

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Warsaw March 17th-19th, 1963

The following members of the Executive Committee were present :

Messrs TOEPLITZ
IEDOUX
LENDGREN
FRIVATO
SVOBODA

The following members and deputy members of the Executive Committee were excused :

Madame BARRY
Messrs FIORAVANTI
DE VAAL
LAURENZEN
MONY
POGACIC
GRIFFLIH
SALES GOMES

According to article 75 of the Rules, Mme BIRON deputy member present, replaced one absent member.

The Executive Committee agreed to invite Mr. BANASZKIEWICZ to attend the meetings.

The quorum being attained, the meeting was declared valid.

The President had received a letter from the Polish Minister of Culture, welcoming the Executive Committee members in Warsaw and congratulating F.I.A.F. for its work in the dissemination of cinematographic art. The Executive Committee decided that a letter of thanks be sent to the Minister.

The Executive Committee agreed upon the following agenda for its meetings :

- approval of the Minutes of the preceding Executive Committee meeting
- report of the President and legal questions
 - relations with the Cinemathèque française
 - F.I.A.F. Headquarters
- administrative report of the Secretary general
- financial report and examination of the question of an eventual raison of the subscriptions to cover legal costs
- candidatures of new members : Albania
 - Israel
 - Grocco
- report of the Executive Secretary
- relations of F.I.A.F. with other international organizations
- relations with the Méliès heirs and "Les Amis de Georges Méliès"
- reports on the work done by members of the Executive Committee in accordance with the program of activities established by the November 1962 Executive Committee and reports of the specialized commissions :
 - film preservation (Volkman)
 - legal rights of film archives (Iedoux)
 - informative booklet on F.I.A.F. and film archives (De Vaal)

- commissions for historical research (M. Toeplitz)
- statutory questions
- possibility of F.I.A.F. membership for film museums
- rules on TV and other rules not yet published
- organization of the XIXth F.I.A.F. Congress and General Meeting
- any other business : a) Latin-American Section
b) Canada

The Executive Committee approved the Minutes of the preceding Executive Committee meeting. However, Mr. Ledoux made an observation of principle on the paragraph concerning finances which mentioned the transfer of certain sums from one budgetary chapter to another without giving what he considered to be essential details. The Executive Committee agree that in the future, in such cases, the Minutes should specify the exact amount transferred and the purpose of the transfer.

The Executive Committee then heard the report of the President who said that since the Geneva meeting there were no special news or activities to report except on legal matters and the question of relations of F.I.A.F. with the Cinémathèque française. He presented a letter just received from Mr. Mathot stating that F.I.A.F. had put an end to the Cinémathèque's membership by ignoring the protests of the Cinémathèque française in Budapest on the grounds that F.I.A.F. had kept its Headquarters in Paris without the agreement of the national member, and on the grounds that the Cinémathèque française did not agree to the statutory changes proposed for consideration at the General Meeting in Budapest. Concerning the sequestration of the archives, Mr. Mathot indicated that "F.I.A.F. could not ignore the situation".

The President proposed to answer Mr. Mathot :

- that his telegram and letter to Budapest had been answered and his allegations refuted;
- that after that date, Mr. Mathot and Mr. Langlois had acted as if the Cinémathèque were still F.I.A.F. members in their dealings with the French Authorities;
- that in case the Cinémathèque was no longer a member of the Federation, it had no more reason to keep the F.I.A.F. archives and goods under sequestration.

The Executive Committee agreed that such a letter be sent to Mr. Mathot, after having been examined and approved by the lawyer of the Federation.

Concerning the relations of F.I.A.F. members with the Cinémathèque française, the question of the policy of the Federation after the vote of expulsion of the Cinémathèque by the 1963 General meeting was raised. When the suspension had been voted in Rome, it was forbidden that F.I.A.F. members have any relations with Cinémathèque française, except in special cases with the agreement of the Executive Committee. According to the statutes, when the expulsion is voted, the limits of relations of the F.I.A.F. members with the expelled member are to be voted also (art. 38). The Executive Committee therefore discussed whether F.I.A.F. should be very rigorous and prohibit all dealings with the Cinémathèque française - or instead, vote no limitations at all, leaving the decision to the moral sense of the F.I.A.F. members, - or else find a solution of compromise with possible exceptions.

The Executive Committee members felt that this should be discussed very thoroughly in order to be able to prepare for its next meeting a motion to be presented to the General meeting. But there were different points of view, some members thinking that it would be difficult to forbid to F.I.A.F. members to have any relations with the Cinémathèque française, stating also that it was unwise to edict severe rules which cannot be followed, other members thinking that F.I.A.F. should have the policy of a private

club, with no outside relations at all, and that if the possibility of having relations with the Cinemathèque française were left to F.I.A.F. members, this would mean the abandoning the fight of the three last years and a return to the old system.

No definitive decision could be reached on this matter which will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Mr. Ledoux recalled that he had asked that a communication be sent to the governors of the Cinemathèque française to inform them of the exact motives of the dispute between F.I.A.F. and the Cinemathèque française. After the Geneva meeting, the lawyer of the Federation had considered that this action was not opportune. The Executive Committee agreed to ask the lawyer his advice for a communication to be sent to the governors of the Cinemathèque after the decision of expulsion will have been taken, explaining the reasons.

Madame Michelle then presented the developments concerning the legal suits since the last meeting of the Executive Committee :

- the lawyer had prepared a note to be signed by the President, recalling to the Juge d'Instruction all the most important facts in our penal suit against M. Langlois and the Cinemathèque Française. Mme Michelle informed the members that M. Langlois had been convoked by the Juge d'Instruction and had asked for a month's delay in order to prepare his papers.
- following the decision of Geneva, the lawyer had prepared the assignation for the civil suit to be filed by Messrs Toeplitz, Fioravanti, Lauritzen and Lindgren. Messrs Fioravanti and Lindgren were unable to do so. Mme Barry proposed herself to appear in the suit. The Executive Committee therefore agreed on the three signatures of Mme Barry, Messrs Toeplitz and Lauritzen.

Mr. Ledoux at this moment requested that all important documents in the F.I.A.F. legal suits be copied and sent to the Executive Committee members for their information. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed.

The question of the F.I.A.F. Headquarters had been raised by Mr. Volkmann at the preceding meeting of the Executive Committee. Mr. Volkmann considered that it was juridically abnormal to have the Headquarters of the Federation in a country where it could not be legally recognized. The President expressed the opinion that to change the country of the Headquarters would be a too important statutory change and that it would be unwise to decide any change in the course of the legal cases against the Cinemathèque française. The other members of the Executive Committee were also of the same opinion and decided to ask the lawyer whether it would not be legally possible to arrange that F.I.A.F. offices be in Paris and the temporary Headquarters in another country.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. Lauritzen, Mme Michelle presented the financial report.

- the financial documents for the year 1962 have been brought to Warsaw for examination by the Auditors, Messrs Banaszkievicz and Wingard. Mr. Wingard having stated that he was unable to come either to Paris or to Warsaw for this purpose, the Executive Committee agreed that Mr. Banaszkievicz examine the Books alone.
- Mme Michelle informed the Executive Committee members that dues letters had been sent to all members, notifying them of their 1963 obligations and reminding them when necessary of the back dues still unpaid. At this moment, the following members are in arrears for more than two years :

- Cineteca Italiana
- Cinemathèque Suisse
- Cinemateca Brasileira
- Cinémathèque du Maroc

The Treasurer had sent registered letters to the Cinemathèque Suisse and Cineteca Italiana and the latter replied by sending a partial payment of the 1961 dues. Concerning the Cinemateca Brasileira, the Treasurer had been informed that its dues would be paid in Paris directly. For the Cinemathèque du Maroc, with which organization the Federation has had practically no contact for the last two or three years, Mme Michelle went to see the Cultural Attaché of the Moroccan Embassy to ask for some information on the existence and activities of the Archive, but received no answer.

The Executive Committee decided that according to the Statutes, a formal proposition for deletion should be prepared by the Treasurer if the members in arrears of payment for more than two years had not paid before the General meeting, but in the meantime, it also decided :

- to write a letter to the Cineteca Italiana, requesting the payment of the rest of the 1961 dues before June.
- to write a letter to the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of Morocco in Paris, asking what is the exact situation of the Cinemathèque du Maroc.
- to wait for news from Mr. Sales Gomes, as a letter had just been written to him asking for information on the date of payment.

Mr. Ledoux protested that according to the decisions of Geneva the dues letters should have indicated the number of the F.I.A.F. account in Switzerland and notified the members to send their subscriptions therein. Having heard the reasons which had postponed this action, the Executive Committee again stressed the danger of having all F.I.A.F. funds in the Bank in Paris, and confirmed the decision taken in Geneva, requesting the Treasurer to prepare for the General Meeting a decision to the effect of sending all subscriptions to the Swiss Bank.

The question of augmenting the amount of the subscription fee in order to cover the legal costs was examined by the Executive Committee, but after discussion it was decided that this was not desirable at the moment.

The last point related to finances was raised by Mr. Ledoux who stated that F.I.A.F. had been too optimistic in the evaluation of the number of copies of the Catalogue of Silent Feature films to be printed and the price to be asked for them, and that it had cost much more than had been paid by the members. At the same time he expressed his surprise that not all members which collaborated in its elaboration have ordered copies.

The next point on the Agenda was the report of the Secretary General. He stated that he had received some answers to his request for information on unidentified silent films. He then reported on his journey to Cuba and his visit to the Cuban Archives which are in full development.

He asked the opinion of the Executive Committee on the extent of publicity which should be made about the deletion of F.I.A.F. members and also requested that the Secretariat keeps in its files basic administrative information about members.

The Executive Committee accepted this part of the report and decided that an up-to-date list of all F.I.A.F. members be published after each Congress.

Then the Executive Committee discussed the candidatures of new members presented by the Secretary General :

FILMARCHIVE OF ALBANIA - Having received all information required, the Executive Committee decided unanimously to confirm the decision taken in Geneva to recommend to the General Meeting the admission of the Filmarchiv of Albania as Provisional member of the Federation.

NATIONAL FILM INSTITUTE OF ISRAEL - After the Geneva meeting, the President had written to this Institution to request some additional information and documents. He received an answer to his letter but not the information required. After discussion on the difficulties and danger to judge which archive is worthy to enter F.I.A.F. when there two or more rival archives in the same country, the Executive Committee decided, before taking any decision, to wait for the specific information requested.

CINEMATHEQUE HELLENIQUE AND CINEMATHEQUE DE GRECE - Mr. Ledoux presented the candidatures of the two Greek archives. The same problem as in Israel, with two rival organizations in the same country asking for admission was considered. After discussion, the Executive Committee decided to ask both organizations to send in their list of films, which had not been included with their applications and to make a further investigation on the situation and activities of the two archives in order to find out whether they were qualified or not to become Provisional members of F.I.A.F. It was decided to ask them to send representatives to the General Meeting if possible.

On the question of Mr. Ledoux concerning the relations which can be maintained with deleted members, the Executive Committee felt that the Secretary General should make the distinction between deleted members which are liable to return to F.I.A.F. when in a better financial situation and those which are hostile to the Federation and act according to this criterium.

The report of the Executive Secretary had been distributed to all members, and Mme Michelle only added verbally a few precisions on several questions where she had had personal contact with the interested persons : Mme Gille Delafon, concerning the help F.I.A.F. had given F.I.F.A. for the preparation of the art film catalogue ;

: Mr. H. White, of the National Library of Australia to whom she had explained the mechanism of exchanges of films between F.I.A.F. members, as he had the possibility of providing many Australian films. The Executive Committee considered that research should be made on such possibilities of exchanges, which would be added to the work of Mr. Pogacic's Commission.

The Executive Committee approved the report of the Executive Secretary. It decided that in the future her reports should be only oral, giving the pertinent statistical data in writing if necessary.

On the question posed by Mme Michelle, the Executive Committee decided that the Information Bulletin in its actual form could be abandoned and proposed that a Year Book be prepared instead which would be much more interesting for the members and for publicizing the work of the Federation. Mr. Toeplitz was charged with the preparation of the model of such a Year Book to be presented to the General Meeting as an initiative of the Executive Committee.

- the informative Bulletin on the Archive preparing the Congress will be maintained;
- the members will be requested to present their annual report to the Congress in a standard form, permitting to bind them together.

- 6 -

The Executive Committee then heard information on the contacts which certain Executive Committee members had made with other international organizations, ICOM, CIOT, FICC, etc..

Next was examined the question of the relations of F.I.A.F. and the Méliès heirs. The President had received from Mme Malthète Méliès a letter which was read to the Executive. In her letter, Mme Malthète complained about the attitude of Mr. Svoboda, who, according to the information she had received, had participated in a Méliès exhibition in Prague organized by the Cinemathèque Française. Mr. Svoboda formally denied this assertion, saying that he had definitely refused to lend films for this manifestation, and had taken absolutely no part in it.

Mme Malthète also complained about the attitude of Mr. Monty who had refused to copy at the cost of Mme Malthète certain Méliès films on the grounds that he had received the films from George Eastman House. The Executive Committee considered that Mr. Monty had wrongly interpreted the Statutes of F.I.A.F. and that he was not in a position to refuse such a service when requested by the copyright owner.

In the same letter, Mme Malthète proposed that an agreement be signed between the Méliès heirs and F.I.A.F. A letter was also received from "Les Amis de Georges Méliès".

After discussion of the contents of the letters, the Executive Committee decided to write:

- A. To Mme Malthète 1) clarifying the misunderstanding about Mr. Svoboda and expressing its opinion on the interpretation of the Statutes by Mr. Monty ;
2) explaining the difficulties of signing the proposed agreement between the copyright owners and F.I.A.F. (as the Executive Committee members considered that it would create a dangerous precedent - they also felt that Mme Malthète has to take into consideration that historically it was F.I.A.F. members' research and preservation work which permitted to preserve Méliès films).
- B. To Dr. Malthète and "Les Amis de Georges Méliès" expressing the wish of the Federation to sign a friendly agreement of cooperation between two associations sharing certain aims and to present him a draft of such an agreement.

Mr. Volkmann presented his report on the Preservation Manual. He explained that this work had extended further than the work of the Preservation Commission, and that it will be the first comprehensive study of preservation questions. He stated that he hoped to have it ready for the June General Meeting.

The Executive Committee members expressed their thanks to Mr. Volkmann and congratulated him and his collaborators for the excellent work done.

Mr. Ledoux then presented the results of his research on the legal rights of archives. He stressed that film exchanges within F.I.A.F. are not sufficiently numerous, often because the archives are not certain of their rights. In all the other fields except that of the work of the film archives, there are rules on copyright. That is why F.I.A.F. should try to establish its own rules which would serve as a basis for future jurisdiction.

The right and the duty to preserve films is obvious and as long as it is only preservation cannot interfere with the moral or financial interests of the copyright owners. The making of copies for preservation should fall into the category of private use (fair use). The right to show the films preserve to restricted audiences should be recognized for the

archives and established as a principle in the F.I.A.F. rules of exchanges. Once this right is internally established, all efforts should be made to have it recognized by the producers.

The Executive Committee agreed on this policy and decided that a new version of the F.I.A.F. Rules on exchanges of films be prepared for the next General Meeting, keeping in mind the principle of the archives to project the films (this new version to be prepared by Messrs Ledoux and Lindgren).

Mr. De Vaal being absent, he had sent in his project for a booklet on the ideal film archive, which had been requested from him by the Geneva meeting. After reading and discussion, the Executive Committee expressed to Mr. De Vaal its thanks for the work he had done. It considered that this project was too ambitious for archives which are just beginning their activities in countries not having all facilities of development, and thought that it should be re-written in the form of a simple manual indicating the basis for the formation of an archive gradually until there exists all the possibilities for constructing the ideal archive.

Mr. Toeplitz reported on the answers received to his questionnaire on film research commissions in the various countries. This report was not complete as not all the archives had not yet sent in their answers. Mr. Toeplitz will present a complete report with the conclusions reached and positive propositions to the June General Meeting.

After having heard the members of the Commission on television, the Executive Committee decided that these should continue their work by correspondence and prepare for the next General Meeting the text of a recommendation.

The Executive Committee in Geneva had decided that the question of the possibility for film museums without film collections to enter F.I.A.F. should be examined, with the possible result of modification of the Statutes to permit more specifically this membership; the origin of the problem is that a risk exists that Mr. Langlois will create with the help of ICOM a federation of these museums which are not members of F.I.A.F. aiming eventually to attract film-archives which are members of F.I.A.F.

Therefore a solution must be found which will serve the best interests of F.I.A.F. After hearing the different solutions proposed: creation of special sections in F.I.A.F. changing of the statutes, interpretation of the contradiction between the article 5 of the Statutes and the article 2 of the Rules, and after discussion of these, the Executive Committee decided:

- to prepare the modification of the notion of F.I.A.F. correspondent, notion which could be enlarged so as to permit film museums without film collections to have links with F.I.A.F.
- if possible, to interpret the Statutes permitting the admission of museums into F.I.A.F. and if not, to leave the question for next year.

Concerning the organization of the XIXth Congress and General Meeting, no decision could be taken as the date could not be definitely fixed after reception of a letter from Mr. Pogacic stating that he could organize the Congress in Belgrade only in September.

As it was impossible for certain members to attend the Congress in September, and the

the decision of the General Meeting having been that it should be held in June, the Executive Committee decided to ask Mr. Pogacic if he could not organize the Congress in June, even on a smaller scale, and to wait for his answer before taking any other decision.

The two points left on the Agenda were :

Latin American Section : The President had written to Mr. Roland in December, asking whether a representative from the Executive Committee could not be invited to the Mar del Plata Festival in order to meet the representatives of the South American Archives to discuss their problems. As this initiative did not bring any positive result, the Executive Committee decided to come to the General Meeting with the proposition of the liquidation of the South American Section. At the same time, if the South American Archives will present some concrete proposal, the General Meeting will be happy to study, in presence of their representatives at the Congress, certain forms of help for them.

Canada : The Canadian Film Institute Archives Committee, Provisional member of F.I.A.F. has been preparing an important manifestation, entitled "Connaissance du Cinema" the program of which has been sent to F.I.A.F. and for which many films are needed. Desiring to be loyal members of F.I.A.F., this organization found itself in a difficult position, as it needs certain French films and does not wish to deal with the Cinemathèque Française. Therefore it asked the advice and help of F.I.A.F.

The Executive Committee discussed this problem and came to the following conclusions :

- to write to the responsible persons in the Canadian Film Institute explaining that in order to strengthen their position the Archives Committee should formally constitute an archive, and the organization of the "Connaissance du Cinema" should be undertaken by the archive itself.

- to explain that first they should ask the films they need, including French films, from all F.I.A.F. members who may have them in their collections. If it is impossible to have certain French films through these sources they can attempt to obtain them through the services of the French Embassy even if these come from the Cinemathèque Française. As a last course of action if all other sources prove impossible, they cannot be prevented from asking them from the Cinemathèque Française.

But the Executive Committee members considered that with the aid of the whole collection of F.I.A.F. members' films, it should be possible to present a program of French films without going through the Cinemathèque Française.

All the points on the Agenda having been considered, the Executive Committee heard the report made by Mr. Svoboda on the creation of the new Film Institute in Prague, in the framework of which is included the Ceskoslovenska Filmoteka, and the President terminated the sessions.

A press conference was held after the meeting in which participated the members of the Executive Committee and representatives from different Polish newspapers and film periodicals.

To be discussed at the next meeting :--Limitation of relations with the Cinemathèque Française after the expulsion
- candidatures of new members (National Film Institute of Israel, Cinemathèque Héliénique, Cinemathèque de Grèce)