

Brighton

REPORT OF THE COPYRIGHT

COMMISSION

Because of the change in archive positions of the chairman and the resignation of M. Ledoux, the Committee held no formal meeting during the past year. However, the Executive Committee as a whole, the President of the Federation, and several individual members of the Executive Committee carried on the work of the Commission. Notably in Yugoslavia in November 1977, there was a meeting held in Belgrade on the preservation of moving images. This meeting of a group of experts was called together by UNESCO and followed an initial meeting held in Berlin in September 1976. The object of this meeting was to review the technical and legal aspects of film preservation and to examine the practical and administrative problems flowing from these two aspects. Mr. Pogacic, Mrs. Bowser, Mr. Volkmann, Mr. Kula, and Mr. Roads, all members of the Federation, were present. A final report from this meeting is being distributed at this time

for discussion by the delegates in Brighton and the Chairman of the Commission believes it is important for the Federation to arrive at a firm position on the matters discussed in the UNESCO report especially on the topics of :

- legal deposit
- problems of selection
- problems of the usage of collections
- changes in international copyright laws
- technical recommendations for preservation.

Relations with FIAPF also got the attention of the Commission. In July 1977 Mr. Brisson of FIAPF wrote the Secretary General that FIAPF was prepared to discuss with our Federation an agreement on the acquisition and use of films but that such a discussion could only be based upon the type of contract that had already been established and had been sent to many of our members. Instead of merely revising the existing FIAPF contract, the Secretary General offered to prepare a paper to be called, "A Declaration of General Principles On the Preservation of Moving Images " in the hope that the Federation and FIAPF could agree first on general principles and later move on to satisfactory specific agreements.

At the time of his resignation, the Secretary General had not been able to complete this statement of principles. After the discussion in Brighton, the Commission intends again to take up this work on the declaration for use vis-a-vis FIAPF.

In addition, it is recommended that considerable time be set aside at the next Congress to hold a wide-ranging discussion of the problems enumerated at the Belgrade Conference of UNESCO. This discussion should be held even if it is necessary to replace or reduce the time normally set aside for a symposium.

John Kuiper
Chairman