

III I.C.S.C. Congress - Warsaw (Poland) - 24/25 February 1956

Friday 24th February.

We slept fairly well on the journey and arrived in Warsaw at 6.30 a.m. It was a bitterly cold and frosty morning. An "ORBIS" autobus was waiting outside the station to take us to the hotel "Bristol" - under the management of the "ORBIS" Tourist. We washed and refreshed, then had breakfast. Again an autobus was waiting outside the hotel to convey us to the School and Hostel for the Deaf, where the Congress meeting was being held. We looked around the school, which was quite interesting. At about 10.30 p.m. the Congress opened with a good number of members present. A member of the Polish Government - Mr. Stefan Matuszewski - I was told he is the Lord Privy Council - was in attendance. He was invited to make the presentation of medals and prizes etc., to the winners. He made a fine speech and was thanked and acclaimed. He left the meeting early to attend to other commitments. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. K. Wlostowski be Chairman of the whole Congress. Discussions and other business then followed. The representation of delegates was as follows:-

Oskar Punschke (W. Germany) - President & General Secretary
(I.C.S.C.)
Frank N. Wood (England) - Hon. Treasurer (I.C.S.C.)
B. Zdzislaw (Poland)
G. Woeller) - (E. Germany)
W. Dade)
B. Petani (Yugoslavia)
J. Zeman) - (Czechoslovakia)
R. Jyl (President)
R. Walter (W. Germany)
T. M. Koteb (Bulgaria)
H. Sila Nowicki (C.I.S.S.)

After lunch we were entertained by the school children with their "PLAY" - quite a good performance. The meeting was resumed at 6.15 p.m. and lasted until about 7.30 p.m. It was unanimously decided that the I.C.S.C. should be affiliated to the F.I.D.E. We returned to the hotel for supper and then went to bed.

Saturday 25th February.

We rode on the autobus to the Congress as usual. We looked around the schoolrooms where lessons were in progress - quite interesting. The Congress resumed at 10.15 a.m. the business

discussed being briefly as follows:-

To approve the regulations of the Tournaments.

The matter of the team tourney rules to be left until the next London Chess Congress in 1958.

Approval was given for membership to the I.C.S.C. of: Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. Altogether 15 countries are affiliated.

Tournament venues were unanimously approved for future years:-

Team - ENGLAND - May, 1958.

Individual- CZECHOSLOVAKIA - 1960.

Affiliation fee to the I.C.S.C. was decided at \$3 (about £1) per annum.

The Congress was interrupted at 12 noon so that we could make a tour of a sweet and chocolate factory (E. WEDEL) - a famous Polish name. It was a really worth-while visit, and we were given various sweets and chocolates to bring home!! We returned to the hotel for lunch. The meeting resumed at 4.30 p.m. to bring the Congress to an end.

The election of officers:

President - O. Punschke - proposed by F. N. Wood
seconded unanimously.

Vice-President - There were several nominations; Mr. K. Wlostowski declined with regret because of business. It was finally decided on the proposal of B. Zdzislaw, seconded unanimously, that Dr. M. Svabensky be elected.

Hon.Gen. Secretary/Treasurer: F. N. Wood - proposed by B. Petani,
seconded unanimously.

Two committee members: B. Petani) were unanimously elected.
G. Woeler)

Speeches of praise were made to Poland on their wonderful organisation of the Congress and first class hospitality, for which they will never be forgotten. The Congress was then declared closed at 5.30 p.m. until 1958.

International players were invited to play against schoolboys in a friendly chess match and a film was made of this.

At about 6.30 p.m. a banquet was held at the Hotel Bristol - a grand evening! Mr. F. N. Wood, on behalf of the B.D.N.S.A. Chess Section, presented the flags of Poland and Great Britain (Union Jack) on an inscribed base, to the Polish Deaf Association, as a mark of friendship between the two countries. The President, Mr. Roman Petrykiewicz, distributed souvenir gifts to each member of the Congress as a memento of their stay in Poland. The gifts were lovely and will certainly be treasured. The banquet was then over; everyone had enjoyed it and was pleased with the work of the organisation. Well done Polish Deaf Association!!