

SUMMARY

Further communications

Mr. Prof.V. DRAGUT (Rumania) dealt with the structure and working methods of the Rumanian Institute for Conservation, illustrated by slides showing the towns of Sigişoara, Medias, Sibiu, Braşov, Tirgu Mureş and Tirgovişte. He stressed that, with the agreement of the local authorities, all new developments were to be sited outside the old areas of these towns.

Mr. Dobroslav PAVLOVIĆ (Yugoslavia) traced the evolution of such Balkan towns as Ohrid, Prizren or Plovdiv from their reconstruction in wood or in pisé on an oriental pattern, in the 18th century. The loss of the authentic character of the Balkan town since the 19th century makes it essential to preserve such historic centers for the benefit of posterity.

The second part of the afternoon session of 30th May 1975 was devoted to the discussion of the draft Resolutions prepared by the Drafting Committee (members: Mr. Prof.Dr.G. ALBERS (Federal Republic of Germany), Rapporteur Général, Mr. J. BARTHELEMY (Belgium), Mr. J. DALIBARD (Canada), Mr. J.O. GAZANEO (Argentina), Mr.Dr.E.HRUSKA (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Dr. A. PAPAGEORGHIOU-VENETAS (Greece), Mr. A.VAN DEN ABEELE (Belgium) and Mr. Prof.Dr. J. ZACHWATOWICZ (Poland), ICOMOS International Committee on Historic Towns).

The Rapporteur Général introduced the draft Resolutions. On the basis of the papers read to the Symposium and the valuable examples provided by ICOMOS National Committees, the Drafting Committee had attempted to express ICOMOS's fundamental philosophy as found in the Bruges Resolutions (1975) and to apply it to the specific problems faced by smaller towns. The socio-economic and technical aspects were stressed, while it was recognized that conditions vary enormously from one part of the world to another.

The discussion was opened by Mr. Michel PARENT (France) who drew attention to an inherent contradiction between the scale of the small town ideally suited to housing, and the ever-increasing unit size of public services (schools and hospitals, for instance). He felt that we should look to planners of modern society for a fresh assessment of educational and health needs to enable their solutions to be compatible with the scale of the small town.

Mr. Prof.Dr.ALBERS commented that the educational field had all too often set the example of a sector planned without regard for its implications for other sectors.

Mr. Marcel JUNIUS (Canada) said that he thought the Resolutions would come closer to political realities if the importance of the will to conserve, on the part of elected politicians, was brought out with more force.

Mr. Dr. BOCQUET (France) speaking as a doctor and a local councillor, pointed out that the town must allow the harmonious development of man's physical and intellectual activity. The natural rhythm of human activity could be upset by long commuter journeys which should be avoided.

Other speakers underlined the importance of public participation in the conservation of smaller, as of larger towns.

A representative of the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen (Federal Republic of Germany) raised the question of finding new uses for old buildings. Mr. Dr. PAPAGEORGHIOU-VENETAS (Greece) mentioned that in the Mediterranean area many whole villages and towns were suffering from depopulation. It was necessary to think in terms of finding for them a new function in their entirety.

Mr. Dr. HAFNER (Austria) referred to traffic problems as contributing to the depopulation of historic towns.

Mr. Dr. FORAMITTI (Austria) hoped that existing international instruments such as the Hague Convention and the Convention for the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage would be borne in mind.

Mr. Dr. WILDEMAN (Federal Republic of Germany) spoke of the need for national or regional facilities for gathering and exchanging information about the conservation of smaller historic towns.

Mr. Prof.Dr.LEMAIRE (President of ICOMOS) remarked that the UNESCO/ICOMOS Documentation Centre in Paris was designed to fill the demand for systematic international documentation in the field.

A debate followed on the applicability of the stated general principles to the different regions of the world. Mr. A.D.C.HYLAND (Ghana) argued that more account should be taken of the difficulties of developing countries, where it was essential in the face of the population explosion and massive migration towards the cities, to maintain the remaining links with the past in the indigenous urban and rural environment.

Mr. Dr. DIAZ BERRIO (Mexico) and Mr. Jorge LUJAN MUNOZ (Guatemala) held, by way of example, that the distinction between Old and New Worlds did little to assist in understanding the situation in Latin-America. Mrs. Mabel SCARONE (Argentina), supporting their point of view, suggested that it would be more appropriate for a relatively brief document to be expressed in general terms, with a simple distinction to be made between industrialised and developing countries; the need to treat each set of circumstances on its own merits should, however, be stressed. This suggestion was seconded by Mr. Prof.Dr.LEMAIRE who insisted however that the general principles to be applied in different circumstances should be as precisely defined as possible.

In conclusion, it was decided to entrust the Rapporteur Général and the President with the task of modifying the draft Resolutions to take account of the opinions expressed above.

The session was brought to a close by Mr. Prof.Dr.LEMAIRE, who expressed once more ICOMOS's gratitude towards its German hosts and towards the Rapporteur Général, Mr. Prof.Dr.ALBERS.