Mr Coulter said it was too soon for him to comment definitively on the computer system used at the Imperial War Museum. He was sure that the computerization would assist the film department in the assessment of technical data regarding the condition of nitrate films but with regard to subject data, he needed at least 8-9 months more to see how this system could help.

Mr Klaue concluded his report by saying that the Commission was far from recommending to small archives to start computerizing their catalogues but that it wished to correct and disseminate all the available information on what already existed in various archives in order to warn the other members not to go in the wrong direction and also to give them some optimistic views on the possibilities of computers.

d) Report of the Legal and Copyright Commission

Mr Kuiper said he had no proper report to make regarding the work of his Commission this year because it had not met but it had worked a lot to prepare the UNESCO meeting of experts held in Berlin in September 1976, which would be reported on under the next item.

Mr Ledoux however wanted to raise a question regarding copyright. Did film archives have the right to record off-air on video-cassettes films projected on television which interested them as internal reference prints?

Mr Kuiper said there was certainly no international law on this matter, and that the laws of the home territory prevailed. But they varied quite much from country to country.

Mr Kula said that in Canada they did it and had permission to do it as long as it was solely for internal use. Copyright law was inexact in that point. But one ought to act with care and remember that most TV broadcasters had acquired the material they broadcast sometimes for a very limited license. So even with their agreement, one might run into problems with the owners of the international copyright, for instance.

Mr Klaue explained that in D.D.R., as in most socialist countries, copyright belonged to the state and there would therefore be no problem to possibly make those recordings which Mr Ledoux had mentioned.

Mr Razlogov agreed. Although each socialist country had its own copyright laws, in USSR also, the state owned the copyright on everything produced within its territory, and as Gosfilmofond and the Soviet Television were both state organizations, there should be no problem.
Mr Francis said that in Britain nothing, apart from certain programs of an educational purpose, could be recorded off-air for whatever purpose. But practically, it was possible to come to an agreement with the TV or the producing companies in the limited terms expressed earlier by Mr Ledoux. Mr de Vaal said that in Holland, this practice was legally forbidden.

Mr Pogacic then read out a letter of Mr Privato, Vice-President of FIAF, which he had just received. Mr Privato regretted very much not to be able to attend the General Meeting because he held FIAF's matters very much at heart, and he wished all the delegates and other visitors a very successful meeting.

7. UNESCO RESOLUTION ON THE PRESERVATION OF MOVING IMAGES

Mr Kuiper reported that this Resolution, of which the members had already been informed last year in Turin, first resulted in a meeting of experts which was held in September 1975 in East Berlin, which was chaired by Mr Klaue and was attended by several members of FIAF amongst delegates of various other international organizations dealing with the moving images. The final report of that meeting had been published in the FIAF Bulletin. Mr Kuiper underlined that, for him, one of the important outcomes of this conference was the examination of statutory deposit, although the participants could not even begin to approach a solution to this problem.

Mr Klaue added that a small working group of FIAF had also prepared for this meeting two important papers which served as basis for most of the discussions. Although almost every aspects of archival work were touched, it became necessary to concentrate on some items among which the most interesting subject was the problem of legal or statutory deposit. As representative of the producers, Mr Brisson's attempt was of course to limit this legal deposit as much as possible, that is: to limit it for each country to its national production. The majority of experts however did not agree on this limitation, but no decision was reached at this meeting.

What came out of this meeting and passed into the program of UNESCO for 1977-1978 is much more limited than the recommendations expressed in the Final Report. There are two points:

1°) to work on a preliminary study on legal and technical aspects of preservation (¾ 16,000 are foreseen for this aim).

2°) the training of specialists for the transfer of nitrate films onto acetate stock, and the proposed creation of a pilot film archive or museum.

Mr Klaue therefore recommended that FIAF establish a permanent contact with those departments of UNESCO responsible for the realization of those two points and/or other steps which UNESCO might make in this direction, and also that FIAF prepare its contribution for further meetings with UNESCO, to express our point of view on legal deposit, on the structure and financial problems of film archives, etc ..