

## **REPORT OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE XX<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE IUCr, Florence, Italy, August 2005.**

**Canadian delegates: Louis Delbaere (Chair), Suzanne Fortier and Stan Cameron.  
Alternate Canadian Representative: Lachlan Cranswick**

The General Assembly opened on August 24 at 21:00 hrs. Professor Bill Duax was in the Chair.

1. Appendix 1. *Approval of the Agenda*. The full agenda was approved.
2. Appendix 3. *Application for Membership of the Union*. The President of the Hellenic Crystallographic Association had submitted an application for membership of the IUCr (Greece, Category I). This was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.
3. Appendix 4. *Withdrawal of Adhering Bodies*. The financial problems with the payment of dues by the Adhering Body for Argentina have been successfully resolved and the General Assembly confirmed the reinstatement of the Adhering Body for Argentina.

The financial problems with the payment of dues have not been resolved for the Adhering Bodies of Bulgaria and Ukraine, the executive committee therefore recommended that their membership in the IUCr be cancelled. During the questioning session it was established that, once the financial problems were resolved, each of these two bodies could apply to be reinstated and that, at re-instatement, they would not be required to pay the arrears in dues. The General Assembly approved the cancellation of membership for both bodies by a substantial majority (50+ in favour, 2 against)

4. Appendix 5. *Change of Names of Adhering Bodies*. The Adhering Bodies of Brazil and Spain requested approval of the change of name for each of their Adhering Bodies. These are recorded in the Agenda and each change was confirmed.
5. Appendix 6. *Changes in Category of Adhering Bodies*. The Adhering Body for Brazil requested a change from Category III (six unit subscriptions) to Category I (one unit), the Adhering Body for Russia on the other hand requested a change from Category IV (ten unit subscriptions) to Category V (Fifteen units). Both requests were confirmed.
6. Appendix 7. *Approval of the Minutes*. The Minutes of the XIX<sup>th</sup> General Assembly were approved without change.
7. Appendix 9. *Report of the Executive Committee*. This report was given in some detail in the Agenda. Bill Duax outlined a few of its salient points and the report was then accepted without further comment.
8. Appendix 10. *Financial Report*. The Treasurer of the IUCr gave an extensive report on the financial state of the IUCr. The income from investments was steadily improving from the post 9/11 low, and the overall value of those investments was recovering. In the previous two years the expenditure was slightly above income, which was explained by the need for a

major upgrade in the Journal operations. However these upgrades have now been completed and for the final year of the triennium the operations of the Union were again in the black. The Acta Crystallographica journals continue to generate revenue. There has been, however, a decrease in subscription numbers as is the case for most journals, and there remain some concerns over the future financial status of the journals (see 10 below)

9. Appendix 12. *Commission on Journals*. A full report on the state of the Acta Crystallographica series and the International Tables was included in the Agenda of the General Assembly. For the journals there remains a subscription attrition rate of 5%, about 2% better than the average 7% currently experienced by science journals. However there is a looming problem. The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the UK Science and Technology Committee are recommending that for government funded research, the results and data should be made freely available within 12 months of publication. The argument being that, the tax-payers paid for the research and should therefore be able (freely) to receive its benefits. J.R. Helliwell (Editor in Chief) noted that this was both a threat and possibly an opportunity. Many researchers would be well prepared to wait a few months to receive the information free and thus subscriptions would fall further. However NIH and the UK committee were well aware of the challenges such a proposal for free access would pose to the journals and there was a current UK precedent for the journals to receive compensatory payment for providing free access.
10. Appendices 13-16 *Reports from the Publishing Commissions*. The reports were received with, in each case, a few comments from the Chair of the commissions.
11. Appendix 18 *IUCr Newsletter*. Substantial reports were received from several countries concerning the history and activities of crystallography in that country and these were published as a major item in one (or more) issue(s) of the *IUCr Newsletter* during the past three years. **It was noted that that the Canadian National Committee of the IUCr, in consultation with Canadian crystallographers, would be providing at least one such report to the *IUCr Newsletter* in the next triennium [probably the Spring issue for 2007].**
12. Appendix 19. *Non-publishing Commissions*. Before the General Assembly the Executive Committee had met with the members of all 16 Non-Publishing Committees and the President reported that all 16 were now all actively operating. The reports of the commissions were received and the Chairs or a representative of the chair were each asked if they wished to speak to the report. Some chose to emphasise some aspect of the submitted report, others simply read their report back to the Assembly.
13. Appendix 20. *Proposals for New Commissions*. A proposal for a commission on Mathematical and Theoretical Crystallography had been received. The reasons for the proposal were outlined in the agenda and the Executive Committee recommended that the proposal be accepted. This was agreed. [At the end of the sessions, there was a further proposal from the floor that a Commission on Crystallography, Symmetry, Nature and Art be

established since there had been a thoroughly enthusiastic sub-section on this topic at the Conference itself. It was not entirely clear what the decision was on this proposal, but the idea was supported by the General Assembly]

14. Appendix 22. *Determination of the number of elected members on each Commission.* The Agenda lists the current membership list. It was proposed by the Executive Committee that the Commission on Biological Molecules, be expanded from 8 to 10, and those on Electron Diffraction and XAF both be expanded from 7 to 8. This was approved.
15. Appendix 23. *Regional Associated Bodies.* There are three regional bodies associated with the IUCr, the American, Asian and European Crystallographic Associations (ACA, AsCA & ECA). In each case, a member of the Executive Committee of the IUCr serves as the IUCr representative to the association and the Chair of each of the Associations and the appropriate IUCr Executive representative reported on the activities of the Association to the General Assembly. For the ACA: I. Torriani(IUCr), Jon Clardy(US National Committee) and **Louis Delbaere** (Pres. ACA) each reported. It was noted that ACA had established a new category of membership 'The Latin-America Country Membership'. In early 2005 both Brazil and Argentina had asked to join this category. **Louis Delbaere** added that the annual ACA conference for 2006 would be held in Honolulu, Hawaii and he hoped to see members of the AsCA from the Pacific Ring in Hawaii. The President of the IUCr (Bill Duax with his own ACA affiliations) then added to his obvious delight that, this time the ACA President's report had come from a **Canadian**, but some time in the future the ACA report could be presented by a Brazilian or an Argentinean.
16. Y. Ohashi (IUCr) and M. Vijayan (Pres AsCA) presented the report. M. Vijayan aptly summarised the situation, The AsCA meets twice in the three years of the IUCr Congress Schedule. It does not meet in the year of the Congress. It meets as the AsCA in one of the two intervening years and it meets in association with one of its National Committees in the other of these two years.
17. D. Viterbo(IUCr) and Hartmut Fuess (Pres. ECA) reported. The central theme was that the ECA was actively extending its membership to North Africa and to Eastern Europe. A membership application from Algeria had been approved and discussions were ongoing and advanced with Tunisia, and starting with Belarus and Moldova. The European Crystallographic Meeting ECM24 was in the preliminary stages of organisation to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco.
18. Reports were also received from the International Organisation of Crystal Growth (IOCG), IUPAC: ICTNS (Terminology, nomenclature and symbols), International Council for Science (ICSU), ISCU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and other bodies not belonging to the Union (see Agenda)
19. Appendix 25. *Sponsorship of Meetings* Maria Corrondo(IUCr) presented a detailed report of all the activities of the IUCr Sub-Committee on the Union Calendar. During the last three years the committee has made recommendations to the Executive Committee for sponsorship and financial support for nearly 50 conferences and workshops, with the emphasis on

financial support for students and for those from countries where crystallography is, as yet, less developed. Particular emphasis was placed on applicants from Africa and South America. In Swiss Francs, the financial support each year ranged between 112k and 147k. **Louis Delbaere** (Canada) has been a member of this Sub-Committee.

20. Appendix 26. *Confirmation of the Date and Place of the 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly*. The location of the XXI<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, Osaka Japan for August, 2008, was confirmed.
21. Appendix 28. *Preliminary consideration of date and place of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly*. There were two groups applying for consideration to hold the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress. The Regional Committee of the Czech and Slovak Crystallographic Association proposed to hold the Congress in Prague, and the Spanish Committee for Crystallography to hold the Congress in Madrid. There was considerable confusion over these two bids. At the previous congress in Geneva (2002), the Czech and Slovak Committee had informed the then President of the IUCr (H. Schenk) that they would be submitting a proposal to hold the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress in Prague in 2011. This, apparently, has been minuted by the IUCr. However the offer had been forgotten and the minute not detected and, with the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress approaching and no proposal for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress site in hand, the Executive Committee had persuaded the Spanish Committee to submit a bid. The Executive Committee (or its President, Bill Duax) had promised that any other later bids would be discouraged [in retrospect this was certainly unwise, maybe even improper]. The General Assembly heard the presentations from committees organising each bid and later, in a secret ballot, chose the bid from Spain. The 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly and Congress is thus provisionally scheduled for Madrid in August 2011. This is to be confirmed at the General Assembly in Osaka. **In some private discussions on this issue the Canadian Delegation indicated that the Canadian National Committee for Crystallography had established a sub-committee to see if a bid to hold the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress in Montréal in 2014 was possible. Since, in the general rotation of meetings through the regions of the IUCr, the 23<sup>rd</sup> congress should be held in North or South America, this suggestion was generally well received.**
22. Appendix 30. *Budget Estimates*. The recommendation that the Unit Contribution remain at its current level was approved.
23. Appendix 31. *Confirmation of appointments of Editors of publications for the Union*. J.R. Helliwell has served as Editor in Chief for the IUCr Journals, and has by all measures done an outstanding job. He retired as Editor at this General Assembly and G. Kostorz was confirmed as his successor. The re-appointment of all the other editors was also confirmed. **Among these were the Canadians : George Ferguson re-appointed as Editor of Section C of *Acta Crystallographic* and Co-Editors: J. Barbier (Acta C), I.D. Brown (Acta E), A.J. Lough (Acta E) and A. Mar(Acta E).**
24. Appendix 32. The recommendation of the Executive Committee for appointments and re-appointments were approved by the General Assembly. **Among the appointees are the Canadians: H.A. Dabkowska (Chair), Commission on Crystal Growth and**

**Characterisation of Materials, L.M.D. Cranswick, Commission on Crystallographic Computing, George Ferguson and I. David Brown as members of the Commission on Journals and the Commission on Crystallographic Nomenclature, L.M.D. Cranswick, Commission on Crystallographic Teaching, John Tse, Commission on High Pressure, P. Whitfield, Commission on Powder Diffraction, L.T.J. Delbaere Commission on Synchrotron Radiation. David Brown was re-appointed as the Chair for the IUCr Committee for the Maintenance of the CIF standard and H.A. Dabkowska was appointed as the IUCr representative to the International Organisation of Crystal Growth (IOCG) and as the IUCr representative to the International Council for Science Committee on Space Research (COSPAR).**

25. *Election of Officers of the Union.* The Executive Committee presented a single candidate for each of the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Union and a slate of six names from which three were to be selected to serve a period of six years as ordinary members. One additional person from the six was also to be selected to serve for a three-year term (since an ordinary member (Y. Ohashi (Japan)) had been proposed to serve as President). The Executive Committee argued that they had selected a slate of candidates that represented the necessary distribution both geographical and of crystallographic interests that was needed to represent the whole crystallographic community and recommended that the senior officers be elected by acclamation. The General Assembly had no problem with this recommendation for the Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. I. Torriani (Brazil) and S.Lidin (Sweden) were elected to these two positions respectively. However some members of the General Assembly were opposed (some quite vigorously opposed) to the decision to present only one candidate for the position of President and Maria A. Corrondo (Portugal) was nominated from the floor. The Nomination was made by the National Crystallographic Committee of the Netherlands, and supported by the necessary seven other National Committee Delegations (Brazil, **Canada**, Greece, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA). [By many accounts there had been a sulphurous meeting of the Executive Committee once this nomination was received.] The debate that preceded the election of the President could kindly be called vigorous with a representative of the executive making it clear that Y. Ohashi was regarded as the official candidate and M. Corrondo as the interloper. The ballot paper was distributed with Y. Ohashi's name first, denoted as the Executive's nomination and Maria Corrondo second and denoted as the nomination from the delegates. Y. Ohashi was elected.

26. *Election of ordinary members.* The General Assembly was give a ballot paper with the six names and asked to vote for no more than three of them. The Delegates were informed that any person receiving 50% [surely over 50%] would be elected and if three were not elected on the first ballot, then the person with the lowest vote count would be eliminated and the delegates would vote again. In the first ballot: P.Colman(Australia), G.R. Desiraju(India) and C. Gilmore(UK) all received the necessary votes to be elected for the six-year terms. The vote then turned to the election for the three-year term. In the first ballot M. Kovalchuk(Russia) was eliminated and in the second ballot C. Lecomte(France) and M. Perez-Mato(Spain) each received 50% of the vote. Bill Duax, in the chair, declared this his worst nightmare and declined suggestions from the floor to decide the issue on the toss of a

coin. He chose instead to interview both candidates before casting the deciding vote for C. Lecomte.

The Officers and Members of the executive Committee

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Y. Ohashi(Japan)     | President                 |
| I. Torriani(Brazil)  | Vice President            |
| S. Lidin(Sweden)     | Secretary Treasurer       |
| B. Duax(USA)         | Past President            |
|                      |                           |
| C. Lecompte(France)  | Ordinary Member – 3 years |
| G. Heger(Germany)    | “ “                       |
| D. Viterbo(Italy)    | “ “                       |
| P. Colman(Australia) | Ordinary Member – 6 years |
| G.R. Desiraju(India) | “ “                       |
| C. Gilmore(UK)       | “ “                       |

The Canadian Delegates could not help noticing among themselves that the slate of 6 offered for the election of the Ordinary Members were all male as were the elected President, the Secretary-Treasurer and the continuing Ordinary Members. In the Congress itself, certainly among the younger attendees, the representation from the two genders appeared close to even.

27. At the end of the elections the President declared the General Assembly Adjourned at 21:10hrs August 28.

**General Comments:** There were 62 delegates present from 39 countries, the number of delegates for each country depended on the category that the country chose to fund. **Canada** as a category III delegation had three delegates. This is 4.8% of the total number. There were 9 **Canadians** appointed to the 18 commissions and 3 major committees. There are 129 commission members so that in this instance the **Canadians are represented above their expected proportion, in addition one Canadian (H.A. Dabkowska) is the Chair of a commission and I.D. Brown was re-appointed as the chair of the committee on the Maintenance of CIF Standards.**

**Of the 5 main Journals, G. Ferguson is Editor in Chief of Acta Cryst C, and we have 4 other Canadian co-editors among the 120 or so such editors.**

**There are no Canadian representatives on the executive, this would probably change if Montreal were chosen as the site for the 2014 General Assembly since it is normal to have at least one Executive member from the host country.**

**The Canadian National Committee will be proposing more Canadian names for membership of the commissions and will be attempting to persuade some commissions to adopt appropriate Canadians as consultants to the commissions. This is often a first step to being appointed to the commission itself.**

**The CNC is well aware of the gender imbalance (noted above) in the composition of the IUCr executive and would in its various nominations attempt to rectify this.**

**Stan Cameron - Delegate to the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Florence, Italy.**