

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR NEWSLETTER

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REPORT ON PLANS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES, AUGUST 1975

The Committee had applied to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a grant which would enable us to serve as hosts to historians associated with the World War II committees throughout the world. Unfortunately, NEH has just notified us that the grant application has not been approved. This means that we are dependent on the Committee's own funds (less than \$2,000) to support this meeting. Most difficult is to find money for simultaneous translation, which, in any case, would not have been included in an NEH grant.

The AHA has received an NEH award for the Congress, but at this writing does not know what its budget for simultaneous translation will be. Final arrangements for the program will be made at Toronto in July, and it will not be possible to establish with accuracy our own program until then.

This is not encouraging news. The Newsletter has been delayed in the hopes that a more optimistic tone could be conveyed. We have made approaches to several other foundations, but so far without success. The AHA is planning to engage Leo Kanner Associates to handle the simultaneous translation. We have also been in touch with them. For our group, four languages for two days of sessions would run to something like \$4,000-5,000. Probably the funding could be handled with a grant of \$5,000-6,000. If anyone knows of directions in which to move, please advise.

Plans for the Congress.

The XIVth International Congress of the Historical Sciences will take place in San Francisco, August 22-29, 1975. Headquarters is the Fairmont Hotel, but public rooms of the Mark Hopkins, the Stanford Court, and the Huntington, will be available. The Masonic Auditorium will be used for opening and closing sessions.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING AT BUDAPEST, SEPT. 28, 1973

Professor Donald R. Whitnah, of the University of Northern Iowa, attended the most recent international meeting, which coincided with a Hungarian session on historiography. Professor Whitnah reported to the group at the AHA meeting in San Francisco, but for the sake of those not attending a few excerpts follow:

Sixty-seven participants from 19 countries, not including Hungary, attended the sessions. Professor Gyorgy Ranki of Hungary presented the major paper, "New Problems Concerning the Historiography of the Second World War in Central and Eastern Europe." Other Hungarian papers followed on the political-diplomatic, military, and resistance topics. I attended the discussion sessions on political and diplomatic history and presented a summary of selected American historiography pertaining to central and eastern Europe. In summary the conference included: the plea of both delegates from the West and the East for the Russians and all other nations to open further their archives; the Hungarian challenges to study the regional aspects of the problem as well as the economic and social approaches instead of an overemphasis on resistance movements; to look further at the Balkan policy of the western powers; and the continued rivalry between East and West over the roles of the eastern resistance movements.

Following the conference, the International Committee met. International President Henri Michel informed the Committee -- this session was also open to all participants of the meeting -- that the Board had accepted memberships on the International Committee from three additional countries, Albania, Brazil, and Indonesia. There are now 29 national committees in addition to individual members from several other nations. The Board accepted individual applicants from Ireland and Malaysia. The Board anticipates future national applications from Portugal and Switzerland.

General Secretary Giorgio Rochat then reported to the Committee the Board's action on plans for the San Francisco meeting, requesting the American Committee to organize the general assembly and to pay for: setting up an organizing secretariat, renting a hall suitably furnished, and arranging to provide simultaneous translation in four languages -- English, French, German, and Russian. The International Committee decided to defray expenses over four days while in San Francisco

of all the representatives of the national committees, using its reserve funds. The national committees should pay for the travel expenses of their representatives as well as translation into English and reproduction of 200 copies of the papers to be given at the meeting. Publication of the acts of the meeting should be paid for by the American Committee.

The theme of the International Committee session will be "Politics and Strategy in the Second World War." The Board decided that five principal papers should be read at San Francisco, the papers to be entrusted to the national committees of Great Britain, Germany, Japan, the United States, and the USSR. The German paper should be a collaboration of the committees of the Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic. All other national committees could send in one paper for the meeting, the United States more than one because of the size of its membership. Hopefully, the International Committee's meeting at San Francisco will extend over two days. If the meeting lasts for two days, the Board and American Committee will fix the exact program from all the papers. For a one-day session, only the five major papers will be read.

Mr. Rochat then reminded the participants that the NEWS BULLETIN is issued twice yearly by the International Committee in both French and English editions. Anyone interested in receiving copies should notify the secretary of the appropriate national committee.

Next item of discussion involved the newly-constituted International Committee for the Documentation of the European Resistance Movement in the Second World War: Research and Cataloging of Sources Existing in the United States. (See American Committee NEWSLETTER No. 10, September 1973, pages 15-16.) Mr. Michel encouraged the new organization in its endeavors and reported that the Board saw no conflict of aims with our International Committee but, rather, an opportunity for cooperation.

President Michel closed the International Committee meeting by reminding us that we are individual historians, not politicians, of our individual nations. He regretted that a Greek national committee had not been accepted. Though no mention of it ensued, he doubtless alluded also to a petition offered during one of the discussion sessions of the Budapest conference condemning the events in Chile pertaining to the overthrow and death of President Allende. The petition did not reach the final plenary session.

COMMENT

It is clear, because of the failure to obtain an NEH grant, the American Committee will be hard pressed to fulfill the demands of the International Committee. We had been discussing joint approaches to our problem with the American Commission on Military History, but it appears now that they will hold their meeting in Washington, prior to the Congress.

OTHER MEETINGS

Great Britain. "The Cinema and the Second World War," to be held in London, organized by The Imperial War Museum, on 23-27 September, 1974. All enquiries to be addressed to Mr. Clive Coultass, Keeper of the Film Department, The Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London S.E. 1 6H2.

France. The French Committee for the History of the Second World War is actively preparing for the Paris meeting on "The Liberation of France (April 1944 - end of 1945)" to be held at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - 15, Quai Anatole France - 75007 - Paris - on October 28-31, 1974. The provisional program is as follows:

Monday, October 28, Morning: 1) Political problems of the Liberation; 2) General De Gaulle and the Liberation of France; 3) The Communists and the Liberation of France. Afternoon: 1) The Liberation of Corsica; 2) The place of France in the strategy and policy of the Allies; 3) German defensive strategy.

Tuesday, October 29, Morning: 1) Economic and demographic situation of France at the Liberation; 2) The Vichy regime; 3) Organization of the Resistance. Afternoon: 1) National insurrection; 2) Assumption of power in the provinces at the Liberation.

Wednesday, October 30, Morning: 1) Some aspects of the French military problems during the battle of France; 2) The blending of Forces Francaises de l'Interieur (F.F.I.) with the French First Army; 3) Homecoming of POW's, labor conscripts, deported and displaced persons. Afternoon: free.

Thursday, October 31, Morning: 1) The Purge; 2) Political and Economic Problems on the Morrow of the Liberation; 3) France's European policy. Afternoon: General debate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Naval Records:

Declassification of World War II record holdings of the Naval History Division's Operational Archives, U.S. Department of the Navy, has been completed. These materials include operational records of the Navy for World War II, the files of certain naval commands and offices participating in the formulation of naval strategy and policy, and papers of senior naval officers. A list of these declassified groups may be obtained by writing to the Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374

South Pacific Newspapers:

Phil Snyder, of Cohasco, Inc., 321 Broadway, N.Y. 10007, informs us he has located an archive of the famous "Guinea Gold" newspapers, published by Allied troops in the South Pacific jungles. Further information may be obtained from him.

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