

sont des indications allant dans ce sens qu'on attend du débat. Un débat qui s'avèrera utile s'il fournit des idées nouvelles et des propositions pour l'avenir. LICOMOS doit prendre conscience des difficultés nouvelles et diverses qui subsistent — bien qu'avec des caractéristiques et intensités variables selon les différentes parties du monde moderne — pour atteindre les objectifs de la Conservation; mais à tout problème sa solution. Il s'agit de savoir renouveler son propre bagage culturel, de savoir se réorganiser en permanence, de savoir maintenir compactes et unies toutes les forces qui ont confiance dans le rôle de la culture au profit de l'homme.

L'Assemblée générale de Lausanne qui recueillera les résultats des travaux du Colloque saura donner à l'ICOMOS une vie nouvelle dans la société nouvelle de demain, en favorisant la régénération biologique de ses cellules (en combattant donc sa sclérose et sa fragmentation) suivant un dessein précis de réforme et de modernisation qui ne peut être renvoyé à plus tard.

Roberto Di Stefano, président

INTRODUCTION

As is traditional, an International Symposium was organised in conjunction with the 9th ICOMOS Assembly. The Swiss National Committee of ICOMOS is honored to be host to this gathering. In agreement with the Bureau and the Executive Committee, the Swiss National Committee chose the Symposium theme, «ICOMOS, a Quarter of a Century, Achievements and Future Prospects» to cover three crucial topics for the future of ICOMOS and to coincide with our organisation's 25th anniversary.

Thus the following sub-themes are proposed for discussion:

1. Achievements and future prospects
2. The Venice Charter
3. Experience and education

1. Achievements and future prospects: this sub-theme ought to allow an objective in-depth reflexion upon the activities of ICOMOS over the past quarter of a century. What has been realized or what hasn't been achieved or what could or should have been done will be evaluated. On the basis of the analysis of achieved missions it will be necessary to define future tasks, to measure their importance and urgency, and to plan (or at least to sketch) a programme of desirable future activities for ICOMOS.

2. The Venice Charter: this sub-theme wishes to examine the way in which the principles of the Venice Charter are understood, interpreted and implemented in the various parts of the world. The aim is not to challenge the principles themselves but to answer methodological questions arising from their application, such as, e.g. *Restoration = conservation or renewal?* Similarly, one would discuss articles of the Charter which might prove impossible to implement in particular countries and examine the reasons for this, taking into account the 2nd paragraph of the Charter, viz.: «...with each country being responsible for applying the plan within the framework of its own culture and traditions». In the reflexion upon this sub-theme it will be important to integrate all the other fundamental ICOMOS documents which have evolved from the Charter, such as the Historic Towns Charter, the Historic Gardens Charter and all other recommendations. It is indeed essential for ICOMOS to ensure the abiding by the fundamental texts fostered during this first quarter of a century in order for their message not to remain a dead letter but to become a lively reality.

3. Experience and education: the question here is how to extend experience in the field of restoration in order to ensure the proper education and further education of those responsible for the preservation of the architectural heritage (curators, architects, restorers, archaeologists, etc.). This is a crucial problem because experience in the field of architectural preservation is as difficult to acquire as it is to transmit. It is therefore imperative to elaborate a method both valid and efficient.

Organization

In order to ensure as thorough exchanges as possible, a symposium format different from the traditional ones has been introduced. Each National Committee or International Specialized Committee has been asked to report collectively on all three sub-themes, giving thus a «national» or a «specialized» opinion on the major theme.

Individual contributions have been received to complement the national and international ones but there will not be, during the Symposium, any lengthy detailed presentation of papers. This, in order to avoid «monologues» absorbing all the time available for debating. Instead, all papers will be distributed beforehand. A General rapporteur and one President and Rapporteur per sub-theme will present general thematic summaries and lead a *discussion* based upon the documents received by all participants.

In this way the Swiss National Committee hopes it will be possible to hold a real colloquium dealing without restriction nor constraint with all the crucial problems of ICOMOS today.

The discussions, as lively and serious as possible, should lead to conclusions or recommendations to be approved by the General Assembly and which ought to prove decisive for our organization's future.

As certain committees have chosen to report on all three sub-themes in one text it has not been possible to regroup the papers according to each sub-themes. On the other hand as they represent for the most part a collective philosophy on the topics, it would have been a mistake to divide the papers up. They appear therefore in the alphabetical order of countries. A second section contains the International Committees' reports in alphabetical order of discipline. The last section is devoted to the individual contributions in alphabetical order of authors' names.

We hope this formula will suit everybody. If every participant leaves Lausanne at the end of the symposium with the satisfaction of having contributed constructively to the development, enhancement and reinforcement of ICOMOS and of the ideals it stands for, we will have accomplished the best of our task.

Claude Jaccottet
President of the Swiss National Committee
President of the 1990 ICOMOS International Symposium