The General assembly was held on 4 September 1958 at the Palais d'Egmont, a meeting of the Executive Council having been held two days previously. The proceedings were published in the September issue of "International associations", together with the results of the election for members of the Executive Council and the names of 15 persons who had been elected as new members of the UI; the number of the latter was thus brought to 92, representing 26 countries, as against the statutory maximum of 100.

Conference of Corresponding Organizations

The success of this conference, which was held in Brussels on 3 and 4 September, with representatives of nearly 60 international non-governmental organizations and some ten inter-governmental, bore witness both to the standing of the UI and to the importance of the subject under discussion, namely "The Future of International Non-Governmental Organizations - their difficulties - their contribution towards understanding between peoples ", which is a primary concern of the UI.

A detailed report of the conference appeared in the September issue of "International associations ".

The 1st Congress of International Congress Organizers and Technicians

First mooted in March 1958, the idea caused a lively interest and quickly took shape. With the dual help of the International Association of Congress Palaces and the UI Secretariat for Germany, we are able to assemble in Dusseldorf from 5 to 7 February 1959 over 200 experts in the many UI varied branches involved in organizing international congresses.

The January and March 1959 issues of "International associations " contain the texts of speeches, summary of suggestions made during the congress, list of participants, etc. A unanimous wish was expressed that the UI should organize a second congress in 1960. The municipal authorities of Brussels, Copenhagen, Geneva, and Salzburg presented their candidature to act as host to the 2nd Congress.
On 19 March an exchange of views was held in Brussels on this question between Senator de la Vallée Poussin (President of the UIA), M. Denis (President of the International Association of Congress Palaces), M. Vasseur (Vice-President of the UIA) and Speckaert.

M. Pierre Vasseur agreed to direct the organization of the 2nd Congress. A detailed plan, providing for preparatory work by commissions and for research work, will be submitted to the meeting of the UIA Executive Council to be held in Paris on 25 April. The day before the Corresponding Organizations of the UIA established in Paris will be consulted on the general scheme and on the form of the preliminary research.

Draft Convention to facilitate the work of NGOs

I: conformity with a wish expressed at the September Conference, the Secretariat is following up the project of an international convention to help NGOs operations. The first stage consists in consultation of Corresponding Organizations on a wide scale on the basis of a draft drawn up by the UIA Secretary-General. The second stage will be the consideration of the project by the UIA Executive Council. The third stage will be the submission of the final version of the draft to all NGOs with a view to obtaining their moral support. The fourth and last stage will be the submission of the draft to Unesco, so that on approval by the Executive Board and by Member States, it may become one of the International Conventions established by Unesco to "facilitate ...."

Consultative meetings with Corresponding Organizations have already been held in Brussels on 30 October and 12 November, in Paris on 5 November, and in New York on 18 December; others are being held in Geneva and London during April.

University Teaching on International Non-Governmental Co-operation

During a visit to New York from 28 November to 20 December 1956 the UIA General-Secretary made contact with the specialist professors at Columbia University and New York University in order to draw attention to the reasons why teaching on international non-governmental organizations should be introduced in university courses.

The idea met with a favorable response, but first it involves the solution of documentation problems which must, it is suggested, be tackled by the UIA.

To begin with, material is almost totally lacking, as the universities have not tackled the field at all, and apart from UIA publications only two books have been devoted to it, and they are by one and the same author.
Considering that some 1,800 international organizations in all have been established in little more than a century, and they have held over 20,000 congresses, the fact may seem unbelievable. But it is unfortunately true.

In itself this sociological phenomenon of the spontaneous grouping of individuals from different nations, which has preceded and stimulated collaboration between States, deserves to be studied from the historical standpoint.

There are, however, even more important motives for detailed research on international non-govermental organization. It is the latter's task to encourage, in countries where historic conditions and economic under-development have not yet allowed it, the liberal growth of free associations, being the indispensable foundation of a democratic civilization where public opinion effectively plays its part of control and initiative.

The UN should make special efforts to change the viewpoint of university professors and governing bodies and to secure the interest of foundations in encouraging theses and research on the various aspects of present-day international organization and the future prospects, going beyond the traditional confines by which work is limited to the international law angle.

Permanent NGO Panel at the UN Headquarters

A Working Party set up by the New York office of the Conference of Consultative NGOs had made an appeal for a design for a mural panel to be placed in the UN Headquarters in New York, aiming at showing visitors that NGOs contribute to the work of the UN. A project in colours produced by Nelle Deville and M. Speckaert, with the aid of an artist J. Liodot (of Olma-Publicité, Brussels), was submitted in December. The Chairman of the Working Party stated that it was the best and most elaborate project received by then.

New Publications

The 7th edition (in English) of the Yearbook of International Organizations came out of the press in mid-October 1958. At the end of March 1959 the 2nd edition of the Directory of Periodicals published by International Organizations was produced, with financial help from Unesco and in collaboration with the International Federation of Documentation; it provides detailed information on 292 periodicals published by inter-governmental organizations and on 1,048 periodicals published by international NGOs. The 1st edition published in October 1953, was soon out of print, and it only described the non-governmental periodicals.
In general the sale of new and old U.N. publications proceeds fairly satisfactorily, but at the cost of considerable propaganda efforts, varied according to field of interest.

The English edition of the "Select Bibliography" is sold out; and there are not many copies left of the French edition.

It will be remembered that, in accordance with the Executive Council decision of February 1958, the Yearbook is to be issued only every second year, the 6th edition, probably in French, will appear in the autumn of 1960.

Corresponding Organizations

During the last six months 34 more international non-governmental organizations have registered as corresponding organizations, bringing the total to 210.

The newly-registered organizations are:

- Association Spirituelle des Bahá'í's des Pays de Benelux
- Association Internationale des Producteurs de l'Agriculture
- Central European Federal Youth Federation
- Centre International pour le Planage des Régions en vue de leur Développement
- Centro Studi e Scambi Internazionali "L. Da Vinci"
- Comité permanent International de Physiologie et Pathologie de la Reproduction animale
- Confédération Internationale du Lin et du Chanvre
- Congrès International des Laborantines des sexes
- Congrès International des Sciences Neurologiques
- Congrès pour la Liberté de la Culture
- Excerpta Medica Foundation
- Fédération Fontaine Internationale
- Fédération Européenne des Constructeurs d'Equipement Pétrolier
- Fédération Européenne de la Nutrition
- Fédération Européenne des hôtels
- Fédération Internationale des Assistants
- Fédération Internationale des Associations de Médecins Catholiques
- Fédération Internationale du Bâtiment et des Travaux Publics
- Fédération Internationale de Football Association
- Friends World Committee for Consultation
- XXI International Geological Congress
- International League of Antiquarian Booksellers
- International Union of Building Societies and Saving and Loan Associations
- Ligue Internationale des Sociétés de Surveillance
- Organisation Régionale Européenne de la C.I.S.L.
- European Federation of Purchasing Officers Associations
- Society for Biological Rhythm
- Soroptimist International Association
- Union Fédéraliste des Communautes Éthniques Européennes
- Union Internationale des .voc.ots
- Union Internationale de la Couverture, Plomberie, Installations sanitaires, gaz et Hydraulique Générale
- Union Internationale pour l'Étude Scientifique de la Population
- Union Mondiale U.M.
- World Federation of Occupational Therapists

Associate Members

During the same period four new applications to become associate member have been received:

- Dr Luise Lanz (Vienne)
- Prof Jean Herbert (Genève)
- Grand Habbin Levy (Elisabethville)
- Mr Kirtley F. Archer (U.S.)

Regional Secretariats

Dr Kaou Lenz, Geneva, has asked to be relieved of his functions as UIA Representative in Switzerland, on account of heavy commitments in other directions. The UIA is extremely grateful to him for his help during the past years.
In New York, in agreement with Mrs Julie d’Estourmelles, who had provisionally agreed in 1956 to act as UIA Liaison Officer, Mr Richard Winslow, Director of the World Affairs Center for the United States, has kindly agreed to be UIA Representative for the USA as from 1 January 1959.

The UIA continues to enjoy the benefit of valuable support from its representatives in Buenos Aires, Düsseldorf, The Hague, London, Paris and Rio de Janeiro.

Visits to the Secretariat-General

Since 1 January 1959 the following persons have visited UIA Headquarters:

Dr. Allard, Directeur du Service Médical Sabena
Dr. Robert, Médecin-Chef d’Air France
Mr Blumen, Purchasing Officers’ Association
Mr. Vrioni, Secrétaire Général de l’Association Internationale des Palais de Congrès
Mr. Lemaire, Secrétaire Général de la Fédération Internationale des agences de Voyages
Mr. Biss, Commissaire Polaire
General Medecin Vonckan, Secrétaire Général du Comité International de Médecine et de Pharmacie Militaire
Mr. Hadar, Directeur de l’Orientation à la Fonction Internationale
Mr. Monnet, Secrétaire de l’ambassade de Suisse à Bruxelles
Miss Dicy Dodds, as t International Director, Service Social International
Mr. Neuhauser, Figaro
Mr. Ronier, Société Internationale pour la Protection des Invalides Alio Bassères, relation avec les ONG, Communauté Économique Européenne
Dr. J.C. Remaker, Communauté Économique Européenne, Service Transports Alio de Maulemeester, Association Mondiale des Guides et des Eclaireuses
Mr. Kuyer, relations avec les ONG, UNICEF
Mr. de Sluts, Secrétaire Général, Union Internationale des Avocats
Enclosed is a draft programme drawn up by the Secretariat. Any suggestions and comments will be welcome.

Finance

The attached statement of income and expenses for the year 1958 reveals that the financial situation remains difficult.

Printing costs were high. Salaries for nine persons (the staff is now eight) with the concomitant insurance charges constitute heavy regular outgoings, but the excessive amount of work to be done does not permit a reduction in personnel; members of the staff operate with a competence that is matched by their devotion. General expenses have been reduced to a minimum, bearing in mind that postage stamps alone represented an expense of Fr 126,890 in 1958.

The income derived from sales of publications is noteworthy, and in fact exceptional for an international organization, but grants received are certainly much too low. On the one hand they include regular support from the ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, France, German Federal Republic, Luxembourg and Netherlands, to which is to be added the Political Federal Department of Switzerland as from 1959; on the other hand there are grants and supporting subscriptions from international NGOs and national financial and industrial concerns.

As one of our auditors has put it, the UIA cannot go on resembling a pyramid balanced on its point.

We urgently appeal to all members, Corresponding Organizations and associate members to help us to expand the UIA income. If each were to obtain one supporting subscription of 50 Fr to the magazine, the budget would be balanced.

Doubtless we should consider ourselves guilty for having neglected this disagreeable task of begging help from our members, for an organization is really healthy only to the extent that its members give it concrete support.

At present, with a deficit of Belg Fr 287,000 in 1958 we must call for a minimum of help from our members.

Headquarters

The adequate and pleasant premises which the UIA has in the Palais d'Égmont, at a modest rent from the Brussels Municipal authorities, are possibly going to be lost to us, the municipality being on the point of selling the Palais d'Égmont to the Belgian Government to serve as offices for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Commerce.
The staff at headquarters is now as follows:

Mr Georges Patrick Speeckaert (started work in the UIA in October 1948)
Secretary-General, full-time since 1 December 1958.

Mlle Geneviève Devill. (started February 1950)
Assistant Secretary-General, responsible for editing and producing the magazine, supervision of publications, preparation of surveys, administrative and financial matters.

Mr Zyvind S. Tew (started at Headquarters October 1956, having acted as UK Representative since 1951), Administrative Secretary, responsible for documentation, preparation of Yearbook and Calendars of forthcoming meetings, abstracting of periodicals, statistical work, liaison with English-language countries.

Mme Eliane Dulo (started January 1956) qualified Librarian, responsible for classification of books and periodicals, preparation of Directory of Periodicals published by International Organizations, assistance with documentation, work, book reviews.

Mlle Denise Salteur (started January 1958), assists M. Speeckaert in matters of external relations.

Mr Jacques Wittmann (started October 1955), responsible for sales and distribution of UIA publications.

Mlle Mona Regout (started October 1956), responsible for receiving visitors, follow-up work on each issue of the magazine (advertisement invoices, despatch of voucher copies), correspondence.

Mr Jean Diederickx (started September 1956), responsible for duplication of documents, despatches, filing.

Except for the last-named, all work full-time in the UIA.

The UIA also has the services of a professional accountant who keeps the books and prepares monthly and annual accounts.

31 March 1959