

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Paris, November 22-23, 1961

Present : Messrs BRUSENDORFF
DE VAAL
LEDOUX
LINDGREN
TOEPLITZ

Absent : Mr. SALES GOMES

Mme Iris BARRY
Excused : Messrs BERKESI
FIORAVANTI
GRIFFITH
LAURITZEN
PRIVATO
VOLKMANN
MONTY
POGACIC
SVOBODA

The quorum not being obtained, the members of the Executive Committee present decided to act according to article 85 of the Rules : all decisions taken by them were to have a provisional character and were not to be considered valid until they were approved by the majority of members of the Executive Committee : absent members received a list of these decisions for their approval by correspondence.

The following members of the Executive Committee sent their approval by correspondence : Messrs FIORAVANTI
GRIFFITH
LAURITZEN
MONTY
SALES GOMES

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The following agenda was accepted :

1. Work of the Executive Committee during the 7 coming months - delegation of powers of the President to one of the Vice Presidents ;
2. Legal situation of F.I.A.F. ;
3. Financial situation ;
4. Next Congress and General Meeting ;
5. 1963 Brussels exhibition ;
6. Work of Commissions and Committees ;
7. Various questions :
 - a) F.I.C.C.
 - b) Members' Film Service (Pool)
 - c) Catalogue
 - d) International relations
 - e) Help to Chilian Archive
 - f) Hollywood situation
 - g) Catalogue on Theatrical films (International Federation of Library Associations)
 - h) Request for films to Ceskoslovenska Filmoteka from the Atomic Commission in Vienna
 - i) Cinema des Nations
 - j) Printing of Statutes and Rules

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1. President Toeplitz explained that as he was leaving for the United States for a six months study grant, he would not be able to take an active part in F.I.A.F. affairs during this period. He therefore delegated as President during this period Mr. Ernest LINDGREN, one of the Vice Presidents and one of the oldest members in F.I.A.F., who is fully informed of the situation, and who, being near Paris, will have the possibility to come whenever necessary.

According to article 23 of the Statutes, Mr. Toeplitz transmitted to Mr. Lindgren in writing full powers as President of the Federation, until the former will give written notice that he resumes his post. This letter of delegation is to be circulated to all members of the Federation.

East Berlin was proposed for the next Executive Committee meeting (with the possibility of combining it with the meeting of the Preservation Commission to be held there in February), and if this were not possible, Prague was suggested.

2. The President made a report on his interview with the French Police Authorities who called him on behalf of the Procureur de la République who wanted to ascertain what was the legal position of F.I.A.F. in France : he explained that until 1959, the Federation thought its status in France was legal, and in 1959, finding that it was not, it had taken all steps and made all efforts to regularize its situation, always keeping the French Cinema Authorities informed. The Police seemed to have no doubts concerning the good will of the Federation and its correct moral position.

There had been a second interview, to which Madame Marion MICHELLE had been convoked in connection with the case against the Cinemathèque Française, to make a deposition about her beginnings in the post of Executive Secretary of the Federation, the details of her dismissal by Mr. Langlois, and the contents of the strong-box under sequestration at the Cinémathèque Française.

Maitre LESIEUR, lawyer of F.I.A.F. came to a session of the meeting, and in response to the question as whether Mr. Toeplitz should be represented in the legal case by Mr. Lindgren, and whether this would bring an advantage to the Federation, he said that the normal period for the next convocation would be around the month of May, but that he did not see any objection to Mr. Lindgren's representing Mr. Toeplitz and answering what he could, leaving the possibility, in case of more precise questions, of waiting for the return of President Toeplitz.

In addition to the legal action, a diplomatic course of action was decided upon, and Mr. Lindgren with Mr. Fioravanti, were requested to see the French Cultural Authorities in the month of January.

3. The Executive Committee considered the difficult financial situation at this moment of the year and envisaged the possibility for those archives which are able to do so, to send in their 1962 subscriptions in December.

Having received the request of Miss Kubiasova for payment of her work in transcribing the Minutes of the Prague Congress in 1958, the Executive Committee decided to pay her a part of the sum in November and the rest in 1962, although the work had been delivered later than promised, and although this sum had not been foreseen in this year's budget.

Concerning the possibility of deletion of members who have not paid their subscriptions for two years, art. 11 b) of the Statutes, the Executive Committee heard the opinion of Mr. Vermeylen, President of the Cinemathèque de Belgique who felt that this rule was not retroactive, and the opinion of Maître Lesieur who explained that this rule was applicable at once, and who promised to send a letter with the motives for this opinion, which the Executive Committee accepted as available. The Executive Committee decided that members who owed subscriptions for two years should receive a letter reminding them of that rule, and then, if they did not pay, action should be taken according to articles 26, 27 and 28 of the Rules.

4. Mr. Verdone, of the Centro Sperimentale de Cinematografia, Rome, came to one session to confirm, in the name of Mr. Fioravanti, their willingness to hold the XVIIIth General Meeting and Congress in Rome, and to ask for some precisions :

- dates foreseen,
- theme of the Congress, whether there will be any special manifestations, projections..;

After exchanging points of view, the members of the Executive Committee decided that the dates would be :

Executive Committee meeting : June 18-19th
General Meeting and Congress : June 20-24th inclusive.

For the theme of the cultural historical manifestation, there were two proposals:

- the historical film, origins of the film "a grand spectacle", its repercussions on different national film production ,
- the birth of neo-realism (1942-43)

The Executive Committee chose as theme the historical film, and asked that the program Commission (Messrs Montosanti, Monty and Svoboda) prepare a project of this manifestation for the next Executive Committee meeting.

The Executive Committee also discussed the possibility of a session dedicated to the preservation of films, and suggested that there be an exhibition on preservation during the Rome Congress.

5. Mr. J. Lodoux presented the first estimate of the costs of the Brussels F.I.A.F. exhibition in 1963, the diverse possibilities of disposition in the Palais des Beaux Arts, and exposed all the difficulties which would have to be faced, and the proposals he was able to suggest.

After discussion of all points, the members of the Executive Committee came to the following conclusions :

- the exhibition will be held in May 1963
 - it can be realized only if at least 10 members of F.I.A.F. participate in it
 - the theme will be "the cinematographic experiment."
 - the archives participating in the exhibition will have all freedom to choose their subject and exhibits within the limits of the theme proposed, but in order to give unity to the exhibition as a whole; there should be only one art director
 - concerning the financial aspects of the exhibition there will be three categories of expenses :
 - rental of space which may be recuperated if the exhibition is a success and there are many visitors,
 - preparation of the exhibits, which exhibits will be returned to the archive,
 - overhead costs of the exhibition, general expenses, electricity, publicity, which possibly can be recuperated.
- The exhibition should be organized on the assumption that the expenses will be partially if not wholly reimbursed. Any profit will be turned over to the Federation.

Mr. Ledoux was asked to prepare a letter to all members, explaining how the exhibition will be organized, with an estimate of the expenses for each member, and asking for their participation.

6. Mr. Lindgren presented his report on the meeting of the C.I.C.T. Preservation Commission which he attended as representative of F.I.A.F.

7.a) On the question of the International Federation of Film Clubs (F.I.C.C.)-F.I.A.F. agreement, the Executive Committee decided that following the wish of the General Meeting to have a project of an agreement on which both parties had agreed, there should be a meeting of the representatives of the two Federations to be held in London as soon as possible. Mr. Ledoux will arrange the convocations.

7.b) The wish was expressed that Mr. De Vaal pursue all necessary initiatives for the realization of the F.I.A.F. Members' Film Service (Pool).

7.c) Concerning the F.I.A.F. Catalogue of Silent Feature Films, it cannot be edited because the list has not yet arrived from Gosfilmofond. The Secretariat was requested to remind Gosfilmofond of this Catalogue and ask for cards concerning its Russian, Soviet and foreign films.

7.d) Following the decision of the General Meeting to study the possibilities of adhesion to the International Council of Museums (ICM), the Executive Committee decided that Mr. Lindgren, in his capacity of President, should write a letter to the President of ICM, in order to make a step towards preliminary relations with this organization.

Concerning the International Council of Archives, it will be Mr. Ledoux' task to contact them.

The Executive Committee agreed that Mr. Ledoux, in his capacity of General Secretary is to write a letter to all International Film Festivals, expressing the readiness of F.I.A.F. to transmit to its members any requests for help in organizing retrospective programs.

7.e) Having received a request from the Chilian Archive for help in acquiring films for its collection, it was decided to circulate to all members of the Federation the list of the films desired by the Chilian Archive.

7.f) The Federation received two letters form the Hollywood Motion Picture and Television Museum, saying that they did not wish to have any further relations with F.I.A.F. It was decided that the Executive Secretary will write acknowledging receipt of these letters, that copies would be sent to Madame Iris Barry, Mr. Griffith and Mr. Lindgren who will also write to this organization.

7.g) The International Federation of Library Associations, preparing a catalogue of theatrical films, asked for the help of F.I.A.F. After having discussed this request, the Executive Committee decided that Madame Marion Michelle should see Mr. Veinstein, and explain to him that the Federation was ready to help by asking members to give information on such films existing in their collections, and that perhaps some archives, which Mr. Veinstein may wish to contact, will be able to give further support.

7.h) Mr. Svoboda received a request for films from the Atomic Commission Film Club in Vienna. The Executive Committee decided that Mr. Svoboda should answer informing them that all such organizations must contact the national member in their country, which latter can take any action it sees fit in relation to other members of F.I.A.F.

7.i) The question of the "Cinema des Nations" (national programs of films prese presented, on the model of the Théâtre des Nations held each year in was discussed. This project cannot be realized by F.I.A.F., but if the organizer can assure F.I.A.F. that it will be non commercial and will have all the agreements of the French Authorities, F.I.A.F. will be ready to collaborate and provide films.

7.j) The Executive Committee decided that the Statutes and Rules of F.I.A.F., as approved by the XVIIth General Meeting should be printed, both in French and English. This task was given to Mr. Ledoux who will make 300 copies.