

WELCOME TO THE COUNCIL OF THE FID!

The first meeting in 1968 of the Council of the FID (Fédération Internationale de Documentation - International Federation for Documentation) is being held in Budapest, on 6-8 May.

This meeting, which assuredly will be a milestone in the history of Hungarian documentation, is a very significant event. It was not by accident that in choosing the place of the meeting, the Council decided upon Budapest. This decision implies the recognition of the international reputation of Hungarian documentation and of the active Hungarian participation in the FID. This is also in recognition of the constantly developing information activities of other socialist countries and of their role in international co-operation in documentation. This is the first time that the Council meets in a socialist country.

Hungary's relations with the FID and with its predecessors date back to the early years of this century. Hungarian delegates attended the International Congress on Documentation of the FID in Paris, 1937, and have been regularly participating in the activities of the Federation since 1947. Hungary became associated with the FID in 1948. The Hungarian National Member of the FID is the Hungarian National Committee for the FID, the secretarial duties of which are being performed by the Hungarian Central Technical Library and Documentation Centre (Országos Műszaki Könyvtár és Dokumentációs Központ = OMKDK). An outstanding role in strengthening the relations between the Hungarian National Member and the Federation was played by Mr. Lajos JÁNSZKY, member of the Hungarian National Committee for the FID, and former Vice-President of the FID from 1960 to 1963.

The development of our relations with the FID was also promoted by earlier visits of some officials of the Federation to Budapest, as well as by meetings of its committees held in Budapest. The first official visit of the President of the Federation dates back to 1938 when Dr. J. ALINGH PRINS visited Hungary and gave a lecture on documentation in Budapest. The FID/C3, the Committee for Classification of Social

Sciences, in which Hungary has taken a most active part from the outset, has already held two of its meetings in the Hungarian capital (1962 and 1966), chaired on the latter occasion by Professor Dr.H. ARNTZ, Vice-President of the FID and Chairman of the Committee. Several executives of the FID and its committees attended the Budapest meeting of ISO TC/46 -- the Technical Committee for Documentation of the International Standards Organization -- in October 1964, and on this occasion also paid a visit to the OMKDK; Mr.G. LORPHEVRE, Vice-Chairman of the Central Classification Committee (FID/CCC) presented a lecture to Hungarian specialists on the Federation's activities concerning the development of the Universal Decimal Classification. In 1965, we had the honour to welcome Mr.W. van der BRUGGHEN, Acting Secretary General of the FID, with whom we had fruitful discussions on the extension of our co-operation with the Federation. The late Mr.M.SCHUCHMANN, Chairman of the FID/CCC has visited Budapest in the same year, at our invitation, and has given us useful advice on the preparation of the Hungarian full edition of the UDC. In 1967 -- and this still dwells vividly in our memory -- we had the pleasure to receive Dr.F.A. SVIRIDOV, Secretary General of the FID, visiting Hungary. Dr. SVIRIDOV has presented several very successful lectures on the new programme and the new structure of the FID in Budapest and Miskolc. He has held important discussions on various topics with leading Hungarian specialists.

We highly esteem the role which the FID is performing in its capacity as the international organization for documentation. Its committees and working groups consisting of acknowledged experts from all parts of the world have rendered invaluable service in the promotion of documentation. This fact is borne out, for instance, by the renaissance of the Universal Decimal Classification, paralleled with its increasing spread through all continents; by the investigations into the theoretical basis of documentation; by the systematic evaluation of theoretical and technical problems of the mechanization of documentation; by studying the theoretical and practical questions of information for industry; by the international survey of training facilities in documentation; by the international registration and recording of the world's abstracting and indexing services; by investigating the very complex problems of documentation in and for developing countries; and by many other activities carried out by the various bodies of the Federation.

The FID also plays an outstanding role in the organization of friendly co-operation among information specialists of countries having different social systems, in the broadening and strengthening of relations between socialist, capitalist and developing countries in the field of information. This is amply proved by the list of the national members of the Federation wherein socialist, capitalist as well as developing countries are represented -- the latter however, not yet to such a degree as commensurate with their international role. The successful co-operation within the FID is also proved by the composition of, and the harmonious co-operation within, the governing bodies of the Federation.

The co-operation at high level among the documentalists of countries having different social systems is best proved by the activities of two FID Committees. The already mentioned FID/C3, the Committee concerned with the most complicated and

delicate questions of the classification of social sciences, has already been operative for ten years under the able guidance of one of the Vice-Presidents of the FID, and is continually revising those UDC tables which undoubtedly belong to the most neglected ones. The FID/DC, the committee dealing with developing countries, has recently started its activities, under the chairmanship of the other Vice-President of the Federation, with the aim of giving assistance, through the specific means of documentation, to the economic and social development of developing countries, constituting the overwhelming majority of the peoples of the world.

We are looking forward to meet the 19 Council members and 7 Committee Chairmen of the FID, as well as the other experts invited to our country. From among the points on the agenda of the meeting we would like to lay special emphasis on the preparations for the 34th General Assembly and Conference of the FID and the adjoining International Congress on Documentation to be held this September in Moscow.

The FID at present embraces 43 countries; its range of activities and its international significance is increasing constantly. On behalf of the Hungarian National Committee for the FID and of the Hungarian documentalists, we heartily welcome the Council of the Federation in Budapest!

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