P.O.Box 128 Tel. : 022/733.88.76 CH-1211 GENEVA 20 Fax : 022/733.66.49

SWITZERLAND Telex: 427993 TXC CH, attn. IPS

## THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 24 APRIL 1994

## **Present:**

EKKIRALA Anantakrishna BALLIF Christiane BOAINAIN-SCHNEIDER Alice CURRY Sally FALATAKIS-MULLER Claudette MAULER Jean-Marie M.R.L. Rao SCHNEIDER Rudolf VIAL Jean-François

## Excused:

BESSIERE Louis CARRENO PERALTA Elias FLEURANT-FUGERE Claire FUGERE René KOK Cora M. MANANGA MASUNDA Albert MUR Patrice RAFFI Bruno
RAM-RUKMINI INSTUTE LIAISON
RAMANAMAHEFA Joëlson Benjamin
RASATA Milson Roger
RASOAMAKA Andrianarivo
TAN Jake G.
THELMAN INSTITUTE

Chairman: Rudolf SchneiderSecretary: Alice Boainain-Schneider

Rudolf Schneider welcomed the participants and opened the General Assembly. He then presented his general report on the 13th year of activities of the Institute: its main points are summarized in the enclosed report. Alice Boainain-Schneider then presented the financial balance sheet for 1993-94, and the auditor's report. Brigitta Andermatt did us the favour this year of auditing our accounts in great detail, for which we sincerely thank her!

The balance sheet was approved, and the participants then unanimously accepted the proposed amendment to article 5.1.1. of IPS Statutes. From now on, the regular General Assembly will take place every 3 years, coinciding with the elections of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board. Next General Assembly will thus be held in 1996.

In this context, the question came up of the actual date of the Wesak Festival. The Tibetan Master mentions that it is usually at the Taurus Full Moon. The actual date at which the Wesak Festival is traditionally celebrated according to the lunar calendar, however, is always the second Full Moon after the New Moon in Aries. The first Full Moon after the New Moon in Aries is the traditional Easter Festival. The Greek Orthodox Church still celebrates it at that date, on the contrary of the other Christian Churches. Because of a 5 days discrepancy between the solar and lunar calendars (365 and 360 days long, respectively), every three years these Festivals fall one month later, the Easter Festival at the Taurus Full Moon instead of the Aries Full Moon, and the Wesak Festival at the Gemini Full Moon instead of the Taurus Full Moon. This was the case this year.

The Wesak Full Moon is the highest point of spiritual tension in the year, being associated with the Buddha, who was born, attained liberation and left his body on that Full Moon. This is the

The IPS, founded in Geneva in 1981, is an international, non profit-making organisation dedicated to promoting constructive cooperation in all fields of human activity. It is a non-governmental organisation on the Roster of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

reason why the Institute was founded on that date, and why the General Assembly always takes place on that date. This year was an exception, because we wanted to take the opportunity of Dr. E. Anantakrishna's presence in Europe. This is seldom the case at this time of the year.

Also proposed was that the General Assembly be no longer just a business meeting, as until now, but also a real Annual Conference, with guest speakers and working groups in the areas of activity of the 10 seed-groups, for example. By holding it every three years only, this could be possible, without undue strain. It would also be a way of attracting more participants.

After lunch break, we continued our group discussion. Alice Boainain-Schneider presented the project on a Ten Seed-Group Documentation Centre, to make more widely available the information at our disposal on far-sighted group activities all over the world. A document on this project is also enclosed.

We were sorry to inform our co-workers that the Forum "The Urals and the Planet", planned to take place in Russia this year, has been postponed until next year, because of the crisis through which that country is going at the present. **The conference in Moscow on "The Subconscious Mind and the Spiritual Union of Humanity"**, however, will take place as planned.

Another item on the agenda was the request from our new co-worker in Zaire, Albert Mananga Masunda, for financial help to open a small library and meeting room at the University of Kinshasa. It was proposed to use the money available in the Fund for the Reappearance of the Christ for that purpose, in particular to buy and mail the books of the Tibetan to the new centre. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

The office situation of the IPS headquarters in Geneva was also discussed. Until now, the IPS office is in the home of its Secretary-General and First Secretary, Rudolf and Alice Schneider. With the birth of their second child, the house has become too small to house home and office together. Some of our co-workers have offered to finance an office in Geneva for the IPS, and after much search, we were able to find three acceptable places. One small office (48 m²) for 1,400.--Swiss francs per month, near our present office, a larger one (100 m²) for 1,800 Swiss francs and an independent 2-storey house near the U.N. for 3,000 Swiss francs per month. In our view, the last one is the most convenient, as it has enough office and storage space on the ground floor and basement, whereas we could use the first floor and attic for the family. The total rent of office and home would thus remain relatively low, at 3,000 Swiss francs per month, whereas if we rented a separate office, it would amount to at least 4,000 Swiss francs per month. The participants agreed , and the conference was concluded by a short visit to the above-mentioned house, during which Dr. E. Anantakrishna and M.R.L. Rao gave us some indications about the Indian science of house arrangement, which we summarize below, as a conclusion to this report.

Basically, the house is compared to the human body. The East corresponds to the head, the West to the abdomen. The rooms where one studies or sleep should be preferably on the Eastern side, the rooms where one eats and the lavatories in the Western side. To meditate, one should face North or East, the shrine should thus be accordingly placed. To sleep, the head should point South, so that our north pole (the head) points in the direction of the South Pole of the Earth. When two magnets are placed with their opposite poles touching each other, they recharge each other, whereas if they are placed with the same poles touching each other, they become weaker. That is why in India nobody sleeps with the head to the north; it is considered as very bad for one's health. To sleep with the head to the south is good for health, with the head to the East is good for getting light and wisdom, with the head to the West is good for getting prosperity and with the head to the North for leaving the body.