee of the Federation was started on the basis of 
subscriptions of DM.50 from each country, that is, DM.50 
altogether; and that not a single country belonging to the 
Federation was able to provide satisfactory assistance during 
the difficult development period.

The work of the present Governing Committee has been good, 
but the number of persons - three - is definitely too small to 
deal with the increasing tasks of the Federation. I suggest 
increasing the size of the Governing Committee from three to five. 
Thereafter, we must go on to deal with the new statutes, in order 
to improve the work of the Federation and of the non-Deaf members. 
This should be done during this present Congress.

The Chairman, Hr. Sital-Newicki: I thank the delegate of 
Yugoslavia for his remarks and helpful approach to the problems 
of the World Federation.

Herr Dude (Germany): I fully support the opinion of the 
previous speaker, Hr. Petani, and believe that it is impossible to 
carry on the work of the World Federation for DM.5 per land per 
year. I suggest increasing the subscription so as to make it 
proportionate to the number of members in the National 
Associations.

The Chairman: I thank Hr. Dude for his statement and would 
like at this time to appeal to the delegates not to discuss the 
finance question today since it will be dealt with tomorrow in 
connection with the corresponding paragraphs of the Statutes and 
as laid down in the Agenda.

Hr. Kotoff (Bulgaria). When we arrived in Poland for the 1st 
World Chess Championships, we were disagreeably surprised to find 
that the I.C.S.C. notifications were not distributed to the East 
European countries. We did not even know that there was such a 
thing as a World Chess Federation of the Deaf, although we have 
many deaf chess players in our country. It is only thanks to the 
energy of the Polish Organising Committee that we are here today.

Mr. Wlostowski (Poland): Dear friends, I am of the opinion, as 
Polish delegate, that we must analyse the activities of the 
Federation for its own sake and for the sake of its development. 
The I.C.S.C. which was founded in 1949 on the basis of the 
participation of four countries could not develop properly, since 
there was not sufficient connection with other countries. The 
attempt to organise a chess tournament in Oslo in 1955 was unsuccessful 
and cannot be taken into account, since of the six countries which 
originally intended to participate, only two did so. Nevertheless, 
we know that among the deaf there are many chess players, some of 
whom, in fact, are extremely talented. We need a manifestation 
such as the International Chess Competition in Oberramergau in 
1955 in order successfully to organise a tournament with the 
participation of contestants from nine countries. In this 
Connection, the German Deaf Sport Organisation has achieved great 
things. It was only the second Congress in Oberramergau which 
showed the way for the development of the I.C.S.C., charging the 
Governing Committee with working out Statutes which would represent 
a firm foundation for its activities. I mention this because the 
Report of the I.C.S.C. does not give a complete picture of the 
difficulties which the I.C.S.C. organisation had to overcome. Nor
is any mention made of the fact that the last Congress of the Comité International des Sports Sylenciens voted by a majority not to accept chess as one of the events in the international sport programme of the deaf.

I believe, moreover, that the Governing Committee of the I.C.S.C. is not sufficiently concerned with increasing the size of the membership or with our connections with F.I.D.E. It is desirable that we should try to arrange not only international friendly meetings, but also meetings between individual countries. Furthermore, we must do all we can to persuade C.I.S.S. to include chess in its programme of activities exactly like any other sporting event.

Mr. Wood (England): Mr. President! My friends! As one of the organisers of the first chess tournament in Oslo, I must point out that the participants in this tournament had to travel at their own expense, which is the reason why only two countries were represented. Although the English team played (lost?) in this tournament, the leaders of the British Deaf and Dumb Sport Federation suggested, in order to further the development of the I.C.S.C., holding a World Team Chess Championship in London in 1955. Instead, however, the tournament took place in Oberammergau. The English team could not take part in this competition and had to confine itself to sending two competitors for the individual competitions. As a result of my own observation, I believe that the tournament in Oberammergau was too short and ought to have been longer. On the other hand, to speak quite frankly, every chess undertaking is very expensive. I was pleasantly surprised when I learned that Poland was organising the 1st Individual Silent Chess Competition. I thought it would be difficult to travel to Poland. However, as a result of the effort and assistance of the Organising Committee, Mr. White and I managed to get exit visas.

There is an enormous difference between Poland, in which the Polish Deaf and Dumb Association, as organisers, were able to accept the tasks involved in organising the competition and the living expenses of all the participants, and England, where this would be much more difficult to realise. When I read in the announcement of the Organising Committee that 14 countries had announced their intention to participate, I was very pleased, and thought that a similar number of participants would come to London in 1958.

I should like to express my appreciation of the excellent arrangements for the tournament. I shall regard your work as a model for the organisation of the Team Championships in London in 1958. I should also like to thank President Funschke for his efforts in the development of the I.C.S.C. because I myself have learned a great deal from him.

The Chairman: I thank Mr. Wood very heartily for his extensive remarks.

Dr. Tyl (Czechoslovakia): As the representative of Czechoslovakia, I extend my hearty greetings to all the participants in the Congress. I would like to express my appreciation to all the members of the Organising Committee for preparing the Congress and the Chess Tournament in Zakopane, about which Dr. Svabensky has informed me. I should like to make it known that if it meets with the approval of the Delegates, Czechoslovakia would be prepared to organise the next Individual Deaf and Dumb World Championships in 1960.

The Chairman: My sincere thanks to Dr. Tyl for his statement and for his suggestion regarding the organising of the 2nd Individual World Championships in Czechoslovakia in 1960.

Herr Funschke, President of the I.C.S.C.: The question of the increase in subscriptions will be dealt with tomorrow, so that I
shall not deal with it today. As regards the recruitment of new members, there have been considerable difficulties, since I did not have the addresses of all the Federations. The Polish Organising Committee has a considerable number of addresses and has, therefore, been able to get into touch with a number of countries. The Polish Delegate, Mr. Wlostowski, is correct in saying that I neglected to say anything about the connections between the I.C.S.C. and the C.I.S.S. I would, however, ask you to remember that I am overwhelmed with work. I worked on the I.C.S.C. announcements and had many other matters to deal with in the Secretariat of the Federation.

During the C.I.S.S. Congress, chess was regarded as comparable to billiards, which is why chess was not recognised as a sporting event. I suspect that the C.I.S.S. regarded our Federation as too small and too weak.

The question of the transfer of the tournament from London to Oberammergau was settled by the then President of the I.C.S.C., Herr Bronkers, who wanted to take advantage of the occasion of the C.I.S.S. Congress in order to bring up the matter of the inclusion of chess in the C.I.S.S. programme and to demonstrate the importance of international chess tournaments for publicity for the deaf and dumb.

I should like to express my satisfaction that we have been joined by two new members of our Federation - Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria - whose representatives were able to complete the relevant declaration in Warsaw, so that the number of members of the I.C.S.C. has now grown to twelve.

The discussion having closed, the Polish Delegate, Mr. Wlostowski, made the following proposal:

"That the Congress of the I.C.S.C., having heard the reports and discussions, agree to accept the reports."

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

Continuing the discussions, the Congress moved on to the nomination of the Committees for the Statutes, for the Regulations for International Chess Tournaments, for the organisation of I.C.S.C. functions, and for the acceptance of the new members of the I.C.S.C. On a proposal by the British representative, Mr. Wood, and the representative of Germany, Mr. Dude, Messrs. Wlostowski and Petani were co-opted on to the Statutes Committee. For the Committee on Regulations, the Bulgarian delegate proposed Herr Dude, while the Czechoslovakian delegate put forward Mr. Wood. The Yugoslavian delegate, Mr. Petani, pointed out that Mr. Dude was not well-versed in the secrets of chess and proposed the other German delegate, Mr. Walter: this was accepted. After a short discussion, and taking account of the fact that Herr Funecke, as President, is entitled to sit on all Committees, the Congress nominated Messrs. Wood and Dude on the Regulations Committee. At the same time it was decided, in view of the small number of delegates, to entrust the work of the Committee on the Acceptance of New Members to the Regulations Committee.

The Congress was adjourned at 2.30 p.m.

At 6.20 p.m. the Chairman of the Congress, Mr. Wlostowski, re-opened the proceedings in accordance with the agenda. Herr Petani, as Chairman of the Statutes Committee, read out the draft and suggested the following amendments to the Statutes.

(a) Section II, para.1. - after the words "out of the Chess Organisation" add "or Chess groups or sections embodied in the national deaf and dumb associations".
(b) Section III - add a new paragraph. "The Congress will elect the Governing Committee of the I.C.S.C. for the period of 4 years between Congresses".

c) Section III, para. 10. Instead of "2/3rds" insert "½ of the votes of the combined countries".

d) Section IV. Insert a new paragraph. "The Governing Committee shall elect the Secretariat, consisting of the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary-Treasurer".

e) Section IV, para. 8. Delete the words "shall report to the Congress" and insert "and shall prepare a four-yearly report for the Congress".

f) Section V, para. 2. After the words "Member of the Association or club" insert the words "of the Deaf".

g) Section VI, para. 1. To increase the amount of the subscription to £2.50, an amount which will assure covering the expenses of administration.

h) Section VI. Add a new paragraph. "The financial resources of the I.C.S.C. consist of members’ subscriptions and of subsidies from the international organisations. F.I.D.E. and U.N.E.S.C.O."

This concluded the reading of the Statutes and Amendments.

The Chairman: As this draft of the Statutes is to serve as a basis for the work of the I.C.S.C., I would request the delegates to study it carefully and to make any new proposals or corrections they may have.

Hr. Bielenko (Poland): I think that the suggested annual subscription is too low and I propose that it should be increased to £5.00.

President Puschke: As a result of the increased activity of the I.C.S.C., I propose that the Governing Committee should be increased to six persons. I should further like to explain that the suggested amount of the subscription, £1.50, arose from taking the amount of £1.20 at the current rate of exchange. The Federation’s income hitherto was expended on postage, translation fees, and stationery and has proved to be insufficient during the period of the organisation and the development of the I.C.S.C. I understand, moreover, that at least five members of the Governing Committee will require to have their travel expenses refunded, and that the sixth will be paid for out of national funds.

Hr. Zeman (Czechoslovakia): The Chairman has said that it is impossible to work without statutes. I believe, however, that we cannot work without money, either. Previous subscriptions were not sufficient even for postage. But we cannot allow the work of a world Federation to be restricted to correspondence: we must develop activities in accordance with the statutes. I propose a subscription of £20.00 which I do not regard as too high. Otherwise, the I.C.S.C. will not be able to develop its activities. Our democratic republics grant subsidies for association purposes, so that we may envisage some financial assistance for international deaf and dumb associations. As the associations of the Western countries cannot afford to pay £20.00, we must take this circumstance into account and lay down smaller subscriptions for those countries.

Hr. Dude (Germany): The Czechoslovakian delegate has just pointed out that a subscription of £2.50 is too small to cover the work of the I.C.S.C. I agree with him, but I would like to propose an alternative solution. It would be better to make the amount of the subscription dependent on the total national membership figures. Thus countries with many members would pay a higher subscription. I would also like to suggest that the Secretariat should be located,
not in the place of residence of the Secretary, but in that of the President.

Mr. Koteff (Bulgaria): As the representative of the Bulgarian Deaf and Dumb Association, I should like to point out that our association is not in a position to pay higher subscriptions or to assist the World Federation, since we receive only a small state subsidy. Moreover, the work of the I.C.S.C. was almost unknown to us and it is only in Poland that we have realised its extent for the first time. My feeling is that in the countries which offer no financial assistance, financial contributions for the Federation must be collected from among the members of Clubs or Associations.

Herr Sila Nowicki (Representative of C.I.S.S.): After this Congress we must increase the work of the International Chess Federation. Our statutes must be such as to enable us to fulfil our tasks in the best possible manner. For example, if the annual subscription is fixed at 20-30 dollars, then in all probability not all national associations will be able to belong to the Federation. Nevertheless, it is our policy to enlist as many countries as possible and bring them within the orbit of the Federation. I, therefore, think that the membership subscription should be fixed the same sum for all and at such a figure as would be acceptable to all countries. We have an example in the activity of the World Federation of the Deaf in Rome, which also had financial difficulties.

At this moment, the I.C.S.C. has twelve members, and if we intend to popularise chess among the nations, the Governing Committee must conduct a lively correspondence, publish bulletins etc., for which an annual subscription of £2.50 really would be too small. I suggest increasing the membership subscription to £10.00.

Mr. Wood (England): I agree with the opinion of Mr. Sila-Nowicki. In the beginning, the amount must be small so as to attract the greatest number of applicants. Thereafter the amount could be gradually increased each year at each Congress. The British Deaf & Dumb Sport Association would have to consider whether it could continue its membership of the I.C.S.C. if the subscription were as high as £10.00. In order to conclude this discussion, I propose a subscription of £3.00 and request the Chairman to put the question to the vote £5.00 or £10.00.

The Chairman put to the vote the proposal that the subscription should be £10.00. The proposal was defeated by 10 votes to 2 (Czechoslovakia). The Chairman then put to the vote the proposal of £3.00. This proposal was accepted by 10 votes to 2 (the Bulgarian delegate abstaining).

In the course of further discussion, Herr Dude, the German delegate, asked where the seat of the I.C.S.C. would be located, in the home country of the President or that of the Secretary?

Mr. Petani (Yugoslavia): If we have the seat of the I.C.S.C. where our President lives, then the President will be encumbered with the greater part of the work, but not with the supervision of the work and development of the Federation which is his chief task. I support the draft statute, which envisages that the seat of the Federation will be located in the place of residence of the Secretary-Treasurer.

The President: I agree with and support Mr. Petani regarding the location of the seat of the I.C.S.C.

The Chairman put to the vote Mr. Dude's proposal that the seat of the I.C.S.C. should be in the place of residence of the President. The proposal was defeated by 8 votes to 4 (Britain and Germany).

This concluded the discussion and the Chairman put to the vote the Draft Statutes, together with suggested amendments by the Statutes Committee and the above mentioned decisions of the Congress. The Statutes and all the amendments were accepted unanimously.
11. Herr Funaschke (President of the I.C.S.C.) — regarding the question of the membership of the I.C.S.C. in the F.I.D.E.— I should like to make the following statement: — The Second I.C.S.C. Congress in Oberammergau charged me with taking up contact with the F.I.D.E. in order to request F.I.D.E. to use its good offices to make known the work of our organisation. In reply to my first communication I received the following answer from F.I.D.E.: "In the name of the Central Office of the F.I.D.E. I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication of 25th April 1955 and of the enclosed I.C.S.C. Information Sheet. I have brought your proposal to the attention of President Rogard, who has stated that he is following your activities with sympathy and that he is prepared to include in his next general circular letter to member countries an appeal to them to support the activities and the organisation of the tournaments of the I.C.S.C.

(Signed) Hugo Bjork (Secretary, F.I.D.E.)

We do not only expect the support of the F.I.D.E., but also particular collaboration in regard to practical advice on all questions concerning the regulations for tournaments, rules of play etc. When I have received confirmation of the acceptance of the I.C.S.C. into the F.I.D.E. I shall then take steps towards the practical implementation of our membership of the F.I.D.E.

Mr. Petani (Yugoslavia): In order to settle the matter of the acceptance of our Federation into the F.I.D.E. we must have a decision by this Congress. I propose the question of the entry of the I.C.S.C. into the F.I.D.E. be put to the vote.

The Chairman having put the above proposition to the vote, it was carried unanimously.

This concluded the proceedings of the first day.

12. The Chairman re-opened the proceedings at 10.30 a.m. on 25th February.

The President made a statement on the Draft Tournament Regulations which were based on the F.I.D.E. Rules.

In the discussion which developed on the subject of Tournament Rules, the following delegates spoke:

Mr. Wood (England): I propose the following amendments. Delete points b, c, d, e, in the rules of Group World Championships. Amend points f and g as follows. In the Group World Championships, two matches are to be played per day, the matches to be played on without stopping. At the expiry of the set time limit, the referee shall estimate the position of the game and award the victory to the player concerned. 'g' - the playing time in the Group Tournament shall be four hours without participation by the seconds. I should also like to propose introducing zonal tournaments in order to discover likely candidates for the World Championship. The Group Championships should, for financial reasons, not last more than 10-17 days.

Dr. Svebsenksy (speaking for Dr. Tyll, Czechoslovakia): I draw your attention to points f and c of para. 2, in which there are contradictory formulations. I propose that both points should be combined into one so that one system will be effected. Two games are too few for a World Championship title: having regard to the rules of the F.I.D.E. we must have more than two games. I propose that para. 3 in Section B be deleted and that a new point be inserted, according to which a special prize shall be awarded to the winner of the most brilliant match of the tournament. Furthermore, Section C makes no mention of who is to bear the costs of organising the tournament. Finally, there must be a note to the effect that...
F.I.D.E. rules, as the present tournament was conducted rather differently from those rules.

Mr. Petani (Yugoslavia): I would suggest amending the title "Tournament Regulations", as there are many different kinds of tournament such as individual, combined, international etc. I support the opinion of Dr. Svabensky as regards points d and c in para 2. I would suggest accepting the system of playing to the end, with finals matches, and not on the basis of a time limit with a referee's estimate. The seconds should be deaf, since the games are not intended for the non-deaf but only for deaf players.

Mr. Bielanko (Poland): In view of the fact that deaf players are not as accomplished as those who can hear, we cannot accept the F.I.D.E. system word for word. The system must take account of the mental characteristics of the deaf and dumb. I would suggest that the world championship should be the player who gains the most points in the tournament (taking part in the match on the same basis as the other players). I would further suggest that two separate sets of rules in respect of individual and team championships should be drawn up. Again, I would propose that travel and accommodation expenses in respect of team world championships should be borne by the countries sending the delegates. On the other hand, in respect of individual world championships, the Organising Committee should bear the cost of accommodation while the sending countries pay travel expenses.

Mr. S. Nowicki: In our work we must follow the statutes, which already take into account the special circumstances of the deaf and dumb, so that we do not need to follow the F.I.D.E. regulations exactly. The question of zonal tournaments is not yet of current importance since we have only a few countries who have joined the I.C.S.C. The system we are to lay down in the regulations must correspond to the level of ability of the deaf and dumb competitors as far as possible. This is the way in which I regard the Olympic system.

I support the proposal of Mr. Bielanko regarding expenses and the working out of separate regulations for the different types of tournaments.

The Chairman: In view of the diversity of the proposals and amendments of the regulations I would suggest that we hand over all the proposals to the Governing Committee, which in turn will pass them to the relevant Committees for further consideration.

Mr. Petani: I think we must find a flexible solution to the problem and for that reason I second the proposal of Mr. Wlostowski.

Mr. Lotteff (Bulgaria): I propose that the draft rules, after they have been dealt with by the relevant Committee, be sent out to all members of the I.C.S.C. for perusal and suggested amendments.

President Funschke: I support the proposal of the Chairman, provided that the suggestion by Mr. Lotteff be also taken into account. But we must here and now deal with the provisional regulations for the team championships in London.

In the voting, the proposal of Herr Wlostowski, as amended by Mr. Lotteff, was unanimously adopted. A vote was then taken on the President's proposal that the provisional regulations for the team championships in London should be dealt with.

The strength for each country was set at 4 players plus one reserve. This was adopted by 10 votes, Poland abstaining.

The meeting unanimously adopted a proposition by Mr. Petani (Yugoslavia) that in the World Championships only those might take part who were deaf from birth or had attended a school for deaf and dumb, who had become deaf, who had been members of the organisation for four years and who did not use a hearing-aid.
The proceedings were continued at 4.20 p.m. after the mid-day luncheon break.

Mr. Petani (Yugoslavia) reiterated his proposal that the seconds should also be deaf.

President Punschke suggested an amendment, to the effect that the seconds in the World Championships must also be deaf but that in the International Matches the question should be left to individual associations to decide. The President again suggested that this question should be passed to a Committee through the Governing Committee which would bring its conclusions before the London Congress in 1958. This suggestion by the President was carried unanimously.

The Congress moved on the question of the planning of international events for the coming four years. The proposal of the British delegate that the 3rd Deaf and Dumb Team Championships should be held in London in 1958 was carried unanimously. The exact date would be dependent on final acceptances by the countries taking part, but would probably be 17th May 1958.

The next item to be discussed was the venue of the 2nd Singles World Championship of the Deaf in 1960. The Bulgarian delegate, Mr. Kotzeff, suggested Switzerland, but the Chairman pointed out that as there was no Swiss representative present at the Congress the suggestion could not be considered.

Mr. Zeman (Czechoslovakia) proposed Czechoslovakia, since the Czech player, Dr. Svabensky, had won the World Championship title, and would like to defend his title in his own country. Czechoslovakia would bear the entire cost, just as Poland had just done. Mr. Sila-Nowicki strongly supported Mr. Zeman's proposal, holding Czechoslovakia to be the best country from the geographical point of view with ease of access by air and rail.

It was unanimously decided to charge Czechoslovakia with organising the 2nd Singles World Chess Championship of the Deaf and Dumb in April 1960. The Czechoslovakian delegate was also charged with laying the appropriate organisational suggestions before the 1958 Congress.

Mr. Petani (Yugoslavia) explained that the Yugoslav Deaf and Dumb Association would have to discuss the possibility of agreeing to organise the 4th Team World Championships in 1962. The decision would be notified to the next Congress in 1958.

14. On the suggestion of the Committee, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia were unanimously adopted as members of the I.C.S.C.

15. The Congress proceeded to the election of the I.C.S.C. functionaries.

The Chairman requested nominations.

Mr. Wood (Britain) proposed Mr. Punschke for President. Carried unanimously.

For Vice-President, Mr. Wlostowski proposed Dr. Svabensky, while Mr. Wood proposed Mr. Wlostowski. However, Mr. Wlostowski declined to be nominated. Thereupon Mr. Wood proposed Mr. Petani. Mr. Petani expressed his thanks but, in view of the organisation of the 2nd Singles World Championship in Czechoslovakia in 1960, preferred to support the nomination of Dr. Svabensky. Mr. Zeman, speaking for the Czechoslovakian delegate, Dr. Tyl, promised assistance to Dr. Svabensky in the exercise of his office. Thereupon Dr. Svabensky was unanimously elected Vice-President.

Mr. Petani proposed Mr. Wood for Secretary/Treasurer. Unanimously adopted.

Mr. Bielanko proposed as members of the Governing Committee
Mr. Petanli (Yugoslavia), Kotzeff (Bulgaria) and Dude (Germany). Mr. Bielonko, to the Governing Committee. However, Mr. Bielonko declined as he already had too much work in connection with the Polish Deaf and Dumb Association.

After a short discussion it was decided to elect to the Governing Committee the names of countries who were to notify the names of their representatives within six months. In the open voting, the following countries were elected:

Yugoslavia
Germany
Bulgaria

16. Under "Any Other Business", delegates made the following proposals:

Mr. Bielonko suggested popularising chess among women and introducing international chess competitions for women.

Mr. Dude desired to express a vote of thanks to the Polish Organising Committee for its work in organising the Congress and Tournament.

Mr. Petanli expressed his thanks to the Polish Deaf and Dumb Association and took the opportunity to remark that the Yugoslav deaf members had requested him to extend to the Polish Deaf and Dumb their sincere fraternal and friendly sentiments, which he was pleased to do.

Mr. Kotseff expressed his deep admiration for all he had seen in Poland and his appreciation of the great achievements of the Polish Deaf and Dumb in the sphere of physical culture.

Mr. Sela Nowicki expressed to the retiring Governing Committee his appreciation for their work.

Mr. Zeman pointed out that this was the first time that Czechoslovak deaf and dumb had met in Poland and since Dr. Svabensky had won, the Czechoslovaks took it upon themselves to organise the preparations for the 2nd Singles World Chess Championships in Prague in 1960 as well as it could be done, exactly as had been done in Poland.

President Funschke, speaking in the name of the new Governing Committee, assured the delegates that he would do all within his power to develop the further activities of the I.C.S.C. He had been agreeably surprised at the high level of chess play by Dr. Svabensky and Mr. Nedeff and looked forward to the possibility of raising even this level in the next Championships.

In conclusion, the President proposed the following resolution:

Resolution of the 3rd International Silent Chess Congress (I.C.S.C.) in Warsaw

addressed to the
Minister of Labour & Social Welfare
Stanislas Zawadzki

We, the Delegates and Participants in the 3rd International Silent Chess Congress, which met in Warsaw on 24th and 25th February of this year, express to you our sincere gratitude for the possibility of holding the 3rd Congress and the 1st Singles World Chess Championship of the Deaf in Poland; and also for our cordial reception and for the hospitality extended to us, which will long remain in our memory. We are also grateful for the opportunity of seeing your lovely country and admiring the reconstruction after the destruction caused by the War.
We should also like to express our admiration for the achievements of the Deaf and Dumb in Poland and for the generous welfare which is extended to them by the State.

Upon our return we shall have much pleasure in sharing with our compatriots our experiences, which will remain indelibly impressed upon our hearts and minds.

The Governing Committee of the Congress:
Oskar Funschke - President
Frank N. Wood - Secretary
Kazimierz Włostowski - Chairman

The Resolution was unanimously adopted with prolonged applause.

The President of the Polish Deaf and Dumb Association, Herr Petrykiewicz: In his concluding speech, the delegate expressed his appreciation for the speeches of thanks to the Organising Committee for their work and for their devotion to the cause of the World Deaf and Dumb Chess Federation.

The agenda having been concluded, the Chairman, Hr. Włostowski, closed the proceedings of the Congress and wished all the delegates "bon voyage" on their journey home and hope that they would continue their efforts to strengthen the bonds of friendship and brotherhood which had been created among the delegates and competitors of all countries taking part.

Secretary of the Congress
(Signed) Helena Sile-Nowicki

President
(Signed) Kazimierz Włostowski

Translation into German by T. Czechowicz,
Warsaw, August 1956.