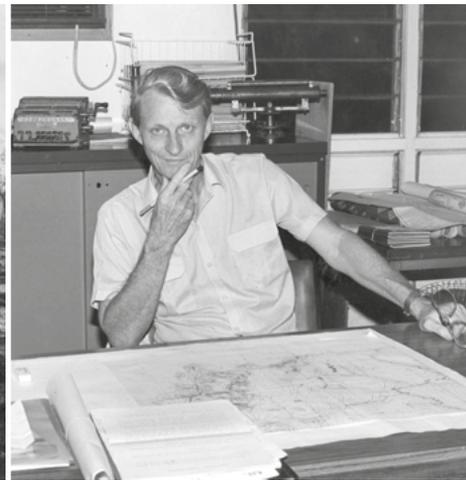
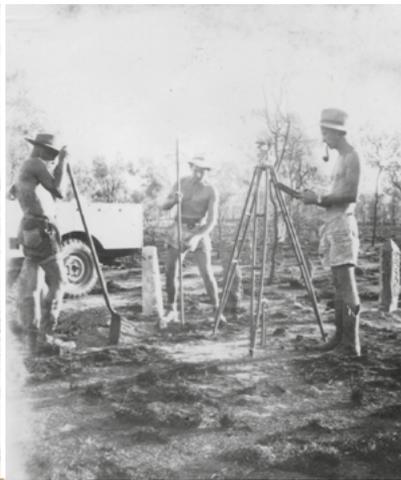


“FIG and Me”



Earl James AM
Honorary President

“FIG and Me”

My Twenty Five Years in the International Surveying Arena

Earl James AM
Honorary President

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS (FIG)

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The three front cover photos are provided by Earl James and show him in various work situations.

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FOREWORD

As the President of FIG, I am privileged to announce the release of the publication “FIG and Me – My Twenty Five Years in the International Surveying Arena” written by Earl James, FIG Honorary President. This book provides an insight into Earl’s international surveying accomplishments, and a unique perspective of the FIG workings, achievements, and challenges experienced by our establishment, during the period 1988 – 1996. Back then FIG Council and Office was known as the “Bureau”, and from 1988 Earl served as a Vice President with the Finnish Bureau for four years, and then as FIG President of the Australian Bureau, who hosted the XX International Survey Congress held in Melbourne in 1994.

For those who do not know, Earl is an Australian icon of surveying, and is recognised and respected as a survey pioneer of the Northern Territory of Australia. For 44 years Earl worked as a professional surveyor, starting as an “outback” cadet surveyor with the Lands and Survey Department, progressing to a Senior Licensed Surveyor in government, and then establishing a reputable and successful private business in the Northern Territory. Earl in the course of his professional career surveyed numerous property land boundaries in pastoral, rural, and urban environs, he mentored many surveyors or land related professionals, and contributed to the growth of the Northern Territory through his expertise as a Planner and the Chairing of numerous land development Boards. Both the surveying and planning profession have honoured Earl with the accolade of “Honorary Fellowship”, and the Australian Government have recognised his service to industry by appointing Earl as a Member of the Order of Australia.

Many of those who know Earl, always recount his eloquent speeches, his strategic thinking, and plans for FIG, which when combined help shape the foundations of the organisation that we know today. It is therefore a great pleasure and honour for me to write this foreword and for FIG to be part of this publication. I sincerely hope that FIG members enjoy reading this personal record from a Northern Territory of Australia outback surveyor who visited over 50 countries whilst leading the way.

In the name of the International Federation of Surveyors I thank Earl for his outstanding engagement for our profession, for his activities in the name of FIG, and also for his wonderful memories.



Rudolf Staiger

President (2019–2022)

PREFACE

Surveying is a pastime enjoyed (or endured) by many, many people who carry out a host of different occupations; occupations that could range from the simple task of polling people with a question of political significance to the complicated and highly skilled task of measuring the shape and size of the earth.

In some countries the term 'surveyor' is used to refer to those who carry out surveys such as those required to define property boundaries or the surveys needed to control the construction of bridges, roads, multi-storied buildings and other structures but in other countries the term is also used to cover those who simply collect information and use it to come to a specific conclusion such as the determination of the value of a property, or how best to design a new suburb, or the production of a particular map.

Surveyors have been around for a long time. Evidence of this can be seen in such ancient works as the three thousand year old map recently found stencilled into the rocks of Italy's mountains. Ancient art depicts surveyors using crude tapes and other measuring implements while the rectilinear layout of most excavated lost cities is enough to convince even the casual observer that surveying is a very ancient art. Indeed, surveying is often referred to as the world's first, or oldest profession though this is hotly contested by the military. Even so, military ranks always have contained surveyors though they were referred to as engineers. Roman military surveyors two thousand years ago were famous for their long straight roads and the symmetry of their military encampments.

The International Federation of Surveyors defines a surveyor as, among other things, 'a professional person with the academic qualifications and technical expertise to practise the science of measurement'. I am a surveyor. I have worked both as a government employed surveyor and as a private practicing surveyor for the best part of forty six years in the Northern Territory of Australia. During that time I took a great interest in the politics of the profession to the extent that over the years I progressed from being an associate member of the Institution of Surveyors Australia (ISA), to national President of that Institution thence to Vice President of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), then to President of that federation and finally to President of the International Union for Surveys and Mapping (IUSM). This is the story of my involvement with the Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG).

NOTE: For list of acronyms see Glossary.

INTRODUCTION

18 July 1878 – 1st Congress and Founding of Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG) in Paris (France)¹

On 18 July 1878 a select band of representatives from the professional surveying associations of seven European countries met in Paris, France at the instigation of the associations from France and Belgium. The objective of the meeting was to find a mechanism by which those associations could exchange information about the profession and changes in work practice as well as news about developments in research and exploits of individual surveyors. The end result of the meeting was the formation of the Fédération Internationale des Géomètres otherwise known as Internationale Vereinigung Der Vermessungsingenieure or the International Federation of Surveyors. The Federation was founded as a non-governmental organisation and its purpose was described as being 'to support international collaboration for the purpose of surveying in all fields and applications'.

The member countries of this fledgling organisation were France, Germany, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. As the people in the majority of those countries spoke either French, German or English the meeting agreed that all three of those languages should be official languages of the Federation and that the shortened version of the name should be FIG, the initials of the French version of the name. The organisation has been known by all and sundry as FIG until the present day and no doubt will continue to be so known. The decision to have three official languages required all documents to be recorded in three versions and for conferences to have simultaneous translation facilities. This was not overturned until 1995.

The newly created federation was formed with four principal units: a General Assembly of member associations; a Permanent Committee; a number of Technical & Scientific Commissions and an executive committee known as the Bureau. This structure remained in place until 1998. The definition of a surveyor was fairly simple but was stated to include appraisers and valuers. This definition was too simple for most people and was to remain a bone of contention until a new all-inclusive definition was agreed to in 1991.

This meeting in 1878 was taken to be the 1st Congress of FIG. The next congress was held in Brussels in 1910 and the 3rd Congress was held once again in Paris in 1926 having been disrupted by World War One and the tumultuous events in Europe after that event. Thereafter some regularity appeared with congresses taking place every three or four years except during the years of World War II. Membership grew apace but all member associations came from European countries until the United States became a member country in 1935. The first congress to be held outside Europe was held in Washington, USA in 1974 and the first to be held in any country other than one in Europe or the USA was held in 1994 in Melbourne, Australia.

The Institution of Surveyors, Australia (ISA) first sent a delegation of observers to an FIG Congress in 1962 when the 10th Congress was being held in Vienna, Austria after which the Council of the Institution considered the possibility of becoming a member of the Federation. The matter was put to the general membership who agreed to the idea

¹ See International Federation of Surveyors – History 1878–1987, H. H. Ahrens, Canadian Institute of Surveying and Mapping.

and in 1965 the Council of ISA lodged a formal application for membership which was considered by the General Assembly of FIG at the 11th Congress held in Rome that year. The application was successful. The Institution of Surveyors, Australia thus became the first Australian association to become a member of FIG. The Australian Institute of Valuers became a member in 1970 but resigned from the Federation in 1983.

ISA continued to be a member of FIG and had a significant impact on that organisation. Administration of the Federation was in the hands of the Australian Institution during the four year period 1992 to 1995 during which time Bureau members were successful in achieving great changes to the structure of the organisation and to policy matters. I became involved in 1971 and went on to become the President of the Federation for the period of the Australian administration.

BOOK 1
1972 TO 1992

CHAPTER 1: 1972 TO 1985 – LATENT INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

In 1971, I was a member of the Council of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia (ISA). I was a representative of the fledgling Northern Territory Division of that organisation. That year I became aware that FIG was holding a Permanent Committee (PC) meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel in May of the following year. 1972 was the year my wife Wendy and I were contemplating a European holiday with friends so we thought we might combine the holiday with attendance at the PC Meeting. As ISA was entitled to send a small delegation I applied for inclusion in the team which was led by the CEO of the Institution, Bob Alderton. The timing was quite fortunate because it coincided with our pre-planned holiday, so the cost of travel was not an impost on the Institution.

29 May- 2 June 1972 – 39th Permanent Committee Meeting in Tel AVIV (Israel)

I don't recall what decisions were made at this PC Meeting but I do remember my amazement on finding every paper given to me was written in three languages, and everyone who addressed the meeting seemed to speak in a different language. Had it not been for the simultaneous translation services provided, I would have had no idea what was going on.

I was pleased to see that the meeting was held in conjunction with a two day educational workshop that focused on surveying topics for local surveyors and students. This was organised by one of the FIG Technical Commissions. Speakers at the workshop came from the various countries represented at the PC Meeting and they presented the local delegates with different views on various surveying problems. I was reminded that not too many years earlier I had, for the first time in my life, attended a similar event in Melbourne, Australia in 1960 and it had changed my life. It was during this conference that I came to realise the benefits inherent in the exchange of technical information and in the social interaction of like-minded people. As a consequence I became a congress 'junkie', and for years my annual holidays revolved around attendance at one conference or another.

Following the PC Meeting, my wife and I then enjoyed a tour of Israel including a visit to the holy city of Jerusalem where we were introduced to examples of all three monotheistic religions: the burial sepulchre of Jesus, the Wailing Wall of the Jews and the Dome of the Rock, holy place for Muslims. Each was open to all. The most impressive sight I had was the lack of visible weapons. There was next to no evidence of Israeli militarism or Arabic militarism for that matter. The only weapon seen was a rifle held by the decorative guard at the gate of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. How things have changed. However that did not prevent us seeing the result of militarism by other parties. The day before we were due to leave for Germany half a dozen Japanese members of the so-called Red Guard arrived by air at Lod airport where they proceeded to calmly open their suitcases, extract automatic weapons and assassinate anybody and everybody they could see in the building. When we arrived at the airport the next day to fly to Germany there were weapons everywhere and when we landed in Frankfurt we faced a similar sight, one that in the following years was to become as common as the poverty I was to see in third world countries that I visited.

In 1973, ISA hosted a PC Meeting in Canberra. I was not in attendance at that meeting but the Australian delegates were successful in convincing the meeting that Australia should repeat the exercise in 1988. This was quite an achievement for such a young member nation. The politics of the international organisation were such that under normal circumstances, the hosting of these events had been granted only to the powerful European countries and to the USA. This decision was one that had repercussions in later years when the 1988 PC Meeting had to be re-allocated to New Zealand. During the ensuing years ISA was moderately active within the technical commissions. For example, B.D.Mickle from the Australian Institute of Valuers (AIV) served as Chair of Commission 9 (Valuation) during the period 1976–1978.

9–18 August 1981 – XVI FIG Congress in Montreux (Switzerland)

It was not until 1981 that I attended another FIG function. In August of that year I was one of the Australian delegates to the XVI FIG Congress which was held in Montreux, Switzerland. At this congress it was decided that FIG should adopt a professional code of ethics and change the congress cycle from three years to four though this change was not implemented until 1986. Such decisions had little effect on me at the time. I was there to learn about changes in technology, changes that might be useful in my private surveying practice. One fact that I learned which was to have a significant effect on my later life was that a form of loose cooperation existed between a number of international organisations representing the various forms of surveying. That cooperation took the form of a meeting of what was known as 'The Joint Board'.

This Board consisted of the Presidents and Secretaries-General of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA). I later found that the full name of the Board was The Joint Board of Sister Organisations (JBSO or JB). Meetings of the Board were held at significant events held by one or other of the member organisations and were designed to make decisions on guidelines for international cooperation between the organisations. Examples included: the creation of a Multilingual Dictionary of surveying terms; contacts with the various relevant United Nations organisations; and joint seminars in third world countries. Another more obvious reason was the need to achieve coordination on the timing of sister society congresses to avoid overlap. One benefit of that was pacification of instrument makers who complained when they had to set up exhibitions in two different countries in any one year. I later discovered that it was through JB discussions that FIG made the decision to change its congress cycle from three years to four years. The Federation would then conform to the programs of the other organisations.

This was the third meeting of the Board which continued to meet over the next two decades until it was transformed into a more formal attempt to unite the participating organisations. By then the Board had expanded to include the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the International Society for Mine Surveying (ISM). The title of this more formal organisation was to be the International Union of Surveys and Mapping (IUSM). A decade later I became involved in that organisation.

The Montreux Congress was presided over by FIG President, Prof. Herbert Matthias whom I met briefly. He was later elected to be an Honorary President of FIG for the excellence of his work during his presidency. Unknown to me at the time, he would

be a great help to me ten years later with the task of defining a surveyor, a task that was given to me by the then president, Juha Talvitie of Finland. I first met Talvitie, a tall confident Finn, at this congress in Montreaux. He was the chair of Commission 8 (Planning) and right from the start he made quite an impression on me. In presenting a technical paper he was accused of being a racist by a young man in the audience, a charge which he refuted with great dignity to the delight of the onlookers. The incident no doubt helped in the choice of the man to be president of the Federation some years later. I was privileged to serve under him and the friendship that developed has lasted to this day.

This was not my first visit to Switzerland. My wife and I had spent two days there in 1972 during a seventeen day coach tour through Europe after attending the PC Meeting in Tel Aviv. The country at that time had given us the impression that it was the cleanest place on earth and the rural countryside had a chocolate box beauty to it. While we saw a little more of it this time we saw little to change our opinion.

15–16 November 1985 – 2nd Australian Surveying & Mapping Conference, Sydney (Australia)

During the three year period 1985 to 1987 FIG was being administered by a Canadian Bureau. A congress was planned for Toronto, Canada in 1986. At that congress a decision was to be made regarding which nation would host the FIG Congress in 1994. At the time ISA Councillors were considering making application for that privilege but none were sure of the responsibilities inherent in a winning bid. To assist in their deliberations on the subject ISA sought advice from the President of FIG, Charlie Weir, who was a private practicing surveyor in Edmonton, Canada. Charlie attended the 2nd Australian Surveying and Mapping Conference in Sydney in November 1985 and presented a paper outlining the general administration of FIG and its activities. From this ISA learned the following facts about the organisation as it existed at that time:

- The administrative structure of the Federation was comprised of a General Assembly (GA), a Permanent Committee (PC) and a Bureau;
- The General Assembly of member organisations met every four years during the FIG Congress;
- The Permanent Committee was the administrative Council and was made up of the Bureau, five delegates from each Member Association, the Chairmen of the nine Technical Commissions and Permanent Institutions, the two Auditors, Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members. The PC met annually but Member Associations were entitled to only one vote on any subject irrespective of the number of delegates present.
- The Bureau was the executive arm of the Federation. It served for the four year period surrounding the year of the congress and consisted of:
 - The President, a Vice President, the Secretary General, Treasurer and Congress Director, all from the country hosting the congress during their term, and
 - One Vice President from the previous Bureau (the former Secretary General) and one from the country hosting the following congress (the President nominee).

- There were nine Technical & Scientific Commissions and three Permanent Institutions created and maintained by FIG.

Weir also advised that FIG had consultative status as a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) with the United Nations Social & Economic Council (ECOSOC).

Further research by the Council of ISA revealed that the total dollar amount of subscriptions paid by member organisations of FIG was far less than that required to administer the Federation and the financing of a congress was entirely the responsibility of the host association. Based on the figures supplied by Weir it was estimated that costs associated with the FIG Bureau during its four year term would be about \$200,000 per year, while member subscriptions amounted to only \$50,000. To cover the difference the Canadians received support from two airlines, the Canadian government and other sponsors such as Weir's own company.²

He advised that the President was required to devote a considerable amount of time to traveling and that he (Weir) personally contributed about \$20,000 towards the cost of this. None the less the executive officer of ISA and the other members of the executive felt confident that the Institution was capable of overcoming these financial hurdles and were anxious to put a proposal to the Institution's Council that a bid be made to host the congress scheduled for 1994.

Finances were not the only obstacle. If ISA were to bid for the 1994 Congress and so accept responsibility for the administration of FIG for the period 1992 to 1995, it had to do so during the meeting of the General Assembly held during the forthcoming Congress in Toronto, Canada in June, 1986. If the bid were successful then ISA had to be in a position to name the city in which the congress would be held *and also* to name one of its members as the nominee for the position of Vice President during the period 1988 to 1991. Such nominee would subsequently take over as President during the Australian administration period 1992 to 1995 should Australia win the bid.

The members of the executive committee of ISA were well aware of the financial obligations that would arise should the Institution win such a bid. They wrote to the Honorable Tom Uren MP, the then Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services seeking his help in securing Federal Government support in the form of manpower to run the necessary secretariat. Uren was the minister responsible for the Australian Survey Office and as such was easily convinced that the Commonwealth should consider the request.

In anticipation of a favourable reply from the Minister, the Executive Officer of ISA advised Councillors and members in general, on 10 December 1985, that the Institution was considering making a bid for the 1994 Congress and advised how the position of FIG President would be filled:

'In anticipation of deciding to proceed with a bid for the congress, nominations are now sought for a suitable person to be nominated as the future FIG President.'

Councillors were advised that they would be expected to deal with the matter at the Council meeting in April 1986. At this stage my interest was still only academic.

² All dollar amounts shown are expressed in Australian dollars (AUD).

CHAPTER 2: 1986 TO 1987 – THE INTEREST BLOSSOMS

There followed a period during which the members of ISA waited with bated breath for news as to whether or not Australia would win its bid to host the 1994 congress and who would be the president if we did win. The Councillors of ISA were confident but were worried about finances. In the event the Councillors' confidence proved to be prophetic.

The positive regard in which Tom Uren held ISA's proposal resulted in him successfully lobbying the Prime Minister and various other Ministers for their support. In a letter to the Prime Minister he said:

*'should the bid [for the 1994 congress] be successful I suggest that the Government, through the Australian Survey Office, could provide some manpower support to run the [FIG] secretariat on the understanding that the industry, through the Institution of Surveyors, Australia provides the required operating costs.'*³

As a result ISA felt confident in proceeding with the bid in the firm conviction that irrespective of the costs involved in administering the Federation the conference itself should be self-supporting. But the site of the congress and the identity of the presidential nominee had yet to be determined.

During the last ISA Council Meeting of 1985 I had suggested to the then President, Ray Holmes, that I might be interested in nominating for the FIG presidency. It was a nebulous suggestion that required a great deal of thought before it became a formal nomination. I returned to my home in Darwin and discussed the matter with my wife and also with my business partner Gary Nairn. There was much to consider.

I was an ISA Councillor representing the Northern Territory. I was also a director of Earl James and Associates (EJA), a successful and growing private surveying company. I intended to retire from business at age sixty in 1991. My second term as an Alderman in the Darwin City Council was due to expire in 1988. I did not expect the duties of Vice President of FIG to be too onerous although I knew the work of the president would be next to full-time. All things considered, both my wife and my business partner were supportive of my proposal to nominate. Little did we know that I would not retire until 1996 and that the work of the Vice President of FIG was far more onerous than anyone had anticipated. In any event I made a formal nomination for the job on 31 January 1986.

A second nomination came from Peter Byrne, a director of Australian Aerial Mapping Pty Ltd (AAM). Peter was an ISA Councillor from Western Australia. As a private practicing surveyor he had similar issues to consider before making a final decision. Indeed on the evening prior to the Council Meeting at which the matter was to be decided, he and one of his co-directors met with me to discuss the implications of a successful nomination. Peter and his co-director both thought the combined workload of AAM and FIG probably would be too much so Peter decided to withdraw from the race.

A third and last nomination came from the Surveyor General of Queensland, Kevin Davies. Kevin was a former ISA Councillor who had recently been seconded from the commercial world to be Surveyor General. His nomination included an offer from the

³ Letter, Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services to Prime Minister, 24 Jan 1986.

Queensland Division of ISA to host the FIG Congress in Brisbane. Kevin's nomination was unfortunately, conditional upon Brisbane being granted the congress. This condition was not viewed with enthusiasm by many of the Councillors. The Victorian division had offered to host the congress in Melbourne and advised that the Victorian government had offered financial support for that proposal.

Discussion on the matter at the Council Meeting in April 1986 was heated and volatile. Kevin Davies was not in attendance. The first matter considered was the offer by two cities to host the congress. Only the Councillors from Queensland were in favour of Brisbane being the host city. Other Councillors were less than enthusiastic. While they agreed that Brisbane was just as capable of hosting the congress as was Melbourne, the conditional nature of the Brisbane offer was not to their liking. In the end it was Victoria that won the day and it was agreed that the congress would be held in Melbourne. This decision virtually eliminated Kevin Davies from the contest for president.

When it came time to consider the matter of the presidency Peter Byrne offered to withdraw from the contest. Amid expressions of surprise from Councillors one of their number demanded that the offer be refused. This was John McNaughton from New South Wales, who later became Lord Mayor of Newcastle. John was adamant that both candidates were of the right calibre and given that both had freely nominated, Councillors should be given the opportunity to choose between the two. Peter withdrew his offer to withdraw his nomination and we were each given the opportunity to convince Councillors who was the best man for the job. Following a secret ballot, Councillors decided that I was that man. I had just on a month to prepare to put the case for a congress in Melbourne in 1994 to the General Assembly of FIG in June.

1–11 June 1986 – XVIII FIG Congress in Toronto (Canada)

In late May my wife and I flew to Toronto, Canada as did numerous other Australian surveyors, to attend the XVIII FIG Congress. Many were there simply to attend the technical sessions and to improve their knowledge of the profession. The official Australian delegation had only one purpose in mind: to convince the member associations of the Federation that Australia should host the 1994 Congress in Melbourne. My wife, and the wives of many of the other Australian delegates, was there for moral support and to man a booth extolling the virtues of Melbourne. Led by ISA President Ray Holmes we all went about the task with a vengeance. This was the first of countless long journeys I undertook over the next ten years.

In Toronto I met Charlie Weir for the first time and there I began to learn what was involved in leading an international Federation. Charlie was a big man in both height and width though I suspect the width was due more to good food and good drink than to any particular genetic factor. He had a forceful personality and when he said black was white you had to believe him. During the first few days I kept calling the Federation 'Fig' (as in fruit) and I wondered why some in the audience sniggered when they heard it until Charlie warned me confidentially that in the German language 'Fig' was a rude word. Ever since then I have used the appropriate acronym, FIG whenever speaking about the Federation though I noticed that the Germans always pronounced it FEG. When Charlie heard that Wendy and I would be landing in Edmonton on our way westwards after the congress he insisted on hosting us for the day we would be there. It was the start of a friendship that lasted until his death in 2012.

The congress itself was a conflicting source of amazement to me. This was the first time I had taken any real interest in the formalities of a congress. I learned about the Statutes and Internal Rules governing the Federation. Both of these were under review during the Canadian administration and I determined to get a copy of both as soon as I could. I met Professor Dr. Vassil Peevsky from Bulgaria who had been president of the Federation prior to Charlie Weir and who was appointed an Honorary President of FIG during the General Assembly Meeting. I took little interest in the technical sessions of the congress. I had more important things to worry about. Prior to this congress I had considered the speeches presented by invited speakers to be boring but unavoidable. In Toronto I started to take an interest in them. One in particular stands out in my memory. The greetings presented by the then Governor General of Canada, Madame Jeanne Sauvé were memorable because of her formidable knowledge of the work of surveyors. Among other things, she said:

*I need hardly stress the importance of the Federation, the distinction of its members and the significance of its activities. With its impressive number of researchers, specialists and professionals, it makes an invaluable scientific contribution. ... Because their function is the systematic charting of the known universe, surveyors are able to gain an understanding of the many problems relating to physical and human geography and to shed light on the resources on which our survival depends. ... Without them, we would not enjoy the same degree of health and security.*⁴

She was a beautiful lady with a beautiful message.

*

Meanwhile the Australian delegates were using all their spare time trying to convince delegates from other countries that 1994 should be the year for Melbourne. Unlike the never ending sessions given to member countries today to present their bids for a congress or a PC Meeting, we were given a five minute slot during the final session of the GA to put our case. It was therefore essential to spend as much time as possible lobbying delegates before the vote. In this we were helped no end by the Australian government in the form of a rip-roaring Australian Consular reception for invited heads of delegations. This event is well remembered for the fact that these European and American guests fell in love with the Australian beer being served. When the supply came to an end our delegates had great fun convincing them that the local beer surreptitiously served thereafter was just another great version of our Aussie fare.

There were of course times when delegates could relax and enjoy the social events organised by the congress committee. Wendy and I enjoyed a bus trip to the famous Niagara Falls where we experienced the perpetual mist beneath the falls. We had our first and only visit to a nuclear power station and we enjoyed a shopping tour of Toronto's underground maze of shops and restaurants. One evening we enjoyed what the congress committee called 'the Great Canadian Experience', a tribute to the ethnic mosaic of Canada with food from five different Regions. There I tried to eat the most oysters I have ever seen. At the time I thought they were the best in the world but I changed my mind a few years later when I tasted oysters from Coffin Bay in South Australia.

An evening at home with young surveyors was another experience. Our hosts were a young man and his wife who were paranoid about the possibility of war – with whom God alone knows! We were shown their nuclear shelter and their armoury of automatic

4 FIG Official Report of the International Congress of Surveyors, 1986, Toronto, Canada, Vol 0, p. 5.

weapons. These were young professionals who spent their spare time searching the beaches of the Great Lakes of Canada for souvenirs. These two had spent their honeymoon in, of all places, Kalgoorlie, Australia with a metal detector. They showed us trays of rings, brooches and coins found during their travels. Yet they were true believers in the Cold War possibilities and they had prepared for them.

During the final General Assembly I was introduced as the man who would be President of FIG should Australia win its bid to host the 1994 Congress and I presented Australia's and ISA's case. It so happened that the Australian bid was last on the agenda so I had the advantage of knowing the details of the other bids and knowing there were none to follow. I opened our bid with the following:

You have heard the impassioned pleas from the United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands. Please note that all of these countries are in the northern hemisphere and all have had the honour of hosting an FIG Congress in the past. I put it to you that it is time for change; time to look at new horizons; time to think about the southern hemisphere; time to give the newer members of the Federation the opportunity to prove their abilities.

There was one prior decision of the Federation that had the potential to impact negatively on the thinking of some of the delegates who had to make the decision. Australia was scheduled to hold a PC Meeting in 1998. In an effort to ease the minds of delegates on this matter I included the following at the end of my presentation:

Some of you will be asking 'why should Australia be given the 1994 Congress when they already have the 1988 PC Meeting? ... We have faced this subject and in the event that we should win our bid for the congress we are prepared to relinquish the 1988 PC Meeting in favour of another country. ... In this regard we have had discussions with the New Zealand delegation who have indicated a willingness to take over the responsibility of the 1988 PC Meeting as that year coincides with the one hundredth anniversary of the formation of the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors.

My speech and the pseudo Aussie beer won the day against strong cases put forward by the United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Italy. Australia won the bid for the congress by a massive majority and the PC Meeting scheduled for 1988 was reallocated to New Zealand. The net result was that ISA became responsible for the administration of FIG for the four year period 1992–1995 as well as hosting the XX FIG Congress in 1994. An offer by the UK member association (RICS) to provide assistance to their colonial brothers was politely and publicly rejected by me as unnecessary. Another responsibility for our Institution was to be the appointment of one of the two FIG auditors for the period of the incoming Finnish administration. Some years earlier Finland had won the right to host the XIX Congress in Helsinki in 1990 and thereby inherited the administration of FIG for the period 1998 to 1991. Sometime during the next year John Curdie of New South Wales was given that privilege and the CEO of ISA, Bob Alderman was appointed his deputy. I now had to prepare myself for the transition from company director and bush surveyor to that of Vice President of an international federation.

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By mid-June the Toronto congress was over. Wendy and I took a relaxing holiday travelling across America and Canada. Wendy was nearly as emotionally exhausted as I was. She and the wives of many other Australian delegates had done their fair share of lob-

bying during the social events at the congress and had contributed significantly to the success of our bid for the 1994 congress. Now it was time to relax before getting back to the hurley-burley of normal life. We took a train to Quebec where we were fascinated by the French atmosphere of the city. Among the most notable points of interest were the mighty St. Lawrence River that brought fame to Lieutenant James Cook for his abilities as a hydrographic surveyor in 1759; the Citadel on the cliffs overlooking the river where General James Wolfe was successful in capturing the town in the same year; and the beautiful St Anne De Beaupré cathedral with its hundreds of discarded crutches and other supports for the disabled that adorned the entrance way.

We then travelled to Halifax in Nova Scotia where we hired a car and spent a week or two touring that Province. Here we were challenged by an armed sentry guarding the entrance to the historic French fortress of Louisbourg which also was captured by Wolfe in 1758. We found Nova Scotia to be a land of Presbyterian churches and a rural community full of Scotsmen, or at least people with Scottish names, obviously decedents of émigrés resulting from the so-called Scottish 'highland clearances'.

Then we flew to Edmonton, Canada where we were met and hosted by Charlie Weir and his wife Kaye. In Edmonton our hosts took us to what was then reputed to be the world's largest enclosed above-ground shopping mall. We were fascinated by the size of this structure which was contained within a single roof and featured all kinds of entertainment facilities including a wave pool for surfers, a miniature version of the *Mayflower* and a mini submarine. Charlie had great delight in telling us about the difficulties encountered by surveyors involved in the construction of this vast facility.

From Edmonton we went to Vancouver via the Rocky Mountains and the Columbia Icefield to attend a day at the International EXPO. We then flew to Anchorage, Alaska. There we learned a little of the life of Alaskan surveyors. We stayed with surveyor Bud Hershbach and wife Dianne at their home on Big Lake. Hershbach's company was one of the first commercial survey companies in the world to make use of Global Positioning Systems. Bud flew to work each day in a light aircraft. During the summer months he used a small aerodrome a few miles from his home and during the winter he landed on the iced-over lake and taxied to his door. Here we experienced for the first time the near twenty-four hours of daylight peculiar to the Polar Regions in mid-summer. It was something that I would experience a number of times in future years.

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On the 7th July, long before I had returned to Australia, the Executive Officer of ISA, Bob Alderton had advised members of the Institution of the success of our campaign to gain the 1994 congress. His memo also gave members some idea of the absolute minimum travel that I would be involved in as Vice President of FIG in the near future. Meetings that I would have to attend included PC Meetings in: Norway in 1987; New Zealand 1988; Hungary 1989; China 1991; and a congress in Finland in 1990. No mention was made of the fact that I would need to make many other forays into the big wide world of professional politics during that time. At the same time he told them that the ISA Council had accepted the Victoria Division's offer to host the 1994 Congress in Melbourne.

In August I received an invitation from the then President of ISA, Ed McKinnon, to attend all Council Meetings of the Institution with all of the same privileges as Councilors, including reimbursement of costs. This was the start of a long period of reviews and negotiations to determine probable costs of the venture and from where the money was going to come.

21–27 June 1987 – 54th PC Meeting in Oslo (Norway)

In early 1987 I was appointed by the Council of ISA to be a delegate to the coming PC Meeting in Oslo, Norway. Councillors agreed that travel costs would be reimbursed from the Special Purpose Fund held by the Institution for emergency purposes. It was also resolved to seek funding for future travel from government. At the same time I wrote to Charlie Weir seeking his permission to sit in on the FIG Bureau Meetings that would take place in Oslo. I wanted to familiarize myself with the workings of that body before I was due to take up my role as Vice President in the following year. Charlie had no problem with this proposal.

I travelled to Oslo via Singapore and London with British Airways in mid-June. The meetings were held in the Inforama Conference Centre which is attached to the Sheraton Oslo Fiord Hotel in Sandvika, a suburb of Oslo. Because of its distance from the city centre the hotel was the only practical accommodation venue available. While this arrangement was convenient for participants it left no room for freedom of choice as there were no other hotels nearby, nor did it allow for those on a limited budget. The cost of living in Europe was exorbitant at that time. The cost of a cup of coffee was about the equivalent of AUD\$10 while that of a reasonable dinner was about in the order of \$50. Fortunately there were sufficient receptions and other evening functions to prevent starvation. One such reception that I enjoyed was on board the Norwegian Navy's survey vessel. I was introduced to a number of remarkable arctic souvenirs including a long piece of what appeared to be dried up muscle or bone. I was told it was a pizzle from a Narwhal but I think it more likely it was the animal's horn.

I attended the Canadian Bureau Meetings held prior to the PC Meeting, the last in the Canadians' term of office. The prime purpose of the Bureau meeting was to finalise recommendations to the Permanent Committee on subjects they had been discussing for three years such as the proposed changes to the Constitution and the introduction of the proposed Internal Rules. Reports were received from various task forces. One chaired by Vice President (VP) Juha Talvitie reviewed the length of future congresses. Another was the so-called IAESTE (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) Task Force chaired by Secretary General Wally Youngs of Canada. He was looking into the exchange of surveying students between member countries. Talvitie was also trying to define the term 'surveyor' and Charlie Weir was working on surveying and mapping in developing countries. The possible subdivision of the Federation into regional areas was being addressed by Tom McCulloch from the UK; and Ivan Katzarsky of Bulgaria was working on a set of rules for the Federation's Permanent Institutions.

In the event quite a lot of unfinished business was to be passed on to the incoming Finnish Bureau including defining a surveyor in terms that would be acceptable to the profession and to the United Nations. This was something that was to feature large in my life during the next few years. The Shadow Bureau from Finland was due to take over the administration of the Federation early in 1988 so it also held meetings in Oslo which I attended. This Shadow Bureau was re-thinking its arrangements for the PC Meeting next year in view of the fact that New Zealand would now host the meeting instead of Australia.

In Oslo I learned more about the proposal to transform the Joint Board of Sister Organisations into a formal organisation to be known as the International Union for Surveys and Mapping (IUSM). It was believed that the transformation would enable it to

become a member of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). Only three member associations of the Joint Board showed any real inclination to accept this idea (FIG, ICA and ISPRS) though not everyone in FIG was happy with the proposal. Many FIG members believed the Federation itself should be able to gain membership of ICSU in its own right.

I also became a little more aware of the three Permanent Institutions of FIG. They were the International Office of Cadastre and Land Records (OICRF) which resides in Apeldoorn, Netherlands; the Standing FIG Archives held by the RICS in London; and the FIG Multilingual Dictionary housed in the Institute for Applied Geodesy in Frankfurt, Germany. I also learned that although FIG was trilingual, French was the authoritative version of all written works notwithstanding that the proceedings were held in English. This was my first insight into what appeared to be a French cultural superiority complex that raised its head a number of times in later years.

I attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of FIG Bureau Canada Inc. This was the holding company established by the Canadian Institute of Surveyors to hold the finances of the Canadian Bureau. It was the legal entity to which grants could be made by federal and provincial governments. The company acted as agent for the Bureau and provided the services required by it. The company structure was designed to relieve Bureau members of personal liability in the event of financial losses. This was something that the Council of ISA needed to know.

These events were an eye-opener to me. I now had a role to play within the organisation and therefore took much more interest in what was going on and how the events were managed. On my return to Australia I presented a report to ISA which outlined the matters that I thought were important for our own planning purposes. These included:

- the fact that the Secretary General's job was one that kept him busy on average for half a day every day;
- the Secretary General needed to be a person with good administrative ability and experience at middle management level;
- that ISA should start looking for a suitable candidate and encourage him /her to attend future PC Meetings and in particular the Helsinki Congress in 1990;
- that similar comments applied to the position of Congress Director;
- it was essential that the Secretary General have the services of a full time secretary who had French, German and English language skills; and
- that it was imperative that ISA take action to promote FIG to our own members. If our congress in 1994 was to be successful Australian surveyors needed to show the rest of the world that they were interested.

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Sometime in 1987 the Victorian Division of ISA, at the request of ISA Council, formed an Interim FIG Committee under chairmanship of Past President Ray Holmes to begin planning for a congress in Melbourne in 1994. To get some idea of overall costs Council of ISA asked the committee to prepare a preliminary budget for both the Congress in 1994 and the Bureau activities during 1992–1995. The Bureau budget was to be based on the assumption that ISA could convince the Commonwealth Government to meet the costs of salaries, office accommodation, stationary and other operating costs for the Bureau.

John Manning was appointed chair of a sub-committee for that purpose and he provided the first preliminary estimates in December. Many questions still had to be answered including:

- cost of travel for John Curdie in his capacity as Auditor of the Finnish administration during the period 1988 to 1991;
- my travel costs as Vice President during the same period;
- international travel costs for all seven Bureau members and the Executive Secretary for period 1992 to 1995;
- travel costs for whoever became Vice President in the next administration during the period 1996 to 1999;
- internal travel costs of the Australian Bureau;
- cost of wages for tri-lingual exec secretary;
- probable income from membership subscriptions; and
- cost of tri-lingual translation services at the Congress in Melbourne in 1994.

Earlier that year I had spoken to Ray Holmes about the possibility of his accepting the role of Congress Director. If he accepted he would become a member of the Australian Bureau during the period 1992–95. He was the chair of the Interim FIG Committee and he had done considerable work in promoting the 1994 congress to members of ISA and to government. It seemed natural that he progress to being the overall controller of the congress. While the final decision had yet to be made by the ISA Council, I knew he could do the job well so I pressed him and he agreed to accept the nomination. But in October he let it be known that he had been offered a consultancy by the UN or the World Bank, I am not sure which, that would take him to Ghana in Africa for a number of years and he was thinking of accepting. This really rocked me and the members of Council to say nothing of the congress committee. Fortunately he declined the offer and went on to make a name for himself as a very successful Congress Director in 1994.

By the same token, I had also put the suggestion to Grahame Lindsay that he would make a great Secretary General of the Federation as I knew he was due to retire from the government service in the near future. Grahame was the Australian Surveyor General and was resident in Canberra. He and I had a long professional and working relationship during his time in the Northern Territory and especially while he was in charge of the Australian Survey Office in Darwin. I believed he was a perfect candidate. He was initially hesitant but he was nearing retirement and in the end he must have decided it would give him something useful to do in that retirement. He agreed after due consideration to accept the nomination. These nominations were agreed to by Council early in 1988.

The battle for international recognition had been fought and won. ISA was committed to administering the Federation for four years and to producing a successful international Congress. I was committed to eight years of traipsing around the world which, in the event, turned out to be twelve years – but more on that later.

CHAPTER 3: 1988 – INTEREST BECOMES ACTIVITY

This year was to be one of intense activity for me and for the Councillors of ISA. As a Bureau member of the Finnish administration of FIG I had to attend meetings in three different countries. ISA had to finalise the financial arrangements for the coming Australian administration and appoint the remaining Shadow Bureau members. Sponsorship of the 1994 Congress in Melbourne was another matter of concern.

On 7 January 1988 the Interim FIG Committee completed its *Preliminary Estimates for Future FIG Bureau Activities and 1994 Congress* and presented this to the ISA Council. The projected expenditure for the period 1988–2000 amounted to \$610,000 for the Bureau alone and this was to be recouped from member association subscriptions during 1992–95 plus subsidies from Qantas Airlines, grants from governments and congress profits. These estimates were considered by the ISA Council at its first meeting that year. It was then that Councillors, and ultimately the ordinary members, started to realise the enormity of the task that the Institution had accepted and the enormous costs involved.

It was estimated that during the period there would need to be at least fifty three overseas visits made by Bureau members and those promoting the Melbourne Congress. In addition to this the Australian members of the FIG Bureau would need to have meetings in Australia which would entail costs in travel and accommodation to say nothing of the costs involved in printing, translations, and office staff. The 1994 Congress budget provided for an expenditure of \$1.1 million but this was to be recouped from attendee registrations, exhibitors, grants, sponsors, and advertising.

As a result and in an effort to get some seed funding Councillors resolved to establish an FIG Fund into which the members of ISA would contribute \$10,000 per year until 1994. This would be working capital until other forms of income became available and it was understood that it would be refunded to members should there be a surplus in the Bureau and/or the Congress accounts at the end of their days. They also decided to book the World Congress Centre in Melbourne for the 1994 Congress. Those preliminary estimates were to be revised significantly over the next few years.

At their next meeting I was very pleased to see that the ISA Council had appointed Grahame Lindsay to be the incoming Secretary General of FIG and Ray Holmes to be the Congress Director. Ray Holmes had finally overcome his desire to be a consultant in Africa.

13–14 January 1988 – Handover Meeting from Canadian to Finnish Bureau in Helsinki (Finland)

On 12 January that year I flew to Helsinki, Finland to commence my first formal duties as a Vice President of FIG. The occasion was a two day joint meeting between the outgoing Canadian Bureau and the incoming Finnish Bureau to facilitate the handover of the administration of FIG. It was a two-day meeting held in the Hotel Vaakuna.

The first day was chaired by Charlie Weir during which the Canadians presented statements identifying issues relating to policy, finances, administration, Commission activities and the results of the various ad-hoc commissions (working groups or task forces)

appointed by the Canadians. The group reviewing the Length of Future Congresses recommended no change; the so-called IAESTE Task Force recommended that member associations be encouraged to promote the exchange of students; Talvitie's group, the one trying to define a Surveyor, was unable to reach agreement and recommended work be continued; those members researching Surveying & Mapping in Developing countries also recommended that work be ongoing as did the Regional Structures & Initiatives ad-hoc commission; and the task force concerned with the Permanent Institutions advised that draft Internal Rules for the guidance of the three Permanent Institutions was proceeding. In all, a considerable amount of work needed to continue.

Two items discussed that day were to become of particular importance to me. They were the draft statutes of the proposed IUSM and the Definition of a Surveyor. The draft Statutes had been circulated to all member associations of FIG and feedback from members had been critical of them. I should have paid more attention because I was destined to become the President of the IUSM a few years later. It seemed to me though, that the primary objective of those who wanted an IUSM was the creation of an entity that might gain membership of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) while those who were opposed thought FIG could gain that membership in its own right. Also, the adoption of the draft statutes would create another entity that would have technical commissions and be able to conduct regular congresses in opposition to those of the member federations. This was not something that our members regarded as necessary.

The Finns were constantly saying that the proposed Statutes did not conform to the guiding principles and it was some time before I learned what this meant. It appeared that the idea of a Union was first promoted by the ISPRS and discussed at the 6th meeting of the Joint Board in Hanover, Germany in 1984. At the 1985 meeting in Harrogate, UK the JB agreed to a set of principles under which the proposed Union would operate. Principle No.1 was that the Union would be:

*'devoted to co-ordination and co-operation between international organisations involved in the science, technology and art of all types of surveys and mapping of the earth and other bodies in the solar system.'*⁵

At the meeting in 1985 Dr. Frederick J. Doyle of the ISPRS was appointed Acting CEO of the Union and given the job of devising an appropriate set of Statutes by which the Union could be governed. Doyle and the ISPRS were all for a Union that had some teeth, one that was pro-active and presented a forceful face to the world. The statutes devised by him reflected this. They included provision for a salaried Bureaucracy, IUSM congresses, forceful and active Working Groups and membership of ICSU. There was no mention in any of the guiding principles agreed to in 1985 of salaried officers, congresses or working groups, nor of any ambition to join ICSU. The members of the JBSO had been arguing about these statutes each year since then and continued to do so for several more years.

The other item of concern to me was Talvitie's report on the definition of a surveyor. He had been given the task of defining a surveyor by Charlie Weir, something that member associations had been arguing about for decades. Unknown to me Talvitie was about to pass on this task to me.

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⁵ For details of this agreement see *The Australian Surveyor*, June 1986, Vol 33 No. 2.

I nearly missed the meetings on the second day due to the fact that Charlie Weir had plied a number of us with Scotch Whiskey the night before. Being a bush surveyor from the Northern Territory I was a beer drinker from way back, so the hard liquor so generously supplied by the departing President had a very debilitating effect on my person. This was so much so that President Talvitie had to send a courier to get me out of bed the next morning. I was half an hour late for the meeting – not a good start to my term of office.

That morning was a continuation of the joint meeting but this phase was chaired by Talvitie. It lasted half a day and was followed by the first formal meeting of the entire Finnish Bureau which consisted of President Juha Talvitie (Finland), Secretary General Pekka Raitanen (Finland), Vice President Earl James (Australia), Vice President Wally Youngs (Canada), Vice President Seppo Härmlä (Finland), Treasurer Martti Hautala (Finland), Congress Director Kalevi Kirvesniemi (Finland). Ritva Asplund, a charming and very efficient lady, was appointed to be the multi-lingual secretary.

When the Finns' meeting eventually commenced in the afternoon with all present, discussion revolved around the issues identified the previous day. It was decided that English would be the language of all Bureau Meetings and the minutes thereof. The preliminary Work Plan for 1988–1991 which had been drawn up by the Finns was discussed and amended as was the preliminary budget produced by treasurer Hautala. Policy issues discussed included: the attraction of new member associations; the proposed creation of the IUSM to replace the Joint Board; problems related to payment of membership fees by member associations, particularly those in third world countries; regional structures for FIG; the Permanent Institutions of FIG; the length of FIG congresses; and the definition of a surveyor. As a mark of respect from the Shadow Australian Bureau I presented President Talvitie with a bark painting of '*mimi spirits*' from Arnhemland. Unlike any other meeting of the Finnish Bureau that I attended, this one lasted only two hours.

I found Helsinki to be a remarkable place and the Finns I met to be fascinating people. The city dates from 1550 and became the capital in 1812 when Finland was still a Grand Duchy of Russia. Its present political state dates from 1917 when, during the Russian Revolution, links with Russia were severed. The country has the honour of being the only country to fight Russia to a stand-still and it did so during two wars between 1939 and 1944. Contrary to popular opinion in remote places like Australia, Finland is not a so-called Communist Country. It is a constitutional Republic within which the Communist Party has a legal, though minor role to play.

At the time I found the cost of living to be exorbitant due to the low value of the Australian dollar but that did not seem to effect the hospitality of the Finnish people. While I was there the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry hosted a dinner for Bureau members and staff; the members of the Finnish Association of Surveyors (MIL) hosted a cocktail party; and a dinner was hosted by the Association of Finnish Cities. We also enjoyed a visit to Finland's Map Centre of the National Board of Survey and a lunch hosted by the Deputy Mayor of Helsinki. In addition we were taken on a coach trip to the city of Tampere to the west of Helsinki. It was during this trip that I was to first learn about some of the complexities of the Finnish language. It would appear that unlike the English language every letter in a word is pronounced individually. Thus Tampere became Tumpferri with the emphasis on the first syllable.

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The Finnish Bureau – 1988 to 1992. L to R: C.W. (Wally) Youngs (V/Pres), Pekka Raitanen (Secretary General), Ritva Asplund (Secretary), Earl James (V/Pres), Juha Talvitie (Pres), Seppo Hamala (V/Pres), Kalevi Kirvesniemi (Congress Director), Martti Hautala (Treasurer).

In February, Talvitie wrote to me and asked me to chair a Task Force on the Relationship between FIG and its Member Associations and to prepare proposed terms of reference for the Task Force. The object of the exercise was to review the activities of the Federation in terms of its Aims and Objects and make recommendations for desirable changes. The terms of reference that I produced were considered and approved by the Bureau in May. It was agreed that I should have preliminary recommendations ready for presentation at the PC Meeting in Wellington in October. Final recommendations would be presented in Beijing in 1991. To help in this task I proposed to draw on the wisdom of past presidents.

In May the Finnish members of the Bureau held a meeting during which the Treasurer handed down an interim report on the financing of future FIG Bureaux on which he had been working for some time. Suggestions for improvement included: broadening membership to government institutions and, adopting English as the only official language of FIG thus eliminating the need for translation of official documents. At that meeting the Bureau's proposed Plan of Work was finalised for presentation at the next PC Meeting.

From the minutes of that meeting I learned that the Finns believed that most FIG member associations probably did not see the need for the creation of IUSM. Not only were they opposed to its formation but they saw no need for the employment of an executive officer for that organisation nor the hosting of yet another congress as required by the proposed statutes. While the matter was still to be discussed by the JBSO in Kyoto, Japan

in July, the Finns decided to take action towards making an application for FIG membership of ICSU in its own right and commenced the lobbying of ICSU members for support.

23–29 June 1988 – 3rd South East Asian Survey Congress and FIG Workshop on Land Information Systems in Bali (Indonesia)

In June this year the Victorian Division of ISA, in co-operation with two FIG Commissions, held a Land Information Systems Workshop in Bali, Indonesia at the time of the 3rd South East Asian Survey Congress. The organising committee was chaired by Alan Windhurst and the workshop sessions were co-ordinated by Australian Commission representatives Peter Zwart (Commission 3) and Ian Williamson (Commission 7). The event was organised with the help of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). This probably was the first occasion on which ISA and AIDAB worked together and members of both organisations were very satisfied with the result. All resolutions of the Workshop were designed to impress upon countries intending to implement Land Information Systems the essential need to consider key aspects such as: coordination between agencies; unique parcel identifiers; multi-disciplinary education programs; and inclusion of the private sector within the process. The event was marred by the fact that Israeli delegates were denied entry to Indonesia.

President Talvitie and I attended both the Workshop and the Congress which was held at the Bali Beach Hotel in Nusa Dua. This was my third attendance at a South East Asian Survey Congress. The first was held in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in 1979. It was the brain child of ISA and as President of that Institution at the time, I had chaired the function. The mental stresses caused by my first public role in international affairs had been enough to make me give up smoking. My most notable memory of both events was the extreme deference paid by Indonesians to their government Ministers and the lack of same shown by the same Ministers to officers of FIG.

In September I wrote to all available Past Presidents of the Federation seeking their input into the review of the relationship between FIG and its Member Associations. I had replies from Prof. Matthias (Switzerland) and Bill Radlinski (USA). As a result I prepared a report for the Bureau and recommended distribution of a discussion paper to all member associations and Commission chairmen. This was implemented early the next year. This exercise was eventually to become the basis for *FIG Publication No 6: FIG and Member Associations*, 1991. (See Chapter 9)

14–19 October 1988 – 55th PC Meeting in Wellington (New Zealand)

In October I took my place at the head table during the 55th PC Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand. This was my first PC Meeting as Vice President. Along with the President and many other FIG officials I rubbed noses with the Minister for Lands and other NZ notables such as Barry Shute, the President of the NZ Institute of Surveyors. Shadow Congress Director Ray Holmes, and Shadow Secretary General Grahame Lindsay were also in attendance as representatives of ISA.

At their meeting in May the Finnish members of the Bureau had decided to approach a number of members of ICSU seeking their support for a proposed application for membership by FIG. There already had been one reply supporting the idea, and this gave them the courage to proceed with the application. The FIG General Assembly had agreed to join IUSM in 1986 but still the proposed statutes were not acceptable. The

Bureau presented a revised version and recommended that it be accepted but again the PC rejected it. The members were in favour of creating this new organisation but only if it were to be simply a medium for co-operation on problems of common interest to the member organisations (FIG, ISPRS & ICA) as agreed in the 1985 guidelines. The proposed statutes were referred back to ICA and ISPRS for further amendment.

The Bureau presented its Work Plan for the coming period and this was approved by the Permanent Committee which also agreed that Charlie Weir's appointment as an Honorary President of FIG should be recommended to the next General Assembly. A matter of particular significance to Australia and to me was decided at that meeting. It was a motion I had asked Grahame Lindsay to put forward. It revolved around the fact that many throughout the world were making all sorts of claims about the probable rise in sea levels caused by the so-called 'green-house effect' even though there were no reliable published figures on the actual rise. The motion urged FIG to request the UN to *'encourage and support the establishment and maintenance of a worldwide survey program studying changes in sea level'*. The result was that Commission 4 (Hydrographic) was instructed to take this matter on board and this signalled the beginning of a long period during which the matter was under review.

Another matter of lengthy review was the work of the ad-hoc Commission that sought to provide a clear definition of the term 'surveyor' led by President Talvitie. The Federation had been talking about the need for an appropriate definition since 1975 mainly because the existing one did not include valuers and appraisers. In addition the changes in the profession caused by the advances in technology made a review of the definition essential. The ad-hoc Commission had been established in 1985 at the PC Meeting in Katowice, Poland. A short definition had been accepted at the 18th Congress in Toronto, Canada in 1986 but further work was necessary. Debate in Wellington revolved around whether or not the definition should be that of a surveyor or of the activity of surveying. I had suggested that the ad-hoc Commission should be defining the activity rather than the man. In light of what happened later perhaps I should have kept my mouth shut. No agreement was reached and the ad-hoc Commission was ordered to continue its work. At that stage President Talvitie asked me to take over the job and redefined the ad-hoc Commission to that of a Task Force.

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On November 3rd I circulated a Press Release within Australia on the subject of measurement of sea levels in which I called on State and Federal Governments to set up a network of precise tide gauges around Australia. At the same time Commodore John Compton, the RAN Hydrographer convened a meeting of the Permanent Committee on Tides and Mean Sea Level (PCTMSL) in Darwin to discuss the creation of just such a national network of super tide gauges. I was gratified to see that at least one newspaper in Australia, *The Sunday Territorian* which was published in Darwin, printed the story on November 6th.

On December 20th, Congress Director Ray Holmes sought the assistance of Qantas Airlines to be the Official Carrier for the 1994 Congress. Specifically he asked for complimentary airfares for Bureau and Congress officials during the four year run-up to the congress. This was only one of the necessary financial arrangements that were nearing resolution.

During this year my interest in FIG was intensified by the activity experienced during these journeys to other countries and the politics of international meetings. It was the fore-runner to another decade of the same.

CHAPTER 4: 1989 – A YEAR WITH EUROPEANS

This year my travel requirements really began to hot up with a Bureau meeting in Helsinki, an Australian Survey Congress in Hobart, Tasmania, a PC Meeting in Budapest, Hungary, a flying visit to Poland at the invitation of the University of Olsztyn and a meeting with Commission 7 in Istanbul, Turkey. My life in FIG was really beginning to have an effect on my adequacy as a company director and joint manager of a flourishing surveying practice. However my partner in business, Gary Nairn, who not many years later became the Honourable Gary Nairn MP as a member of the Australian House of Representatives, saw the vast opportunities available to the profession of surveying in Australia by virtue of the involvement of ISA in FIG affairs. He had no hesitation in filling the gaps that my travels were creating.

In January 1989 the Bureau received a report from the chairman of Commission 4, Lt-Commander John Roberts (UK) providing a brief outline of UN activities with regard to sea levels. Roberts advised that the UN already had a Group of Experts for the study of the Global Level of the Sea Surface (GLOSS) working on the subject. The group had devised a global program similar to that proposed by Australian surveyors. However implementation of the program by nations around the world had been lukewarm. He suggested that FIG member associations should act as 'pressure groups' to get their governments to take positive action and that FIG should influence the UN to get a more positive commitment to the program from member nations.

His report was referred to ISA for information as ISA was the member association that had highlighted the matter. ISA then commenced liaison with the Permanent Committee on Tides and Mean Sea Level (PCTMSL) which was, and probably still is an Australian Inter-Governmental committee. At the time, it was convened by the Royal Australian Naval Hydrographer. The committee had the task of 'overseeing co-operative activities for strengthening the existing national tide gauge network to more effectively monitor any changes'. This commenced a long relationship between the two organisations which eventually saw the installation of a large number of precise tide gauges installed around Australia.

Early in February the work of Congress Director Ray Holmes in negotiations with Qantas bore some fruit. He reported that Australia's premier airline confirmed their offer to provide complimentary travel and discounts under certain conditions during the period 1989 to 1994 in exchange for the appointment as Official Carrier for the XX FIG Congress in Melbourne. The total value of their concessions amounted to a very significant \$57,200. He also recommended that the 1994 Congress Directorate, yet to be finalised, be created as a corporate body so as to be a legal entity. He suggested that the directors be appointed from the Victorian division of ISA.

14–15 March 1989 – Bureau Meeting in Helsinki (Finland)

In March I flew to Helsinki to take part in a Bureau meeting which was held in Espoo, a suburb of the capital of Finland. The meeting was sponsored by the National Power Supply company and Haka Construction company. We were accommodated at the Hotel Presidentii in Helsinki. It was an exceptionally warm and snow-less Finnish winter which made a good excuse for me to try my first experience in a sauna. I was to have

many more over the next few years but only when I was in Finland. The Finnish sauna seems to be a cure-all for aches and pains and especially for those brought on by an over-indulgence in food and drink. Twenty minutes of super-heated steaming followed by a plunge bath in icy water is not really my idea of luxury, but to the Finns it seemed to be an essential of life.

During this meeting preparations were made for the presentation of recommendations on various subjects at the upcoming PC Meeting in Budapest in August. These included another draft version of the statutes for IUSM, as amended to include changes requested by FIG members during the Wellington meeting; and proposed dates for IUSM's first General Assembly, consisting of Bureau members and Commission Chairmen from each of the three constituent member federations. Other matters discussed included: links with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS) and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) that were progressing; action by FIG to put pressure on individual governments to implement existing UN programs related to sea level movement; the search for additional support for FIG's proposed application for Associate Membership of ICSU that had already gained the support of seven member associations of that organisation; proposed contact with Prof. Peter Scott (Hobart), President of the International Geographic Union regarding sea levels; and presentation of the first draft of a revised Definition of Surveyor.

Treasurer Martti Hautala's Task Force on future Financing of the FIG Bureau made the following recommendations:

- membership fees should be based on the number of members in each association;
- FIG should consider Sustaining Membership by commercial companies, Government offices etc;
- English should be the only working language;
- the Bureau should receive financial support from Congress profits and those of PC Meetings and symposia;
- Countries nominating Commission chairmen and Vice Chairs should help finance those commissions.

These recommendations were of particular interest to me as Australia was still to determine how it would finance the next Bureau.

After the meeting I was invited by President Talvitie to fly with him to Mariehamn on the island of Åland, a Swedish speaking autonomous region of Finland which lies at the mouth of the Gulf of Bothnia midway between the Finnish mainland and Sweden. At Helsinki airport I watched with fascination from the window seat of an airliner with engines running while snow plows cleared the runway and high pressure hoses pushed ice off the wings of the aircraft so that a take-off was feasible. Once on the island I was given a tour of the city by Mr Sven-Olof Lindfors, a member of the Åland parliament. I was also given a personalised tour of the island's famous maritime museum by the museum's curator. This museum is dedicated to the Finnish farmers who built and financed many of clipper ships that ran the great grain races between Australia and Europe during the 19th and 20th centuries. It features one of the last surviving members of the that maritime species. Believe me, a clipper ship with bare poles is an awesome sight. I can only imagine how much more awesome one would be under full sail.

We returned to the mainland on board a massive ferry, landing at the west coast university town of Turku. These ferries are ten stories high and are built in Finland. They feature everything a traveller in international waters would want although at the time, all I wanted was a soft chair to curl up on. From Turku we travelled by bus to Helsinki. There I met with Rotary Club friends Olof and Lucy Söderström whom my wife and I had hosted in Darwin some years earlier when Olof attended a Rotary Conference in Darwin as the representative of the international President of Rotary. I went with Olof to a Rotary meeting in Karhula, a two hour drive to the east of Helsinki where I met up with Natasha Townsend, an exchange student from Darwin living in Karhula and sponsored by my own club, the Rotary Club of Darwin North.

1–7 April 1989 – 31st Australian Survey Congress, Hobart (Australia)

I returned home in time to fly to Hobart for the 31st Australian Survey Conference at which I presented a paper titled *Australia's Commitment to the International Federation of Surveyors – or Should we care a fig about FIG*. The Congress Committee had tried to allocate my paper to the tail end of a technical sessions but I insisted that it be presented at a plenary session where all attendees would be present. It was vital that members of ISA became aware of the task to which they had committed themselves. I was eventually successful and I suggest, so was the speech, as the committee produced a special print run with glossy colour cover.⁶

During the congress the ISA Council confirmed the selection of all Australian members of the Shadow Bureau for the period 1992 to 1995. John Curdie, who at that time was the ISA President and already the financial auditor of FIG, was chosen to be the Treasurer. Like me, Curdie was a private practicing surveyor. He was the senior partner in a long established surveying practice in Sydney and was nearing retirement. He had long been involved in ISA affairs and had been on the management team that organised the first South East Asian Conference in 1979. He was also editor of ISA's journal for many years.

Likewise, Peter Byrne was chosen as Vice President for the same period. Peter also was a surveyor in private practice, in Perth. He was a senior partner in a very large company that had offices in a number of Australian cities and some overseas. He was a past president of ISA and had played an important role in developing the enthusiasm of members for the bid to bring FIG to the southern hemisphere. He had overcome his earlier doubts about having enough time to do the job.

Grahame Lindsay was confirmed as the Secretary General of the Australian Bureau. Grahame was a government surveyor of long standing and a past president of ISA. He was at that time the Australian Surveyor General based in Canberra.

With these three names the next administrative Bureau of FIG was complete. With Ray Holmes as Congress Director and myself as President these five would comprise the Australian members. They would be joined by the existing Secretary General, Pekka Raitanen from Finland and the President elect for the next period, Prof. Peter Dale from the United Kingdom. Both would become Vice Presidents. All seven names would be presented for acceptance at the general assembly meeting in Helsinki in 1990.⁷

⁶ See ISBN 0 7316 5587 7, National Library of Australia.

⁷ For Bio-details of the Australian Bureau members see Appendix 2.

On the April 6th the pressure brought to bear on the Australian government by both the UN and ISA regarding the monitoring of sea levels, was seen to have some effect. The Prime Minister announced a \$1 million budget allocation for sea level monitoring through the establishment of a baseline of seven or eight tide gauges around the country and for recurring costs and maintenance. These tide gauges would be connected to the Australian Height Datum and data from them would be telemetered via satellite to the National Tidal Data Base within the Flinders University in South Australia. As a result of this success I once again recommended to the President of FIG that Commission 4 be asked to develop ways and means by which FIG could influence the UN to be more pro-active with regard to putting pressure on other maritime countries to do the same.

14–18 August 1989 – 56th PC Meeting in Budapest (Hungary)

By August I was in the air again on my way to Budapest, Hungary to attend the 56th PC Meeting. The opening ceremony of the meeting featured a cultural programme of Hungarian national folk dancing and a speech of welcome by the Minister for Agriculture and Food. For the first time I attended a meeting of the Joint Board/IUSM. This was the 9th meeting of the Board and I was there as an observer only. There I met Professor F.Taylor (Canada) representing ICA and Prof. K.Torlegård (Sweden), president of ISPRS. There was much infighting over the terms of the proposed IUSM statutes. FIG members were still concerned that the statutes did not comply with the guidelines agreed to but they were finally accepted and IUSM was formally established. The final version of the statutes no longer provided for a salaried Bureaucracy or quadrennial congresses. Nor did it require the new organisation to make an application for membership of ICSU. However, Working Groups remained. The Union was consecrated with the first meeting of its General Assembly which consisted of Bureau members and Commission chairmen of the constituent bodies. Hugh O'Donnell of Canada was appointed the Executive Secretary.

During this PC Meeting I gave an interim report on the work of the Task Force on the Relationship Between FIG and its Member Associations of which I was the chair. The final report was due for presentation in 1990. I also presented the efforts of the Task Force on the Definition of a Surveyor. After long debate the proposed long definition was accepted in principal but only after it was agreed that further work on it was necessary. As chair of the Task Force I agreed to assess all proposals for further amendment if they were the opinions of member associations and not simply those of individuals.

During a Bureau meeting, Professor Jo Henssen (Netherlands) was asked to chair a task force to produce a policy statement on Land Management and the surveyor's role in it. At the same time Niels Östergård was tasked with producing one on the Environment. Both policies were to be finalised by the time of the PC Meeting in Beijing in 1991. The delegates to the PC Meeting were informed that FIG now had eight letters of support for an application for associate membership of ICSU and that only one more was required.

With reference to the matter of global sea level measurement it was resolved that Commission 4 would put pressure on relevant member associations to take action to influence their governments in much the same way as ISA had already taken action with the Australian government. The commission would also contact the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to determine that organisation's ideas as to how best

FIG could help their program and how best to put pressure on UNESCO to influence its member nations.

While in Budapest I met Ms. Maija Saleva (Juha Talvitie's partner) for the first time. I walked the city's very long shopping mall and had an interesting experience bargaining for a table cloth from a street hawker who wanted US\$50 and would not budge from that price. Suddenly she thrust the drapery into my arms and disappeared leaving me wondering what would happen if I too should take off. It was not long before I saw the reason for this illegal seller's disappearance. Two very big policemen strolled into view. Rejecting the impulse to stroll along with them I stayed where I was and the moment the police were out of view she reappeared. 'Fifty dollars' she said! I paid.

Buda was a city of beautiful ancient historic buildings, or so it seemed. The reality is that most of those beautiful buildings were destroyed during WWII and all have been rebuilt in their original form. I found this need to recreate the past to be the same in all of the Eastern European countries that I visited. The only real disappointment during my visit was the fact that I lost a valuable opal cuff link in my hotel room.

22 August 1989 From Budapest to Warsaw (Poland)

At the completion of the PC Meeting I flew to Warsaw, Poland. I had been invited by the President of the Polish surveying association, Kazimierz Czarnecki to visit that country and meet members of his organisation, the Stowarzyszenie Geodetow Polskich. During the PC Meeting in Budapest Prof. Andrzej Hopfer suggested that I travel overland by car with him but before I could do that I needed a visa to travel through Czechoslovakia. On approaching the appropriate government office we were met by a crowd of thousands trying to get the very same visa. This was the time of *perestroika*, political unrest and tentative uprising throughout Eastern Europe. The number of people outside the various embassies was beyond belief. I quickly abandoned the idea of driving to Poland and reverted to my pre-arranged flight schedule.

On arrival at Warsaw I was met by Prof. Czarnecki and stayed overnight in the city. The next morning we returned to the airport to meet my wife who had flown in from Australia. She would have been with me at the PC Meeting had she not been managing a national conference of the Penguin Clubs of Australia – that excellent organisation that teaches women how to be successful public speakers. We then travelled to the University of Olsztyn where Andrzej Hopfer was the rector. There I addressed two different assemblies on the virtues of FIG. I was slightly embarrassed by the fact that at one I was addressed as Professor and at the other as Doctor. I have never been either but it seems that academe cannot believe that a mere bush surveyor can reach such giddy heights as President of FIG.

Prof. Ian Williamson and his family were there also. Ian was the Australian representative on Commission 7 as was Prof. Hopfer for Poland. This was the beginning of a long and successful relationship with Ian Williamson and with Commission 7. Poland was in the midst of transition from Communist rule. Shopping was easy – there was almost nothing in the shops, but what was available was cheap as chips especially amber jewellery which attracted my wife, and for me, leather jackets.

The highlight of the visit was a car journey to Gdansk (formerly part of Germany and later the Free City of Danzig) birthplace of WWII and of the Polish revolution against

Communist rule. Along the way the regional Surveyor General entertained us with a lakeside picnic in the bush, or what passes for bush in Poland, complete with vodka..

27 Sept 1989 – Commission VII Annual Meeting, Istanbul (Turkey)

From Warsaw we flew to Istanbul, Turkey, to attend the annual meeting of Commission 7 which is responsible for research pertinent to the Cadastre and Rural Land Management. I was very impressed with the work of Commission 7 and with the effort put into it by Ian Williamson who was at that stage just the Australian delegate. The meeting was sponsored by the Turkish Office of Land Registry and Cadastre and was held in conjunction with an international seminar organised by the commission covering recent developments in the application of cadastres. Delegates were welcomed by the Minister for State, Saffet Sert who told us something about the Turkish land recording system and the fact that their records date back to the year 1450.

The Turkish organisers booked us into a very mediocre hotel overlooking a mosque. I had my first experience of hearing a Mufti calling believers to prayer at all hours of the day and night. Believe me, when the Mufti is only three metres below the bedroom window and the window is wide open because there is no air-conditioning, the experience is one to be avoided. Williamson was no better off. He and his wife and two children (he rarely seemed to travel without his family) were squeezed into a single room about three metres by three. Living up to his reputation as a go-getter he very soon found alternative accommodation overlooking the Sea of Marmara to which we all soon removed.

We were given a city tour during which the modern history of Turkey and its modern founder featured prominently. We also spent much time in Istanbul's Souk (market) and got trapped by a carpet seller. We took two carpets home but forgot to collect them when we got back to Darwin. The Customs officers were certainly mystified. Before we left Turkey my wife and I were invited to tour Antalya on the south coast with the Turkish Surveyor General of the region and the Registrar of titles. We flew to Antalya on a Turkish airline where I had to pay \$100 for excess luggage, the only time during the ten or so years of my involvement with FIG that I had to pay such a surcharge. However we were met by both hosts and driven to Club Med on the coast where we stayed for three days free of cost. We were given a guided tour of ancient ruins along the coast by both hosts with the continual use of a Turkish/English dictionary and much gesticulation. On a visit to the local registry office I witnessed the fastest registration of a transfer of title I have ever seen – a red line ruled through one name and a new name inserted by hand.

During this year the ISA finally appointed the remaining members of the Australian Shadow Bureau and the Australian Government bent to the pressure brought to bear on them with regard to sea levels. The year was one of experience for me; learning to cope with the idiosyncrasies of the differing European cultures; becoming used to the crush and crowds at international airports; the benign stares of customs officers; and the great hospitality of my European peers.

CHAPTER 5: 1990 – FINLAND AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

The coming year promised to be hectic. I had to attend a Finnish Bureau meeting in Helsinki, return home to chair the first meeting of the Australian Shadow Bureau and then return to Helsinki to take part in the XIX FIG Congress. All year, negotiations for the funding of the Australian administration would be a top priority.

22–24 January 1990 – FIG Bureau Meeting in Saariselkä (Finland)

In January 1990 I travelled again to Finland to attend a meeting of the executive Bureau of the Federation. Finland had been experiencing a series of relatively mild winters. Because the temperature in Helsinki had never fallen below zero on each of my two previous visits to the city the Finns were determined that this time I would experience a real northern winter. To ensure that this was achieved the meeting was held in Lapland in the small tourist village of Saariselkä which lies about three hundred kilometres above the Arctic circle. At the time the ground was covered with a metre of snow.

Once again the cost of the meeting was sponsored. We were accommodated in a massive and perfectly insulated log house provided by a major Finnish Bank. A number of recreational activities enjoyed over the five day period were provided by the local municipality of Inari and by a well-known instrument manufacturer. The Finnish Surveyors Association covered the cost of travel within the country and also accommodation in Helsinki, which was a significant saving for ISA.

During the meeting I presented a redrafted version of my 'Definition of a Surveyor' and a report on progress with the Task Force on the Relationship between FIG and its Member Associations. The meeting discussed for the first time the creation of a Standing Committee of Commission Officers whose purpose would be to assist the Bureau in the formation of policy. This was something that the Australian Bureau was to amplify in later years. Because of the support promised by so many members of ICSU a decision was made to make an immediate application for associate membership; and it was noted that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) had suggested a discussion on global sea levels at the Helsinki Congress in June 1990.

This very short stay in Lapland was by far the most enjoyable experience of my career in FIG. My one disappointment was that my wife was not there to enjoy it with me. The hospitality of the Finnish surveyors and their commercial associates was something to be believed. The social atmosphere created by the local people was beyond belief and the change in lifestyle for me, having come from a tropical city enduring the worst of a very hot and humid wet season, was something I will remember for ever.

It was mid-winter in Lapland. Log cabins and lodges were everywhere. One moved from a heated building to a heated car to a heated building. While driving the highway in one direction one's vision was constantly obscured by snow and ice thrown up by trucks roaring in the other direction. A cross country expedition on snowmobiles with fishing through a hole in the ice was only marginally more exciting than an sleigh ride drawn by a dozen reindeer. The temperature was minus fifteen degrees centigrade with a probable wind-chill factor of about another eight degrees. I was very proud of myself in completing a six kilometre cross-country skiing hike. Despite having never skied before, I fell only once and it had to happen at, of all places, the front door of our lodge on completion of the run.

Two weeks after the Bureau meeting, President Talvitie sent a memorandum to all member associations of FIG. He advised them that representatives of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) would speak at the Helsinki Congress in June on the subject of rising sea levels. The chairman of the commission's Group of Experts would be the lead speaker on the matter. He impressed upon the member associations the need for them to think seriously about this subject, to determine what their government's policy on the matter was and what they were doing about it.

April 1990 – 32nd Australian Survey Congress and 1st Meeting of the Shadow Bureau.

In April the Council of ISA suddenly realised that there was an urgent need to consider the financial needs of the Shadow Bureau. All planning to date had focused on my travel requirements and the cost of running a successful congress. No one had given much thought to the costs that would be associated with running an international administrative executive that was due to start in 1992. A report by the CEO bemoaned the fact that four years had passed since ISA had won the right to have a Shadow Bureau and no real planning for the financial requirements of the Bureau had been done. He pointed out that the institution would need to raise about \$60,000 per annum to be able to run the secretariat and offered several options. These included a proposal to levy members of ISA but his preferred option was to raise capitation fees even though this would require an amendment to the rules of the organisation.

In that same month the Shadow Bureau held its first formal meeting at the Lakeside Hotel in Canberra in conjunction with the 32nd Australian Survey Congress. All Australian Bureau members were present at the meeting as was the ISA President, Trevor Menzies. Also present were John Parker and Terry Roberts who were there as Congress Directorate observers and Bill Daw, a surveyor with AUSLIG who was asked to take the minutes. Bill went on to be the interim secretary of the Australian Bureau until a permanent multi-lingual secretary was appointed in 1992 and I take this opportunity to thank him for the hard work he put into the successful establishment of FIG Australia Pty Ltd. Discussion at the meeting revolved around the coming Helsinki congress, employment of a permanent secretary, travel costs, the Melbourne congress and some matters being suggested by the RICS in London.

The Federation had allocated the 1998 congress to the UK and Professor Peter Dale had been nominated by Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) to be the President of FIG during the period 1996 to 1999. As such he would be a member of the Australian Bureau during its term of office. Already the Brits had created their FIG 1998 Steering Committee and were advising us of matters of concern to them that might conflict with matters that we might be considering. They were looking for greater powers for the Permanent Committee. They also wanted a permanent secretariat and a new financial structure. As it turned out these were all matters that during its term in office the Australian Bureau had some success in resolving.

One very important decision of that meeting was a resolution to support and promote Professor Ian Williamson's nomination for Vice President of Commission 7. It had been the custom with this Commission that the chairmanship should revolve among European countries and the Finns were determined to break this custom. Should Ian Williamson become the first non-European vice chairman the chances of him becoming chairman four years later were much better. A plan to lobby member association del-

legates at the Helsinki congress was devised and Ian was asked to prepare a supporting paper for Trevor Menzies, as President of ISA, to send to the FIG Bureau for publication in the PC agenda papers. In the long run this nomination turned out to be a life-saving decision for Commission 7. Early in his first year in office, the Chairman, Professor Gorgi Kolev (Bulgaria), whose election had yet to be ratified, was unable to carry out his duties due to the political situation in Bulgaria. This disaster for Kolev turned out to be the starting point of a long and illustrious career in FIG for Williamson.

10–19 June 1990 – 57th PC Meeting and XIX FIG Congress in Helsinki (Finland)

With June came a return to Helsinki for the 57th PC Meeting and the XIX FIG Congress hosted by the Finnish Association of Surveyors. It was held in the Finlandia Hall and over three thousand people attended including about one thousand four hundred delegates. I was particularly impressed by the number of Australians who decided to come and support our efforts to get a good roll-up at the 1994 congress. In all there were sixty Australian surveyors present with forty accompanying persons. My wife and I were accommodated once again in the Hotel Ramada Presidentti.

During the these meetings Professor George Kolev of Bulgaria was confirmed as Chairman of Commission 7 for the four year period that the Australian Bureau would be administering FIG (1992–1995). Ian Williamson from Australia was appointed the commission's Vice Chair for the same period. This was at a time when commission chairs were normally allocated to countries rather than to people who might be able to do the job. It was a prestige appointment rather than a functional one. At the time I had no idea that Professor Kolev would not be able to fulfil the position but over the next couple of years it became clear to me that Williamson was the one I had to rely on.

I introduced the other members of the incoming Australian Bureau in person to the General Assembly. These were the people who were to join me in administering FIG for four years from 1992. Their appointment was approved by the Assembly. At the same meeting Charlie Weir's elevation to Honorary President of FIG was approved. This was the third time I had heard of such an honour being bestowed on someone and little did I realise that I would receive the same honour eight years later.

I presented another interim report on the Relationship between FIG and Member Associations. The final report would be expected at the 58th PC Meeting in Beijing in the following year. In addition to this my final recommendation for the Definition of a Surveyor was presented and adopted. This process that had begun in Helsinki in 1975 ended in Helsinki fifteen years later. The General Assembly agreed that the new definition should be incorporated into the statutes. This exercise was eventually to become the basis for *FIG Publication No 2: Definition of a Surveyor, 1991* (see Chapter 8).

Two keynote addresses were given at the congress, one by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran the Executive Director of the UN Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS). The other was by N.Gebremedhin of the UN Environment Program (UNEP). In the former the speaker recognised the role of surveyors in the search for equity within human settlement. The latter espoused the help that surveyors could provide in the formulation of policies aimed at sustainable development. Both speakers suggested a closer relation between their organisation and FIG. The other speaker of note was Dr. Pugh of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission who described the purpose and workings of

the GLOSS. His speech helped the delegates to the General Assembly to confirm the Bureau's recommendation that member associations put pressure on national governments to participate in the sea levels programme.

It was noted that the General Assembly of IUSM had adopted the latest version of the statutes subject to certain amendments and that the statutes had then been handed back to a statutes committee for completion of a final version. The final version had then been considered by the IUSM Executive Board and was adopted. Most of the amendments were in conformity with the wishes of FIG.

During the congress the Shadow Bureau met for the second time to discuss funding during the Australian term of office. Members noted that the \$100,000 granted by the Victorian Government was a subsidy to the Melbourne 1994 Congress. It was also noted that the Bureau would need to find funding through to 1999 to cover the Bureau costs during their term in office to 1995 and the post Bureau costs of ISA's nominee for vice president in the UK Bureau. It was very soon realised that Australia would need to find more funds than those available from member association subscriptions. Ray Holmes once again advised that the Congress Directorate had decided to become an incorporated body and suggested that the Bureau should do the same. A draft Work Plan was discussed for the first time and Bureau members were urged to provide Grahame Lindsay with comment. The incoming Vice Presidents, Professor Dale (UK) and Pekka Raitanen (Finland) were not present.

The Australian delegation to the congress held a reception hosted by the Australian ambassador to Finland in the Ramada Presidentii Hotel for heads of delegations. The objective was to promote the 1994 Congress in Melbourne and during the congress banquet the event was further promoted by a formal invitation given by fellow Northern Territorian and ISA President Trevor Menzies. His invitation was complemented by a crowd of Australian surveyors and their wives who gave a hilarious pseudo sheep shearing exhibition, handed out Australian wine and sang *Waltzing Matilda* to the accompaniment of an Aussie Bush Band.

After the congress Wendy and I accepted an invitation from our Rotary friends Olof and Lucy Söderström to stay with them in their summer house in Lohja for three days to celebrate midsummer. Our son Peter, who is also a surveyor, and his wife Jane were also invited and we shared a cabin on the nearby lake. There we enjoyed regular saunas followed by icy cold swims and the mid-summer family feasts of a typical Finnish family.

After that we joined Kalevi Kirvisniemi, the Finnish congress director, and his grandson Osku for a motor tour of northern Finland. The six of us flew to Ivalo which is situated at about sixty nine degrees north latitude where we boarded a seaplane and flew to an island in Lake Hammasjarvi. Here we spent a few days fishing, cohabitating in a one roomed log hut provided by a local electrical distribution company, cooking fish (grayling) over a camp fire, enjoying the occasional sauna and fighting off a myriad of biting insects.

From Ivalo we drove to Sevettijärvi to meet the Koltta or Lap people. There we witnessed the mustering of six hundred reindeer being herded into branding yards. There was no actual branding; the muster was only for counting and ear-marking. Then we drove to Vadso in Norway where Roald Amundsen had taken off for the first flight over the North Pole in 1926. Then back to Kevo National Park where we visited a seismic monitoring station and saw a printout recorded during a recent Russian nuclear explosion. Finally we drove back to Ivalo for a flight to Helsinki where, due to stupidity, we

missed the flight. Because we were flying out of Helsinki the next day it was essential that we got there that day so we were forced to hire a taxi to take us three hundred kilometres to Rovaniemi, the home of Santa Claus, to catch another flight.

July 1990 – Correspondence between Australian Shadow Bureau and ISA re: Finances

On my return to Australia funding of the Australian Bureau became the main concern. I wrote to Trevor Menzies reminding him that the grant of \$100,000 made by the Victorian government was given to mainly cover pre-1994 congress expenses and that there were many other expenses to fund if ISA was to have a successful term administering FIG. I again pointed out that member association annual subscriptions normally covered only half of these costs so ISA would have to find the balance. The Shadow Bureau was seeking sponsorships but it was painfully obvious that more grants would have to be sought from governments. As an interim measure I suggested that ISA members should be prepared to sacrifice a small amount each year to provide working capital until sponsorships and grants could be organised in the belief that all such moneys could eventually be recovered from congress profits. I asked him, as President of ISA to plead our case.

In September I sought advice from Finland about how they financed President Talvitie's and other Bureau members' travel costs and I received a reply that informed me that all such costs were paid by sponsors or by Bureau members' normal employers. This was not much help. By October John Curdie had commenced work on a draft FIG Bureau budget; he sought advice from the CEO of ISA who briefed him on the current cost of such things as office rentals, furniture and equipment, the cost of producing regular publications, salaries, mailing and the probable cost of translation services. To assist in their deliberations on the matter ISA Councillors requested the Shadow Treasurer to provide estimates of income and expenditure by early 1991.

Another matter of increasing concern was the structure under which the Australian Bureau would operate. Currently all members of the Shadow Bureau were acting as individuals but a corporate structure or legal entity that could hold large sums of money was clearly needed. Grahame Lindsay was still the Australian Surveyor General and had allocated Bill Daw to be the acting secretary of the Shadow Bureau. We knew that the Canadian Bureau had operated as a corporate body but the Finnish Bureau had not. In October, Bill wrote to a local legal firm, Sly and Weigall seeking their help in deciding which way the Australian Bureau should go. The matter of personal liability in the event of a financial catastrophe was of concern.

Initial advice received from the solicitors revolved around the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation as an association or as a company. The main benefits of both forms of incorporation were the creation of a separate legal entity and the limitation of liability for members and office bearers. Incorporation would also enable the Bureau to act in its own right. But before any decision was made or a recommendation given, the solicitors requested more information.

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The third meeting of the Shadow Bureau took place in National Surveyors House, Canberra on 6th October. Options for a multi-lingual secretary were high on the agenda. Suggested names, some of which included people from other countries, were prov-

ing to be unsatisfactory. Finally Grahame Lindsay suggested that he might be able to recruit a secretary to AUSLIG and contract him/her out to work for FIG. The meeting recommended that he immediately place an advertisement in the appropriate newspapers. Bill Daw summarized negotiations with Sly & Weigall regarding incorporation and the meeting decided to instruct that firm to proceed with an application to incorporate the Bureau as an association under the name 'FIG Australia'.

Funding of the Australian Bureau's activities had an even greater priority so it was with pleasure that I advised the members that ISA Council had passed the following resolution on 5th October:

That the Council of ISA recognised its obligations to underwrite the effective operation of the FIG Bureau during its Australian tenure and accordingly advises the Australian Bureau members that it will have in place adequate funding mechanisms based on: corporate/sustaining sponsorship; member sponsorship; and capitation of members.

This was encouraging news to the members of the Shadow Bureau. John Curdie was urged to complete his draft budget to assist ISA Council in its deliberations on the matter. His first draft budget, completed in December, emphasised the fact that all funds given by ISA to the Bureau were to be regarded as loan funds.

This brought to an end a year that included fantastic Finnish hospitality. I vowed that I would reciprocate at the first available opportunity. A highly successful congress in Helsinki taught me a little more about the Joint Board and IUSM, and the Shadow Bureau had had some success in determining how it would fund itself.

CHAPTER 6: 1991 – DISAPPOINTMENTS AND SUCCESSES

Unknown to me at the time, the coming year of 1991 was to hold a number of disappointments: airline disruptions prevented me attending a Bureau meeting; negotiations on funding of the Australian administration were not proceeding well; there were differences of opinion over the appropriate legal structure of that administration; and the members of ISA were getting fidgety due to lack of information.

9–14 Feb 1991 – Bureau Meeting in Saariselkä (Finland)

I was due to attend a Bureau meeting in Finland in February 1991. Because it was winter in the northern hemisphere the Finns had resolved to hold the meeting once again in Saariselkä in honour of their southern hemisphere vice president. This being so I asked my wife to come with me so that she also could enjoy or endure the comforts and discomforts of extreme cold weather. The fact that I had had such a great time in Saariselkä twelve months before had a lot to do with that decision. Imagine our disappointment when we failed to get there. We got as far as Singapore where we spent a couple of days hosted by Qantas airline due to the breakdown of the aircraft scheduled to take us to Europe. By the time Qantas was ready to fly again it was too late for us to be able to attend the Bureau meeting so we returned home to Darwin.

From the minutes of the meeting I learned that preparations were being made to seek incorporation of FIG's new definition of a surveyor into the UN's International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), UNESCO's International Standard Classification on Education (ISCED) and ILO's International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). The Finns were also going to publish the definition in a small booklet. In addition, I learned that FIG had received NGO observer status with UNEP and was seeking the same with UNESCO. Also, the Bureau had received some positive feed-back with regard to the application for associate membership of ICSU. A decision was anticipated by September.

6–11 April 1991 – 38th Australian Surveyors Congress – Albury/Wodonga

On my return to Australia, resolution of the Shadow Bureau's finances became an urgent priority. By the middle of March John Curdie had completed a proposed budget but he was unwilling to submit it to ISA until all members of the Shadow Bureau had had a chance to examine it and add to it. All Australian members of the Shadow Bureau were in constant contact with each other by mail, fax or telephone but the only time we had an opportunity to meet in person as a group was at the annual Australian Survey Congress. The matter was therefore left in abeyance until the Shadow Bureau met during the 38th Congress in Albury/Wodonga in April. By this time ISA had given either the Congress Directorate or the Shadow Bureau subsidies that amounted to a total of \$35,000 from the fund that had been accruing. The first signs of future discord about whether these funds were subsidies or loans were appearing.

The Shadow Bureau held its fourth meeting at the Albury Convention Centre. Once again there were more observers present than Bureau members but all contributed in one way or another. It was decided that incorporation of the Bureau should be accompanied by an appropriate indemnity insurance; the Melbourne congress programme was discussed in great detail as was the coming travel needs of members; the first draft of the proposed Work Plan was discussed and revised; it was decided to write to all

Divisions of ISA seeking agreement to convene and fund a Bureau meeting; members also agreed to ask Council of ISA to consider levying a capitation fee of twenty dollars a year on members.

Grahame Lindsay reported on a conversation he had with Dr. Kadri el Araby, the Chief of the Infrastructure Branch of the UN Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (DTCD) while in Bangkok in February. He advised that the relationship between the UN and FIG was seen by that Department as of significant importance. The Department believed that FIG could contribute significantly to DTCD objectives which included seminars and workshops in developing countries and the provision of advisory and consultancy services in technology and development. Accreditation with the UN was very important as it was a means of entry to every UN event and aid activity for which the Department had a massive budget. While it was recognised that the Finnish Bureau was actively seeking such recognition with various UN bodies, this was something that the Shadow Bureau decided to pursue with great vigour in the future.

I cannot remember much about the congress in Albury except that my wife and I were accommodated in the Elm Court Motel where we were given the bridal suite because there was nothing else available. It was the first time I had ever seen a double bed and a spa bath in the same room.

20–25 May 1991 – 58th PC Meeting in Beijing (China)

In May I flew to Beijing to attend the 58th PC Meeting at which I presented my final report on the Relationship between FIG and Member Associations. The recommendations in the report were adopted. The Task Force had found that the relationship between FIG and member associations was quite good but had also found that the relationship between FIG and individual members of those associations was not so good. Recommendations of the report included suggestions that the copies of the published proceedings of all congresses and other seminars be sent to all member associations and that member associations include reviews of those FIG activities in their own publications. Generally the eight recommendations of the report were aimed at getting a greater flow of information from the higher to the lower levels of the Federation. The report was published as *FIG Publication No.6, 1991, FIG and Member Associations- How to improve Their Relationship*. (see Chapter 9)

At this meeting the PC considered and adopted the policy statement on Land Management presented by Professor Jo Henssen. It was subsequently published as *FIG Publication No.4, 1991, Surveyor's Contribution to Land Management*. Similarly adopted was Niel Östergård's policy statement on the Environment. This policy was published as *FIG Publication No.3, 1991, Sustainable Development – A Challenge and a Responsibility for Surveyors*. It was noted that the UNEP had sponsored the printing of the Statement on the Environment and that UNCHS had funded the printing of the Statement on Land Management. A Policy Statement on Aid for Surveyors in Developing Countries was also adopted at the meeting.

It was noted that IUSM had gained two affiliate members. They were the Spatially Oriented Referencing Systems Association (SORSA) and The Hydrographic Society (THS). It was also noted that the IUSM had established a number of Working Groups and that the Bureau had nominated Professor Richard Hoisl (Germany) to be chair of the Working Group on Education.

This meeting marked the culmination of the Finnish Bureau's term of office. They would still have six months or more in office but this was the final international meeting presided over by the Finnish Bureau. Soon it would be the Australian Bureau's turn. President Talvitie stated during this meeting that 'all matters included in the Bureau's Work Plan had been implemented' and in his final statement to member associations he added that 'the proposals made by Vice President Earl James in his report provide advice on how we should proceed'. He was of course referring to the recommendations in my report on the relationship between FIG and member associations.

This PC Meeting also marked the first opportunity for all seven members of the incoming Australian Bureau to meet together and this took place on 22 May in the Olympic Hotel. Peter Dale and Pekka Raitanen attended and Dale was accompanied by Jane Woolley, the UK delegation's executive secretary. Topics for discussion ranged from perceived problems with future translation costs; the role of the technical commissions during the Australian administration; possible seminars in developing countries; and the finalisation of the Shadow Bureau's Work Plan. Ray Holmes advised that the Congress Directorate was having similar problems with the cost of translation services and especially those of simultaneous audio translation services. He suggested we limit the service to a single language. It was agreed that there was a need to redefine the role of the technical commissions to achieve a better working relationship with the Bureau and Peter Dale agreed to draw up some Terms of Reference for a review of the situation. Finally the members discussed the aims and objectives of the Australian Bureau as defined in the latest draft Work Plan and decided to increase the number of primary objectives from seven to nine.

This was my third visit to Beijing and I could not believe the changes that had occurred since my first visit in 1982 when I came as a tourist after attending the 2nd South East Asian Survey Congress in Hong Kong. At that time all Chinese citizens wore Mao suits and bicycles were the principal form of transport. The only cars on the street were official government limos. This time it was obvious that times were a'changin'. While the streets were still a mass of cyclists the volume of motorised traffic had increased tenfold and the citizens' dress sense had been transformed. While the Bureau's hotel accommodation was mediocre there was a modern tourist hotel not far away which many delegates had found. At least our hotel was just across the road from the conference venue in the International Conference Centre and National Library of China although crossing the road proved to be a hazardous experience.

Memorable experiences included watching young Chinese couples gliding gracefully across the roof of a nearby building in imitation of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to the gentle strains of Glen Miller. A decade earlier they probably would have been imprisoned or worse. The other was a banquet for the Bureau members hosted by the Director General of the National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping of China, Jin Xiangwen. The meal was a feast for chopsticks and a devilish alcoholic drink called Mautai or some such name and by the end of the evening we had been plied with so much of it that the name meant nothing. During the proceedings the man sitting next to me and with whom I had been conversing by means of broken English and sign language, suddenly plunged his chopsticks into the feast before him, selected what presumably he considered to be a tender morsel and offered it to me. It was so close to my mouth that I could not mistake the meaning of his gesture. I opened my mouth and accepted it at which he smiled gratuitously. I later was told that such an action was a compliment within Chinese society and that it showed that the giver respected the receiver.

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Back home again and the Shadow Bureau was getting concerned that the ordinary members of ISA were not getting enough information about the coming responsibilities that the Institution had agreed to accept during the next eight years or more. Most members seemed to be of the opinion that being involved in FIG was a great 'perk' for those that were involved but few had any real idea what the responsibilities encompassed. Most simply thought the annual levy imposed by ISA was a burden that had to be accepted with reluctance.

In June I wrote to all eight Divisions of ISA seeking offers to host the three-day Bureau Meetings that would be held in Australia during the period of Australian administration of FIG. Such interaction would give the officers of the Divisions an opportunity to attend Bureau Meetings and get a better understanding of the functioning of the Federation. The social interaction between Bureau members and ISA members would help to transfer this same knowledge down the line. An immediate response in the affirmative was received from the South Australian Division. The Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory Divisions had already indicated informally that they were interested in taking part in the handover of the administration from the Finns to Australia, so I made a formal request to both of them. In addition I sought to have a special session made available to the Shadow Bureau at the 34th Australian Survey Congress due to be held in Cairns in May the following year. The idea was to have a forum discussion on Australia's role in FIG.

On the 27th August the NT Division confirmed that they would assist in any way they could to host an FIG Bureau meeting in February 1992. This meeting was actually a Finnish Bureau meeting. It was to be the final meeting of the Finnish Bureau and I had convinced the members to have it in Darwin so that I, and the local ISA members, could provide the Finns with a little reciprocal hospitality as a small recompense for that shown to me over the previous four years. As will be seen the members of the NT Division excelled themselves when the time came.

On the 20th September the Western Australian Division of ISA confirmed that they would host a Bureau Meeting preferably in October 1993 on Rottnest Island and on the 15th November the NSW Division advised that they would be willing to host the Bureau in October 1994. The former was eventually implemented in September 1993 and the latter in September 1994. The offer from South Australia was never taken up.

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On 6 July an article had appeared in *The Australian* newspaper in which a senior partner of the law firm Sly and Weigall was quoted as calling for amendment to the corporations law to distinguish between the responsibilities and liabilities of executive and honorary directors of non-profit organisations. This came about because an honorary director of the National Safety Council had been ordered to pay an exorbitant sum of money to a bank after allowing the Council to become defunct. The article awoke fears of what might happen to Australian Bureau members in the future and they determined to push Sly and Weigall for an answer to their earlier request for advice. A conference with those solicitors was held on the 17th July and by the end of that month we had their advice that the most appropriate structure for the Bureau was that of a 'proprietary company' under the corporations law. The name suggested for the company was 'FIG Australia Pty Ltd' and a draft constitution was included with their report together with advice on responsibilities, costs, taxation and liabilities of directors.

At first I opposed the idea of forming a company. I could not understand why we could not operate as an incorporated association. The lawyers gave no real reason for their preference in their report and I was not privy to their discussions at the conference in July. I wrote to Bill Daw on the subject but he simply passed on my comments to the lawyers. In October there was another conference with Sly and Weigall where details of the new company were finalised. In the event my concerns were over-riden by the other members of the Bureau and the advice of the lawyers was accepted.

The Congress Directorate under the leadership of Ray Holmes had already incorporated and operated under the name of FIG XX Congress Ltd. With the incorporation of the Bureau the administrative organisation of FIG Australia was complete. All this time Grahame Lindsay and Bill Daw were drafting a programme for the changeover meeting in Canberra next February and attempting to firm up venues, hosts, sponsors and a ladies programme. I was doing the same in Darwin for the Finns' last Bureau meeting.

Around the end of August I wrote to the Lord Mayor of Darwin, the Right Worshipful, Alan Markham, seeking a Mayoral reception for the Finns when they arrived in February. He agreed although it took him a month to make the decision. In contrast, the NT Minister for Lands and Housing, the Hon Max Hortman was only too eager to provide a ministerial reception. I also took the time to advise the Finnish Ambassador in Canberra of the imminent arrival of the Finns and suggested that he too might like to have a celebratory reception to which he agreed. As for a meeting venue when the Finns arrived, the Diamond Beach Casino confirmed that rooms were available for both accommodation and meetings at what the manager claimed to be 'mate's rates'.

After much discussion with the members of the NT Division of ISA, by early October I was able to send a draft programme for the final Finnish Bureau meeting in Feb 1992 to President Talvitie. The program included: a coach tour to Litchfield Park and evening B.B.Q. sponsored by ISA; a civic reception provided by the Lord Mayor; a city tour sponsored by a local surveying firm; an NT Government reception sponsored by the Minister for Lands & Housing; a cruise on the Adelaide River to see the jumping crocodiles sponsored by the NT Division of ISA; a Farewell Dinner sponsored by the Finnish Consul in the NT; a tour of the Territory Wildlife Park courtesy of the NT Conservation Commission; and a Tour of a crocodile farm courtesy of the farm management.

6 October 1991 – Shadow Bureau Meeting, Rialto Centre, Melbourne (Australia)

The sixth meeting of the Shadow Bureau was held on 6th October in the Rialto Centre, Melbourne, at which only the Australian members were present. The CEO of ISA, Col Fuller, who had taken Bob Alderton's place on Bob's retirement, was also present. I informed members that their task as administrators of FIG would commence on 26th February 1992 and that Grahame Lindsay would be responsible for all meeting arrangements. It was agreed that since the ISA Council had extended an invitation to me to attend all Council Meetings, a similar invitation should extend to the CEO of ISA to attend all Bureau Meetings. In the event I attended most of the ISA Council Meetings held during my term in office but I do not recall Colin attending many Bureau Meetings. It was agreed that a meeting of all members of the Bureau should be held twice a year, once in Australia and once during the PC Meeting wherever that may be. The Australian members would then meet at regular intervals either by telephone hook-up or in person.

The draft Memorandum of Articles for the Incorporation of the Bureau as a company was discussed. A number of minor amendments were agreed to. It was also agreed that when the company was wound up any remaining funds would be paid back to ISA. It was noted that Norm Edwards from the Victorian Division of ISA had agreed to be the FIG Bulletin editor for the 1992/95 period. Grahame Lindsay advised that a position of secretary had been created within AUSLIG and that the department would bear the cost of this employment though the incumbent would be working for the Bureau. He would soon be advertising the position. Details of the changeover meeting in Canberra in February were refined and a decision was made on who would do what during the one hour period set aside for promotion of FIG at the Australian survey congress in Cairns next May.

On the 12 November Sly and Weigall forwarded all papers required for the application to register a company for signature of the proposed directors. The end result was that FIG Australia Pty Ltd was registered with the Australian Securities Commission in the Australian Capital Territory on 22nd January 1992. The five Australian members of the Shadow Bureau were the company directors. Col Fuller was appointed the company secretary and the registered office was Surveyors House in Deakin, ACT. All directors were allotted one ordinary share in the company and John Curdie was appointed Public Officer. The directors were all given a copy of the Commission's brochure on the statutory obligations of company directors.

Although the beginning of the year held a few disappointments, the end of 1991 brought satisfaction. We now had some certainty of financial security and the legal entity necessary to administer FIG for the next four years was firmly in place.

CHAPTER 7: 1992 (PART 1) – AUSTRALIA TAKES OVER

The time for testing the mettle of the Australian Shadow Bureau was about to descend upon us. In less than two months the Finns would arrive in Darwin for their final meeting before flying to Canberra to hand over to Australia.

In early January 1992 I sought the use of the Arrow Club at the Larrakeyah Naval Base as a venue for the Bureau dinner in February. Commander David Horton replied in the affirmative. At that stage the program for the Finnish Bureau meeting and social program in Darwin was sufficiently in hand that it could be sent to President Talvitie as the final draft.

In the meantime Grahame Lindsay and Bill Daw had been busy organising the change-over of the administration which was due to be held in Canberra immediately after the Finns' meeting in Darwin. They advised Shadow Bureau members that the final program for the handover from Finland to Australia included a lunch at Parliament House hosted by Senator Nick Bolkus, Minister for Administrative affairs; a cocktail party at the Embassy of Finland hosted by the Finnish ambassador His Excellency Charles Murto; a tour of Canberra hosted by the ACT Division of ISA; and a Changeover Dinner at the Lobby Restaurant, King George Terrace, Parkes. Between these tasks Lindsay sought to assist the Congress Directorate in the promotion of the 1994 Congress in Melbourne by seeking the agreement of the Australian Ambassador to the USA to host a reception during the coming ISPRS Conference in Washington in August.

15–20 February 1992 – Finnish Bureau Meeting in Darwin (Australia)

The President of NT Division of ISA, Graeme Everingham and other members of the Division put in a massive effort to help with meetings and the social program for the Finnish Bureau's meeting in Darwin. The meetings were all held in a special room provided by the Casino management and all the visitors were accommodated at the Casino. Shadow Secretary General Lindsay attended as an observer. Unfortunately VP Wally Youngs of Canada was unable to attend.

The purpose of the meeting was to finalise all outstanding matters that were to be handed over to the Australian Bureau for further action. These matters included the burgeoning relationship with UN organisations such as UNEP and UNESCO, and efforts to gain sponsor members. It was noted that IUSM now had working groups focused on Global Positioning Systems, Education and Land Information Systems. One matter that the Finns were perfectly happy to leave to the Australians was an application for membership by a French association – the Association Française de Topographie (AFT). Any such application had to be approved by the current member associations from the same country as the applicant before the Bureau could make a recommendation to the Permanent Committee. In this case the only existing French member was the Ordre des Géomètre-Experts (OGE), a founding member of FIG. The officers of that association were totally opposed to the application even though the Finns believed the AFT satisfied the necessary criteria for membership. This was a matter of pure professional jealousy which caused me a lot of heartache before it was resolved a few years later.

During their five day visit the Finns were introduced to various aspects of Aboriginal culture and at one stage were seen imitating dancing brolgas in one of Darwin's parks,

complete with sound effects. Having arrived in the city on a Saturday evening their first social event was an informal coach tour the next day to the Northern Territory Wild Life Park, sponsored by the NT Division of ISA. Here they became familiar with Australian animals and birds. Then on to Cameron Downs, a small farming property near Bachelor. This event in itself was enough to pay back my Finnish friends for their earlier hospitality in freezing weather. The air conditioning in the coach failed very early in the trip so the passengers had to endure the sauna-like weather of Darwin's torrid mid-summer for the day.

On the following Monday morning the Finnish contingent was treated to a grand tour of Darwin followed by an evening civic reception with the Lord Mayor. The next evening the Minister for Lands did the same after which the visitors joined the citizens of Darwin in the Bi-Centenary Park to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin on the 19th February 1942. A buffet dinner at the Naval Patrol Boat Base followed, once again sponsored by the NT members of ISA. A tour of a crocodile farm the next day gave the visitors an appetite for a farewell dinner at the home of the Northern Territory's Consul for Finland. On the day of departure, the local surveyors once again sponsored a final social event with a river cruise to see the famous jumping crocodiles. The Finns departed for Cairns at 7.50 that evening and spent a few nights recovering there before continuing on to Canberra.

During the course of the meetings a three-column-inch story appeared in *The Northern Territory News* on the 17th of the month simply advising the public that the administration of FIG had come to Australia and that local citizen Earl James would be the President of the Federation. The media story made no mention of the professional details and achievements of the Federation contained in the media release that had been provided to that worthy publication.

24–25 Feb 1992 – Joint Meeting of Finnish and Australian Bureaux, Canberra

On 23 February the Minister for Administrative Services, Senator Nick Bolkus posted a press release in which he announced that 'Australian surveyors would host a coup this week'. He went on to tell whoever would listen that 'Australian surveyors were to become the peak body' and that soon the International Federation of Surveyors would be administered by Australian surveyors led by 'Darwin based survey and mapping consultant, Earl James'. He did not say that the changeover of the administration was about to occur in Canberra but that was in fact what was about to happen. The *Herald-Sun* newspaper featured a small paragraph on the same subject on the 24th of the month.

The joint meeting of the Finnish and Australian Bureau was held in Canberra on 24 and 25 February. It was held in the National Surveyors House, the home of ISA, and was hosted by the ACT Division of that institution. All members of the Australian Bureau were present including incoming Vice Presidents Peter Dale (UK) and Pekka Raitanen (Finland). ISA president Brenton Burford and the Institution's CEO, Colin Fuller were also present as observers and the Australian Bureau's newly appointed permanent secretary Monika Cleary made her first public appearance.

The purpose of the meeting was to allow an opportunity for the Finnish Bureau to brief the incoming Australian Bureau on what had been achieved during the previous four years and to advise on matters that required ongoing attention. Their achievements

were considerable. For the first time in the Federation's history the Finns had produced a Work Plan at the start of their term in office and they had worked steadily to implement it. During their tenure, membership had increased to sixty associations from fifty seven countries; they introduced Sponsor Membership to the Federation and had recruited Sokia Co. Ltd to be the first such member; they had worked hard to improve and strengthen the relationship between the Federation and a number of UN agencies; application for membership of ICSU had been made; they had been a party to the formation of the IUSM; and they had introduced a publication series that had included the *Definition of a Surveyor* and *The Relationship between FIG and Member Associations*, both of which were the result of Task Forces led by me.

During the joint meeting of the two Bureaux, President Talvitie emphasised the value of personal contact between Bureau members and individual member associations. He outlined the travel programme of members of his Bureau and revealed that between them they had visited more than thirty member associations during their four year term much of which had been done by him. This was valuable information in relation to our future travel programme and it proved to be prophetic in relation to my life as president.

While the Australian Bureau had already commenced to draw up a Work Plan of its own based on the experiences I had during the past four years, the meeting was a great help for those Shadow Bureau members who had had no participation in the administrative workings of the Federation during the period. Over the two days following the joint meeting, while the Finns enjoyed the hospitality of Canberra, the incoming Bureau attempted to consolidate their own Work Plan, discussing the matters outlined by the Finns that required ongoing attention. The work of FIG in developing countries and the role of the Commissions in that work was a necessary detail of the future Work Plan. The role of the three Vice Presidents was considered as was that of the newly formed Inter-commission Advisory Committee set up to advise the Bureau. (See Chapter 10)

On-going matters that would be of concern to the Australian Bureau included: the state of affairs with the Federation's application to join ICSU; The Finns' promotion of the profession to a number of UN agencies; their attempts to gain sponsors; the application for membership by the French association AFT; and the representation of FIG in IUSM Working Groups. While the meetings were in progress the Shadow Bureau received a notification that the Queensland Division of ISA was willing to host a Bureau meeting sometime in 1995. This offer was received with thanks but never taken up.

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As part of their visit to Canberra the Finns were given an introductory coach tour of Canberra and its environs that ended with a typical Aussie bar-b-que at Surveyors Park hosted by the Canberra Division of ISA. The park was a particularly appropriate venue as it memorialises the efforts of Charles Scrivener, the surveyor who led the team that established the site of the City of Canberra. On the first day of meetings the visitors enjoyed a Ministerial Luncheon at Parliament House hosted by Senator Bolkus and in the evening they were honoured with a reception hosted by the Finnish Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Charles Murto and his wife, at which there were about eighty guests. The next evening there was a formal dinner and a changeover ceremony attended by Ministers of both the Australian and the ACT governments. The President of ISA, Brenton Burford and CEO of the Institution, Col Fuller were also present as well as many local members of ISA.

This dinner was by far the most important social function for both the Finns and the Australians. It was held on the night of the 25th February 1992 at the Lobby Restaurant in King George Terrace, Parkes, ACT. It was at this function that President Talvitie relinquished the reins of authority and handed them over to me as the incoming President. There was a speech of welcome given by the Hon Bill Wood, the Minister for Environment, Land and Planning in the ACT Government in which he said that it was most appropriate that FIG had chosen Canberra, the capital of Australia, for its headquarters and that the ACT Government was proud to assist the Canberra Division of ISA to host the dinner.

Senator the Hon Nick Bolkus, Minister for Administrative Services in the Australian Government congratulated the members of the Finnish Bureau for the work they had done and lauded ISA for bringing FIG to the southern hemisphere. He acknowledged the challenges that the Australian Bureau members would face and the opportunities and responsibilities that they might meet during their term of office. He claimed to have read the copy of the Australian Bureau's Work Plan that was sent to him and was particularly impressed by the 'overt intention to make the work of FIG more relevant to developing countries'.

In his farewell speech President Talvitie noted that the members of FIG vary from country to country as do the duties and tasks of surveyors; that in this modern world where nothing is static those duties and tasks, and the tools used to deal with them, are continually changing. He said that FIG was 'responsible ... to meet those changing needs' and that FIG was the international spokesman for surveyors. He suggested that the incoming Australian Bureau was facing an interesting and demanding time. He then emphasised the fact that the Bureau's success can only be guaranteed if it had the support of its host member association and its host country and expressed his thanks for the evident support shown thus far by ISA and the Commonwealth and ACT governments.

After presenting FIG pennants to Senator Bolkus, Bill Wood MLA and Rod Menzies, the President of the Canberra Division of ISA, President Talvitie placed the chain of office on my shoulders and completed his duties by saying 'I am happy that FIG now gets a new president full of energy and enthusiasm to work for FIG'. He went on to say that I would now have to undertake a lot of travelling but that I should learn to enjoy it because travelling was a very necessary part of promoting and implementing the goals of FIG. I must admit that sometimes during the next six years I was loath to accept this as good advice when, for instance, I was thirty thousand feet above Frankfurt facing a thirteen hour flight to Singapore, crammed up in an economy seat next to the galley or the toilets and coughing and spluttering from the early symptoms of influenza. However his final remarks I found to be absolutely spot on. 'Accept from the beginning' he said 'that you will be treated as the President of FIG and not as Earl James from Australia'. The honour and respect that was shown by governments and even by royalty to the title and to the man bearing it during my term of office was simply overwhelming.

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In reply I first paid tribute to Honorary Fellow and former CEO of ISA, Bob Alderton who, I believe, was the one to first suggest that ISA make application to host the 1994 Congress and to accept the responsibilities that went with it – a responsibility to administer FIG for the four year period 1992–1995. In my view, Bob was the 'Godfather' of the Australian Bureau just as the Finns regarded Professor Matthias of Switzerland to be the godfather of the Finnish Bureau. I said that he should be given due recognition for the work that he had done in the early days of the ISA's push for recognition.

I then paid tribute to past President Talvitie and the driving force that emanated from the man during the years that I had known him. We had become great friends during that period and the friendship has lasted to this day. Elsewhere I have already described some of the achievements of the Finnish Bureau under Talvitie's leadership but here I would like to reiterate on some of them as I did on that night:

- After fifteen years or more of deliberations the profession had finally accepted a 'definition of a surveyor' that reflects the usage of the term in so many different countries;
- A number of UN organisations have now been convinced that surveying is not a sub-set of cartography nor of engineering;
- Proposals had been made for the amendment of the International Standards Classification for Education and the International Standards Classifications on Occupations so as to include the new definition of surveyor and surveying;
- The FIG Bulletin was revitalised and a publication series containing seven volumes was created;
- FIG now had published policy statements on the surveyor's role in environmental and land management issues;
- The publication of these policy statements was financed by the UN Centre for Human Development (Habitat) and the UN Environment Program;
- The UN Infrastructure Branch reprinted these policy statements within its own Bulletin, *World Cartography today*;
- Membership increased significantly during the period and a new category of membership, Sponsor Member, was created.

These were major achievements and they were only a sample of the whole.

After presenting past President Talvitie with a small gift from the members of the Australian Bureau in appreciation of his efforts I went on to tell the assembled dignitaries what it was that the Australians had in mind for the next four years. I informed them that our principal aim was to make the Federation more relevant to the individual members of the associations that comprise the Federation. I then outlined the primary objectives that had been set to achieve this. They were:

- Implementing the recommendations of the Task Force that I chaired on the Relationship between FIG and its Member Associations;
- Strengthening ties with the international community with special reference to the Asia-Pacific region by promoting the FIG technical Commissions' activities in less developed countries;
- Attempting to have each of our nine Commissions hold at least one seminar or workshop in a less developed country during the four year period;
- Examining the feasibility of creating an exchange program for surveying personnel throughout the world;
- Convening the XX International Survey Congress in 1994 in Melbourne;
- Convening the annual PC Meetings to be held in Madrid (Spain) in 1992, New Orleans (USA) in 1993, Melbourne (Australia) in 1994 and Berlin (Germany) in 1995;



*Handing over the chain of office 25 February 1992.
L to R: retiring President Juha Talvitie (Finland),
incoming President Earl James (Australia).*

- The entire Bureau to meet twice a year, once in Australia and once at the PC Meetings, and the Australian members of the Bureau to meet regularly in person or by telephone conference;
- Fostering further liaison and closer ties with UN organisations and agencies;
- Working with HABITAT in their efforts to solve the problems of rapidly expanding urban areas in developing countries;
- Working with UNEP to promote the benefits of geographic information systems (GIS) as a tool for the management of environmental resources.

I then told the assembled dignitaries and guests that my personal theme for the coming period would be *'Look Beyond Yourself'* and that my hope was that many would join with me in adopting it. I said that I agreed with past President Talvitie's description of FIG as:

'A link between its member associations, a promoter of surveyors' activities, and an international spokesman for surveyors.'

I promised that the Australian Bureau would accept the challenge contained in those words. On behalf of the members of the Bureau, I said that we looked forward to carrying out the responsibilities of office during the next four years with the same degree of enthusiasm as displayed by the Finns during the last four years. The next day, 26 February 1992, saw the commencement of the administration of FIG by Australian surveyors.

CHAPTER 8: THE DEFINITION OF A SURVEYOR

Surveying is one of the oldest professions in the world. Evidence of surveyors' existence dates back thousands of years. Like the medical profession, that of surveying has grown many branches and specialities during those millennia. The Federation's definition of a surveyor, as contained in the statutes, was very old. For many years the matter of a more appropriate definition, in terms of modern survey practice, had been informally discussed. From 1975 it became a matter of serious discussion at all FIG Permanent Committee meetings.

It was recognised that the term 'surveyor' had different meanings in different countries. In some countries important sections of the profession were known by other names such as Valuers, Appraisers, Land Economists, Hydrographers, Cadastre Engineers etc. Indeed, many of these even had their own professional associations but as far as the Federation was concerned they were all surveyors and their professional associations were free to join. At the time, the main concern was that the definition did not cater adequately for the activities of valuers and appraisers but this was to evolve into the consideration of all professionals who collect and use spatial data.

In June 1985 at the Permanent Committee meeting in Katowice, Poland, with no resolution of the matter in sight, the committee appointed an ad-hoc Commission to resolve the matter. Its brief was to review the definition of a surveyor as contained in the Federation's statutes and to consider the relevance of the definition with regard to the Federation. Vice President Juha Talvitie was appointed chairman of the ad-hoc Commission and a report was expected at the June 1987 Permanent Committee meeting in Oslo, Norway.

The definition was contained in the Federation's Statutes, as approved in 1978, in Chapter III, Article 4 but the Statutes as a whole were under review by another committee which had recommended minor changes to this definition. It was this amended version that was the subject of the ad-hoc Commission's task and the proposed definition was as follows:

The surveyor is a professional person who identifies, determines the boundaries of, measures and values public or private landed property, whether urban or rural, and whether on the surface of land or water or below, as well as works executed thereon; and who arranges for the registration of the property, and settles questions of ownership connected therewith.

The surveyor also studies, plans, and is responsible for land development and urban and regional planning. He deals with the technical, legal, economic, land use and social aspects of the aforementioned.

Vice President Talvitie studied the record of past discussion on the subject and came to the conclusion that there were two things that were common to all branches of the profession, namely: 'man' and 'land use'. He wrote a report for distribution to member associations in which he suggested the role of the surveyor was 'the provision of information relating to the land and its use'. The use of that information in the preparation of plans and the implementation of those plans was an associated role.

Submissions received from member associations suggested that perhaps the term 'surveyor' might now be inappropriate. This was at a time when the profession in a number of western countries was considering a possible name change in an effort to attract students. Many universities were considering changing the name of their Schools of Surveying because prospective students had a blinkered vision of the life and work of a surveyor. Indeed, 'geodetics' became a favourite substitute for a number of universities.

In January 1986 Talvitie informed members that he would not recommend changing the title of the surveyor. It would be so difficult to get agreement that it was not a practicable idea. He suggested that the Federation should stick with the current title and promote it. He then suggested that we should develop a short umbrella definition and in addition, provide a list of the different surveying specialities that would establish compatibility with the International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISCO) standards.

During the Toronto Congress that year members provided additional suggestions. Terms such as 'land use development', 'collection and management of land-related data', 'land information systems' and 'land professionals' were put forward as relevant. Talvitie himself said that land related information and management were the two basic elements of the profession of surveying. It is interesting that the concept of a surveyor being a collector of information first came from Talvitie and later, in a submission he made while still the CEO of ISA, from Australia's godfather of FIG, Bob Alderton. It was to affect my thinking on the subject at a later date.

In June 1987 Talvitie handed down his ad-hoc Commission's report at the Permanent Committee meeting in Oslo. He recommended that the definition should be divided into three parts:

1. *Headline Definition: 'Surveyor: The Land Professional',*
2. *Short Definition: 'The Land Profession: Professionals who advise on land management matters, and administer land information systems and positioning activities',*
3. *Main Definition: 'A surveyor is a person with the profession to manage, measure and administer the land and seas and all structures related with these'.*

There followed a long list of activities relating to surveying in its broadest sense.

The Headline and Short definitions were accepted in principle by the Permanent Committee but the main definition was referred back to the member associations for further review. As a result a submission was received from the UK seeking to reword the long definition in order to define the activity of surveying rather than the person performing it. This proposal was accepted in principal by the Permanent Committee meeting in Wellington, New Zealand in October 1988. However the wording proposed by the UK was not acceptable and the Bureau was given the task of rewording the long list of activities. At the third meeting of the Bureau in Wellington I was given the task of completing the work of the ad-hoc Commission.

Talvitie gave me until the end of January 1989 to complete the job so that members of the ad-hoc Commission might have time to see it and comment before the next Bureau meeting in March. As it was, I sent a report to the Bureau on 10 February which was sent immediately to all members of the ad-hoc Commission for review. I informed the Bureau that it was my understanding that the member associations had agreed that the activity of 'surveying' should be defined rather than the surveyor as a person. I added

that while the Headline and Short definitions proposed by the Commission had been accepted by the Permanent Committee I was not particularly happy with them. This was because they were definitions that related to the person and not to the activity. I elected to present a long definition in a form that related to the person but to express it in a manner which described the activity.

To achieve my goal I read all previous submissions made to the ad-hoc Commission and prepared a summary of them. I then prepared a matrix of all the terms and activities contained in the proposed definition previously submitted to the PC by the ad-hoc Commission and those contained in submissions made subsequently. From this matrix I devised an opening paragraph which set out briefly and concisely the broad scope of the professional surveyor. It incorporated data collection, measurement, positioning, planning, management and administration.

I then selected all the features of the matrix which best described the activities of a professional surveyor and set them out in six paragraphs in what I believed to be an appropriate order of priority. I then prefaced the list with a short introductory sentence. There followed a list of six activities presented in far more detail than those previously considered by the Permanent Committee. My proposed definition retained the title of 'surveyor'. It defined a surveyor as a professional and gave evidence of qualification allowing us to call ourselves professional. It covered the narrow view of surveyors and surveying held by people in such countries as Australia but it also covered the broader field of activities of the Chartered Surveyor of the United Kingdom, and the géomètre or earth measurer of Europe. It contained the basic elements of 'scientific and mathematical' or the application of technology; and 'artistic & non-scientific' or the application of judgement. It contained the essential elements suggested by Finland, Australia and the USA – that is, the collection of land related information, the use of that data for planning purposes and the implementation of those plans. It gave equal importance to measurement and administration and it did not encroach on the preserve of other professionals. This was sent to members of the ad-hoc Commission and after consideration of their comments I altered my proposal superficially. My opening paragraph was altered to read:

A Surveyor is a professional person with the academic qualifications and technical expertise to practice the science of measurement for the purpose of collecting land related information and trends in modern development, to be used for the planning and the implementation of the efficient administration of the land, the sea and structures thereon.

The introductory paragraph to the list of activities was changed to:

Practice of the surveyor's profession may involve one or more of the following activities which may occur either on, above or below the surface of the land or the sea, and may be carried out in association with other professionals.

The six activity clauses were unchanged but were rearranged in priority.

Discussion on the subject at the Permanent Committee meeting in Budapest, Hungary in August 1989 was long, loud and fairly robust. In presenting the proposal I tried to emphasise that it contained little that had been devised by me. It was an amalgamation of all those things on which there was common agreement among the members of the ad-hoc Commission. I had simply tried to put them together in a

manner which would satisfy the resolution passed at the last Permanent Committee meeting.

I advised the meeting that in all my deliberations on the subject, I had proceeded on the assumption that all surveyors are expert measurers and gatherers of information. Some use more sophisticated methods than others or more technical equipment than others but all do it for the same purpose. That purpose is the collection of data that can be used or applied to achieve a particular undertaking. Such an undertaking may be the determination of the value of property; the positioning of a road or building in space; or deciding the location of a property boundary. The first paragraph of my definition tells the world, I said, that we are expert measurers, all of us, valuers, appraisers and planners included. Our purpose was the collection of land-related information to be applied to the planning and efficient administration of the land and the sea.

The reaction was as voluminous as it was vociferous. The Americans claimed that valuation was a separate science. The Belgians were averse to being called 'collectors of information' as were the New Zealanders. The Italians claimed that there was not enough emphasis on planning and the Greeks just did not like it at all. Australia, the UK, Germany and France were in favour of adoption of the proposal in the knowledge that minor amendments could be made later. The end result was that the proposed definition was accepted in principle with member associations being asked to submit proposals for minor change in time to have a final Definition of a Surveyor agreed to by the General Assembly at the congress in Helsinki in 1990.

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Over the next few months I received submissions from Italy, Bulgaria, New Zealand and the UK. The submissions from the latter two amounted to an exercise in semantics whereby the 'collecting' land-related information became 'assessing and assembling' that information. The submissions from the other two however were cause for concern, especially the one from Italy. This one complained that the proposed definition did not give enough prominence to 'planning, management and accounting activities for building and road works, infrastructure etc'. Indeed the authors of the submission were so distressed about the subject that it contained a none too veiled threat to withdraw from the Federation over the matter.

I was sure that these matters were adequately covered in my proposal but I certainly did not want to be the cause of a member association withdrawing from the Federation. I needed help! I was scheduled to meet with members of the RICS in London early in January 1990 while on my way to Helsinki for a Bureau meeting so I sought to include this matter on the agenda of our meeting. With the help of some very erudite members of that organisation I was able to finalise my task. My problems were overcome by the insertion of two sub-paragraphs covering the activities of planning, development, valuation and cost estimates.

I sent my final proposal to President Talvitie on 7 February and to my surprise I received a reply five days later telling me that the Finns now had a problem. It was another semantics problem due to difficulties in understanding meaning and usage of certain words in the English language. My explanation was accepted by the Bureau and the proposal was placed on the agenda of the General Assembly due to be held in Helsinki in June 1990. At that meeting the Belgians, Italians and Bulgarians made it known that

they did not fully accept the definition. The French favoured the definition but suggested that if it was accepted it should be kept under review and revised regularly. When the motion was put that the definition be adopted and the Statutes amended accordingly it was carried with thirty associations in favour, two against and four abstaining. The final definition was as follows:

A surveyor is a professional person with the academic qualifications and technical expertise to practise the science of measurement; to assemble and assess land and geographic related information; to use that information for the purpose of planning and implementing the efficient administration of the land, the sea and structures thereon; and to instigate the advancement and development of such practices.

Practice of the surveyor's profession may involve one or more of the following activities which may occur either on, above or below the surface of the land or sea and may be carried out in association with other professionals:

- 1. The determination of the size and shape of the earth and the measurement of all data needed to define the size, position, shape and contour of any part of the earth's surface.*
- 2. The positioning of objects in space and the positioning and monitoring of physical features, structures and engineering works on, above or below the surface of the earth.*
- 3. The determination of the position of boundaries of public or private land, including national and international boundaries, and the registration of those lands with the appropriate authorities.*
- 4. The design, establishment and administration of land and geographic information systems and the collection, storage and management of data within those systems.*
- 5. The study of the natural and social environment, the measurement of land and marine resources and the use of the data in the planning of development in urban, rural and regional areas.*
- 6. The planning, development and redevelopment of property, whether urban or rural and whether land or buildings.*
- 7. The assessment of value and the management of property, whether urban or rural and whether land or buildings.*
- 8. The planning, measurement and management of construction works, including the estimation of costs.*
- 9. The production of plans, maps, files, charts and reports.*

In the application of the foregoing activities surveyors take into account the relevant legal, economic, environmental and social aspects affecting each project.

On the 6 September the Secretary General sent a copy of the Definition of a Surveyor to all member associations asking them to consider adopting it as their own national definition. He also advised them that the Bureau had commenced discussions with the relevant UN organisations in an effort to get them to revise their definitions of surveyor and surveying to conform with the FIG definition. In 1991

the Bureau published *FIG Publication No. 2, 1991: Definition of a Surveyor*, in three languages.

On 10 April 1991 at the annual general meeting of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia which was held in Albury, NSW, the Council of the Institution in its annual report informed the members that ISA had adopted the definition as its own.⁸

⁸ *The Australian Surveyor*, Vol 36 No 2, June 1991, The Institution of Surveyors, Australia, p. 146.

CHAPTER 9: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FIG AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Change is an inevitable consequence of elections. New presidents have new ideas and President Talvitie was no exception. Within a short time of taking over he began implementing his vision for the Federation. Many members had been questioning the relevancy of FIG and in what ways the Federation could improve its services to its member associations. He was determined to answer those queries.

On 25 February 1988 he wrote to me informing me that he wanted the three Vice Presidents and the Treasurer to chair task forces (his name for ad-hoc commissions) on various subjects. Treasurer Martti Hautala was to chair a task force looking for new ways to finance FIG and particularly Bureau activities. VP Wally Youngs was to finalise his IAESTE report and to chair a task force reviewing the structure, functions and activities of the Technical and Scientific Commissions of the Federation. VP Seppo Härmälä's task was to find ways and means to maximise the exchange of surveying personnel (as opposed to students) between different countries. I was given the role of Chair of a Task Force on the Relationship between FIG and its Member Associations. It was my job to examine the question of relevancy and make recommendations. My first task was to prepare some terms of reference and a plan of action.

My proposed terms of reference and Work Plan were accepted by the Bureau in May 1988. I intended to 'review the activities of FIG in relation to the aims and objectives of the Federation, having regard to the aspirations of member associations, and to make recommendations for desirable changes'. The aims and objectives of the Federation were set out in Articles 1 to 3 of the Statutes and they had remained unchanged for the better part of a century. Broadly speaking these aims revolved around the interchange of information between member associations and the dissemination of professional research and changes in technology. The methods to be used to achieve these aims included international congresses, seminars and workshops, a regular news bulletin and the exchange of surveying personnel.⁹

To complete my task I intended to enlist the help of the available past presidents of the Federation. Talvitie sent me a list of past presidents dating back to 1954, all of whom had been elevated to Honorary President status. In September I wrote to the five with most recent experience. They were William A Radlinski (USA, 1973–75); Karl-Olof Ternryd (Sweden, 1976–78); Prof. Herbert Matthias (Switzerland, 1979–81); Prof. Vassill Peevsky (Bulgaria, 1982–84); and Charlie Weir (Canada, 1985–87). My plan of action was to seek their ideas on the subject then to prepare a discussion paper for dissemination to and comment from member associations. I was then to prepare a report for the PC Meeting in Budapest in 1989 followed by preliminary recommendations to the congress in Helsinki, Finland in 1990. A final report and recommendations were to be presented at the PC Meeting in Beijing, China in 1991. It proved to be not quite as straight forward as it sounded.

Only two of the past presidents replied. Submissions were received from Radlinski and Matthias. Radlinski was concerned about two issues. These were the lack of communications between the Federation and member associations and the relevance of current Federation activities to the individual members of those associations. Matthias

⁹ See FIG Publication No.7, 1991 – *Statutes and Internal Rules of the International Federation of Surveyors*.

had concerns about public image, support for surveyors in developing countries, and free flow of information from Federation meetings back to member associations and the individual members. Surprisingly he touched on the subject of what he called 'the Anglicisation of international conferences of all types' and suggested that the three language policy of the Federation should be scrapped.

In January the following year I prepared a discussion paper based on these comments and my own thoughts on the matter. The paper suggested that while FIG was achieving some of its aims and objectives there were a significant number of those aims not being addressed. It claimed that the vast majority of individual members had little or no knowledge of the work done by the Federation and its commissions. It also noted that there were at least two of the Federation's larger member associations considering whether or not their continued membership could be justified because of these facts. I sent the paper to Radlinski and Matthias for comment. Both gave their full approval and both emphasized the need for better communication with the individual member. I forwarded the paper to the Bureau.

In March 1989 the Bureau approved the report and decided to hold a special session to discuss the subject at the congress in Helsinki in 1990. On 14 April Talvitie circulated the paper to all member associations together with a covering letter calling on the associations to submit comments to me by November 1989. A month later he named a panel of speakers for the special session. I was to chair the panel and it was to consist of H.J.Platen (Germany), K.Czarnecki (Poland), S.A.Nyadimo (Kenya), B.Harding (USA) and Y. Harada (Japan).

By the cut-off date comments on the discussion paper were received from Australia, China, Italy, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, FIG Commission 4 and a late submission came from the USA. There was significant disagreement among the submissions about the suggestion that PC Meetings and congress venues should be hosted on a rotational basis. Most agreed that the current system of allocation was satisfactory. All were in agreement that not enough was being done to inform individual members about FIG and its activities. Most provided further suggestions to make the relationship more meaningful. Most of these revolved around a need for better communications.

In January 1990 I summarised the submissions and prepared a report for the Bureau and suggested that I could do no more until the matter had been debated in open forum at the special session of two hours that had been set aside at the Helsinki congress. I then sent a copy to both Radlinski and Matthias and advised them about the special session in the hope that they would both attend. Matthias thanked me for 'your excellent work' and advised that he would be there. Radlinski said he was unable to attend but added that 'you have done a great job and I agree with the report'.

During the special session at the Helsinki congress in June the panel members put forward a number of suggestions ranging from the need for special seminars and workshops to the need for more visits by FIG officers to member associations. There was unanimous agreement that there was a need for greater interaction between the Bureau, the member associations and the associations' individual members. The session was attended by quite a large representative group and the discussion that took place was quite helpful. As a result I was able to put together a draft final report and recommendations by March 1991 which I sent to President Talvitie with copies to Radlinski and Matthias. And then the sky fell in.

In April I received a letter from Talvitie telling me that the Finnish members of the Bureau had considered the report and they were not happy with it. Unfortunately I had been unable to attend the meeting at which they had reviewed the report. On my way to Finland for the meeting I had been delayed in Singapore by an aircraft break down for so many days that it was hardly worthwhile continuing the journey. As the meeting would have been over before I got there I had returned to Darwin. Had I been in attendance I am sure I could have answered their concerns.

In their view I had been too pessimistic and that 'many of [my] comments are giving too negative ideas (sic) of the whole business'. I presumed that this attitude came about because the first part of my report emphasised the areas in which FIG had failed to achieve its aims and there was less emphasis on areas in which the current Bureau were making considerable progress such as their success in developing better relations with the UN and other international organisations. The Finns also claimed that the report contained no specific recommendations that could be implemented immediately which was, in part, true. Five of my six recommendations called for further investigation of various subjects. However my first recommendation was to send all of the suggestions for improvement to all member associations asking them to implement them. I thought they could read a list of suggestions as well as I could.

My immediate reaction to receipt of Talvitie's letter was mind-numbing amazement. I was completely non-plussed! It was not until I had read the letter three times that I began to understand what the fuss was all about. However, I was at a loss as to what to do about it. My committee of three had enthused about the report but those in charge had virtually ridiculed it. I needed help so I decided to seek independent advice from long-time friend and compatriot in ISA affairs, Peter Byrne. Peter was a man of very clear mind who, over the years of our relationship had often resolved differences of opinion over a meeting table with his subtle sense of humour and his sense of right and wrong. I sent both the letter and the report to him and asked what I should do. Peter, in his inimitable way, told me that the letter reflected the indignation of a group who had already achieved much and that my report viewed the situation from the point of view of the individual surveyor. On the other hand Talvitie was approaching the subject from the institutional perspective. I needed, he said, to link the big picture with the individual. He advised me to add some positive results to the report and provide some specific recommendations for action.

On 1 May I wrote to Talvitie advising him that I was sorry he had the impression that my report gave a negative impression of the work of FIG. I had nothing but praise for the work of the Finnish Bureau which had undertaken many new initiatives. These included: the successful adoption of a new Definition of a Surveyor; the introduction of Sustaining Membership; improvement of the FIG Bulletin and the introduction of advertising in that paper; meeting agenda papers now being received well in advance; and the formation of an Inter-Commission Advisory Committee. These and many other things had contributed to a better relationship between FIG and its member associations. To overcome such concerns I suggested that my report could be amended by adding some positive achievements and recommending some selected specific changes in procedures that could be implemented immediately.

As a result I changed the format of the report's conclusions considerably to provide a more positive report on the current relationship between the Federation and its member associations while emphasising the fact that such relationships could always be improved upon. However I would not resile from my conclusion that the relationship

with individuals was not good and was in need of improvement. I amended the recommendations to include a list of specific suggestions for immediate implementation. My original recommendation for further reviews of such things as the aims of the Federation, possible regional groupings, communications, structure of the permanent committee and funding were retained. This was accepted for discussion by the Permanent Committee in Beijing in May 1991. The PC endorsed the report unanimously and accepted all recommendations with only one small amendment.

The final recommendations were:

1. *That the report and the appendix be forwarded to Commission officers and member associations requesting them to implement the members' suggestions wherever possible;*
2. *That at least one copy of the published proceedings and technical papers resulting from each FIG Congress, and those resulting from all seminars and symposia organised by the Scientific Commissions, be supplied to each member association, together with a short summary of the event and a synopsis of the papers presented. The cost of this exercise to be included in the budget of the relevant congress, seminar or symposium;*
3. *That member associations be requested to publish in their journals the summary of proceedings and the synopsis of technical papers sent to them by Congress Committees and Commissions, and to be prepared to provide copies of any original material which may be requested by members;*
4. *That the Commissions be advised that developing countries are considered to be essential venues for seminars and workshops and request them to seek such countries as hosts for future seminars when practical;*
5. *That the Commissions be requested to provide regular reports on their activities to the Bureau and that these reports be published in the FIG Bulletin;*
6. *That member associations be encouraged to:*
 - (a) *Formalise the structure of their Commission delegations so that the nine delegates become an integral part of each association's structure in order that information about Commission activities may flow more freely from delegate to association and so to the ordinary member;*
 - (b) *Appoint an individual member to be the FIG liaison person so as to ensure that correspondence from the Bureau and the Commissions is dealt with effectively;*
7. *That member associations be encouraged to provide more regular reports to their members about FIG activities based on the information supplied to them in FIG Bulletins and other circulated material;*
8. *That the following projects be suggested to the incoming Bureau for 1992–1995 as worthy of further research:*
 - (a) *A review of the aims and objects of the Federation in an effort to make them more relevant to today's issues and of such a nature that there is a practical possibility of their being achieved;*
 - (b) *A study to determine ways and means by which FIG can undertake or sponsor positive projects which will involve greater involvement and participa-*

tion by member associations and individual members;

- (c) A re-evaluation of the proposal to create Regional Groups within FIG with a view to formalising such groups within the Federation;*
- (d) An examination of the modes of communication between all elements of the Federation in an effort to increase and improve the amount and value of relevant information being relayed to the general membership;*
- (e) An examination of the structure and role of the Permanent Committee;*
- (f) A plebiscite of member associations to evaluate their willingness to subscribe additional funds for the purpose of improving communications and the undertaking of projects such as Student Exchange programs as suggested in (b) above.*

Change, in any circumstance, is best achieved when all parties involved have engaged in the process and feel that they have been consulted. This was a case that illustrated vividly the difficulties of reconciling viewpoints between people who speak different languages. The final outcome was that the report was published by the Finnish Bureau in FIG Publication No.6, 1991 – FIG and Member Associations – How to Improve Their Relationship.

BOOK 2
1992 TO 1995

CHAPTER 10: 1992 (PART 2) – A YEAR OF ACTION

The administration of FIG by the Finnish Bureau came to an end with the change-over dinner held on the 25th February 1992. The dinner was followed the next day by the first formal meeting of the Australian Bureau. This marked the commencement of the Australian administration and a significant increase in our international activities. 1992 became a year of action with journeys to seven European countries and two in South America. It was also a year of negotiations with Government and a test of our abilities to organise a successful international conference.

26–27 Feb 1992 – 1st Meeting of Australian Bureau, Surveyors House, Canberra

At this meeting all Bureau members were present and so were Brenton Burford, President of ISA and Col Fuller, CEO of that institution. The minutes of the meeting were taken by the newly appointed multi-lingual secretary, Ms Monika Cleary who was destined to follow us around the world for the next four years. Monika was welcomed to the meeting and thanks were expressed for the work of Bill Daw who had acted as our interim secretary during the past few years.

On 22 January, FIG Australia Pty Ltd was finally registered with the appropriate authorities as a private company. As such the Australian Bureau members were now the company directors and responsible to see that the company complied with all relevant Australian laws. Grahame Lindsay explained that negotiations were in hand for office space in the AUSLIG complex together with basic furniture and that the cost was to be carried by the Australian Government. All other expenses such as telephone and fax costs were to be borne by the Bureau and probably also the cost of the secretarial services.

Ray Holmes advised that the Congress Directorate had been registered as a public company and had received certain tax exemptions that were available. It was agreed that the Melbourne Congress in 1994 would run for a period of eight days and that the theme of the congress would be *'Surveying Global Changes'*. This would complement the theme already chosen for the Bureau's term of office – *'The Surveyor and Global Change'*. It was agreed that the Governor General was the appropriate person to open the congress and if he were not available then the Governor of Victoria.

The draft Work Plan was discussed and it was resolved that it must be finalised by August to enable copies to be circulated to member associations in time for the October PC Meeting in Madrid. The primary objectives of the plan were as I had outlined in my acceptance speech during the changeover dinner. However, individual Bureau members had pet concerns. Mine was the need for closer consultation with the individual members. Others were more concerned about strengthening ties with the international community and others with the possible need for a permanent secretariat. However, all were in general agreement with the aims and objectives of the draft plan. The details of how these were to be achieved needed some fine tuning and this is what had to be finalised by August.

VP Peter Dale was given responsibility for the guidance of Group A of the Technical Commissions (Commissions 1–3); VP Peter Byrne became responsible for Group B



FIG Australian Bureau 1992–1995. L to R: Ray Holmes (Congress Director), Peter Byrne (V/Pres), Earl James (President), Pekka Raitanen (V/Pres), Monica Cleary (Secretary), Grahame Lindsay (Secretary General), Peter Dale (V/Pres), John Curdie (Treasurer).

(Commissions 4–6); and VP Pekka Raitanen was given Group C (Commissions 7–9). In addition it was resolved to form a number of Task Forces:

- Peter Dale was asked to examine the desirability of a permanent secretariat for FIG. This was something that the RICS had been advocating for some time;
- Peter Byrne was asked to look at ways and means by which we could implement both the Land Management and the Environmental policies conceived by the Finns and recorded in FIG Publications No. 3 and 4;
- The task of continuing to find ways of obtaining external funding was given to Treasurer John Curdie;
- It was agreed to ask Clifford Dann (UK) to chair a task force on membership extension in general; and
- ISA was asked to appoint someone to look particularly at membership from South East Asia and the Pacific.

In addition, both the President and the Secretary General were asked to confer with Prof. Ian Williamson on the possible need for a policy statement about the cadastre and cadastres in general.

The terms of reference for the newly established Inter Commission Advisory Committee (ICAC) which replaced the Finns' Standing Committee of Commission Officers, were discussed. A draft agenda was prepared for the next meeting of that committee in Madrid. Under the chairmanship of Peter Dale, the committee would discuss: terms of reference for Vice Presidents and commission chairmen; funding of commission activities; and marketing the profession.

It was decided that the President and the Secretary General should visit Madrid in May to liaise with the Spanish organizing committee regarding the coming PC Meeting in October and to visit proposed meeting venues to examine their suitability. Also, to remind the organizing committee that registration for Bureau Members and the Secretary was free. The itinerary also included Paris to visit the office of ICSU and promote our case for membership and then to London to discuss cooperation between FIG and the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE). From there we were to go to Munich to discuss with Prof. Hoisl his dual role as Chair of Commission 2 and Chair of the IUSM Working Group on Education. Finally we were to go to Frankfurt to discuss progress in the creation of the Multi-lingual Dictionary with Dr. Hermann Steegar at the Institute for Applied Geodesy (IFAG).

It was also agreed that both Lindsay and I should go to the ISPRS Congress in Washington in June as members of the IUSM Executive Board and that I should go to Buenos Aires in September for a preliminary discussions on the Argentinians' application to host the PC Meeting scheduled for 1996. To end the meeting the matter of an Australian version of the FIG Bulletin was discussed including content, advertising, editing, publishing and printing. Grahame Lindsay was appointed Editor in Chief with a small honorarium for this service and Norm Edwards was appointed Editorial Consultant.

Later in February, while I was still in Canberra, a much more informative article than the one that had appeared in the *Herald-Sun* featured in another Australian newspaper. The article was headed '*James takes the reins*' and it spoke of 200,000 members of the surveying profession from 52 countries and surveying and mapping in emerging Asian and Pacific countries. It also gave short biographical statements extolling the virtues of the new President and the Secretary General. In all, it sent a glowing message of confidence in the abilities of the incoming Australian Bureau and its leaders. It appeared only in my home town of Darwin and was written by my sister-in-law.¹⁰

27 April – 13 May 1992 – Madrid, Paris, London, Munich, Frankfurt

Grahame Lindsay and I left Australia on 27 April 1992 for the first of many long journeys together over the next four years. Our first stop was Madrid. We spoke with the organising committee and, under the guidance of Miguel A. Garcia Barbero, we visited the proposed venues for the coming PC Meeting. All was in order.

In Paris we were hosted by the OGE and began a round of meetings with various organisations. Here we were overwhelmed by the hospitality of our hosts and underwhelmed by their contrariness. The accommodation was arranged and paid for by OGE at the Hotel Chateaubriand in the Rue de Chateaubriand near the Arc de Triomphe. It was quite adequate but I had the smallest room I have ever seen and the tariff was the highest I had ever experienced. I thanked God that the Bureau was not paying for it. Among other things we were feted to a lunch in the Eiffel Tower with officers of the OGE and had a slap up private dinner with them on board a *Bâteau Mouche* plying the river Seine. The trouble came when we got around to talking about the membership application made by the AFT, that other professional surveying organisation based in Paris. Jean Lamaison, the President of OGE was adamant that members of AFT were not in the same class as members of OGE even though they had the same professional qualifications. He claimed to speak for all of his members. It really came down to the

¹⁰ *Northern Territory News*, Thurs, February 27, 1992.

fact that the members of AFT were not licensed to carry out boundary definition surveys. This was notwithstanding the newly adopted definition of a surveyor, nor the fact that probably seventy five percent of individual members of FIG also were not licensed for that purpose. Perhaps the OGE was one of the three members who abstained from voting on the resolution that adopted the definition at the congress in Helsinki two years earlier. We will never know.

The members of AFT were just as hospitable when we met them to discuss their situation but they were a lot less formal about it. These people were engineering surveyors some of whom were involved in high precision surveys such as those required to align equipment used in particle accelerometers. These surveys require a precision measured in tenths of millimetres. They hosted us to a lunch on the West Bank and a visit to the French Railway Authority. The visit included our first experience on one of the country's very fast trains, the Train à Grande Vitesse (TGV). This train was, of course another example of the precise work carried out by surveyors of the AFT. This was a short trip at 300 km per hour to Le Mans and back which seemed to take no more than half an hour but was probably a lot longer. Mr. Bailly, The President of AFT, was quite forceful in the presentation of their case for membership, but at a joint meeting with OGE and the AFT it was all to no avail. Eventually the two organisations agreed to continue discussions to try to find a way forward. It was an argument that Grahame and I were to continue when we again met Lamaison in Madrid and one that was not resolved for a long time thereafter.

Unfortunately the CEO of ICSU, Mrs Morton Lefevre, was not in town so any proposed talks with her about our application for membership were postponed. We visited her office to make ourselves known but nothing was achieved. However, we did meet with Mr. S. Gajraj of the Office of Statistics in UNESCO. There we attempted to promote FIG's request to amend the ISCED classification of surveyors to conform to the Federation's new definition. While little was achieved we were able to understand the issues a little more clearly.

A really enjoyable part of my time in Paris was an evening free from official duties where I met up with a young Australian lady, Kathy Leverett who when she lived in Darwin, had been enamoured of my eldest son. She was a great friend of both my wife and me. She was married to a French scientist and at the time she was working as a presenter on the overseas service of Radio France. We had dinner together in a blowsy old restaurant on the Left Bank. The dinner was so-so but the company and the conversation was great being full of bawdy reminiscent memories.

Grahame and I then flew to London where we met with officers of the RICS and discussed a range of issues affecting both organisations including preliminary talks on the eventual take-over of FIG administration by the Brits in 1995. Here we met with Clifford Dan to discuss the requirements of his remit as Chair of the Task Force on Membership Extension. Here I became aware of the benefits of a professional organisation that catered for the needs of all members of the profession rather than to those of a particular branch of the profession, as does ISA. The RICS was founded a couple of hundred years ago which gives it some advantage, in terms of growth, over ISA which dates back merely to the early 1950's. The membership of RICS, of which cadastral surveying is but a small proportion, is more in line with the FIG definition of a surveyor than that of ISA's. The membership of that organisation consisted predominately of cadastral surveyors. With membership extending over all branches of surveying and with the benefit of time, the RICS has been able to acquire impres-

sive multi storied office accommodation in central London and has a vast number of salaried officers working for all the different branches of the profession. I was most impressed on being entertained to lunch with the President of that worthy organisation on the top floor of their headquarters with a view over Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament.

During a spare couple of hours Grahame and I spent time exploring Winston Churchill's wartime bunker which was about a hundred metres from the RICS headquarters. It was a fascinating journey back in time. The next day we took the train to Cambridge and met with VP Peter Dale and Simon Keith, the Executive Officer of CASLE, to discuss cooperation between the two organisations. These discussions resulted in various workshop activities in a number of African countries in the following years. While enjoying a sight-seeing drive through the Cambridge country side our host, who knew my wife's Christian name, took us to a village named Wendy. I took a photograph of the village signpost for posterity.

On the 10th May we flew to Frankfurt and went to Munich by rail where we met with Prof. Hoisl and discussed his dual role as Chair of Commission 2 and of the IUSM Working Group on Education. He and his Commission were also preparing background information to assist UNESCO with our application for a change in the ISCED classification of surveying. From there we went back to Frankfurt where, before returning to Australia, we took the time to visit Dr. Hermann Seegar at the Institute for Applied Geodesy (IFAG). He and his staff were responsible for the revision of the Federation's Multilingual Dictionary, a dictionary of technical terms. While he was not happy that his organization had accepted the task he had five people working on it.

We arrived back in Australia on 14th May having had some fifteen significant meetings, visits and discussions in the eighteen days we were away. We met with four member associations, two commission chairmen and one FIG Permanent Institution.

23–29 May 1992 – 34th Australian Surveyors Congress, Cairns (Australia)

I had written in July the previous year to the committee organising the 34th Australian Surveyors Congress being held in Cairns this year seeking time during the program for a special forum session about FIG. Council of ISA had decided that further promotion of the subject among members of the Institution was needed. I saw the event lasting an hour or more in which the Bureau members could outline their portfolios, with this being followed by question and answer. The committee agreed to the request and allocated the period of an hour after lunch on 25 May. The session was moderately successful. There was not a great deal of reaction from the audience but someone suggested, quite sensibly, that individual members might better understand the workings of FIG if they had greater access to the FIG Bulletins that were published periodically.

The Australian members of the Bureau took the opportunity to hold a formal Bureau Meeting in Cairns. The Secretary General circulated a draft agreement between FIG and AUSLIG over office arrangements; Col Fuller was present and he agreed to publish in the *Australian Surveyor* the presentations made by Bureau members during this special forum. It was agreed to try to find a way to provide a copy of FIG Bulletins to all members of ISA during the next four years. Ian Williamson was also present and it was here that he was first asked to consider the production of a definition of the term 'cadastre'.

one that would explain the constitution of a cadastre, its purpose and the role of the surveyor in the production and maintenance of same. Williamson and his Commission 7 eventually produced *The FIG Statement on the Cadastre* that was published in 1995 and has since been updated and translated into numerous other languages.

It was noted that Secretary General Lindsay and I would be attending the ISPRS Congress in Washington DC in August and that Mal McCoy, a member of the Congress Directorate, would also attend. Promotion of the Melbourne congress was a primary task of all Australian delegates attending that function although Grahame and I would be there primarily as members of the IUSM Council. It was also noted that the Australian Embassy in Washington had agreed to host a reception during the ISPRS congress to help promote the Melbourne congress. An important decision taken was that VP Peter Byrne would attend the UNCED Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in June.

3–14 June 1992 – Earth Summit – Rio De Janeiro (Brazil) – The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

In April the Bureau had received an invitation for FIG to participate as an observer in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 3 to 14 June 1992. This conference was part of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) established in 1972 at a similar conference in Sweden. I had little to do with it but VP Peter Byrne was nominated to attend as the FIG representative and as an accredited NGO. At the time, this was probably the largest conference ever held anywhere in the world with thousands of registrants including heads of governments and even the Dalai Lama.

The conference was all about what to do to overcome perceived global problems such as: the fact that the world's population was likely to double in 40 years; ten percent of the world's fertile land has turned to waste; 20 million hectares of forest disappear each year; and less than twenty five percent of the world's population consumes seventy percent of the world's energy. The end result of the conference was the issue of four major statements, namely: Agenda 21; the Declaration on Forests; the Convention on Biodiversity; and the Convention on Climate Change, of which the first was to become a major factor in Bureau members' thinking. The Rio package of conventions provided goals for all earth-related actions and was described by one world leader as a specification for the future and a code of ethics.

On returning to Australia Peter Byrne posed this question: what is the relevance of the summit to surveyors and of surveyors to the environment? His report advised that Agenda 21 contained forty chapters on actions necessary to move the world on to sustainable development with minimum disruption to the environment. It set out a program of action aimed at reshaping human activities in order to minimise environmental damage and ensure sustainability in the development process. He said that the major issue for surveyors would probably be that of human settlement. To achieve results, reliable land information would be essential. Geographical information systems would need to be improved and their use in creating appropriate land titling and management systems in developing countries would be essential. As a result of his report, the Task Force on Land Management and Environment policies, chaired by Peter Byrne himself, was asked to study the implications of Agenda 21 for surveyors and to make recommendations for action by the Federation.

29 June – 1 July 1992 – International Conference on Cadastral Reform, Melbourne (Australia)

In May 1991, I had received a letter from Ian Williamson seeking FIG sponsorship for an International Conference on Cadastral Reform being held in Melbourne in June 1992. This was to be a follow-up to similar local conferences held in 1989 and 1990 which were concerned with the Australian and New Zealand situations but this one was to be an international affair. While the conference was ostensibly a University of Melbourne initiative it really was Williamson's membership of Commission 7 driving the event. Williamson had previously advertised the conference at the 1991 PC Meeting in Beijing and by May this year he already had upwards of two hundred registrations from thirty countries, thirty five technical papers of which two thirds were from overseas countries, and keynote speakers from five different countries. Of course sponsorship of his conference was a given for Bureau members, so when he asked me to open the conference I agreed.

In my opening address to the Cadastral Reform Conference I applauded the fact that the audience included treasury officials, computer experts, planners and lawyers. There also were representatives of private industry, national governments, state governments and local governments. This was most gratifying because if there were to be reform it was imperative that all the players were involved in the process, not just surveyors. The conference addressed many matters of technical import but it also sought to cover the broader policies that had an effect on economic and environmental matters within which cadastral activities occur. This conference made a great start to FIG's reaction to Agenda 21.

While I went to Melbourne primarily for this conference, I took the opportunity to hold a Bureau Meeting since all Bureau members including Peter Dale and Pekka Raitanen were attending the conference. During that meeting, the matter of the enormous cost of language interpretation services for the 1994 congress was discussed. It was finally decided that the technical necessities for simultaneous translation services would be provided but that member associations wishing to use the services would need to supply their own interpreter. It was also decided to ask AIDAB to help with funding of participants from the Pacific Island countries and to ask UNCHS to help fund some from other developing countries. For the first time, consideration was given to the implementation of the eight recommendations contained in my report on The Relationship Between FIG and its Member Associations (FIG Publication No.6). While action on some of the recommendations was already in progress action on the remainder was referred to the relevant Commissions.

Ian Williamson also attended the Bureau Meeting. He advised that he was having difficulty corresponding with the chairman of Commission 7, Prof. Kolev of Bulgaria and that this was having a debilitating effect on the work of the Commission. Williamson was Vice Chair of the commission and a very go-ahead fellow who wanted to progress things but was loath to commit the Commission without his chairman's approval. Production of a Work Plan for the Commission, which was something the Bureau was pestering him for, was a casualty of this situation. He said that if Kolev was unable to do the job he, Williamson, was prepared to do it for him but if he did so he wanted the secretariat to be in Australia. He followed this up with advice that Commission 7 was to hold its annual meeting in Bern, Switzerland in August and invited me to attend. I accepted the invitation.

While in Melbourne I had discussions with John Curdie about the FIG Budget and on 13th July he sent his final draft, together with an extensive explanation, to both Gra-

hame Lindsay and me. He wanted the explanation to be published with the budget in the agenda papers for the next PC Meeting in Madrid. With an anticipated average income of 270,000 Swiss Francs in each of our four years of administration he expected we would end the period with a surplus of 76,000 Francs (AUD \$92,000 at today's rates). This would go some way towards paying back the anticipated loans of about \$150,000 from ISA. The balance of the loans would have to rely on profits from the Melbourne congress. Of special interest was the value of services being provided by the Federal Government. John put them at about \$265,000 for the four year period. The actual profit and loss figure for 1995 would be interesting.

It was during this month of June that the Bureau had to produce its first FIG newsletter. There was plenty of information available; the details of the changeover ceremony from the Finnish administration in February; details of the 1994 Congress in Melbourne; the text of speeches by Juha Talvitie, Senator Bolkus and others; and of course details of the Australian Bureau's plans for the next four years. FIG Bulletin No 49 was the result. It featured a copy of a Pro Hart painting of a surveyor at work. It had originally been commissioned by the NSW Division of ISA to commemorate Australia's bicentenary in 1988. The cover of this Bulletin, as with all succeeding bulletins, featured an Australian wild flower as a background. This one featured the 'Waratah,' the floral emblem of NSW. Each member association received the nominated number of copies for distribution to branch offices and divisions. There was never enough for distribution to individuals but it was hoped that associations would redistribute the information contained in the Bulletin in the form of articles in their own publications. However as a sign of our appreciation of the goodwill and helpfulness of the members of ISA we gave that institution enough copies of this first Bulletin to be able to send one to every member. For financial reasons we could not continue into the future with such largesse so we also decided to introduce a subscription for individuals so that those who were really interested could ensure they received copies in the future.

21 July 1992 – Agreement between FIG Australia and Department of Administrative Services

In July, through the good work of Grahame Lindsay and the officers of AUSLIG, the Bureau and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) came to a final agreement about the services that DAS would supply to the Bureau and the costs that the Bureau would be obliged to pay. Basically the Department agreed to:

- supply a full-time multilingual secretary to FIG Bureau for the period 1992–95;
- pay the salary and allowances of the secretary in accordance with Australian Public Service award conditions;
- provide basic secretarial equipment;
- provide office accommodation for the Secretary General and his secretary, and provide basic office furniture;
- cover the cost of lighting, cleaning, air-conditioning and other minor needs.

FIG agreed to:

- pay all travel costs of the secretary both within Australia and overseas;
- provide public risk liability insurance for all persons visiting the Bureau office;

- install and pay for all communication equipment and the cost of its use;
- use DAS publishing and distribution services where they are competitive.

There is no doubt that this was a very generous donation by the Australian Government and ISA owes a debt of gratitude to Senator Bolkus for the effort he must have expended to convince other members of the Cabinet to agree to the inclusion of these costs in the DAS budget.

2–14 August 1992 – ISPRS Congress – Washington DC (USA)

In August, Grahame Lindsay and I travelled to Washington DC to attend the ISPRS Congress and to take part in meetings of IUSM and the Joint Board. By this stage IAG had joined the three founding members as a Principal Member of IUSM. There I presented greetings of FIG members to the General Assembly of ISPRS. A meeting of the Joint Board of Sister Organisations was chaired by ISPRS President Kennert Torlegård. It was attended by representatives of the four member associations of IUSM and also by representatives of SORSA and IHO. All agreed that the arrangements for observers now contained in the IUSM Statutes were sufficient to enable non-members to adequately participate. The meeting lasted an hour during which time we discussed the continuation of the JBSO. It was finally resolved that the JBSO should be dissolved.

At the meetings of the Executive Board and the Council of IUSM held during the congress the IHO and SORSA were accepted as Affiliate Members. Elections for new office bearers were scheduled for the next meeting of the Executive Board in Cologne in May 1993. During the congress, IUSM held a number of workshops relating to topics under consideration by IUSM Working Groups. These included Education, Automated Control Measurements, LIS/GIS Systems and Global Positioning Systems. The event was described by others as the first IUSM congress but that was not an official title. However the Executive Board expressed the hope that IUSM might be able to repeat the exercise every three years at the time of Council Meetings.

Once again an Australian Ambassador saw the value of entertaining potential delegates to the 1994 Melbourne Congress and the event proved to be a roaring success. My other personal memories of Washington include the fact that Grahame and I visited a beautiful cathedral in that city (Anglican I think), and the fact that I fell down an escalator with disastrous results to my knee.

From Washington we flew to New Orleans where we met Jerome Ives who was chair of the committee organising the PC Meeting scheduled for February next year. The meeting was to be held during the week prior to the annual Mardi Gras, a week that is normally full of parades and other celebrations leading up to the main event. Our task was to inspect the proposed venues, the principal one being the famous old Fairmont Hotel.

It was then back to New York to visit the Physical Infrastructure Branch of the UN Department of Economic and Social Development where we pleaded for funding for our proposed program of seminars in developing countries. We were advised that if we could provide a detailed submission in time for the next UN budget sessions some funding may be available in the 1994/95 fiscal year. Also we were invited to present two papers at the forthcoming UN Cartographic Conference on the Americas in January 1993. We decided that the Bureau would prepare a report on the activities of FIG as

one paper and we would invite Commission 7 to prepare a paper on Trends in Cadastral Reform as the other.

The things I remember most about 'The Big Apple' were: the crush of the people in the street; the vastness of Central park where, I was told, if at night one enters at one end and comes out at the other end alive, one is blessed by the Almighty; the enormous empty meeting room of the UN General Assembly; and the monument outside the UN building that features a gigantic revolver with its barrel tied in a knot.

24–28 August 1992– Commission VII Annual General Meeting, Bern (Switzerland)

From Washington DC, Grahame flew to London and then home to Australia while I flew to Switzerland to attend the Commission 7 annual meeting in Bern. As I said earlier the administration of Commission 7, which deals with the cadastre and land management, was in a state of disarray because the chairman, Prof. Kolev of Bulgaria was unable to communicate with Vice Chair Williamson in Australia or even with the secretariat, which was in France. Kolev had been present at the change-over of office bearers that took place in Bordeaux, France in 1991 and during that meeting had agreed with Williamson about who would do what. It is probable that he had perhaps had some suspicion at the time that his life might be facing some difficulties. Ian Williamson was doing his best to get some unity of action within the Commission with little success so it was essential that the difficulties be resolved. I wrote to former VP Ivan Katzarsky who was a member of the same professional organisation as Kolev asking for his help but received little. Another problem for Williamson was that the Commission secretariat was in France where it had been lodged for many years and with whom communication took ages.

Eventually we had received a communication from Kolev stating that it was impossible for him to carry out his duties with the Commission. Williamson agreed to take over the role of chairman if not the name, but he quite sensibly insisted that the secretariat must be nearby. He wanted to appoint Victorian surveyor Gary Hunter, a member of Williamson's staff at the University of Melbourne, to be the unofficial secretary to the commission and to copy all correspondence to Kolev for whatever that might be worth. Kolev at least would not lose face within his own peer community. In addition Williamson proposed to create a Commission 7 archive in Paris under the coordination of Ms Isabelle Lancelle of France who had been the commission's secretary for so many years. 'I see my role' said Williamson 'as an important step in having a seven year time frame in which to coordinate and promote Commission 7 and the international standing of cadastral issues'. And over the period this he did!

All of this was agreed to by the Bureau and had to be clarified with the Commission at its annual general meeting in Bern, Switzerland. I arrived in Zurich by air from London on 23rd August to be met by Paul Gfeller, the President of the Swiss member association, and we took a train to Bern. In my address to the assembled delegates I told them that I had three reasons for attending; firstly to advise them of the proposed administrative arrangements for the Commission; secondly to make a number of requests of them; and finally to tell them how much I enjoyed Commission 7 meetings.

The first was not without difficulty. The French delegates showed once again how much national pride guided their lives. They were traditionalists and traditionally France had

held the secretariat for Commission 7 which may have worked while the administration was in Europe, but was not practical for an administration centred on Australia. Eventually common sense prevailed among the other delegates and the matter was resolved.

I then requested the Commission to prepare a descriptive Statement on the Cadastre, one which would explain what a cadastre is, why there is a need for one and the surveyor's role in the creation and maintenance of one. I wanted a statement worthy of publication and world-wide circulation.

I then referred them to the coming UN Cartographic Conference on the Americas due to be held in January. Under Agenda Item 5(9) – Cadastral Surveying and Mapping – we had been invited to submit a paper on the latest technology. I asked the commission to provide the conference with a paper on the progress of global cadastral reform. Finally I referred them to the Bureau's Work Plan and our desire to see an increase in seminars and workshops in developing countries. I asked them to consider sponsoring seminars and advised that UN financial sponsorship was available.

It pleased me greatly to know that the Commission carried out all three requests. The FIG Statement on the Cadastre was eventually published as FIG Publication No. 11 in 1995; a paper was presented at the UN conference; and the Commission, at the invitation of the Chinese member association, decided to have a seminar in China in conjunction with their annual meeting in 1994. This last was a very pleasing decision as it brought to four the number of seminars in developing countries promised by Commissions. There was a need for only five more to reach our target of one per Commission.

9–12 September 1992 – VIII National Congress of Land Surveying in Cordoba (Argentina)

On the 5th September my wife and I left Darwin to attend the PC Meeting in Madrid but we went via Buenos Aeries and Rio de Janeiro. At that time FIG had only two member associations in South America, one in Argentina and one in Brazil. They were the Federacion Argentina de Agrimensores and the Sociedade Brasileira de Cartografia. Both were lax in their attendance at PC Meetings and congresses and late payment of membership subscriptions was an ever present problem for the relevant Bureau. Spanish is not an official language in FIG and interpretive services in Spanish were not provided at FIG functions so perhaps language difficulties was one reason for their apparent lack of interest. However, a few years earlier, Argentina had been successful in a bid to host the 1996 PC Meeting and it was scheduled to be held in Buenos Aeries. I went there to assess the situation and to try to determine why no other Latin American countries were taking an interest in FIG.

It took forty hours to get to Buenos Aeries via Cairns, Los Angeles, and Sao Paulo. This was the longest flight I had endured to date but I shouldn't complain. The next time we flew to Buenos Aeries in 1996 it was via Sydney and Auckland and it took four days courtesy of an aircraft breakdown in New Zealand – once again, Qantas.

We were met at the airport by Mario Jorge Sackman who chaperoned us during our stay. Sackman was the organiser of the 1996 PC Meeting. Discussions with Sackman and other members of the Argentinian association revealed that they had already made considerable progress in their planning for the PC Meeting. We inspected the facilities at the meeting venue in the Sheraton Hotel and I was pleased to see that they intended to run a technical seminar of some kind in conjunction with the meeting.

They supplied me with a written report which made me feel much easier and which I took back home to the Bureau.

We then flew to Córdoba at the foot of the Andes to attend the Congress of Latin American Agrimensores. This congress was a great example of the regional interaction that existed between the professional surveying associations in South America. The congress was attended by surveyors from at least six countries ranging from Panama to Chile. Discussions with representatives from these countries resulted in a commitment from the surveyors' association in Uruguay to make an application for membership of FIG. Those from Panama and Chile undertook to seek a commitment from their associations to do the same. This obvious regional interaction made me think that the apparent lack of interest in international professional affairs may have been caused by political and economic instabilities.

Sackman proved to be a great host and we developed an instant friendship. When it came time to leave and head for Brazil, as a memento of our visit, the members of the Argentinean association presented me with a beautifully engraved Gaucho knife. (Unfortunately this memento was stolen during a break-in at my home a year or so later, but when I returned in 1996 and told the Argentineans of my loss they replaced it). We were escorted to the airport by Carlos Gillone and Julio Trucco where we found our booking to Brazil had been cancelled by persons unknown. Some fast talking by Gillone and Trucco secured us seats at the back of the aircraft. A few weeks later, when we finally arrived in Madrid for the next PC Meeting, I was delighted to find Sackman, Gillone and Trucco also were attending.

When we reached Rio de Janeiro we were met and hosted by the President of the Brazilian member association, Jacob Ennes Da Silva Filho. He installed us in the Hotel Transisto Da Marinha complete with an armed guard at the entrance. I had meetings with members of Sociedade Brasileira de Cartografia and enjoyed sight-seeing at such places as the Mountain of the Crucifix and Copacabana Beach where, I was told, pick-pockets were everywhere. Brazil was in political turmoil. The government was in chaos contending with an attempt to impeach the President for corruption. The citizens had to cope with an inflation rate of two hundred percent and rising. There were, and still is, a million or more people squatting on a hillside in the middle of Rio and the authorities were and still are at a loss what to do about it. These squatters have been there for so long that they now have informal title to their informal dwellings by virtue of adverse possession – that is, adverse to the owner, the State. While the Brazilian member association of FIG is the cartographic association there was no equivalent national surveyors' association in the country. There were three provincial surveying associations and an effort was in progress to amalgamate them into one national body but as yet without success. From Rio we continued on to Madrid travelling with the Brazilian airline Varig which I found to be even better than Qantas for service. They even provided linen napkins with dinner in economy class.

28 Sept – 2 Oct 1992 – 59th PC Meeting in Madrid (Spain)

Prior to the start of the Madrid conference in October my wife and I took part in the pre-conference tour of Andalucía. We had the pleasure of seeing many historic reminders of the Moorish occupation of southern Spain including the fabulous Alhambra. When we eventually arrived in Madrid we were met by Miguel A. García Barbero, the President of the Spanish member association, and were escorted to the conference hotel, the

Chamartin. There we were ushered into a massive two room suite the likes of which I had never before been privileged to see let alone use. Fortunately for the FIG budget the cost of the suite was a line item in the conference budget. Still, during the next few days the suite proved to be a bonanza for me. With the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the resultant scramble for recognition by former USSR countries, and a number of other non-related problems, there was plenty of space for the inordinate number of private meetings and discussions that befell me.

One problem in particular sticks in my memory and that was the one we came to call 'the French Problem'. Almost as soon as I arrived in Madrid I was pressured by representatives of the AFT to recommend their organisation for membership and by as many from the OGE putting a case for denial of that privilege. Finally we had a joint meeting with Michel Mayoud representing the AFT and Jean Lamaison speaking for the OGE. Both had at least three supporters present and all were forthright in their support of their leader. Unfortunately for Graham Lindsay and me every comment and shouted insult was made in French, a language in which neither of us were competent. In the end we enlisted the support of an Australian lady, Kate Waldy whose husband Brian was Vice Chairman of Commission 9. She was fluent in the language and agreed to act as interpreter. It was a great help but it did not achieve anything. The warring parties left with nothing resolved other than a half-hearted commitment to find a compromise solution. I was later to learn that I was accused publicly by the OGE of 'favouring the rich countries at the expense of the poor', which was my first indication that the hierarchy of the OGE might look at the world through glasses of a different tint to mine.

Due to the fact that the Spaniards had timed the PC Meeting to coincide with the national conference of their professional association, the opening ceremony of the conference had an audience of over seven hundred people. In addition, they had organised four international technical symposia on topics covering education, the cadastre and the exchange of surveyors within the European Union. After a welcome by the president of the Spanish member association I addressed the throng and spoke of the lack of participation by Latin American countries. I suggested that things might be different if Spanish were made a formal language of FIG. I received a standing ovation from the South American delegates present – well, two of them, the Argentinians Gil-lone and Trucco. The Brazilians of course speak Portuguese. In any case my plea was for a lost cause. Three years later the Federation agreed that English should be the only official language of FIG.

This was the first PC Meeting at which I was in the chair, a position of great responsibility. I had seen how Charlie Weir and Juha Talvitie had run their meetings. Both were dominant in their control and I was determined to be the same though my methods would be different. It was my view that there was nothing worse during a meeting than the chairman allowing debate to run away with time. Some years later during the UK term in office I was exasperated by a debate that lasted an hour over the use of the words 'shall' and 'will'. I wanted to be formal in my handling of meeting procedure so the first thing I did was to inform delegates how this would be done. Generally all matters to be discussed by the meeting would have first been debated by the Bureau and a recommendation made for adoption by the PC. These recommendations were sent to member associations in plenty of time for them to decide upon their reaction. I therefore told delegates that I would accept amendments to any of the Bureau's recommendations but I would first ask the meeting whether there was any dissent with the recommendation. If there was no dissent I would assume that all, or the majority of

delegates were in agreement with the recommendation and that no amendment was required. The recommendation of the Bureau would therefore be carried. If there was dissent the matter would be opened up for discussion and amendment. This worked quite well to keep extraneous debate to a minimum and over the next four years I had only one occasion that I felt I should have allowed a more open debate. That was when the members were asked to approve English as the only official language of FIG.

At this meeting in Madrid it was revealed that the former USSR Committee of Surveyors, which was the member association of FIG, had ceased to exist because it no longer represented surveyors in all of the former USSR countries. A newly formed Russian Committee of Surveyors was looking to replace the other and there were also applications for membership from at least two former USSR countries, Estonia and Romania. The PC agreed to accept all three. Among other items of interest the meeting approved the Australian Bureau's Work Plan for the next four years that we had worked so hard to devise and also those of the technical commissions; the PC agreed to the nomination of Past President Juha Talvitie for the privilege of becoming an Honorary President of FIG; the ICAC meeting discussed commission activities, terms of reference for commission chairs, marketing the profession and funding of the commissions; Jan de Graeve (Belgium) put forward a proposal for a full-time History Commission; and the Bureau decided to hold a seminar in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1995 in conjunction with the CASLE general assembly.

The social highlight of this conference was the formal dinner held on the evening of the 2nd October. I was aware from my recent experiences in Argentina that the people in Spanish speaking countries tended to be night owls. Unlike Australian custom, dinner was never served before ten o'clock at night and bed never seemed to enter their thoughts until the early hours of the morning. But this latter did not occur to me on the night of 2nd October. At the end of the meal at about 11.30pm the Australians present all thought the event was over and made to leave. Indeed most did. Wendy and I stood up as though to leave when our host exclaimed 'please, you cannot go, the night has just begun'. And so it had. The meal was followed by a brilliant display of Spanish song and dance that lasted until the small hours. To my total embarrassment I was favoured with a special aria by a concert Diva who had been told, quite correctly, that this day was my birthday.

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From Madrid Wendy and I went by rail to Calais and ferry to London where I attended a dinner of that elite club of senior surveyors that called themselves 'The Geometers'. Their logo is the inch-worm, also known as a geometer, the small caterpillar that arches its back, draws its hind quarters up to its front then launches its front forward an inch at a time. After addressing the assembled notables I was presented with a bow tie covered in inch-worms, which I sport proudly whenever, in my retirement, I attend formal surveyors' functions. From London we returned home to Darwin where I continued to oversee the administration of FIG by means of the telephone.

During a tele-conference of Australian Bureau members on 25 November it was decided, in view of the pending retirement of Mr. Jo Henssen as director of the OICRF, that I should pay a visit to that establishment in May 1993 to assess the situation. It was also decided that I should nominate for the position of President of IUSM at the next meeting of that body in Cologne and that we would support the nomination of Prof. Mueller of the IAG for the position of Vice President. It was also agreed to appoint Kevin Blume,

a long-time ISA Councillor from NSW, to chair the Task Force on membership in South East Asia and the Pacific.

The matter of membership for the AFT was discussed and in particular the deliberate intransigence of the OGE in refusing to come to a compromise decision. From the correspondence being received it was becoming evident that Lamaison was a confirmed traditionalist. It was his view that FIG was not a federation of associations, notwithstanding the fact that the Statutes clearly state that it is, but rather a federation of countries. In his view the founding member countries were all represented by a single association and that was the way it should be for the other countries. It just so happened that all of the founding member associations, with the exception of the RICS were representative of the so-called 'liberal professions'. In Australian terms the equivalent would be private practicing licensed surveyors.

I do not know whether this was the opinion of the other members of his association but Lamaison was the president so it must be assumed he was expressing the policy of the OGE. We soon found that members of at least one other founding member association had similar views. In April, Lamaison had written to the seven founding member associations seeking their agreement to his hypothesis. This was supplemented by a letter from Jan de Graeve of Belgium whose attitude was even more traditionalist than was Lamaison's. I understand that Jan de Graeve actually voiced the opinion that FIG currently was more concerned with cartography than surveying and that the géomètre-expert needed to regain his rightful place in the Federation. The implication was that only private practicing licensed surveyors were the real professionals; public servants and other employed surveyors were not. This was something the Bureau members could not stomach. The 'G' in FIG is the abbreviation of Géomètres not Géomètres-Experts.

Lamaison had even called a meeting of these founding associations to discuss the matter during the PC Meeting in Madrid and invited me to chair the meeting, an invitation I declined. While the RICS, which represents all fields of surveying, quite rightly accepted Lamaison's invitation to attend, their presence at the meeting was prefaced by a letter from the President of RICS explicitly informing Lamaison that his members could not countenance remaining a member of FIG if it were to revert to being representative of only self-employed surveyors.¹¹ I am not aware of the outcome of the meeting but it had no effect on the outcome of the AFT application.

In December the Bureau decided to again place the matter of AFT membership on the agenda of the PC Meeting in New Orleans in February 1993. Grahame Lindsay was given the task of summarising the matter for inclusion in the agenda. He also prepared a report on the year's activities for distribution to ISA and AUSLIG. Highlights for the year included: attendance at the UN Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio by VP Peter Byrne; development of plans for each of FIG's nine technical commissions to hold workshops in developing countries; and visits by the President and Secretary General to member associations in Europe, USA and South America.

The year had been a busy one. The office was established; the multi lingual secretary had been appointed; the full Bureau met in Canberra, Melbourne and Madrid; and the Australian Bureau members met in Cairns and held four teleconferences during the year. Tasks addressed included: finalisation of the Work Plan for 1992/1995; the estab-

¹¹ Letter, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors to Ordre Geometres-Experts, 19 May 1992.

lishment of five task forces; planning for the XX FIG Congress in Melbourne in 1994; ways in which FIG could be of assistance to developing countries; and preparations for our first PC Meeting and the running of that meeting in Madrid. One year down; only three to go.

CHAPTER 11:

1993 (PART 1) – COLOGNE BRINGS MORE RESPONSIBILITIES

In January 1993 the 5th UN Regional Cartographic Conference on the Americas was held in New York. As had been decided earlier, FIG was represented by VP Peter Byrne and also by Dr. Sue Nichols (Canada). Both presented papers and were involved in workshops. Byrne's paper dealt with the work of FIG and Nichols' paper was about the need for global cadastral reform. This made a great start to the year and I followed by visiting four different continents within the next six months.

13–18 Feb 1993 – 60th PC Meeting in New Orleans (USA)

Early in February the Bureau headed to New Orleans in Louisiana USA for the 60th PC Meeting of the Federation. 'Norlens' as the locals call it, is a beautiful old city and is one of the few cities in the world built below sea level. Built on a swamp and depending on a massive levee bank for protection from the mighty Mississippi River it is a town where the tombs of the dead are all above ground level to keep the spirits dry. We stayed at the Fairmont New Orleans Hotel, the South's classic hotel adjacent to Canal Street and close to the so-called French Quarter.

During the meeting applications for membership from Slovenia, Papua New Guinea, Czech and Slovak Republics, and Latvia were approved; the Bureau resolved, on request from the Belgian members, to determine some terms of reference for an ad hoc History Commission; the Bureau decided to ask the Swiss member association to form a new task force to review the official languages of FIG and make recommendations once the terms of reference had been decided upon; and it was noted that FIG's application for Scientific Associate membership of ICSU had finally been approved. The Bureau's recommendation that I should be the FIG nominee for President of the IUSM was approved though this was a matter that would be determined in a few months' time in Cologne. For the first time in its history the PC adopted the recommendation of the Bureau to appoint discussion groups from among the delegates present in an attempt to get positive feedback on selected subjects. At this meeting each task force chairman was assisted by a discussion group.

An important side issue was an Inter-America Round Table meeting convened to discuss ways and means by which there could be greater cooperation between professional surveyors in the Americas and finding ways of enticing more South American surveying associations to take an interest in FIG. The lack of the Spanish language within the Federation's proceedings appeared to be a definite deterrent. I chaired the discussion which was attended by a significant group from places as far apart as Alaska and Argentina. Unfortunately, nowhere can I find a record of the results of the Round Table but at least those who attended will have gone away with food for thought.

Perhaps by way of reward for their efforts in organising the PC Meeting, the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping was awarded the right to host the XXII FIG Congress to be held in Washington in 2002. The fact that there were no other nominations may have had something to do with the PC's unanimous decision, but whatever the reason, the result put the onus on the USA to provide the administrative Bureau for the period 2000–2003. It was announced that Robert Foster would be the President of FIG during that period.

A very important decision was made by the Bureau during the course of these meetings. This was not a decision of the PC but rather of the Bureau and it was one that has subsequently brought enormous benefit to FIG and its individual members. To quote from the minutes of Bureau meeting 93.1 'It was agreed to give consideration to the production of a computerised database of the body of knowledge relevant to FIG'. At that stage the non-existent database was given the not very original name of 'the FIG Tree of Knowledge'. Lindsay, Byrne and Curdie were authorised to investigate the practicalities of the decision and report at the next Bureau meeting. The FIG Tree database eventually became the very powerful FIG website that we all use today.

The thorniest agenda item of the PC Meeting was the application for membership submitted by the Association Francaise de Topographie (AFT) which was being opposed by the current member association, the Ordre des Géomètres-Experts (OGE) – the French Problem. When it came time to discuss the application I read a lengthy statement that detailed the facts of the matter and advised the meeting that the OGE had lodged a late application for an amendment to the statutes. The OGE considered that the proposed amendment would make it easier for nations to be represented by only one association. It was a simple amendment that would expand the number of delegates that each member association might send to PC Meetings. How this could possibly assist the French Member association to achieve a one nation, one vote status was beyond me but the mere fact that they had submitted the proposal made it difficult to proceed with the AFT application without upsetting the OGE. In my opinion it was a definite delaying tactic, and it worked. Nevertheless, the Bureau was obliged to make a recommendation to the PC and our recommendation was that the application by the AFT be accepted. It was put to the meeting with the proviso that the OGE was seeking a change in the statutes and that it would be offensive to the OGE should a decision about the AFT be made before their submission had been addressed by the GA in 1994. We also said that if it were delayed, no decision on the AFT application could be made until 1995 and that would be offensive to the members of the AFT.

Debate raged on with the French delegates insisting that all French surveyors could be represented by the OGE. One German delegate could not restrain himself from saying that in his opinion the matter was a sensitive one in European countries and that one result of accepting the AFT's application would be a flood of applications from other European countries where there were many associations. The matter was so sensitive that I decided to have a secret ballot to decide the matter. The motion to approve AFT membership was lost by a single vote which meant that we would continue to have long and tedious negotiations for some time.

The charm of 'Norlens' was a welcome contrast to the intensity of our meetings. The prelude to the Mardi Gras was a sight to behold. My wife and I fought with other members of the public for vantage points to watch the displays marching through the streets and fought each other to catch the strings of beads thrown by the masked and decorated mass of humanity participating in the processions. I was told that there were sixty five individual parades making up the celebration of the Mardi Gras over a two week period. The most memorable aspect was the audience participation that made each parade a living event rather than a march past of pretty exhibits. In every bar and on every street corner there was a jazz band. Indeed every day at every hour there was a jazz band somewhere to listen to. New Orleans is, of course, at the mouth of the Mississippi, well somewhere near the mouth of that mighty river and life would not have been complete without a cruise on a paddle wheel steamboat on that river. In two days

of meandering through the twists and turns of the river we eventually reached the old anti-bellum city of Baton Rouge to find it was only a quick one hour drive from 'Norlens'. Never the less we enjoyed the experience and the fact that we were accompanied by the President of the Swiss member association, Paul Gfeller and his wife Elsie who were fellow passengers. It was the beginning of a long friendship during which we were hosted in their home in Egliseau on the Rhine on a number of occasions during the next few years.

29 April – 2 May 1993 – Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Geneva and Bern

By early March agreement was reached with the Western Australian Division of ISA on the dates of the Bureau meeting that was to be hosted by that Division. The 12–17 September were the preferred dates. The meeting was to be held on Rottneest Island and the programme was to include a Mayoral reception and attendance at the Division's annual dinner. As he lived in Perth, VP Peter Byrne was the liaison with the WA Division. He was considering holding a one-day seminar on world trends in land administration. Although the event was two years away, the Bureau was also considering the venue for the handover of the administration to the UK Bureau in 1995. To reduce costs the newly created ICA Committee had recommended the handover take place at the conclusion of the PC Meeting in Berlin. However, on reflection it was decided that the suggestion was impractical. The Bureau decided that it would be better to handover to the UK in London to enable the incoming Bureau to have the benefit of local publicity and political value.

Grahame Lindsay and I were scheduled to attend the IUSM meetings in Cologne in May. To make the journey more cost effective it was decided that I should visit the member associations in Singapore and Malaysia on my way to Cologne. Grahame would visit Italy before we met up again in Switzerland for consultations with the AFT and the Swiss association. We would then go on to Cologne. After Cologne we were to go to Paris to talk to the OGE whence I would proceed to Nairobi, Kenya and on to South Africa. Lindsay was to return to Australia and attend the 35th Australian Surveyors Conference in Darwin along with other Australian Bureau members. I was quite disappointed that my travel arrangements precluded me attending that conference in my home town. Subsequently I was to receive a number of brick-bats from members of ISA who thought I should have been there.

Nothing of major consequence was achieved in either Singapore or Malaysia. The visits were simply an exercise in public relations. I learned a little about the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the fact that the Singapore member association of FIG was a member of the ASEAN Valuers Association which holds a seminar every two years in one of the ASEAN countries. In Malaysia I learned that the Malaysian Surveyors Institute (ISM) was running a seminar sponsored by FIG Commission 9 and that they were trying to establish an ASEAN Land Surveyors Association. The most memorable social event during these visits was a seafood dinner one night with members of the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers. Crabs were served but unlike in restaurants in Australia where the crab shell invariably is broken before the crab is served, here it was not. While I pondered how best to attack the situation the locals did not hesitate. They simply covered the crabs with the table cloth and belted them with the hammers provided by the host. It was messy but effective.

Meanwhile Grahame Lindsay flew to Rome where he met with members of the Italian member association Consiglio Nazionale Geometri (CNG) at their office in central Rome.

This organization had a membership of about 85,000, and a staff of about eighteen that included five lawyers. To our surprise he found that there was no university qualification for surveyors in Italy. These people achieved their qualifications through practical training, thus the big issue for them was the possible effect of decisions on mutual recognition that might be made in Europe. The CNG had been trying to get a University degree course established for three years without success and appealed to FIG for help. Subsequently after I returned home I wrote to the Italian Minister for Universities urging action.

While in Rome, Grahame visited the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). This organisation conducts workshops and seminars in developing countries and produces relevant publications. Congress Director Ray Holmes had written to the FAO seeking funds to help people from developing countries attend the Melbourne Congress in 1994 but without success. However Dr. Jim Riddell, a senior officer in FAO, advised Grahame that while FAO could not fund FIG workshops, FAO would be delighted to have FIG's cooperation in the running of any workshop funded by FAO. This was the start of a long relationship with FAO. The social highlight of Grahame's visit to Rome was a visit to the Vatican City and the Basilica where he lost his wallet to a very experienced pick-pocket.

In Geneva we met with Michel Mayoud to discuss what he described as the 'victory a la Pyrrhus' for the OGE in the matter of membership for the AFT. Here Mayoud continued to express disappointment both with the result of the vote and the intransigence of the OGE in the task of finding a compromise solution to the French problem. I had written to the AFT sympathising with them about their loss at the PC Meeting and urging them to continue negotiations with the OGE. One major problem seemed to be the fact that the OGE was not, by law, open to anyone but géomètre-experts nor could that association, again for legal reasons, merge with another like organisation. Mayoud was adamant that the OGE just was not trying and was in fact doing everything possible to undermine the process.

In Bern we held meetings and social engagements with members of the Swiss association. Paul Gfeller, President of the association, gave me a copy of a letter that he had sent to Lamasion expressing his members' disappointment at the OGE attitude and 'the nit-picking position taken by the French delegation' at the New Orleans meeting. Gfeller had appealed to him to renew his efforts to find a compromise and offered his services to help. I am not aware whether or not Lamasion accepted his offer but I recall that Lamasion sent me a five page letter which confirmed that his basic reason for opposing membership by the AFT was his belief that FIG was a federation of countries, not of associations. He asked me to prove otherwise. My reply was short and sweet. I added that 'the answer to your problem lies in the formation of a new organisation of which the OGE and the AFT could be the founding members'. I was to find out what effect these exchanges of correspondence had when I reached Paris a few days later.

While in Bern we met with the staff of the Swiss national mapping agency, members of the Surveyors Licensing Board and representatives of the public and private sector. Gfeller was asked to accept, on behalf of his association, the Chair of the Task Force on the Languages of FIG and was given the terms of reference devised by the Bureau.

Prior to our leaving Switzerland, Michel Mayoud gave Grahame and me a guided tour of CERN's European Laboratory for Particle Physics. This was a fascinating adventure into an underground tunnel of about thirty kilometres in length housing a particle ac-

celerator with which scientists from all parts of the world were attempting to discover the birth of the universe. Within this tunnel surveys were being carried out by thirty five surveyors who were positioning and aligning very large objects to a positional accuracy of tenths of a millimetre. While the majority of the tunnel is within the borders of Switzerland a small part of it lies within France. Mayoud's accommodation was in France but he had to cross the border each day to enter the tunnel. From Switzerland, Grahame and I set out by train for Cologne.

3–5 May 1993 – 16th International Cartographic Conference in Cologne (Germany)

The purpose of our visit to Cologne was to attend the IUSM Executive Board meeting which was being held in conjunction with the International Cartographic Association's congress. There were still only four full members of IUSM (FIG, ISPRS, IAG & ICA) and they were all represented at the meetings as were representatives of the associate members (SORSA & IHO). One day was spent in a strategic planning session during which a draft plan presented by Secretary Hugh O'Donnell was largely ignored and nothing was achieved. However this brainstorming and analysis session was no doubt useful during future consideration of the matter.

The next day elections were held for office bearers for the 1994 to 1997 period. The ISPRS nominated Gottfreid Konency for the presidency and FIG nominated me. A secret ballot was held and I came out the winner thus extending my working life in the international arena by two years. I took over immediately, replacing Prof. Fraser Taylor of the ICA. Prof. Ivan Mueller of IAG was elected vice president. It was decided that a special strategic planning session should be held at the next meeting of the Executive Board in Boulder, Colorado to determine the future directions for the Union.

From Cologne we were due to go to Apeldoorn in the Netherlands to see Jo Hensen at the OICRF but we had first to survive the hospitality of the president of the German member association, the Deutscher Verein für Vermessungswesen (DVW). Hans-Josef Platen was a tremendous host. He insisted that Grahame and I travel by car with him and Dr. Kophstahl, the Secretary General of the DVW, to his home town. Little did we know that the journey would involve an overnight stop in Trien, a small village on the Mosel River which contained a small winery where president Platen normally purchased his annual supplies. The vintner was also a very hospitable chap, determined to get us to sample every one of his vintages. Between the four of us I think we downed seven bottles of wine before we retired to the local inn for what was left of the night. In the morning four very sore headed surveyors continued on their way to Platen's home in Viersen.

It was during the two days that we had with Platen and other members of the DVW that I first heard rumblings about the need for basic changes in the administration and functioning of FIG. The DVW wanted very much to see the administration modernised. In their view the opportunity to make formal decisions only once a year at PC Meetings was inappropriate in this modern age as was the fact that changes to the constitution could only be made every four years. In addition they thought there were many big issues that needed more opportunity for review by delegates before a vote was taken. We countered with explanations about the small group sessions we had introduced at PC Meetings. We reminded them of the fact that all reports were now being included with agenda papers sent to member associations and that there was ample time for them to

be discussed fully by delegates before they arrived at the meetings. These members of DVW were pleased with those arrangements but said that the fundamental issue was the break-up of responsibilities between the Bureau, the PC and the General Assembly. It may well be, they said, that the PC and the GA should be combined into one. It took a while to achieve but it was not too many years before this actually happened.

We undertook to consider the matter. As a result VP Peter Dale was given the task as a revision on the terms of reference of his Task Force on the Secretariat. However, we realised it was not a matter that could be resolved within the time-frame of the Australian administration of the Federation and resolution would essentially be a matter for the UK Bureau when it took over in 1995.

6 to 14 May 1993 – Apeldoorn (Netherlands), Paris (France)

We travelled by train to Arnhem in the Netherlands where we were met by Jo Henssen who drove us to Apeldoorn and the Office of the Cadastre and Public Registers, the host agency of FIG's Permanent Institution, the OICRF. We found that OICRF occupied a large room full of papers, reports and publications dealing with land registration and the cadastre. The host agency provided the finances to run the show and was presently converting the existing card index to a digital one. Henssen indicated that he would stay on as president for a few years yet and that Paul Van der Molen, the current Director of Land Information would eventually take his place.

Van der Molen was the president of the Dutch member association of FIG and a member of Commission 7. In discussions with him and other members of his executive team we found that the Dutch held similar views to the Germans about the need for a restructuring of FIG. They were concerned that the Bureau might want to remove the OICRF from their stewardship but we were adamant that this was not so. In view of the fact that the Dutch government was willing to budget something like \$100,000 or more towards its upkeep FIG was hardly likely to want to take over that cost and would have great difficulty in finding another sponsor. The OICRF received about five hundred requests for information each year and when the digitisation of the records was completed and placed on line the work load for the office would decrease significantly.

Van der Molen then obliged us by acting as driver and tour guide on the next leg of our journey to Brussels. It turned out to be a journey of many adventures. During the trip we saw an enormous construction of sluices that control the tidal flow of the sea into and out of the IJsselmeer, a man-made lake. The dam that formed the IJsselmeer lies about 25 feet (8 metres) above sea level and is 19 miles (31 km) long, extending between the provinces of Noord-Holland and Friesland. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica large parts of the lake's total area of 1,328 square miles (3,440 square km) have been reclaimed by constructing encircling dikes and pumping the water out. As a result, the land area of the Netherlands has been increased by 626 square miles (1,620 square km) of fertile polders.

Van der Molen, had organised that we stop at a small village along the way to Brussels and enjoy an afternoon of sailing on one of the many waterways in Holland before enjoying dinner and settling in for the night at a local inn. The sailing proved to be an adventure. The boat was under the command of two young university students, neither of whom seemed to be too proficient. Following a fire in the engine room when it was time to return to dock, we suffered the indignity of being towed in by another boat.

The next morning I chanced to look out of the window of my hotel room to see Van der Molen standing at the rear of his motor car and in a state of agitation. I went down to the car park to see what ailed him and found him staring at a smashed rear window and swearing prolifically. The amazing part of this was that he was swearing in English. 'Oh we always swear in English' he said, 'it's much more expressive'. When we finally overcame our angst about the window and checked to see what was missing it was my turn to swear. My suitcase was gone. All I had left for the rest of my journey was the clothes I stood up in and the few articles I had taken to my room the previous evening.

The matter was reported to the police and I am pleased to say that not long after I had left the country the suitcase was found and it was eventually returned to me courtesy of the Dutch member association. The only thing missing was the FIG Presidential Chain of Office. This was cause for catastrophe for both me and the thief. It was valueless to the thief as it was actually a pseudo chain made of cloth and cardboard and studded with gun-metal medallions painted in gold. As for me, I would have bear the shame of losing a significant piece of FIG's history.

In fact there was only one piece of value on the chain that caused me real concern. It was a beautiful medallion that hung from its base. It had been presented to FIG by the United Kingdom's RICS in 1938 on the occasion of FIG's sixtieth anniversary and its loss was a loss to history. The Australian Bureau eventually reproduced the UK's medallion from photographs that I had taken just in case this eventuality ever arose and we commissioned a regalia manufacturer in Melbourne to design and make a real chain from which to hang it.

In Brussels, Van der Molen left us at the home of Jan de Graeve where we discussed the proposed ad hoc Commission on the History of Surveying and the terms of reference for the commission. We had talks with the president of the Union of Belgian Geometres, the member association of FIG and visited the manager of the Office of the Cadastre in Ghent, that town brought to fame by the poet Robert Browning when he wrote about good news and how it was dispatched. We also visited the National Geographic Office which is the national mapping agency for the country and is housed in an ancient abbey, also in Ghent.

From there de Graeve insisted on taking me on a shopping expedition to replace some of the clobber I had lost. I would have gone to the equivalent of 'Lowes' had I known where it was but de Graeve was insistent that I follow him. So we ended up at Burberrys of London, only the most expensive store in town. Well I could not display the fact that I was a pauper so the Visa credit card was put to significant use. Once I was attired to de Graeve's satisfaction Grahame and I departed Brussels by train for Paris where our first event was a verbal boxing match with officers of the OGE.

We met with Lamason, Bourcy, Klopfenstein and Breton together with a very charming and efficient interpreter. The end result was that there seemed to be some little movement on the part of the OGE towards the creation of an 'umbrella' organisation that might include the AFT. However it was quite clear that there was no likelihood of further bilateral talks between the two on the possibility of forming a unified organisation.

Following the meeting with OGE we had a brief meeting with Dr. Robert Ley at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which had been arranged for us by the Australian permanent delegation to that organisation. Ley was an Australian from Melbourne who was Head of the Division of Capital Movements,

International Investment and Services. He was in charge of the unit doing a study on free trade in professional services. He knew very little about the work of surveyors but after some explanation on our part he suggested that FIG might be able to assist the consultant doing the study. Since the study was all about mutual recognition of qualifications and trade in professional services we were only too willing to agree.

We then visited Madame Julia Marton-Lefevre, the executive director of ICSU who told us that she expected about 500 people to attend the ICSU General Assembly in Chile and was pleased when we told her that FIG was sending a representative. She suggested that the appropriate place for a paper on the research work of surveyors would be at the Working Group on Earth and Space Sciences.

Finally we met with Dr. Wolfgang Eder, Director of the Division of Earth Sciences at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) where we presented our case for funds for translation work on the multi-lingual dictionary. While they were unable to commit to funding they did suggest that they might be able to do some lobbying at high levels within the German Government for the same purpose. Grahame Lindsay then left for Darwin to attend the 35th Australian Surveyors Congress. I flew to Nairobi and my newly acquired luggage flew to New York. It eventually arrived three days later on the day I was leaving for South Africa.

15 May to 4 June 1993 – Nairobi (Kenya), Bophuthatswana (South Africa)

I eventually emerged from the Nairobi airport at midnight, three hours after landing. I was met by five members of the Institute of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK) who were nearly as p...d off as I was. They had shown great perseverance by waiting for the officials to do their duty while I filled in a loss report in triplicate. The next three days were spent in the enjoyable company of the local surveyors. During this time I was chaperoned by the President of ISK, Mr. Ruingu who, among other things gave me a tour of the Nairobi National Park which is adjacent to the boundaries of the city. In my observation it would probably contain more wildlife and more different species than any other wildlife park in the world.

The streets of Nairobi were a total disappointment reflecting a sorry breakdown of a once reasonable infrastructure. Kenyans appeared to have little interest in maintenance of assets and this presumably was a reflection on the state of the country's economy. However their environmental awareness was remarkably good. A permit was needed to be able to cut down a tree and that was only given on condition that five trees be planted for every one cut down. On the other hand law and order did not seem to be a priority. During a dinner with members of the ISK Council I was surprised to see one member arrive late with his hands covered in bandages. He had just been robbed of his four wheel drive vehicle at the point of a sword. His hands had been cut while trying to keep the thing away from his throat. Apparently this sort of thing was a common occurrence and I was to find out later that similar robberies were common in South Africa. When asked if he thought he would ever recover the vehicle he said it was not likely. It would probably be over the border within four hours.

Surveying was a five year degree course in Kenya and a licence to practice cadastral surveys required another two years of practical training. Individuals were desperate to share in the technical information available in FIG but few were able to afford the cost

of travel as the average income was around \$5,000 per annum. It was obvious that they needed technical workshops in their own country.

While in Nairobi I paid a visit to both UNEP and the UNCHS, or HABITAT as it is sometimes known. Each were headquartered in the city. I spoke to a Mr. Grebremedhin at the former and Mr. Okpala at the latter. We discussed the possibility of receiving finance from each organisation to enable the attendance of twelve surveyors to the congress in Melbourne next year. Both were interested in funding seminars in developing countries.

On leaving Nairobi I flew to Johannesburg in South Africa where I was joined by my wife Wendy who had flown from Darwin via Perth. We then enjoyed four days in the Kruger National Park with James Teversham, the President of the South African member association, and his wife. In contrast to what I saw in the Nairobi National Park we saw very little wildlife in Kruger, perhaps one elephant and two giraffes during the daylight hours though we did see a little more at night from our bedroom verandah in the tourist camp where we were lodged. However we did have one exciting experience. We had a flat tyre one day in the middle of the park in a place where we could hear lions roaring and vultures circling not far distant. Between Teversham and myself the time taken to change that tyre must have broken all records.

In contrast to the danger inherent in the presence of wildlife, travellers in South Africa were warned to travel with extreme caution 'due to recent assassinations' but our host assured us that there should be no real trouble in that regard. However we were privy to an incident that reinforced the word that had been given to us about car theft in the country. One of the South African surveyors recognised his stolen car in the car park at Sun City. He had duplicate keys so he just got behind the wheel and drove it away. As it turned out, fortune was on his side in more ways than one. When he reached home he discovered a stash of dollars under the seat.

Following our wildlife safari we drove to Sun City in the so-called Republic of Bophuthatswana which, according to Wikipedia is a nominal parliamentary democracy within the Republic of South Africa. What's in a name? In Australian terms it would probably be the equivalent to a self-governing territory such as my own homeland, the Northern Territory. Sun City was an unbelievable sight – an accumulation of elegance and affluence. It is one massive casino and playground the likes of which it is difficult to describe or to find anywhere else in the world, not even in Las Vegas. My reason for being there was to confer with the members of the FIG member association, the Council of Professional Land Surveyors and Technical Officers (PLATO). The reason other surveyors attended was to take part in the Conference of South African Surveyors and to have a great time in the infinite number of gaming rooms and restaurants available to them.

I had lunch with President Teversham and a number of members of his Council. We spoke about FIG objectives and those of the Australian Bureau. I found that FIG did not appear to figure prominently in the thinking of the rank and file individual surveyors in the country but a significant number had indicated a desire to come to the Melbourne congress next year (about fifteen). The dates of the congress conflicted with those of coming elections. Politics appeared to be the main area of concern within the country at that time and the elections were to have much more effect on their lives than would our congress in Melbourne.

I found that PLATO was an umbrella organisation set up by the South African government to control surveying of all kinds within the country. The Council consisted of a

single representative from each of the four provincial Institutes of Professional Land Surveyors, together with one representative from the Institute of Topographic and Engineering Surveyors, an academic, two people nominated by the government and a representative of the Association of Air Survey Companies. Those in private practice in any of those fields had to be registered with PLATO. It occurred to me that this structure was precisely what was needed in France.

Unfortunately I had to decline a formal invitation from Mr. Fred Chunga, President of the Zimbabwe Institution of Surveyors, to go back to Harare with him and enjoy an all- expenses paid tour of Zimbabwe including a visit to the Victoria Falls and the Great Zimbabwe Ruins. Time was not on my side. A year or so later when I visited Zimbabwe officially, the same invitation was not extended.

During our stay we met once again Graham and Lyall Holder whom we first met at the PC Meeting in Tel Aviv in 1972 and with whom we had exchanged Christmas cards every year since. We spent a few days with them in Pietermaritzburg before flying home to Darwin. No one in that city seemed to be concerned that I had not attended the surveying congress held in Darwin ten days earlier. I returned with the added responsibilities of getting IUSM to function properly.

CHAPTER 12: 1993 (PART 2) – BUREAU FUNDING AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION

In early June Bureau members started to consider ways and means by which FIG could become more effective in its administration. The organisation was over a hundred years old and very little had changed during the period. The whole world was enduring a flood of change and the profession of surveying was at the forefront of it. It seemed appropriate that FIG consider whether or not change was needed to cope with the changing circumstances and societal attitudes.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the terms of reference for VP Peter Dale's Task Force on a Permanent Secretariat should be extended to cover such things as: a takeover by the Bureau of some of the functions of the Permanent Committee; more frequent meetings of the General Assembly; the possible amalgamation of the Permanent Committee and the General Assembly. This was the start of a movement that eventually saw FIG become more like a corporation with a permanent office, a secretariat and officers elected from among the individual members of the organisations that comprise the Federation.

Later in June applications for Sponsor Membership were received and accepted from Leica, Schonstedt Instrument Co of USA, Carl Zeiss and Geotronics. Another piece of good news was a notification from AIDAB that the organisation was willing to provide \$17,570 to bring seven people from the Asia/Pacific region to the Melbourne Congress.

Earlier in the year Bureau members were reporting rumours of dissatisfaction among members of ISA that they were being levied \$20 a year to pay for FIG and that the Councillors themselves were concerned that ISA might not get the loan funds back. I understand that the other Bureau members met with ISA Council in Darwin in May while I was in South Africa and attempted to dispel any concerns Councillors might have had about the Bureau's and the Congress Directorate's budgeting. We had always understood that ISA's funding would be for a period of two years and our budgeting was based on that assumption with the proviso that should circumstances prove unfavourable the Bureau could ask for more. On top of this, registrations by Australian surveyors for the Melbourne Congress were low in comparison to those from other countries and this indicated a lack of enthusiasm on the part of locals.

Consequently we decided to ask the editor of *The Australian Surveyor* to publish a small article that might help individual members understand why we were asking for financial support. Times were tough in Australia and it was thought wise to try to allay suspicion. Members were concerned about their own financial situation rather than with what was happening on the other side of the world. An answer to the question 'why should I be supporting the administration of FIG?' had to be given. Lindsay and I devised an article that we thought emphasised the benefits available to the individual surveyor. The following is an excerpt:

'FIG – What's in it for you? – In any given circumstance, what happens today is the outcome of what was being done years ago. What we did in times past in terms of career planning, developing a business strategy, marketing or education, is bearing fruit today, one way or another. This applies equally to professions as to business. ... Undoubtedly the best thing for every surveyor in this country to do is to attend the XX FIG Congress in Melbourne in 1994. ... To support the administrative headquarters of

FIG in Australia will cost each member of ISA no more than the price of one bottle of quality wine each year. To [attend] the XX Congress in Melbourne will cost a lot more but the benefit to the individual and to the profession is immeasurable. ... The answer is limited only by your response to the professional growth opportunities offered.

I cannot recall whether or not it was published.

12–17 September 1993 – FIG Bureau Meeting, Perth (Australia)

The letter I had written to all Divisions of ISA in June 1991 seeking their help in hosting one of the Bureau Meetings that we planned to hold in Australia had borne fruit. All states and Territories except Tasmania and Victoria had sent positive replies and Victoria, in any case was running a congress at which the full Bureau would meet. In my letter I set out half a dozen ways in which Divisions could help based on the way in which the Finns had hosted Bureau members when meetings were held in Finland. These included: selecting a location of interest; finding sponsors to finance or subsidise the meeting venue and accommodation of attendees; organising official visits to government offices and functions with Ministers, Mayors etc; and finding sponsors for recreational activities and transportation. The WA Division proved more than up to the task.

In his acceptance letter the president of the Western Australian Division, Paul Blackadder, had suggested Rottnest Island as an appropriate venue, it being easily accessible by air or fast ferry and providing a uniquely Western Australian environment. It proved to be an ideal venue. While his early preference had been for the event to be staged in October this had proved to be difficult for the Bureau and after much negotiation the period from September 12th to 17th was agreed to.

Blackadder had said that ‘funding can be made available towards hosting the Bureau meeting’ and more importantly, he said that the Division was compiling a list of potential sponsors and he was ‘optimistic that the full cost of the meeting can be funded’. There had been much interaction between the Bureau and the Division over the proposed programme and timing of the meeting. The matter of funding was never mentioned again until, a month before the meeting, a prominent member of the Division asked Secretary General Lindsay how we intended to pay for the event. Imagine the reaction. Panic stations prevailed! A long letter to the then president, Andrew Porteous, appealed for an explanation. We had assumed that costs would not be a charge on the Bureau’s finances otherwise we may well have decided to go elsewhere but at that stage it was too late. Porteous’ reply was sufficient to calm our nerves when he told us that costs would be covered by the Division, the Department of Land Administration, sponsors and individual member contributions. Indeed one member of the Division, Mr. Ray Watson, had volunteered to have a holiday on the island with us to act as our personal assistant.

Early on the morning of Sunday 12th September the members of the Bureau and their wives congregated at the Perth airport where they boarded a light aircraft for the flight to Rottnest Island. While I had been to Perth many times before, this was my first trip to Rottnest and I was very impressed with what I saw. Ray Watson was there to help us get established and over the next few days he was of immense benefit as a host and organiser of leisure activities for the ladies. Bureau members had no time to spare on leisure activities except at night when the bar suffered significantly.

The meeting commenced on Monday morning with all Bureau members present. Richard Browne, President of ISA and CEO Col Fuller had been invited to attend but could

not get there until the last day of the meeting when unfortunately, conflict emerged once again over financial arrangements between the Bureau and ISA. The major consideration during the meeting was progress in the planning of the Melbourne congress next year but there were many other matters of importance. It was noted that the AID-AB contribution of \$17,500 towards assistance for people to attend the congress was supplemented by another \$12,000 from UNEP and UNCHS. Applications for membership had been received from Greece, Nepal, Ukraine, Bolivia and Croatia. A proposal by Dr. Riddel of FAO to hold a Round Table discussion in Melbourne was approved. Holmes and Lindsay were given the task of acquiring a design and quote for a new Presidential Chain from a bone fide regalia manufacturer and to have it produced by the time of the Melbourne congress.

On our return to Perth on the Thursday we enjoyed a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Perth, The Right Honorable R G Withers and on Friday evening we attended the annual dinner of the Division. This was followed by a Symposium at Curtin University on the 18th September. The theme was *'The Land and the People'* to which the Australian of the Year, Mandawuy Yunupingu had been invited but was unable to attend due to prior commitments. A most interesting group of speakers including VP Dale and VP Raitanen had been assembled and the seminar was open to the public. I understand there were at least four politicians from different areas of politics present among the two hundred or so in attendance.

There were two basic reasons why we had wanted the Divisions of ISA to host our Bureau Meetings. One was to be able to hold a meeting at minimum cost but the other was to fraternise with Division members and explain to them what FIG was all about and the responsibilities of the Australian Bureau within the process. In this case attendance at the annual dinner of the Division gave me the perfect opportunity to do just that and it is appropriate that I reiterate here on some of the things I said that night. After thanking the Division and its members, in particular Ray Watson, and the Department for the assistance they had given in making our stay in Perth a success I tried to tell those present a little about the finances of FIG and the problems we had in tailoring our activities to the funds available. I told them that the Bureau members were extremely conscious of the financial assistance being given by Australian surveyors but without the funds raised by the ISA levy the task of the Bureau would be well-nigh impossible. I suggested that from ISA's perspective the levy funds were definitely risk capital but I insisted that the risk was negligible. There was no doubt in my mind that their capital would be returned with interest.

I then went on to tell them what FIG was all about and where the money was being spent. FIG's primary task, I said, is international cooperation in the exchange of professional information and technology. Our aim is to ensure that the practice of surveying in all its forms meets the needs of the international community with the emphasis on the word 'international'. We carry out our aim through seminars, workshops and congresses held in various countries. We do this, I continued, in cooperation with other international bodies such as IUSM and ICSU, and the various departments and organisations of the United Nations such as FAO, UNEP and the UNCHS. Usually, specific projects are coordinated by the nine technical commissions of the Federation whose officers are distributed around the world.

With any such organisation, I explained, there needs to be an over-arching administration, and that's what the Bureau is – the executive organ of the Federation. As such, members of the Bureau need to travel. They must attend the annual Permanent

Committee meeting, the annual general meeting of the Federation, which is held in a different country each year. The Bureau must have at least two full meetings a year and the Australian members must meet regularly at other times. The President and the Secretary General must travel more often than other members to carry out duties allocated to them by the statutes and given to them by the Permanent Committee. To the pessimist, such journeys are simply junkets but I assured listeners that they were nothing less than hard work. Last year, I told them, I had travelled the world for a total of ten weeks and in that time I had only ten days I could call my own. On top of that I had a business to run back home. Fortunately I had a very supportive business partner.

I then called on every member to give real consideration to attending the congress in Melbourne next year. They should all, I said, take advantage of the unique opportunity to attend a function that would provide them with access to some of the best academic minds in the profession and to mix with fellow professionals from all over the world. The Melbourne congress will be the first ever held outside of Europe or North America. That fact alone should be sufficient incentive to achieve high attendance rates by Australians.

Finally I announced for the first time publicly that the Australian Bureau was working towards setting up a Trust Fund and a Permanent Secretariat to obviate the need for future administrations to put the bite on its members for finances the way we had to.

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Many other things were discussed during the Bureau meeting on Rottneest Island but for once the 'French problem' was not mentioned. After our discussions in Paris in May we received a letter in July from each of the warring parties informing us that both parties had found a solution. Both parties had agreed to 'constitute a common structure to represent France in FIG' but details were few. In reply to my request for further details the Vice President of AFT, Michel Mayoud said that they were to create a new organisation in which the OGE, the AFT and the Association Française pour l'Information Géographique (AFIGE) would be the members. He described the arrangement as 'a quasi-conclusion of the French case'. However, on seeking details from Mayoud I received an 'unofficial reply' that intimated that the OGE President was still being obstructive but he hoped everything would be finalised by September. We heard nothing more from the OGE.

One of the major difficulties with the French Problem was that of language. Mayoud spoke English whereas his President did not so most communications with the AFT were carried out in English. The problem here was that Mayoud's written English was quite flowery and we often had difficulty deciding what he meant. On the other hand all communication from the OGE, when there was communication, was in French though I had come to the conclusion during our meetings with him that Lamasion could speak English very well and he certainly knew that we could not speak French. But French was an official language of FIG was it not? So we communicated in French and sometimes we were a little confused with the translations.

Then on 3rd August I received a fax from Mayoud stating that the 'Comité Français de Représentation' had been finalised and that all official information would come from the OGE. I surmised that because the OGE was instituted under French law then this Comité must have been approved by French officialdom. Nothing was heard from the OGE.

Again, at the end of August, Mayoud advised me that everything appeared to be progressing smoothly and sought information as to how to proceed with the change of membership in FIG. He also told us that our advice, as a matter of protocol, should be addressed to the OGE, but he would like a copy. I was at a loss to know what to tell him or the OGE. I had already asked for the appropriate information needed by the Bureau to make a decision for a recommendation to the Permanent Committee but nothing had been received. In the end we did nothing and in early September Mayoud again reassured us that all was well. Nothing was heard from the OGE.

4–8 October 1993 – 24th General Assembly of International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), Santiago (Chile)

The 24th General Assembly of ICSU in October was attended by VP Peter Byrne who presented a paper proposing several ways in which FIG could contribute to the work of that organisation. The paper was titled 'the Surveyor and Research'. It was designed to brief delegates on the research work currently being carried out by surveyors. One example referred to was the high precision surveying being carried out at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) in Switzerland. Another example was the research into space geodesy, crustal dynamics and precise time being carried out at the Orroal Geodetic Observatory near Canberra. Included in the paper was the FIG Definition of a Surveyor that I had successfully convinced the Federation to adopt. Peter also explained the diversity of activities in which surveyors were involved. From Santiago, Byrne flew to Brazil to attend the Brazilian member association's congress before returning home. While there he and Ian Williamson organised a two day seminar that considered The Cadastre and its application in developing countries.

Back in Australia October brought a continuation of the French drama. Early in the month Michel Mayoud advised that negotiations to form their tripartite organisation were proceeding well notwithstanding the fact that there were some misunderstandings about the information we had requested and that OGE was worried about the possible need to resign from the Federation. He begged me to tell him what would be 'the simplest way' to achieve the transfer of membership to the Comité. I advised him that if representatives from the Comité were to be the delegates of OGE at PC Meetings there would be no problems and there would be no need for further action. The appointment of delegates was an internal matter for each member association. However, if the OGE were to resign from the Federation in favour of membership by the Comité we would need official notification of this from OGE and copies of the Comité's constitution.

Confusion reigned supreme for the next two months. Further appeals for elucidation came from Mayoud who did not understand the need for statutes for his Comité. The three organisations had signed a protocol of agreement regarding what they expected the Comité to do and they thought this was sufficient for the purpose. So once again I had to inform him that FIG was a federation of associations, not a federation of countries nor a federation of committees. This of course raised the further complication that the OGE was not an association. According to Mayoud it 'is a restricted Employer's Corporate Body' under French law. To him this meant that the Comité needed to be reconstituted to create an association dedicated to representation of French surveyors at the FIG. Yet in late October he was reporting that there were still misunderstandings about what was required.

In early November Mayoud reported that both AFT and AFEGIO were attempting to get the OGE to write a letter to the Bureau advising us that they intend to relinquish membership of FIG in favour of the yet to be finalised Comité. This, in an endeavour to get the matter heard by the PC Meeting in Melbourne in March next year. He also advised that he was going to talk the matter over with VP Peter Dale in London. Shortly thereafter Dale wrote to me with his opinion about the situation. 'Your intervention after New Orleans has been the catalyst that the French needed to get together. Both sides are appreciative of your efforts' he said. He then went on to say that the OGE has problems coming from all sides including European Union legislation and moves towards deregulation in France. There were legal implications behind the formation of any new association in France and it was against the law for the Ordre to join an association. The greatest hurdle for the Ordre was the loss of face for a founding member of FIG to have to give up its membership. He then posed the question as to whether there might be some other way to achieve the desired result. 'You (i.e. me) found a satisfactory solution to the Russian problem without requiring resignations' he said, 'could something like that be arranged for the French?'

This got me thinking. I studied the Federation's membership list and found that there were a number of member associations that were really overarching organisations consisting of a number of individual associations. This was precisely what I had thought the French were trying to achieve and all my advice to them had been based on that premise. However I now found that there was one member association that had overcome a similar situation with a different approach. It was that of Norway whose member association of FIG was 'The Norwegian Association of Chartered Surveyors (UK) in cooperation with The Norwegian Association for Cartography, Geodesy, Hydrography and Photogrammetry (NKTF)'. This organisation consisted of two professional surveying associations working in cooperation with each other with a single representation within FIG and with an FIG-Secretariat housed in the office of the Chartered Surveyors. It dealt with all matters relating to FIG. I wrote to the OGE suggesting they try the same approach.

On the 9th December I received a fax from the OGE informing me that the Ordre had accepted my proposal and were now seeking the approval of the Permanent Committee to recognise as the future member of FIG 'the Ordre des Geometre-Experts in cooperation with the AFT and the AFIGEO'. My reaction was to send them congratulations for the conclusion of a very difficult matter and a request for official confirmation of the matter from the Council of each of the three organisations. However not all were happy with this result, least of all Michel Mayoud. The very next day in his regular update on the subject he intimated that there were many on the AFT Council who believed the agreed situation could only be provisional. He described it as a 'Norwegian omelette'. He was disappointed that the three organisations had made a swift decision (of which he was not a party) without benefit of investigation into the Norwegian model and how it works. My perseverance as a mediator was beginning to show cracks.

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The Bureau's funding issue was inflamed a little more, in fact a whole lot more, when in November the Bureau received a letter from the CEO of ISA, Colin Fuller on the subject of anticipated profits from the Bureau's and the Congress Directorate's activities. Fuller had advised Secretary General Lindsay in July that ISA had asked members to continue paying the levy of \$20 a year for 1993 and that this impost on members would continue for four years. However there were indications within the letter that Council was having doubts about the FIG's budgeting and were, for some reason concerned

that if any profits were made they would not be returned to the Institution. This latest communication from Fuller was quite specific on the matter. 'The members [of ISA] had paid \$120,000 in levies' he wrote, and 'there is an expectation that the levy money is to be repaid'.¹² I was at a loss to know what all the fuss was about. There was no way the Bureau and the congress Directorate could exist without financial backing from the Institution and members of the Institution were the only ones who could raise the necessary funds in one way or another. Both the Bureau and the Congress Directorate had budgeted for a profit and both had on a number of occasions informed the Council that if there were any profits the money would be returned to ISA.

The end result was another letter to Fuller explaining the previously agreed financial arrangements. The Bureau was dependent on three sources of finance: member associations of the Federation (50%); the Federal Government (25%); and other sources including ISA (25%). The ISA levy funds were included in the expected income for 1992 and 1993 but the Bureau was dependent on surplus funds from the Congress Directorate for the last two years of its operations. Problems would only arise if the congress was a flop and that was unlikely. Nine months before the event we already had seven hundred and twenty delegates with two hundred and eighty five accompanying persons registered from fifty five countries. The Commission chairmen had received more technical papers than they could cope with. Congress Director Ray Holmes was already expanding his programme to deal with the increased numbers now being forecast. The Institution however, would need to do its own budgeting for the period 1996 to 1999 during which Grahame Lindsay would be a member of the UK Bureau for four years and I would remain the President of IUSM for two.

In November the Governor General of Australia, the Honorable Mr. William (Bill) Hayden, offered his apologies and advised that he could not attend the opening of the congress due to prior commitments. Having been invited in April 1992 I was at a loss to understand why he would take so long to make such a decision. It seems that his term of office was due to end around the same time as the congress and this may have had something to do with it. The Bureau agreed to seek the attendance of the Victorian Governor, the Hon Sir Richard Garvie. It was with pleasure and relief that we received his acceptance on 3rd December.

Ray Holmes had had a very successful visit to New Zealand and Fiji promoting attendance at the congress. On his return he advised the Bureau that the Fijian surveyors intended to become more active within FIG by nominating delegates to all of the Commissions. This coincided with the fact that the committee considering entries for the Congress Prize had only just decided that the prize should go to Miss Mele Rakai of Fiji. The competition was open only to young surveyors and the rules called for a treatise on a subject in any of the many fields of activities within the surveying profession. However, it had to complement the theme of the congress which was '*Surveying Global Changes*'. The judging panel considered that Miss Rakai's paper stood out in style and content. It was titled '*Incorporating Traditional Concepts of Customary Land Tenure into Globally Innovative Concepts of Land Information Systems*'. I had great pleasure in presenting her with the prize four months later.

¹² Letter, Colin Fuller to FIG Treasurer, 5/11/1993.

CHAPTER 13: 1994 (PART 1) – THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR PURPOSE

At the beginning of the year 1994 the Melbourne Congress was only two months away and all were working non-stop to complete the arrangements. The Congress was the lynchpin to the success of the Australian administration of FIG, the *raison d'être* for our existence. Yet there was much to do. Australian registrations were still low; we were being hounded by applications for financial assistance; we were on the verge of a diplomatic incident; and the French problem continued to haunt me.

On the 12th January Michelle Mayoud sent me a copy of the minutes of a special meeting of the AFT. Those present had spent most of their time castigating the OGE for making a precipitous decision; and for neglecting to make appropriate inquiry into the means by which Norway made their arrangement work. They re-affirmed the fact that they thought the AFT deserved full membership in its own right and insisted that the FIG Statutes provided for membership by a second association when the existing member association had legal restrictions on its own membership. This was certainly the case with the OGE. The minutes ended with the statement that 'common sense and logical thinking bring us therefore simply to wait for the Melbourne meetings, discuss these matters with the FIG Bureau and the Task Force there [and] see what outcomes result from these discussions.'¹³ His reference to a Task Force was a reference to Clifford Dann's Task Force on Membership Extension.

Great, I thought, it's all over. But no – the next epistle arrived a week later and they continued to arrive. On 20th January Mayoud, as Vice President of AFT, sent a fax confirming that AFT had agreed to 'the principle of a Norwegian-type solution' but only as a starting basis for formal consideration of their real intention to become a full member of FIG. Then only four days later I received formal notification from Lamasion that the three French associations had agreed to the idea and that the combined membership was 2,500. He attached letters of confirmation from the other two associations. This answered my request for evidence so it was agreed that the matter should be debated at the PC Meeting in Melbourne as an additional agenda item. If agreed to by the PC it would be tabled at the General Assembly for confirmation. Once again I breathed a sigh of relief but as I have said before one can have great expectations but must be satisfied with sad realisations.

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On the 29th January the Australian members of the Bureau met in Melbourne with members of the Congress Directorate to inspect the congress venues and to consider the last minute details for the event that was to be the highlight of and the reason for our term in office. The Congress Director and each of the members of the Congress Secretariat reported in turn on progress within their area of responsibility. The congress venue was the World Congress Centre on the banks of the Yarra River. The congress hotel was the Hotel Centra adjacent to the World Congress Centre and I was pleased to see that the Congress Director had booked a suite and an office for the President. Everything seemed to be under control and with the rate that overseas delegates were registering everyone was sure this congress was going to be the best ever held. However, as far as Australian representation at the congress was concerned things were not that bright.

13 Minutes, Reunion Speciale du Bureau AFT du 30 Décembre 1993.

We had originally anticipated attendance by at least 600 Australian delegates but by January only 342 had registered. This was a little disconcerting so it was decided that I should appeal to the Presidents of ISA and the Association of Consulting Surveyors (ACSA) to motivate their members. As a result of my pleas ISA President Richard Browne sent a circular to all members entreating them to register and the ACSA allowed us to insert a circular into their February newsletter.

In the event 594 Australian surveyors registered for the congress and the total number of delegates was 1,388 including 207 students. While on the subject of students I might add that at the time of this meeting in January there were over a hundred Victorian surveying students working alongside Victorian surveyors to make the congress a success. These students were scheduled to do the more menial but essential tasks. During the event they did a remarkable job: meeting arriving delegates at the airport; chaperoning people around the various venues, and running errands for the Congress Directorate. They became a familiar sight in their red shirts and they were always sporting a youthful smile.

Late in February we had our first diplomatic incident, and I think, our only incident. Over the years I had been aware that Israeli delegates were having difficulty getting visas to enter certain countries. Of course they had no such trouble entering Australia and our particular incident was of a quite different nature. The problem lay in the report of Kevin Blume's Task Force on Membership Extension in the South East Asia and Pacific Areas. This had been circulated with all agenda papers well in advance of the congress. The problem was the reaction of the Chinese member association to certain words in the report. We received a very polite but firm letter from the Secretary General of the Chinese member association explicitly telling us that Taiwan was not a separate country, that there was only one China and that Taiwan was but a province of that great country. He demanded that we correct the matter and make sure no such mistake occurred during the congress. Thankfully the Task Force was chaired by an Australian. The Chinese had copied the letter to him so he was aware of the situation and Kevin was not likely to make a faux pas during the event. Grahame Lindsay contacted the Department of Foreign Affairs for advice. As a result, it was decided that at the very first event at the congress in March we should apologise to the Chinese and that I should make a public statement clarifying the matter. This I did.

This was also a time of hard work, especially for Secretary General Grahame Lindsay, in coordinating all the applications for financial assistance that had been received and deciding who would get what. We had received promise of significant funds for this purpose from AIDAB, UNEP, FAO and the Soros Foundation. We had also set aside some of our own funds for this purpose from donations given by sponsors. In all we were able to help thirty two delegates from twenty six countries including four from the South East Asia and Pacific areas.

Ian Williamson had offered to host a small formal dinner at the University of Melbourne some time during the congress. By this stage FIG had eight Sponsor Members: Sokia Co Ltd, Nikon Corporation, Asahi Precision Co Ltd, Topcon Corporation, Schonstedt Instrument Co, Carl Zeiss, Geotronics and Leica. I decided to accept his offer and advised him that the sponsors would be the guests of honour.

Just three weeks before the congress I had what I believe to be my only real argument with Grahame Lindsay during my time with the Bureau. Yes, we had our differences of opinion many times over the years but these were always sorted out amicably. This was

the only time I can recall that I pulled rank and put words to paper that specified a solution. The last two items on the congress programme were listed as 'Close of the General Assembly' and 'Close of the Congress and Farewell'. It was my intention that all things traditionally associated with the closing ceremonies of past congresses should be carried out at the close of the last formal meeting of the GA and should be contained in the agenda of that meeting. The Farewell was intended as a social event to be held immediately after the close of the General Assembly. It was there that delegates, wives and partners could mingle and say goodbye to each other. Indeed it was shown as a social function in the official programme but Grahame (and probably also Ray Holmes) was all for the elimination of, or at least the minimization of formality during the close of the General Assembly. He wanted what little formality we had to be part of the farewell social. To a degree I was in favour of less formality. We all had adverse memories of the anticlimax that occurred at the end of the 1990 congress in Helsinki and we did not want a repeat performance. However, I thought Grahame wanted to go too far.

I had no problem with transferring some of the formalities to the Farewell function but I believed that a closing ceremony in the traditional mode during the last session of the General Assembly was essential, if a little less formal than in the past. Ours did not have to have all the pomp, ceremony and musical interludes that were features of previous congresses but 'let us not take the traditional Australian cultural cringe to the extreme' I said, 'there will be many international visitors who will be expecting a degree of formality'. I went on to reiterate a very early statement that I had made to the Bureau in the early stages of planning for the event. I had said that I wanted some degree of control over only two functions during the congress. These were the Opening and the Closing ceremonies. I believed that my attendance at ten former FIG closing ceremonies gave me the experience to warrant having reasonable control of the design of these functions during which I would be the main player. In the end a compromise was reached in which the Bureau agreed to ninety percent of my demands.

5–12 March 1994 – 61st PC Meeting and XX FIG Congress in Melbourne (Australia), 'Surveying Global Changes'

The day before the Congress opened was the day of the FAO Round Table discussion. Jim Riddell had made \$20,000 available to subsidise travel and accommodation and Grahame Lindsay had worked hard to convince nine representatives of governmental organisations involved in land titling in developing countries like Lithuania, Ghana, Peru and Indonesia to take part. The theme of the discussion was '*Future Collaboration in Cadastral Reform in Rural Economies in Transition*'. Our objective was to find ways in which FIG could assist such countries to gain reliable cadastres. Other attendees included available Bureau members, Prof. Ian Williamson and Prof. Andrzej Hopfer from Commission 7. It was hoped that congress prize winner Mele Rakai would also attend. In all there were 18 delegates from eleven countries with the record being taken by Gary Hunter from Commission 7.

I did not participate to a large degree as I had other commitments but I did welcome delegates and open the proceedings. The basic reason for the discussion was a realization within FAO and the surveying profession that there was an urgent need globally for the implementation of improved land management practices within the developing countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and South America. FAO was one of the leading aid agencies to help such countries and wanted to see their money spent wisely. FIG is

a knowledge bank of technical expertise that could be called on for assistance in ensuring this. It was hoped that through this workshop FAO and FIG could develop a strategy whereby we could work together to assist such countries overcome their problems.

After each country representative stated the position that pertained at home and the difficulties experienced, the meeting devolved into workshop mode to resolve some of the issues and decide how FIG could help. The net result was agreement that the exchange of information about methods and technology was of primary importance to them. Workshops and seminars dealing with these subjects were urgently required in developing countries as was advice by experts on land records, cadastres and diagnostic assistance in cadastral development. How could FIG help? Each commission is a font of wisdom within its own sphere of research. Each could resolve to spread this wisdom by means of seminars and workshops and this, of course was precisely what the Bureau had included in its work plan two years earlier. But now FIG would have the benefit of funding from FAO to carry out this objective. One result of the Round Table was that later in the year the Bureau published FIG Publication No 10 – *FAO and FIG Future Collaboration in Cadastral Reform in Rural Economies in Transition* so that all member associations and anyone else interested in the subject would have access to the decisions made. After this session Dr. Riddell was heard to say 'the FAO/FIG marriage is off to a great start'.

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By Saturday 5th March the basic reason for Australia's involvement in the administration of FIG was coming to a culmination. The XX FIG Congress was about to start with a Bureau Meeting followed by a series of PC Meetings and meetings of the General Assembly. All this would be interspersed with a social programme, technical tours and the presentation of hundreds of technical papers within the Technical and Scientific Commissions. This was why I went to Canada in 1986. This was what the ISA members worked so hard for at that XIX Congress in Toronto. This was what the ISA Council sought to obtain when they first thought about getting their institution involved in FIG affairs. Our ambition was not to become the administrators of FIG. That was an afterthought. It was a duty we had to carry out as a result of winning the right to host this Congress. Now we had to prove we were worthy of FIG's faith in our abilities and I have no hesitation in saying that the members of our Institution can hold their heads high because the Congress Directorate excelled themselves with their final product.

The Bureau Meetings, generally speaking, involved simply tidying up recommendations to be placed before the PC. These meetings were over by the time of the Welcome Reception which was held on the Sunday night in the Great Hall of the Victorian Arts Centre. The reception was not a time for speech making but one to say hello to fellow delegates. Monday morning was the time for speech making at the Official Opening held in the John Batman Theatre of the World Congress Centre. Delegates were first of all entertained by a performance showcasing the role of surveyors in the development of Australia complete with theodolites, plane tables, aborigines, horses and riders. It was a brilliant montage written by Cliff Ogleby of the Department of Land Information at the University of Melbourne and narrated by well-known Australian identity, Charles Tingwell. The story was supplemented by students of the National Ballet School, the choir of the St Judes Parish School, and a novel rendition of *Waltzing Matilda* by Noel Watson. These performances gave the event the stamp of Australia that was to be the social theme for the next week.

At the Congress Opening, delegates were first welcomed by ISA President Richard Browne followed by a welcome to Melbourne from the Victorian Surveyor General, John Parker. His Excellency, the Hon. Richard Garvie, Governor of Victoria then performed the official opening ceremony. His speech went down well because it was all about the surveying profession. It was not simply a rehash of all the old jaded remarks about ancient surveyors and the first professions. He had really done his homework, or somebody had done it for him. I suspect it was John Parker but probably I will never know. His Honour even knew what action we were taking in relation to the UNCED's Agenda 21. 'It is clear' he said 'that FIG is an organisation with a conscience and a soul, one that is focused on its objectives, and one that is making great strides towards those objectives'. His words gave a glow of considerable pride to all Bureau members.¹⁴

My own address¹⁵ to the assembled multitude included an apology for the loss of the presidential chain of office stolen while I was in the Netherlands. However I had great pleasure in presenting the brand new chain of office to the assembled throng and wearing it for the first time officially. I was followed by Congress Director Ray Holmes who told delegates and friends that this event was a 'Congress' and not just a technical conference. A second objective of the event was to maximise the social interaction between delegates. 'Achievement of this objective' he said 'will require personal effort for interaction between participants during the social activities outside the technical sessions'. There is no doubt that delegates and their friends heeded his message.¹⁶

Highlights of the opening sessions were two Keynote Addresses, one given by Prof. Peter Ellyard, a spokesperson for The Commission for the Future, and the other by FAO Director Dr. James Riddell. The title of Prof. Ellyard's address was '*The Emerging Planetary Paradigm: Professionalism for an Inter-dependent Planetary 21st Century*'.¹⁷

... There are two basic issues that the profession must deal with. These are, firstly, understanding the nature of present global trends, and, secondly, developing a clear vision of where it [the surveying profession] wants to go, and then organising itself to get there....

According to Ellyard, the world was rushing headlong into an era with new ethics and values and that these new precepts were necessary if we were to sustain cooperative and equitable living on this planet. This emerging paradigm was challenging current values with astonishing rapidity because of the effect of advances in global communications. This paradigm was creating a planetary society in which sub-organisations within the surveying profession must be inter-dependent. The profession must have a vision for itself for the future. It must look towards new intellectual and technological jurisdictions for guidance and plan to play a role in those jurisdictions.

There were three things that he said that stuck in my mind for the rest of my life and during the rest of my professional life I endeavoured to live by them. 'We can only work to create a future that we first imagine' he said, and 'those who do not live in the future today, will live in the past tomorrow'. These he followed with this gem of wisdom: 'Do not follow where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail'. In retrospect, I like to think that the Australian Bureau of FIG did imagine the future and after four years in office we certainly left a trail.

14 FIG XX Congress, Official Report of the Congress, Volume 0, 1994, pp. 37–40.

15 Ibid, pp. 41–46.

16 Ibid, pp. 47–48.

17 Ibid, pp. 62–87.

In his address, '*LIS and Cadastre Reform for Rural Developments: A Challenge for FAO and FIG*',¹⁸ Dr. Riddell attempted to convince us that surveyors in general and FIG in particular could make a difference in that part of the world where lack of sufficient nutrition would be the cause of death to at least one thousand people during the time he took to make his speech. How people own, administer and take care of land, he said, is a critical ingredient in rural development. He suggested that there were five principles that account for the success or failure of any land tenure system. Records that are clear to both the professional and the peasant were essential as was security of the data contained in the records. The records must be up to date and access to the data must be fair. The cost of creating and maintaining the system must be economic and the cost to the user must be reasonable. He finished his address by saying:

... The world's policy makers and agricultural populations want a good land record system to allow them to get on with the business of feeding a hungry world. We [i.e. surveyors] are the profession best suited to help them meet this need.

In thanking the Keynote Speakers, VP Peter Byrne remarked that what both speakers had to say was totally relevant to the work of FIG. He agreed with Ellyard that our thoughts should always be for the future and oriented around what he called 'thrival' rather than 'survival' and he thought that Riddell's address exemplified the relationship being developed between FIG and the various United Nations organisations. 'Jim Riddell' he said 'has addressed the technical and the cultural. Peter Ellyard has suggested changes to our thinking'.¹⁹

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During the PC and General Assembly Meetings, a number of significant decisions were made, not the least of which was confirmation of the appointment of Juha Talvitie as an Honorary President of FIG. The award was one that was well deserved and it made me very happy to see my friend so awarded. The Statutes and Internal Rules were amended to allow the PC to determine the Terms of Reference for each of the Technical Commissions. This meant that the terms could be reviewed annually rather than every four years by the GA as in the past.

VP Peter Dale submitted his final report on Quality Management (QM). This was the culmination of the work of his Task Force on the subject given to him in 1990 by the Finns. Over recent years there had been a surge of interest in quality management in developed countries like Australia. It seemed wise to make the membership aware of this and to promote the use of such systems within the profession.

Membership applications were approved for associations in Nepal, Greece (second association), Croatia, Ireland, Ukraine, Viet Nam, the Philippines and Malta. The name change for the French member association (OGE) was also approved which received a great sigh of relief from all Bureau members though there was still more angst yet to come. During the first PC Meeting the members agreed to: 'Recognise as the future member organisation from France, the Ordre Géomètres-Experts in cooperation with the Association Français de Topographie and the Association Français pour l'Information Géographique'. I thought I had achieved a miracle. Little did I know that before a year had passed there would be a request for a name change and that the matter would not be finalised until the PC Meeting in Berlin in 1995.

18 FIG XX Congress, Official Report of the Congress, Volume 0, 1994, pp. 88–95.

19 Ibid, pp. 96–97.

Ian Williamson (Australia) was elected Chair of Commission 7 for the period 1996–1999 and Jan de Graeve (Belgium) was given the task of forming an ad hoc Commission on the History of Surveying. On receipt of his commission he advised the meeting that the as yet non-existent ad hoc Commission would hold the 1st International Symposium on the History of Surveying in Sydney, Australia on 14 March, just two days after the completion of the Melbourne congress. This turned out to be a great success with NSW surveyor John Brock playing a well-remembered role as author and raconteur extraordinaire. In other Commission matters there were a number of recommendations that were of some importance.

Commission 1 recommended FIG to urge international agencies to recognise the work of surveyors as being on a par with other professionals. They were also concerned that the monuments that exist along the meridian that was measured from the Black Sea to the north coast of Norway a century ago, now known as the Struve Arc, were in danger of being lost to history and asked FIG to request the UN to add the arc to its list of World Heritage history monuments.

Commission 2 recognised the importance of continuing professional development (CPD) in the life of surveyors and resolved to produce a report on guidelines for CPD and present them at the next congress. This commission also resolved to establish a working party to review the changing role of surveyors and their educational needs.

Commission 3 asked FIG to urge public agencies throughout the world to open their registers, map series and databases to access by the public and Commission 7 resolved to develop solutions and options for cadastral reform and to examine problems in modernising cadastres in developing countries.

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1994 was the International Year of the Family so the congress organisers thought it might be appropriate to include a special session to talk about the role of the family in life and in society. It was an interesting innovation for a surveyors' conference. I thought it was to be a recognition of the valuable role that wives, partners and families play in the life of a professional. My wife Wendy was one of the speakers as were Pirjo Raitanen (Finland), Tricia Dann (UK) and Olyinka Adekoya (Nigeria). I was not able to attend but I was informed that the room was crowded and many in the crowd were men. Maybe they were men who had nothing better to do or maybe they were men who believed, as I did, that the family played a crucial part in the success of the professional. In the event, while the speeches were all very good, the relationship between professional and family was never mentioned. My wife told me later that the guidelines given to the speakers made no mention of that subject.

The congress banquet was attended by some eight hundred people including the Federal Minister for Administrative Services and Trade, Senator Bob McMullen, Premier of Victoria the Hon. Jeff Kennett, Victorian Minister for Finance, the Hon. Ian Smith, and ISA President Richard Browne. The Governor of Victoria tendered his apologies. Apart from the formalities the highlight was an address by a pseudo Earl of Brighton, a.k.a. Campbell McComas, a well-known but well disguised public speaker. He called on all and sundry to attend the XXI Congress in Brighton, England in 1998 making use of many humorous stories relating to certain English members of the surveying profession and telling derisive stories about Brighton and other places on England's green and pleasant fields. The crowd loved it but the really amusing thing about this address was that no one had

told the President of the UK member association (RICS) that McComas was a fraud, a local public speaker of comic fame, and the Englishman was all for giving the Earl a thrashing for making free with the truth about those grand old English cities.

The formalities of the closing sessions had all been re-scheduled for the end of the GA as I had demanded but the Farewell function, which was held in the atrium of the World Congress Centre gained, quite deservedly, a little more emphasis than the simple one I had envisaged. It consisted of music by the City of Melbourne Pipe band; a speech of appreciation for the work of the Congress Directorate by Robert Foster (USA) who in two years would become Vice President in the UK Bureau; and a short speech by Congress Director Ray Holmes expressing thanks to all who assisted in making the congress a success. Finally two groups of 'absailers' descended from the roof line to unfurl two banners. One read 'Thank You to Melbourne' and the other 'Welcome to Brighton in 1988' after which delegates were invited to enjoy the refreshments provided and say their farewells to each other.

All in all the congress was a thorough success and for many years thereafter I have often heard the repeated statement that the Melbourne Congress was the best congress ever. It was certainly the most attended congress ever. On the last day of the congress I said, by way of the front page of the final edition of the *Congress Chronicle*:

Today marks the end of four years of hard work by our Congress Director and his team of workers. Today, when the final players leave the stage of the farewell function, he and his workers can look back and ask 'has it been successful, was it worth the trouble?' The answer to both questions has to be an unqualified 'YES'.

Judging by the number of letters of congratulation we received after the event my assessment must have been correct. One of these was so inspiring that I must quote some of it here. It came from Milan Klimes of Czechoslovakia and was addressed to Ray Holmes:

This event was a remarkable milestone into the history of FIG. ... Thanks to the Australian Bureau the life of FIG community is more exciting, the family is growing and perhaps even the influence of land surveyors on social and inter-disciplinary development is more active, thanks to you and your colleagues.²⁰

And we were only halfway through our term of office! When I returned home at the end of the congress I wrote a letter to Ray Holmes congratulating him and the members of his Directorate for the effort that they had all put into making the congress such a success.

From my point of view the only black spot during the congress was the fact that once again I had an argument with the president of ISA and his CEO about finances and what was going to be done with profits. I suspect it was Col Fuller driving the conflict but it was the President to whom we had to answer. The ongoing nature of the conflict was slowly causing me, and I suspect other Bureau members, to harden my mind to the matter. We had a long way to go and I was damned if I was going to shirk my responsibilities to FIG simply to ensure we had enough money left over to repay the loans we had from ISA.

²⁰ Letter, Milan Klimes to Ray Holmes, undated, circa August 1994.

CHAPTER 14: 1994 (PART 2) – NO TIME FOR REST

The world's best congress was over and the Bureau had to get back to work on matters more pressing. Someone had to go to China and the Philippines. The French were still fighting each other and we had a full Bureau Meeting scheduled for September. I had to visit Berlin to check on arrangements for the PC Meeting scheduled for May next year and cross the Atlantic to liaise with the Executive Secretary of IUSM. It was to be nine months of hyper activity.

8–15 May 1994 – 13th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia & Pacific, Beijing (China)

The 13th UN Cartographic Conference in Beijing in May was attended by Ray Holmes, VP Pekka Raitanen and VP Peter Byrne who presented a paper on the implications of Agenda 21 for surveyors. This paper was instrumental in causing the conference to turn its attention to the big issues and away from a concentration on technology as was the practice in the past. These three delegates changed the focus of the conference from technical matters to consideration of policy matters. Three resolutions proposed by FIG were adopted by the conference. One called on the UN Secretariat, in collaboration with FIG, to prepare a compilation of the optional components of the various cadastres to assist developing countries to choose the one most suitable to their needs. Another called for assistance to developing countries to achieve effective management of geo-spatial information while the third called on surveying and mapping organisations in all countries to implement the directives of Agenda 21.

All three recommendations were eventually endorsed by the UN General Assembly in New York and Peter Byrne's paper rated a mention in the official report of the conference by the Secretary General of ECOSOC which is one of the three peak Councils of the UN. The Secretary General said that the conference had reappraised the goals of cartography (as the term is used in the UN) and that the next cartographic conference in 1997 should concentrate on the contribution of the surveying and mapping professions in support of the implementation of Agenda 21.

18–19 June 1994 – 20th Annual National Directorate Meeting, Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines, Cebu

The new member association, the Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines had invited me to visit them some time. Ray Holmes had intended to stop over in Manila on his way home from Beijing so I thought he might fulfil that role. However the President of the association had other ideas. His preference was for a visit in June to coincide with his national convention. When I looked into ways and means of getting to Cebu and back I found that I would need to be away for seven days to attend the two day conference. This was due to the availability of air flights and that in 1994, on certain days there were no international flights in or out of Darwin. How things have changed since then! At first I thought Ray could make the journey more easily out of Melbourne but when we found that the journey would take him six days I decided to go. The journey took me to Singapore with Qantas and then directly to Cebu with Silk Air.

I was accommodated in the Cebu Midtown Hotel which was the venue for the conference presided over by President Concordio Zuniga. The theme of the conference was *'The Geodetic Engineer's Commitment to Sustainable Development'*. A welcome address was given by the Governor of Cebu Province, the Hon. Vicente de la Serna, in which the most memorable part for me was the five minute prayer calling on the Almighty to guide participants in their deliberations. This was followed by what was described in the agenda as 'Words of Welcome by the President of FIG'. In fact I spent quite some time telling them about FIG, how it works, and what we were trying to achieve.

Cebu is the city where Ferdinand Magellan met his death in 1521. It is the second largest city in the Philippines and in 1994, the only city other than Manilla with an international airport. While I was there I learned that the Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines was an incorporated association and that the laws of the land provided that no one could carry out surveys of any kind, including compass and chain surveys, unless they were registered Geodetic Engineers. The government registers the Engineers and the association governs the practice.

I was also informed that the association had nominated President Zuniga to be the Philippines delegate to Commission 7. However, he was having difficulty in convincing the department he worked for to allow him to attend the Commission's annual meeting in October in Fredericton, Canada. When I returned home I wrote to the department seeking their cooperation but I am unaware of the result.

August 1994 – The French Problem, once again – What's in a Name?

As early as the beginning of March we started to receive requests from the AFT through Michel Mayoud for a membership certificate. Not only that but he wanted one that stated that the AFT was a full member of FIG. I made excuses for our tardiness in issuing a certificate. The fact was that we really did not know in what form we should issue such a certificate. In fact we had no idea how the Norwegian arrangement worked so we had no idea how to achieve such mundane things as an equitable division of subscription fees. Consequently in July Secretary General Lindsay wrote to the Norwegian FIG Secretariat to determine how their arrangements worked and the form of their membership certificate.

Their reply informed us that the Norwegians had actually set up a joint body to hold membership of FIG with three directors coming from each of the two associations and one nominated by the Norwegian Mapping Authority. The directors held office during the four year period of the FIG Bureau and they had a secretariat to coordinate the distribution of information between the two associations. They also said that the text on their membership certificate was 'The Norwegian Association of Chartered Surveyors (NJKF) in cooperation with the Norwegian Association for Cartography, Geodesy, Hydrography and Photogrammetry (NKTF)'. However, to complicate matters they sent a copy of a membership certificate that simply said 'We hereby confirm that NJKF is a full member of FIG'.

This was not a great deal of help but it did make clearer the manner in which their cooperation worked and the fact that the Norwegian solution to their membership problem was not really the same as that of the French. In the former, the member was really the Norwegian FIG Committee while in the latter case the OGE remained the member. As a result Mayoud was advised in September that the Bureau would issue

a certificate to the OGE that contained the exact wording of the resolution carried by the PC in March but we would issue a copy to each of the other two associations. Once again we thought the matter was finalised.

19–22 September 1994 – FIG Bureau Meeting, Bowral (Australia)

In early March the NSW Division of ISA had provided us with a draft program for the full Bureau Meeting in Bowral in September. Planning was to include transport to and from Sydney's Mascot airport and accommodation in Bowral, the home of Australia's greatest cricketer, Sir Donald Bradman. A high level reception in Bowral was planned to provide interaction between a number of Survey Groups in that area and senior Bureaucrats and politicians. A day of touring with visits to the Naval Museum at Nowra and the survey museum at Huskisson would be followed by a combined meeting of the Macarthur and Southern Groups of ISA at which FIG matters could be discussed. This was exactly what the Bureau wanted and the best part of the planning was that the NSW division offered to pay for the lot as far as Bureau members were concerned.

By mid-June the plan had been finalised. The venue for the meeting was the Briars Country Lodge and the Premier of NSW, John Fahey, would be present at the reception. This was the Premier's electorate so the disruption to his normal programme would not be too great. The incoming ISA President, John Medbury and CEO Col Fuller also intended to be present. Advice was received that some costs were being sponsored by the NSW Land Information Centre and the local Wingecarribee Council.

In the event the Premier tendered his apologies but the Bureau members were more than happy with the long list of notables that attended the various functions and especially the number of ISA members that attended the Groups' Session. NSW Surveyor General Don Grant was unable to attend the reception but his deputy, Paul Kelly did so in his place and the local Council was represented by Alderman Mike Muston. John Medbury and Col Fuller attended the first day of the meeting during which the Bureau held a special strategic planning session on how FIG could better interact with the numerous UN agencies that have an interest in our profession. Ian Williamson represented Commission 7 at this planning session which was chaired by VP Peter Dale.

For FIG, the most important UN organisations were: the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome (FAO); the UN Centre for Human Settlements in Nairobi (UNCHS); the UN Environment Program also in Nairobi (UNEP); the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in Paris (UNESCO); the UN Sustainable Development and Environmental Management Branch in New York; the NGO Section of the UN Department of Public Information, also in New York; and the International Labour Office in Geneva (ILO). The basic reason for such a session was the fact that the administration of FIG moves every four years to another country. The people who take over take time to understand each of these organisations, the relationship that FIG has with them and the people involved in each of them. As a result of the Bureau's deliberations during this session a strategy was evolved which we hoped would maximise the value of our contacts within each of the organisations. Hopefully, this would be of advantage to the incoming UK Bureau when they took over at the end of the next year.

Another important by-product of this session was a decision to prepare a protocol for the recommendation of appropriate surveying consultants to whomever might ask for such advice. This was brought about because UN agencies and other organisa-

tions often sought recommendations from FIG and the Bureau was loath to provide them. Ian Williamson and Peter Byrne were given the task of producing the necessary document and this they did by the end of the meeting. The proposed protocol was accepted by the Bureau and was referred to the PC Meeting in Berlin in 1995 for endorsement.

There was further discussion about the proposed FIG Tree database. At that stage it was envisioned to be a diskette featuring the Statutes, the Internal Rules, details of the Bureau and the commissions and policy statements approved by the PC. Secretary General Lindsay was the mover behind this objective and with the help of Peter Dale the work got underway. I advised the Bureau that my term as president of IUSM was for a period of four years ending in 1997 which was two years after the expiration of my term as president of FIG. However I told them that I was willing to continue in the post as long as funds were available for the purpose. The Bureau supported that notion and agreed to make the fact known to ISA and RICS. Consideration was also given to the basic details relating to the changeover with the UK Bureau in 1995. It was decided, with the agreement of Peter Dale who would become the President at that time, that the changeover would take place in London next year on 25th October.

The meeting with the combined Macarthur and Southern Groups of ISA went off with a bang. The discussion topic was 'The Relationship Between FIG and Member Associations' but the emphasis was on the relationship with ISA. I believe most went away with a better appreciation of what FIG was all about and of the benefits to Australian surveyors. The highlight of the social programme was the visit to the two museums in the area. The first was the Naval Museum at HMAS Albatross near Nowra. The other was the Sea and Science Museum at the seaside town of Huskisson which featured a magnificent private collection of surveying instruments the likes of which would be difficult to find anywhere else in the world.

On returning home after the meeting I sent a letter of thanks to the President of the NSW Division of ISA for the hospitality of the members of his Division and for his input during the meeting. I also sent a special letter of thanks to Peter Price who probably did more than any other member of the Division to plan and execute a very successful event. And on the 6th October we learned that the German member association (DVW) had made an application to host the XXIII Congress in Munich in 2002 and so provide the Bureau for period 2000–2003.

4 Nov– 3 Dec 1994 – London, Berlin, the Baltic Countries, Finland, Ottawa

Following the presentation at the congress in Melbourne of certain papers dealing with the modern trend in globalisation of services, the Bureau received an invitation from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to send a delegate to take part in a workshop on professional services. This workshop was being held in Paris in September. The Bureau agreed that Secretary General Grahame Lindsay should go and he did so in late September. The workshop was attended by delegates from twenty four countries including representatives from a number of international professional federations representing lawyers, accountants, engineers, and architects as well as surveyors. The workshop focused on the obstacles to international practice for professions, the reduction and elimination of restrictive barriers to international practice and avenues for further liberalisation of such services.

Then in late October Grahame Lindsay left Australia once again to have meetings with FAO in Rome and the OGE in Paris before heading to London to meet me. There we intended to have a round of meetings with RICS and CASLE before heading to Berlin to confer with the committee organising the 1995 PC Meeting. After that Lindsay was to return home via Malta, Cyprus, Athens and Istanbul where he would have meetings with FIG member associations. My wife and I would leave London to undertake a journey hosted by member associations throughout Denmark, the three Baltic Countries, and Finland. From Helsinki I was bound for Ottawa, Canada to consult with IUSM Secretary Hugh O'Donnell and then return home via Fiji and Sydney.

In Rome, Grahame was disappointed to find that his FAO contact, Jim Riddell was not at home and the FAO offices were closed for a public holiday. Later, Riddell apologised for his non-appearance and explained that airline delays in Africa were the cause. In Paris, Lindsay participated in a meeting of the Task Force on the Secretariat which took place in a meeting room at the ICSU headquarters. He then once again tackled 'the French Problem' by having a meeting with the Comité Français de Représentation auprès de la FIG. Representatives of all three organisations that comprised the Comité were there and he presented membership certificates to each of them. These certificates must have been worded in accordance with the resolution of the PC Meeting in Melbourne. From Paris he went to London and we met up on Saturday 5th November.

In London we had useful discussions with RICS and officers of CASLE around the many issues facing the FIG/CASLE relationship including the possible collapse of CASLE due to lack of interest by member countries. We also discussed tentative arrangements for the jointly sponsored seminar on Sustainable Development scheduled for August 1995 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Matters of common interest between the Australian Bureau and the incoming UK Bureau were debated and final decisions were made about the hand-over meetings next year. We then had discussions with the Commonwealth Foundation but came away with the clear opinion that we were not likely to get any sponsorship funds from that august society. Before leaving for Berlin we were hosted to a lunch by the President of RICS, Roy Swanston, and my wife and I took the opportunity to dine with Graham Churcher and his Japanese wife. Graham was a long-time client of my survey practice in Darwin.

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In Berlin Grahame and I were hosted by the German member association (DVW) and were accommodated by them in the Hotel Hilton Berlin. It was here that I first met Herr Peter Krenz, the chairman of the committee organising the coming PC Meeting. As a result of our cooperation during the PC Meeting a few months later we became very good friends and have remained so to the present day. On a number of occasions since, Peter and his wife Renate have hosted Wendy and me in their home and they have received the same hospitality from us.

The DVW President Hans-Josef Platen gave us a guided tour of the city and we inspected each of the venues to be used during the PC Meeting. The city had only just been reunited with the rest of Germany and virtually all of the former points of interest such as Check Point Charlie and the Brandenburg Gate had lost their sinister cold war appearance. They were now bustling tourist meccas. It was even difficult to find any remains of the 'Wall' that divided Berlin from East Germany though parts of it were still there. Most of it was being sold in small pieces as souvenirs to tourists but the line of the wall was marked in places by a brass strip cemented into the pavement.

The conference venue was to be the Berlin Congress Centre which had an hotel as an integral part of the Centre. It was in the former East Berlin. The decision to use it was based on political expediency and the fact that costs would be less than in the booming part of the city that was formerly enclosed by the wall. All in all, the Germans, in their inimitable and efficient way, seemed to have everything under control.

On completion of our Berlin experience, Graham Lindsay headed off to Malta and Wendy and I flew to Copenhagen to start our tour of the Baltic countries. During his visit to the Maltese member association and a number of government offices, Grahame came to the conclusion that Malta might be an appropriate place for the FIG permanent secretariat if ever it was decided to create one. From there he went to Istanbul in Turkey where the members told him that they wanted to be more involved in FIG affairs. They said they had a desperate need for reform of their cadastre and they looked forward to receiving a copy of FIG's Statement on the Cadastre when it was finalised. From Istanbul he went to Athens and then on to Cyprus, meeting with members of the surveyors' associations in each before flying home to Canberra. When he got there he had two recommendations for the Bureau. The first was a suggestion that FIG should organise a short workshop in both Malta and Cyprus to give the surveyors' associations in both countries some idea of how to develop their associations into truly professional organisations. In the second he urged the Bureau to treat the matter of classification standards with both UNESCO and the UN Statistical Office as a matter of urgency. Recognition by both of these agencies would give impetus to claims by professional groups for recognition in countries like Malta and Cyprus where surveying was not clearly established as a profession.

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In Denmark my wife and I were hosted by the President of the Danish member association, Mr. Niels Nielson, who had been the liaison between me and the member associations in the three Baltic countries, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Niels had prepared a twelve day programme in which I visited virtually every government surveying and mapping organisation in four countries, to say nothing of the Schools of Surveying at all of their universities, plus visits to a number of private survey operations and many places of touristic interest. Here I met Stig Enemark, Head of the Survey School at the University of Aalborg. Stig was chair of FIG Commission 2 and little did both he and I know that he was destined to become President of FIG some fourteen years later.

We flew from Copenhagen to Vilnius in Lithuania where we enjoyed the hospitality of the Lithuanian Association of Surveyors (LAS) through the attention given to us by President Vytautas Tulevicius and his Vice President Benjaminas Dubickas. We were a day late in getting there because the airport had been closed down due to ice on the runway. After meetings with the Board of LAS and visits to government offices and the university we were taken by car to the border with Latvia. On the way there we were shown what is known as 'The Hill of Crosses'. This small hill has, over the centuries, come to signify the peaceful endurance of the Lithuanian people. For centuries the Hill of Crosses was used as a place for Lithuanians to pray for peace, for their country, and for the loved ones they had lost during the wars. Most recently, the site took on a special significance during the years 1944–1990 when Lithuania was occupied by the Soviet Union. Continuing to travel to the Hill and leave their tributes, Lithuanians used it to demonstrate their allegiance to their original identity, religion and heritage. It was

a venue of peaceful resistance, although the Soviets worked hard to remove it. They bulldozed the site at least three times. Today the hill is the site of at least one thousand crosses and effigies of Christ.

At the border we were whisked off to visit the Rundle Castle before driving on to Riga. In the morning we met with the President of the Latvian Association of Surveyors, Janus Pakalns and other members but not before Wendy experienced one of the hazards of life in a cold climate. It was as cold as charity and while attempting to enter a car she skidded on the ice and ended up under the car instead of within it. The Latvians were horrified and couldn't do enough to make her comfortable but in the end there was little need. A bruised bottom and a bruised ego were all that resulted. After the obligatory visits to government offices and the university we attended a concert organised by the government to celebrate the anniversary of the Independence of Latvia. I am not sure which independence they were celebrating. There were many such events throughout the nation's history but I suppose it was independence from the Soviet Union only three years earlier that was uppermost in their minds.

From Riga, we were driven to the border with Estonia where Wendy had the finger of a border guard waved in her face as a very definite signal not to take a photograph of him. I think he must have been a leftover from the previous government. Our first stop was Tartu where we met Prof. Jüri Randjärv, the President of the Estonian Association of Surveyors and other dignitaries of the town and the local university. Another concert that night celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Estonian National Male Choir. The most important visit for me was one to a shoe shop where I purchased a decent pair of felt lined shoes to keep my feet warm. The next day we moved on to Tallinn where we enjoyed more fellowship with government officers and private surveyors until it was time to board the ferry for the four hour voyage to Helsinki.

In all three Baltic countries there were massive land reform projects in progress. Restitution of land to original owners, destruction of the communes and re-creation of a cadastre were in full swing. Cities had undergone massive reconstruction programs since independence and they were being rebuilt to look as they were prior to 1940. I came away from the Baltic countries with the clear impression that the people, unlike those in some other countries in economic transition at the time, knew exactly what they wanted for their new life. They knew what they wanted to do; they knew how to do it; they were quickly gaining the expertise to do it; but they still lacked the resources to do so in the short term. In the universities the teachers were there; the students were there; but they lacked text books and modern equipment. It seemed to me at the time that the more affluent member associations within our federation could well consider supporting these institutions of learning and I made my suggestion known in my next report to the Permanent Committee. My own effort in this regard was to instruct Ray Holmes to send each of the three associations a copy of the nine volumes of technical papers presented at the Melbourne Congress a few months ago.

This tour was one of the most enjoyable and educational experiences of my life and both my wife and I had great pleasure in expressing our thanks and gratitude to all of the people who made our journey so memorable. For a couple who lived in the tropics the change in weather conditions experienced during the journey was an education in itself. It was cold, cold, cold! While the temperature never seemed to get below zero it was the strong winds in Denmark and Latvia and the snowstorms in Estonia that chilled us to the bone.

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The ferry to Helsinki had the name *Georg Ots*. It was the same model as the one that sank in the Baltic Sea a few years (or maybe months) earlier because someone had left the front door ajar so we were nervous for the first little while after everything was cast off. However the voyage proved uneventful in that regard and we berthed in Helsinki at 9.30 pm. I had been invited to Finland to attend the Finnish Association's annual meeting and to accept a Certificate of Honorary Membership of the association. We were met by Juha Talvitie and the President of the Finnish Surveyors Association, Jukka Artimo and taken to our hotel.

The next morning we had the opportunity to call on our Rotary friends Olof and Lucy Söderström before we were rushed off to visit the Suomen Kuntaliitto, the Association of Finnish Local Authorities where Talvitie was the boss of the Structural Policy section. In view of my own experience during six years as an Alderman of the City of Darwin this was an enlightening experience. The Association, which was only established a year earlier, was the result of the merging of seven national associations to form a single organisation that gave advice to 450 municipal authorities including 102 cities. To me, this seemed a lot of local governments for a country with a population of little more than five million. Talvitie's section had responsibility for Regional Development; Communication and Transport; Development of Industries; the effect of National Laws and changes in them; and European Integration and its effect on Finnish law. The contrast with the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory with which I had some familiarity was mind blowing.

After lunch I was taken to the Finnish Association's annual meeting at the Helsinki University. I was met at the door by a grubby looking fellow dressed in dungarees, held fast to his waist with a piece of rope, his feet in heavy boots with ancient bowyangs, a blue singlet over his chest and a cork laden hat on his head. This Finnish version of the Jolly Swagman greeted me with his not very melodious version of *Waltzing Matilda*. It all added to the colour of the occasion which was one that gave me great pleasure. The bulk of the meeting was carried out in Finnish but when it came time to make presentations the chairman switched to English.

The meeting was being held in conjunction with a two day seminar to which many surveyors from Estonia had travelled with me on the ferry. This was held on the following day at the same venue. I had been asked to present a short paper of relevance at the seminar but I had not had sufficient time to prepare anything before I left Australia so I had called for assistance from my friend Ian Williamson. He very magnanimously prepared a paper on '*FIG, its involvement with Developing Countries and Countries in Transition*'. After presentation it did not seem particularly sensible to remain and listen to lectures in Finnish so my guides took me to the office of the National Land Survey of Finland where I had lunch with the manager, my former Finnish Bureau colleague and current Vice President of the Australian Bureau, Pekka Raitanen.

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The next morning Wendy and I flew to Ottawa, Canada where we were met by Hugh O'Donnell, the Executive Secretary of IUSM. The purpose of this visit was to work with Hugh and Prof. Mueller, the Vice President of IUSM on the agenda for the meeting in Boulder, Colorado next year. We had to devise a programme for the proposed workshop that we hoped would devise a strategic plan for the Union. The President of ICA, Prof. Fraser Taylor who lived in Ottawa was also invited as was Mr. Cyril Penton, an em-

ployee of Geomatics Canada and the person who would facilitate the workshop. It was decided that the structure of the workshop would be prefaced by a repeat of the emotive presentation made by Prof. Ellyard as the keynote speaker at the Melbourne congress earlier in the year. I would then introduce the subject with a ten minute review of the formation of IUSM which would be followed by a five minute presentation by each member association on the views of their members. This would be followed by a discussion facilitated by Mr. Penton to determine the answer to such questions as: what was the shared vision for the future; was IUSM the appropriate organisation for that purpose; was the current form of IUSM appropriate for the purpose; how could we achieve that vision? It was agreed that the workshop should extend over a period of two days in addition to the time necessary for a meeting of the Executive Board and one by the IUSM Council.

After the meeting my wife and I had about half a day to enjoy the subterranean shopping malls before we boarded our flight home. Once again it was cold, cold, cold but at least I had a comfortable pair of shoes. From Ottawa we had to fly half way around the world to get home. We did this with a stop halfway – at Fiji for a couple of days to acclimatize once again to the tropics.

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Back home in December, I found that Congress Director Ray Holmes had written to FIG Treasurer John Curdie on 12 December advising him, and therefore the Bureau, that the Congress Directorate was about to wind up their holding company and distribute profits of the congress. The printing of the nine volumes of technical papers, the final report of the Congress (Volume '0') and the distribution of same marked the end of the Directorate's functions. He advised that while a small sum had been kept aside for unforeseen contingencies, the profits from the congress amounted to \$60,000. This, the Directorate proposed to distribute equally to the Victoria Division and the Council of ISA. He went on to say that the Directorate had decided to allocate, from other funds available to it, an amount of \$45,000 to the FIG Bureau to help meet ongoing administrative costs and to ensure that the Bureau did not need to make a further call for funds from ISA. However there was a sting in the tail.

The gift of \$45,000 to the Bureau was conditional. In the event that funds remained available within the Bureau following handover to the UK Bureau in 1995, the Congress Directorate was insisting that they be used in a particular way. Any surplus funds had to be used to 'support the attendance at the FIG XXI Congress in Brighton in 1998 of an Australian delegation consisting of Congress Directors and FIG Australia Bureau members'. Holmes then went on to outline the overall financial support given to the Bureau by the Congress Directorate since the company had been created. The total amount was \$93,000 made up of services provided and cash received.

On the same day Holmes also wrote to the President of the Victorian of Division of ISA in similar terms and enclosed a cheque for \$30,000 being half the profits of the congress. Then he advised the Division that he was holding, from other funds available to the Directorate, another \$15,000 to be used as scholarship funds for surveying students and was seeking the agreement of the Division to hold these funds in trust and to manage the scholarships.

Finally that day, he sent a cheque for \$30,000 to the Council of ISA with an explanation about the winding up of the Congress Directorate and once again he advised that he had something left over from other sources. He suggested that the Congress Directo-

rate had another \$40,000 which they would like to give to ISA if the Council were prepared to hold these funds in trust for the purpose of meeting travel costs of Australian Chairmen and/or Vice Chairmen of FIG Commissions during the coming years. Bearing in mind that Ian Williamson was currently Chairman of Commission 7 and John Parker was Vice Chair of Commission 1, it was not long before the ISA Council agreed to the proposal. Though I have no record of it, I assume the Victoria Division also agreed to the Congress Directorate's request.

These bequests were an initiative of the Congress Directorate but not without some consultation with the Bureau. So long as the ISA loans were repaid, none of us wanted to see surplus profits going back into the consolidated revenues of ISA if they could be put to better use. After all the hard work of Bureau and Congress Directorate members over such a lengthy period we believed we had a right to dictate where these funds should go, especially since ISA had already received \$65,000 in repayment of levy funds extracted from ISA members in the early days.

ISA had never, in the past, insisted that the Division hosting the annual Australian Surveyor's Congress had a responsibility to hand over all profits made by the organising committee. At least, not that I could remember, and I had been a Councillor for many years and had managed two such congresses over those years. Yes, profits were given to ISA but always, I believe, it had been no more than half, and that's what the Congress Director said he was giving. So when the Congress Directorate found that they had a massive surplus (as opposed to profit) of \$160,000 they searched around for some appropriate way of distributing it. ISA would be repaid their loan funds, so with the agreement of the Australian members of the Bureau, the Directorate decided to distribute these funds this way: \$70,000 to ISA with restrictions on \$40,000 of it; \$45,000 to the Victorian Division of ISA with restrictions on \$15,000 of it; and \$45,000 to the Bureau with restrictions on all of it. What they did not do for some reason that I really did not understand, and what they should have done, was provide a full statement of this distribution to ISA. This lack of foresight was to have near disastrous consequences.

Later in December the Australian members of the Bureau held a tele-conference to discuss matters pertaining to UNCHS and FAO. VP Peter Byrne had recently returned from Nairobi and Harare and had made certain recommendations. He had visited the UNCHS and discussed the HABITAT II conference which was to be held in Istanbul to which FIG had been invited. He recommended that we urge all member associations to participate and that we ask UNCHS to send a copy of the preparation kit to each of them. To this the Bureau agreed and also to a recommendation that FIG send a delegate to the Inter-Regional Study and Seminar on 'Land Development, Land Regularisation Policies and Local Development in Africa and the Arab States' being held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Africa in March. In addition to these decisions the Bureau had been asked to make comment on the proposed HABITAT Global Plan of Action, so Peter Byrne and Ray Holmes were given the task of preparing the necessary submission and Byrne was to attend the seminar.

It was also agreed that the Bureau should plan for two meetings in Harare prior to the FIG/CASLE seminars next year. The first would be a meeting of officials of UNCHS and FIG and the other with officials of FAO and FIG. One of the suggested topics for discussion was the implementation of the recommendations that might come from the Inter-regional Seminar in Abidjan.

Christmas came as a welcome break. 1994 was our penultimate year in office and the Bureau members were quite pleased with their efforts. The year had produced a highly

successful congress in Melbourne and individual members were responsible for making a name for the profession at the UN Cartographic Conference. We had formed a lasting relationship with new member associations in three Baltic countries and found the committee organizing the coming PC Meeting in Berlin to be acting with typical German efficiency. We had also sorted out the differences of opinion between ISA and the Bureau over finances and we had solved the French Problem – or so we thought.

CHAPTER 15: 1995 (PART 1) – THE BEGINNING OF THE END

1995 was the concluding year of the Australian administration of FIG. Everything we did this year was designed to consolidate what had gone before. We had to officiate at only one major function during the year and that was in Berlin. However there was much to do before then.

In the first week of February 1995 the Australian Bureau members held a meeting at the Wynyard Travelodge in Sydney. The prime purpose of the meeting was to finalise recommendations to the PC Meeting that would be held in Berlin in May. The first order of business was the consideration of the final reports and recommendations of Task Forces. The first to be considered was the Task Force on the Secretariat chaired by VP Peter Dale. The Task Force was asked to review the administration of FIG, the functions of the PC and the GA and whether or not there was a need for a permanent secretariat. The Bureau accepted, with only minor amendments, the fourteen recommendations put forward in the report, and resolved to put forward these amended recommendations to the coming PC Meeting for approval. The other six reports were treated in like fashion.

The *Statement on the Cadastre* as presented by Ian Williamson's Commission 7 was considered and accepted without amendment. It was also to be referred to the PC for adoption as policy and for agreement that it be published and widely circulated.

The Bureau also considered a draft agenda for the proposed FIG/UNCHS Meeting in Harare in August. At that meeting, the problems associated with the massive global population shift from rural to urban living, particularly in third world countries, would be discussed. The prime purpose of the meeting would be to identify ways in which the UNCHS and FIG could work together to create a process by which the technical expertise within FIG could be brought to bear on those problems. In a similar vein the draft agenda for the proposed FIG/FAO meeting in Harare was discussed. It was agreed that the purpose of that meeting would be to develop a plan of action for collaboration between the two organisations in relation to integrating modern land management practices in rural and urban land tenure with ancient African cultures to achieve better land use.

Grahame Lindsay reported on the progress being made on the development of the 'FIG Tree', the proposed database of information pertaining to FIG. At the time, none of the Bureau members knew much about the technicalities of the World Wide Web and emails were a novelty to all of us. I recall how proud I was at the time about my limited expertise in such matters when I succeeded in the simple task of sending a fax from my computer. However we all had some experience in the use of computers and at least we knew what a diskette was. This project was an attempt to upload all the relevant data we could find, including the Bureau's work plan and the agenda of the coming PC Meeting, onto a diskette. Provided we gave them the information, AUSLIG had quoted \$9,000 to achieve the desired result and put it somewhere on the Web. It seemed a lot of money to me but I was clueless about the difficulties involved. Despite this we all agreed to proceed.

Finally the matter of the UN's cartographic priorities came up via a proposal put forward by Ian Williamson's Commission 7. He wanted the PC to approve a motion that FIG liaise with the appropriate department of the UN to review its current priorities and develop new directions. He wanted to ensure that the UN cartographic resources and activities relating to cadastre and land management were fully contributing to current

UN policies and were taking advantage of new enabling technologies. This was pretty high brow stuff but the Bureau agreed with the sentiment. The UN's definition of cartography included surveying but the organisation was not making enough use of surveyors or surveying technology. However, we thought we should get some advice on the matter before we allowed what might be considered a brash resolution criticising the UN to be put before the PC. So it was decided to seek the advice of Dr. Jim Riddell of FAO before making a decision.

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On the 10th February the ISA Council advised the Congress Director that the members of the Council were prepared to set up a Trust to manage the \$45,000 that the Congress Directorate had offered to assist Australian Commission Chairs and Vice Chairs, namely Ian Williamson and John Parker, with travel expenses during their term of office.

There was no acknowledgment of the cheque for \$30,000 that had been given to them but there was a request for clarity of the terms of the Trust. They wanted to know if the funds could be used to help other delegates to the commissions. The congress director, after discussion with members of his Directorate, replied with a formal statement setting out the desired terms of the Trust. This included a statement that should ISA no longer have a chairman or vice chairman of commissions, any remaining funds could be spent at the discretion of the Council 'to promote the interests and profile of ISA within the International Federation of Surveyors'.

Then the Bombshell struck! In March the ISA President John Medbury advised Ray Holmes that Council was not happy with the distribution of Congress profits. He claimed it was not in accord with the intent of prior agreements between the Council and the Congress Directorate. Medbury quoted certain statements made by the Congress Director in correspondence in preceding years that implied that the distribution of profits would be the province of the Council of ISA. He suggested that the Congress Directorate had a moral obligation to abide by those statements notwithstanding the fact that under Australian law the Directorate was a corporate entity with directors who were responsible for the financial control of the company. He was very critical of the Directorate's interpretation of 'surplus' and of the manner in which the 'other' funds had been dispersed. 'These decisions', he said 'appear to be a very direct and conscious abrogation of the intent of the initial agreements and subsequent commitments'. At the time I wondered whether these were Medbury's opinions, those of the Council members or simply words drafted by the CEO, Col Fuller. Medbury had signed the letter so one must assume he agreed with those words.

The letter continued on to say that the ISA Council demanded a full and complete accounting of all income and expenditure associated with the 1994 congress and that no movement of congress funds of any kind should occur until Council had the opportunity to study those accounts. This was, of course, an unrealistic demand in view of the fact that the Directorate was a company. However, if it reflected the feelings of Councillors, it served to show how high the discontent amongst them was. In addition to the above, Medbury added the threat that there would be no further action on FIG matters taken by Council until this matter had been resolved and he sought an urgent meeting. I really don't think that Councillors had a problem with the actual distribution of these funds. I think they simply had a flea in their ear over the fact that they had not been consulted.²¹

21 Letter 18 March 1995, President of ISA to Congress Director.

Medbury's letter caused great consternation within the Directorate and also with the Bureau members. Ray Holmes met with Medbury and President Elect John Dwyer on the 31st March to discuss the matter. Holmes pointed out that there were just as many statements in correspondence that showed that the Council recognised the fact that distribution of surplus funds was a matter for the Directorate. After much discussion, the officers of ISA conceded that there was not much wrong with the distribution but they were upset by the fact that the Directorate was placing conditions on certain elements of it. To overcome this Ray agreed to withdraw the offers made to both the ISA and the Victoria Division and replace them with a gift of the total amount of \$55,000 directly to ISA. The gift would carry recommendations on how the funds should be used. He confirmed this offer by letter of the April 4th but insisted that they were not going to get anything at all unless they gave an assurance that this action would satisfy all concerns of Council and that the embargo on dealings with FIG matters was lifted.

A few days later Medbury confirmed to Grahame Lindsay that the embargo was lifted and on the 13th April he wrote to Ray Holmes informing him of the same, but in slightly different terms. He advised Ray that the Council had resolved to lift the embargo 'in view of progress to date with the Congress Directorate', implying that Councillors were still not happy. Medbury went on to say that he personally no longer had a problem with the actions of the Congress Directorate but he could not answer for the Council as other members still had some concerns.

Around the same time I received a hand written epistle from Peter Byrne who was having a fit of conscience. He felt that the ISA had every reason to be disappointed in us, individually and collectively. He suggested we offer an apology and provided me with a draft letter expressing contrition at the fact that the Bureau had accepted the decision of the Congress Directorate without attempting to alter it. I had some sympathy with his suggestion but I was not happy with his draft so I re-drafted it and sent it to all Australian members of the Bureau for comment. Each one had different ideas on what should or should not be said or admitted. Discussion between Bureau members over a period of two weeks brought no agreement on the wording of such a letter, mainly because Ray Holmes believed the Directorate had done nothing wrong. The letter was not sent and the matter continued to boil on, without resolution, until July.

16–20 May 1995 – FIG Commission VII Annual Meeting, Delft (Netherlands)

In mid-February I received an invitation to attend the annual meeting of Commission 7 which was being held in Delft, the Netherlands in May. I resolved to attend for a number of reasons. The commission had been inviting me to their annual meeting for some years but I never seemed to have the time to accept their hospitality. Being primarily a cadastral surveyor myself, I had always regarded Commission 7 as the one closest to me especially after the problems of leadership that I had to resolve early in my term in office. In addition to this I was told that there was to be a farewell function to honour Prof. Jo Henssen who was retiring as Chair of the OICRF, one of FIG's Permanent Institutions. Since the meeting was being held just before the PC Meeting in Berlin, I accepted the invitation.

My wife and I flew into Amsterdam on the 16th May and were taken by car to the conference hotel in Delft which went by the name of the DISH Hotel, the letters being an

acronym of Dutch International Service Hotel. It was situated within the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences. During the four days we were there we enjoyed visits to: the local Water Board; a Brewery; the Faculty of Geodesy at the University of Delft; the Cadastral Office; the land-consolidation project 'Noorderpark' near Utrecht; and a Sea Wall construction project in Zeeland. We were privileged to be welcomed into the town with a reception by the Mayor of Delft in the Town Hall and we attended the largest flower auction in the world watching it for a short time while it was in progress. This latter was a particularly enjoyable experience for both Wendy and me as, while holidaying with friends in Perth some years earlier, we had been involved in cutting flowers destined for this very market. It was fascinating to actually see the acres of cut flowers that came from all parts of the world and to reflect on whether there might have been any from Perth. And there were. Among the thousands of blooms, Wendy recognised some 'Kangaroo Paws' and some 'Geraldton Wax'.

I attended the Commission 7 meetings and a one day seminar on 'Modern Cadastres and Cadastral Innovations' while Wendy enjoyed a programme specially designed for delegate's partners. The Commission was finalising its '*Statement on the Cadastre*' with each delegate expected to define up to ten major changes in the cadastral system of their country. During the seminar Don Grant from NSW and Bill Robertson from New Zealand gave a joint paper on cadastral systems in the Antipodes while Jürg Kaufmann of Switzerland presented an introduction into the key points of the '*Vision of Cadastre 2014*', a Commission 7 project.

There was, of course, much socialising during the event and the highlight was the Commission Dinner at which Prof. Henssen was farewelled from the OICRF. Here I learned something new about Switzerland's Jürg Kaufmann. He played the guitar and sang, not very well but that didn't seem to matter to the others. He had composed what had become the Commission 7 song. It was a rollicking drinking song that featured the exploits of various individual members of the commission. I was very proud to see that I featured in one of the verses. From there we flew to Berlin to preside over the 62nd PC Meeting.

20–26 May 1995 – 62nd PC Meeting in Berlin (Germany)

On arrival in Berlin we were met by a jubilant Peter Krenz, the chair of the conference committee and his wife Renate. Peter was a man who put his all into every task he undertook and he was just itching to get this one started. He was in a state of nervous excitement. He confided in me that he had never before undertaken a task of this magnitude so he was desperate for success. They gave us a short tour of inner Berlin before taking us off to dinner at a beautiful restaurant in a small castle, the name of which I cannot remember. Peter had earlier informed me that he intended to let us relax over dinner in his 'castle' and I had assumed that to mean in his home. I would have preferred his home but he was hyped up in anticipation of the next few days and this little mystery was the result. Over dinner we talked about the coming meeting before he took us to the hotel at the Berlin Conference Centre.

Graham Lindsay arrived from Paris that same day and the next morning he and I met the organising committee before any activity started. They all appeared to be very grave in their attitude towards their given tasks. All were very formal in their communication with both Grahame and me using 'Herr James', or 'Herr Lindsay' every sentence or two. Finally I brought the meeting to order and said something like 'gentlemen, my name

is Earl James. From now on please address me as Earl! There was deathly silence in the room for a moment, then a babble of German erupted and smiles began to appear on faces. From then on the graveness and formality disappeared and together we had a ball. Krenz later told me that formality was the cornerstone of German professional culture and that nobody normally referred to another man by his Christian name unless asked to do so. Indeed, doing so without permission was tantamount to an insult. I had therefore made the right decision.

The opening ceremony of the 62nd PC Meeting of FIG was held in the auditorium of the Berlin Congress Centre in what was formerly East Berlin but was now part of a united Germany. Delegates were welcomed by Hans-Josef Platen, the President of DVW and the keynote address was given by Prof. Dr. Klaus-Heinrich Standke. He spoke about the processes and challenges of European Unification. The theme of the meeting, *'From Centrally Planned to Market Economy'* was particularly appropriate in view of the number of delegates attending from Eastern European countries. The attendance at all sessions of the symposium that ran alongside the PC Meeting was consistently high. This was the final PC Meeting for the Australian Bureau. When the meeting came to an end, I had great pleasure in thanking the members of the organising committee, especially chairman Peter Krenz, for their excellent work.

During the PC Meeting there was much discussion about the reports of the six Task Forces created by the Australian Bureau three or more years earlier. All of their reports were accepted for implementation. The one that would have the greatest effect on the Federation in the future was that of the Task Force on the Secretariat. Key recommendations of this Task Force included the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat and the replacement of the current system of annual PC Meetings and General Assemblies every four years by a single annual General Assembly. The Task Force on Membership Extension recommended a review of the criteria for membership, the arrangements between multiple surveying associations in any one country, professional standards, and possibilities for the extension of membership. The Task Force on External Funding recommended the establishment of an FIG Foundation, to be established in Australia under Australian law. The purpose of the Foundation would be to establish a capital fund and use of the interest earned to support FIG's educational work. The Task Force on FIG Languages recommended replacing the present three language policy with the use of the English language only. All recommendations of the Task Forces were accepted by the Permanent Committee.

With regard to the proposed Education Foundation the PC agreed that the Foundation should be an Australian company and instructed the Bureau to establish a small advisory committee to finalise the necessary Memorandum and Articles of Association and to establish the company. After the PC Meeting the Bureau agreed to appoint John Medbury (Australia), Ernst Höflinger (Austria), Hans-Josef Platen (Germany), Michael Rainbird (United Kingdom) and Charles Challstrom (USA) to be members of the committee under the chairmanship of John Curdie.

The Permanent Committee paid homage to Prof. Jo Henssen on his retirement from the OICRF after 26 years as its President and noted the appointment of Paul van de Molen to take his place; new member associations from Algeria, Lithuania, and Zimbabwe were welcomed into the Federation; the meeting noted the work the Bureau had done in the creation of the database known as the FIG Tree which was later to become the website of the Federation; and the German association's application to host XXIII FIG Congress in Munich in 2006 was approved.

Finally, with a great sigh of relief, the 'French Problem' was resolved, or so we thought. In October 1994 I had written to the President of the Comité Français de Représentation à la FIG advising him that while the name of the French member association would remain as agreed at the PC Meeting in Melbourne, all future correspondence would be directed to the Comité. We were still hoping to see some articles of association or a constitution that informed us how the Comité was constituted from an organisational point of view but we waited in vain. Then in mid-May this year I had received a letter from Mr. J. Picavet, the president of the Comité informing me that they were still in the process of 'writing internal rules' but they would like a name change to be considered by the PC Meeting in Berlin in a week's time. They now thought they had done enough to warrant special consideration. The Bureau members were flabbergasted but the Frenchmen had so dented our will to complain that we agreed to put the matter on the agenda. The minutes of the meeting record that 'the PC accept the change of name of the French member association to the Comité Français de Représentation à la FIG'. At the time of the handover of FIG affairs to the UK Bureau later in the year we had still not received the internal rules. As it happened, the result was a needless exercise in frustration as the arrangement collapsed a few years later and the AFT gained full membership in its own right.

Running alongside the PC Meeting was a seminar based around the same theme as the meeting, *'From Centrally Planned to Market economy'*. It was attended by a great number of delegates from Eastern European countries. The purpose of the seminar was the exchange of ideas and experiences between professionals working on projects designed to privatise lands in former socialist countries. Indeed the very first paper presented at the seminar was designed to convince delegates of the basic need for 'private property'. I think I opened the seminar, I cannot recall, but I know I was given the task of closing it. In my address I suggested that countries in transition might look for guidance to Germany where the transition had occurred relatively quickly and easily. I advised them that private surveyors, or the Liberal Professions as they are called in Western Europe, can be used by all governments to supplement the work done by state surveyors. I reminded delegates from the more affluent world that their help was needed in this process and special assistance was needed for universities in those transitional countries where resources were scarce.

The social events were quite outstanding. The Come-together Party held to welcome delegates and guests to Berlin was held in a railway museum of great interest to all and sundry, especially to railway buffs of which quite a few appeared to be present. We were treated to a concert one evening plus a reception hosted by the Senate of Berlin. A tour of Berlin's Museumsinsel (Museum Island) was an experience. This is a unique ensemble of five museums, including the Pergamon Museum, built on the small island in the Spree River between 1824 and 1930. It is a cultural and architectural monument of great significance which was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1999. Another outstanding tour was an architectural tour of Berlin by boat.

As this was the final PC Meeting for the Australian Bureau I thought I would close the last session with a short review of my activities and the Bureau's accomplishments during the period of the Australian administration. And this I did. I won't enlarge on it here as I intend to deal with that matter in a later chapter (see Chapter 17).

31 May – 9 June 1995 – Bucharest (Romania) & Sofia (Bulgaria)

At the end of the PC Meeting and after all farewells had been made, Wendy and I flew to Switzerland for a three day holiday with Paul Gfeller, the President of the Swiss association, and his wife Elsi in their home town of Eglisau. Eglisau is a quaint old village on the banks of the Rhine, just outside Zurich. While he was in Melbourne during the Congress the previous year Paul had extended an invitation to us so we saw this as an opportunity to relax before we moved on to the next leg of our journey into Romania and Bulgaria.

I had suggested that we would like to do the rail trip from Zermatt to St Moritz to see some of the sights of the Swiss Alps and also explore that very famous town. However I had no idea how far Eglisau was from Zermatt and when Paul told me that the overall journey would take three days from Eglisau and back I abandoned the idea. I left the programming up to him and as a result we saw much of Switzerland by daily rail and road trips out of Zurich.

From Switzerland we moved on to Bucharest, Romania where we spent four days with members of the Union of Romanian Geodesy led by its president, Prof. D. Ghitau. First impressions of Bucharest were of stalled building projects and immobile cranes due to the recent crash of the economy and the fall of a dictator. The other not to be forgotten memory was of old people wielding hoes in vegetable gardens in small parcels of land that had been restored to them after the breakup of the farming communes.

We were taken to talk to officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Institute of Geodesy Photogrammetry Cartography and Land Management, the College of Civil Engineering, and even a private surveying company. We were also driven to the town of Targovte where we visited the Land Management Office.

From Bucharest we flew to Sofia in Bulgaria where we were met by a young surveyor who was less than impressed with what his government was doing but was not game enough to be specific. Unlike Bucharest where we knew no one, here I saw a few familiar faces as Bulgaria had been active in FIG for some time. Prof. Gorgi Milev, whom I had met previously was President of the Union of Surveyors and Land Managers which was the member association of FIG, and Dr. Ivan Katzarsky was an honorary member of the Federation with whom I was well acquainted. Prof Gorgi Kolev, the former Chair of Commission 7 whom I had never met, was unable to be there.

Organised by the locals, the program took us to visit the Department of Land Reform; the Department of Cadastre and Geodesy, Bulgaria's national surveying and mapping authority; and the government survey company Agro Geometer Engineering. Then we were taken by car to Kyustendil and the historic Rila Monastery where we saw in action the growing power of the newly recognised church. The resident Bishop was doing all in his power to convince the authorities who were with us to hasten the return of church lands to their rightful owner.

On our last day in Sofia I was invited to speak at a Conference of the Federation of Scientific and Technical Unions of Bulgaria. This was a conglomerate of seven different technical organisations having something to do with land and land reform. The conference was oriented around discussion about such things as geodetic control; horizontal and vertical control networks; global positioning systems; and height datum systems. I gave a presentation about FIG and its involvement in developing countries and countries in transition to market economies. I ended my presentation by saying that FIG's

primary purpose was the exchange of information about the profession and the technology used by the profession; and that the International Survey Congress held every four years was the most important venue by which this information can be obtained. I emphasised that it was essential that developing countries and countries in transition such as Bulgaria were well represented at these functions.

After a highly successful meeting in Berlin and a thoroughly enjoyable and fruitful journey through some Eastern European countries we returned home to prepare for a fairly hectic six months before we handed over to the British.

CHAPTER 16: 1995 (PART 2) – THE FINALE WITH FIG

One of the most important things I wanted to achieve before we handed the administration to the British was finalization of the IUSM Strategic Plan. This was due to be discussed in Boulder in July. I had to prepare for that but there was a lot more that we had to do before we went to London for the handover. We still had to resolve the dispute with ISA over excess funds and I had to give a key-note address in Singapore. I also had to facilitate two Round Table discussions with UNCHS and FAO in Zimbabwe.

29 Jun – 14 Jul 1995 – XXI IUGG/IAG General Assembly, Boulder, Colorado (USA) and IUSM Exec Board and Council Meetings

In late June 1995 I set out for Boulder, Colorado to attend the General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) at which it was anticipated there would be at least ten thousand delegates. The IAG was a member of this union and would be holding its own General Assembly during the period of the main assembly. Of course the IAG was also a member of IUSM and would be involved in that Union's proceedings prior to the main assembly. These proceedings included a meeting of the IUSM Council, one of the Executive Board, and a two day workshop to decide on the future of the Union. Normally Grahame Lindsay would have been with me but since his position as Secretary General of FIG was about to end we had decided that Peter Dale, as the incoming President of FIG, should take his place. At this late date I do not really understand why we did this because Grahame was about to become a Vice President of FIG for a period of four years and funds were available for his travel.

The main event during the IUSM meetings was the Strategic Planning Workshop to review the need for the Union; to ascertain whether the needs of the member organisations were being met; and to establish a vision for the future of the Union. It was hoped that the workshop would arrive at some conclusions on these matters and provide some recommendations for their implementation by the full Council. I had convinced the Executive Board that Prof. Ellyard's keynote address given at the Melbourne congress in 1994 should be used as a motivational introduction to the workshop. The Congress Directorate had a video copy of the address and I had sought and received Ellyard's consent to use it. In keeping with the context of Ellyard's address the theme for the workshop was *'Interdependence'*.

At the conclusion of Ellyard's video I outlined my thoughts as to why the video had special significance to IUSM. For the Union to prosper, indeed to survive, we had to understand global trends. As we were now living in what Ellyard called a planetary culture we had to recognise the need for interdependence rather than independence in our professional lives. Planetary ethics were necessary for sustained cooperative living within a planetary culture. This did not mean the demise of individual professional associations; rather, that those independent organisations had to be interdependent to survive. If we failed to plan our future together other factors in society would rule our future for us. The central issue in my belief was not whether we should cooperate but how we should cooperate. To survive we had to develop a clear vision for the future and decide how best to get there. I then handed over to the facilitator, Cyril Penton to work through the discussions.

Representatives of the six member organisations gave short presentations on their view of IUSM and its effectiveness to date. Most agreed that interdependence was an essential ingredient for mutual cooperation but few saw any evidence of it so far. One delegate suggested that one of the problems was the fact that FIG wanted a lean, mean organisation while ISPRS wanted one with great powers and ICA wanted one somewhere in-between. However there was consensus that an umbrella organisation was needed and that IUSM should be it.

The workshop then broke up into three groups. Generally the groups thought that the organisation probably was top heavy; that all that was really necessary was an Executive Board of two members per organization; and that the Council probably should be abolished. Most were critical of the existing Working Groups in that they concentrated too much on technical issues rather than visionary issues. Each of the three groups decided upon and presented its model of what IUSM should be doing in the future. With all of them, the emphasis was on communication both within and without the Union. By the end of day one no consensus had been achieved.

During the workshop discussions on the next day, Rear Admiral Christian Andreasen (IHO) submitted a very basic proposal for a 'vision' for the Union which was accepted by the Executive Board as a good starting point for further work. His basic 'vision' was that:

The IUSM is to be an alliance of international organisations dedicated to ensuring that science and technology related to geospatial information meet the needs of society.

In addition, he suggested that in his view the goals of IUSM should revolve around the development of appropriate strategies for: cooperation between member organisations; representation of common interests to international governmental organisations; promotion of scientific and technical developments within the profession; encouragement of information flow within and without the profession; and the promotion of the availability and use of geospatial information. These thoughts became the basis of six goals that were agreed to by the Executive Board and presented to Council for endorsement. They were:

- Cooperatively develop interdisciplinary strategies for the profession to serve societal needs;
- Facilitate cooperation between member organisations in areas of common interest;
- Represent the common interests of the member organisations, as a union, to international governmental and non-governmental organisations;
- Develop opportunities for and facilitate the promotion of scientific and technical developments in areas of common interest;
- Foster communications and encourage the flow of information within both the profession and the user community;
- Promote the availability and appropriate use of high quality geospatial information and related technologies.

It was interesting to see, after a decade or more of argument between the three founding member organisations of the Union, that it took a man from a relatively new member organisation to be able to broker a consensus on the Union's role in society.

After two days of intense review and discussion the workshop had agreed upon a Vision and six positive goals for the Union. These were put before the Council the following day and the end result was that the Council endorsed them. This had the effect of maintaining the existence of IUSM but with a change of emphasis on its activities. The Union was to become both a coordinating body as well as an advocacy organisation representing members at international agencies and events. The Executive Board was given the task of finding ways that the goals could be achieved and agreed that two Task Forces should be set up.

The first, chaired by the admiral, was to be a Task Force of six, one from each member organisation, to do the extra work necessary to refine the 'vision'; review the effectiveness of the Council; make recommendations on the name of the Union; review the structure and future role of the Union; make recommendations for any necessary amendments to the Statutes; and produce the result at the next meeting of the Executive Board in Vienna in 1996.

A second Task Force was established led by Prof. Peter Dale to devise a vision for the Geospatial Professions as a whole and to organise a Round Table meeting between IUSM and representatives of other non-member sister organisations at the Executive Board Meeting in Vienna next year. The press release given to the media immediately after the final meeting in Boulder said that his Task Force's purpose was to facilitate inter-association cooperation, avoid duplication of effort and provide an inter-disciplinary basis for research. However the resolution, as a result of which the Task Force was created, simply said; 'that a Round Table meeting be arranged between members of IUSM and representatives of the other relevant international organisations to discuss the future of the geospatial information professions'. Over the next twelve months there was some confusion over the purpose of this Task Force.

With the agreement on a vision for the Union and the setting of six specific goals for it, most of those in attendance went away thinking that a milestone had been passed and that the Union was well on the way to maturity. All that was needed was a Plan of Action to achieve those goals.

16–21 July 1995 – 5th South East Asian Survey Conference & 36th Australian Surveyors Congress (Singapore)

From Boulder I returned to Darwin for a brief period before flying to Singapore to attend the 5th South East Asian Survey Conference. I had been enticed to deliver a keynote address. This in fact was a joint conference with the 36th Australian Surveyors conference. The theme of the congress was '*Networking into the 21st Century*'. Because of the rapid changes in economic and technological growth in the South East Asian area at that time the organising committee asked me to relate my talk to that theme.

I spoke about the world of change around us, the advantages of networking, ways in which FIG targets society as well as individual professionals, and I drew on Prof. Ellyard's motif of a Planetary Globe. I suggested ways in which individuals and organisations could network through FIG. 'Your associations need to have a commitment to participation in the processes that shape society' I said. 'Professional associations can no longer be content with focusing on national or internal issues. They must look to having an influence on the changes that are taking place in the international arena'. The speech was well received and was published in the Singapore Congress Chronicle the following day.

During the conference Peter Byrne conducted a small workshop on Surveyors, Cities, Land and Shelter. It was poorly attended but he gained some very good input into his search for material to use in FIG's contribution to the policies and plans for the coming HABITAT II conference in Istanbul.

The annual general meeting of the Australian Institution of Surveyors was also held in Singapore. During the meeting which I attended, two things occurred that pleased me immensely. The first was a motion proposed by that icon of the institution, Past President Keith Barrie, asking the members of ISA to formally acknowledge the work done by the members of the Bureau in furthering the activities of FIG and to pass a vote of thanks for our efforts. It pleased me no end that Keith Barrie had done this for he was the man who in 1977 had nominated me to be President of ISA. Had he not done so the story of my life may have been quite different. His motion was carried by acclamation and, for the second time in my life, I witnessed a standing ovation of two members – Isa President John Medbury and Northern Territory Divisional member Grahame Everingham.

The second was the fact that this motion gave me the opportunity, with Medbury's consent, to give the assembled ISA members a brief outline of the work of the Bureau over the previous four years. With the assistance of the formal Review that had been prepared by Grahame Lindsay for publication in our final Bulletin in October I spoke for about fifteen minutes. This impromptu overview alleviated the need for the Bureau to provide a formal review and de-briefing to the ISA Council at the end of our term as all Councillors were present at the annual general meeting.

From the Bureau's perspective, probably my most important achievement while I was in Singapore was the resolution of the dispute between ISA and the Congress Directorate over the distribution of surplus congress funds. The presence of a number of members of the Congress Directorate was a big help. The Directorate was still a functioning entity but one in which discontent was barely hidden. The distribution of congress profits had not yet been resolved and friendships between the Congress directors and ISA Councillors were breaking down. John Medbury had informed me at some stage during the conference that he had not yet reached final agreement with the Directorate, even though he believed his letter of 13th April to Ray Holmes had satisfied all of the Directorate's concerns. However, the final transfer of monies had not yet occurred.

On my own initiative I convened a meeting of the three members of the Directorate who were present in Singapore together with the President, the Vice President and the CEO of ISA during which I acted as mediator. These people eventually agreed that they had been acting like idiots and that while correspondence received by both parties was insufficient to satisfy, each had been acting in good faith in the spirit of the agreement reached when Ray Holmes met with Medbury and Dwyer on 31st March. The problem was that correspondence from ISA held inferences of wrong doing on the part of the Directorate and this was rejected by them. As a result the Directorate was loath to release the remaining money to ISA.

Eventually each party agreed to draft a letter, for signature by the other party, that would satisfy the concerns of each. For the next three days they worked on draft after draft of these two letters. Eventually success was achieved and these official letters, which I believe were signed by all parties to the negotiations, were exchanged. I understand that the letter given to the President of ISA was tabled in Council on Thursday 20th July and

that the Councillors agreed that once the final distribution of funds had been received, the matter would be closed. That was something over which I had no control.

During my keynote address I made a 'tongue in cheek' remark about having to sing for my supper while still having to pay a registration fee to attend the conference. Some time after I returned home I received a letter from the congress manager, Barry Thorne of Adelaide, thanking me for my efforts. He said the talk was challenging and he was sure all in attendance would have appreciated the thought provoking words. He personally hoped that surveyors in Australasia would come to better understand the valuable work carried out by FIG. He enclosed a cheque for \$680.00 as a refund of my registration fee without further comment. I immediately sent it to Secretary General Lindsay as the first donation to be made to the proposed FIG Foundation.

13–17 August 1995 – CASLE General Assembly and FIG Workshop on Sustainable Development, Harare (Zimbabwe)

The joint CASLE/FIG Seminar which was to be held in Harare in August had for its theme '*Sustainable Development: Counting the Cost – Maximising the Value*'. Much work and effort by Bureau members and Commission 7 had gone on since early 1994 to achieve a working relationship with the UNCHS and FAO. At the same time the Bureau was aware of the probable demise of CASLE and was trying to find ways that FIG might step into the breach if CASLE collapsed. The proposed CASLE Seminar in Harare seemed to create an attractive opportunity to attack all three subjects.

The Round Table discussion with FAO that year had dealt with ways in which the two organisations, FAO and FIG, could cooperate in promoting and assisting in cadastral reform in rural economies. As a result FIG had undertaken to consider the various problems associated with such reforms, problems that the meeting had considered important and to suggest ways that the Federation could assist in dealing with them. As for FAO, that organisation had agreed to support FIG initiatives where these could contribute to the resolution of such problems within the reform agenda of developing countries. A full report of the meeting was later published in FIG Publication No. 10 – *FAO and FIG, Future Collaboration in Cadastral Reform in Rural Economies*. Now in August 1995 we were to have another such meeting to consider the complex issues related to African countries where customary land tenure was a feature of the culture. This Round Table was held prior to the main CASLE Seminar.

While FAO was concerned primarily with issues of rural lands, the UNCHS was concerned mainly with those of urban lands. The rapid urbanisation of developing countries was producing mega-cities of informal settlements. Urbanisation was becoming the most significant transformation in human society in history. Experts were saying that in not too many years nearly half of humanity would be living in cities and it was estimated that more than 75% of them would be in developing countries. It was for these reasons that the UN decided to convene the coming second Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II). FIG had already been involved in the preparations for that conference by helping to develop the HABITAT II Global Plan of Action. VP Peter Byrne was representing FIG at the Interregional Study on Land Management in African and Arab Countries in Abidjan. FIG was to hold this Round Table discussion on the subject with officers of the UNCHS and other appropriate people to identify problems that could be addressed by both organisations in collaboration. This meeting also was held prior to the CASLE Seminar.

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My flight to Harare arrived at 6.20pm local time via Alice Springs and Perth. I was accommodated in the Mondmatapa Hotel but the conference venue was the Sheraton Hotel about one kilometre away. It was at the Sheraton that both Round Table Discussions were held on the two days prior to the Seminar. Both were attended by the Bureau members, eight FIG Commission officers, UNCHS and FAO officers, and a number of invited delegates from African and other countries. It was deemed wise to have both UNCHS and FAO officers at both meetings because of the overlap in responsibilities of both organisations. It was my duty to chair both meetings.

The Round Table with UNCHS was the first cab off the rank and the invited delegates included Dr. Clarissa Fourie from the University of Natal for whom this would be the start of a long relationship with FIG; Mr. Fred Chunga, Surveyor General of Zimbabwe (he who had offered me an all-expenses paid tour of Zimbabwe the last time I met him but refrained from renewing the offer this time); Dr. I.C. Ezigbaliki from Nigeria; and from the University of Nairobi, Mr. Cyprian Riunga. The latter had given me a tour of Nairobi and its magnificent contiguous game park the last time I met him. During the discussions it became evident that there was much that FIG could do. A possible project for the four FIG Commissions present at the meeting was research into the problems associated with informal settlements and methods to remedy them. In addition, significant additional information could be given to UNCHS to enable a revision of the draft Global Plan of Action so that it would contain a much more relevant focus on land related matters. In the end the meeting decided that there were many ways in which FIG and UNCHS could work together. Cooperation in the provision of technical seminars and workshops was an obvious way but others included promotion of networks of professional experts; technical assistance in UN projects; advice on education; and assistance to educational institutions.

The FAO Round Table was attended by the same people and an additional five from other African countries. This meeting focused on the means by which modern Land Information Systems can be used to attain a more effective use of Africa's land base. It was decided the key to the success of collaboration between FIG and FAO was seen to be the provision of advice and information rather than services. Advice and information could be provided in a number of ways such as meetings of this kind; technical seminars and workshops; production of publications such as the *Statement on the Cadastre*; and through cooperation with local national professional associations. A report on both meetings was later published in FIG Publication No.13 – *Land Tenure, Land Management and Land Information Systems*.

Following these meetings the CASLE Seminar proceeded the next day with an opening ceremony at which I had been invited to speak. I do not remember what I said but I do remember some words of the Hon. Minister K.M. Kangai (presumably the Minister for Lands) who opened the seminar. His was a speech worthy of a man who had studied the problems of the world for most of his life but I am sure this man had not. It was probably written by a senior Bureaucrat, maybe even Fred Chunga. 'The issues relating to population imbalances' he said 'vis-à-vis standards of living, urbanisation, employment and environment are all interlinked in a complex matrix'. He went on to say 'it would not be unreal to envisage a future world with a stable population, largely free of poverty, disease and hunger, centred mostly around urban areas. I do believe that this is an achievable goal'. He then espoused the many ways in which he thought the world could achieve this goal but then he added the ultimate political plea. He asked

the world not to blame the politicians for failure. One wonders what he thinks of the mess his own country is in now.

During these functions, Peter Byrne held what turned out to be an informal workshop on informal settlements. Despite the fact that prior to the event he had spent a great deal of time making the necessary arrangements with the organisers, when he got to Harare he found his workshop was not on the agenda. He and Clarissa Fourie of HABI-TAT decided that they had a perfect metaphor. Just like the residents of informal settlements they were without place and space so they decided to squat. They found an empty room and took it over and by using informal advertising they induced a remarkable number of people to attend.

At the conclusion of these events I flew to Victoria Falls where I stayed overnight. I took a helicopter flight over the falls on the following day before returning to Harare and flying home. There was not a great deal of water flowing over the falls but from the helicopter I could see just how wide the falls would be when the Zambesi was in full flood. The geology of the land at the falls is fascinating. The water flows over a precipice a little over one and a half kilometres wide and over the past thousands of years erosion has created a gorge just a relatively few metres wide. One is able to walk the length of this gorge staring from the far side at the falls that appear to be within spitting distance. At one end is the Devil's Cataract and a statue of David Livingstone who discovered the falls for the western world. The indigenes, of course already knew it was there. At the other end is the exit from the gorge where the mighty Zambesi continues its journey under the railway bridge that links Zimbabwe with Zambia and on through a series of zig-zag gorges until it reaches open country. Even with the dry season flow at the time I was there, with the spray rising high above the cliff top, it was easy to see why the indigenes called it Mosi-oa-Tunya or 'Smoke that Thunders'.

16–17 September 1995 – Bureau Meeting, Canberra (Australia)

I returned to Australia to consider the program for the handover of the Bureau to the incoming United Kingdom Bureau and all things associated with the conclusion of the Australian term of office. We had a Bureau Meeting scheduled for the 16–17 September but we thought it wise to give the ISA Council a little warning of the facts. Early in the month Grahame Lindsay wrote to the Council giving formal notice that the Australian term of office in FIG would come to an end on 25 October 1995 when the chain of office would be handed to the British at a function in London. He advised the Council that we were in the process of preparing a review of the Bureau's achievements during the four year period and that it would be published in Bulletin No. 56. He also advised them that we intended to send a copy to every member of ISA.

Since I had briefed the members and Councillors of ISA present at the annual general meeting in Singapore we did not intend to provide a further briefing to the Council. However we did advise them that the Bureau office at Fern Hill would remain open until the end of the year. It would then be transferred to Grahame Lindsay's home where he would hold the paper records until the finish of his term as Vice President of FIG in 1999. The records would then be turned over to ISA for archiving. We also had several items of significance to present to ISA but that would have to wait until later.

The Bureau Meeting in September was held at ISA Headquarters in Canberra. The prime purpose of the meeting was to finalise matters referred to us by the PC Meeting held in

Berlin and to consider what recommendations needed to be made to the incoming UK Bureau. There we considered a draft of the Memorandum and Articles of Association for the proposed FIG Education Foundation. The PC had authorised us to 'establish an advisory committee to finalise' this matter and to 'establish a foundation in general accordance with the recommendations' of the Task Force on External Funding. This committee, chaired by John Curdie had presented the draft Articles and they appeared appropriate to the members of the Bureau. However, at that late stage, there was nothing that the Bureau could do to get approval from the Permanent Committee so the matter had to be passed on to the UK Bureau.

There were a number of other matters that we thought deserved a recommendation to the incoming Bureau. For instance, the seminar held in Harare with CASLE had gone well and it was obvious that FIG should continue to be involved in future such activities within Africa. However, CASLE was concerned only with British Commonwealth countries while FIG was supposed to be world oriented. So we decided to recommend that the incoming Bureau seek to hold similar seminars, in cooperation with the UNCHS, in the Francophone countries of West Africa, as well as in the Anglophone countries of East Africa.

Another recommendation concerned the FIG Tree database. All of the relevant data about FIG had been committed to a database and diskettes containing the information had been sent to all member associations but there was a need to make the information available to a wider audience. The database was available through the AUSLIG website but few would know that fact. So the Bureau decided to recommend that the UK Bureau take over responsibility for the database and use it as the basis for the establishment of an FIG home page on the World Wide Web.

Other matters of some concern were the future of the company FIG Australia Pty Ltd and outstanding membership subscriptions amounting to about 66,800 Swiss Francs. It was decided that the company should remain in existence until the money ran out which meant the Australian members of the Bureau would remain as directors of the company until at least 1998. As far as outstanding subscriptions were concerned our 1995 budget would suffer significantly if they were not received. The UK Bureau had already raised the question regarding what funds would be transferred from FIG Australia when they took over the administration. The answer, of course, was zero. We had received nothing from the Finns in 1992. Our budget was predicated on the receipt of these outstanding subscriptions. There appeared to be no policy governing the matter, so the Bureau decided that any surplus funds we had at the end of our term would be retained for as long as necessary to meet contingent and non-contingent liabilities. Any remainder would be given to either the ISA, or the FIG Education Foundation. However, this did not answer the question about outstanding subscriptions so it was decided to request the incoming UK Bureau to remit any such outstanding subscriptions received by them to FIG Australia Pty Ltd and I believe that they did.

23–25 October 1995 – Handover from Australian to United Kingdom Bureau in London, (England)

On 20 October my wife and I boarded Qantas Airlines for the long flight to London where, on arrival we made our way to the Victory Services Club near Marble Arch. Because we had need to be in London on numerous occasions during the four year period of our administration, both Grahame Lindsay and I had joined the club. The accommodation was very basic but because of its location near Marble Arch it was very conveni-

ent. This time Grahame had managed to get rooms for all the Australian members of the Bureau. From there it was but a short underground rail journey to the RICS Headquarters at Westminster.

The final meeting of the full Australian Bureau was held jointly with the incoming UK Bureau on the 23rd and the 24th of the month in the RICS Headquarters in Parliament Square. During these meetings we discussed everything from membership possibilities to the relationship with UN organisations to the recommendations we made to the UK Bureau. The Memorandum of Articles for the FIG Foundation were agreed to and Grahame Lindsay and John Curdie were authorised to finalise the creation of the company. The Brits agreed to take over the 'FIG Tree' database once all material had been transferred to the RICS home page. They also agreed to our request to hand over any outstanding membership subscriptions that were received up to the time of the PC Meeting in Argentina in 1996. On another level, discussion about IUSM and my continuing Presidency of that Union revolved around the as yet non-existent Plan of Action required to achieve the Goals agreed to in Boulder the previous year. Incoming Vice President Bob Foster (USA) undertook to prepare a draft statement from FIG's point of view and was to be assisted by Ian Williamson in Commission 7. Both Peter Dale and I were to attend IUSM meetings in Vienna in 1996 and Monaco in 1997 and funding for both of us was to be included in the UK Bureau's budget. On the evening of the 24th we were hosted by RICS President Simon Potts to a reception and dinner for members of both Bureaux and their wives. It was held in the Royal Overseas League in St James's Street.

The morning of the 25th was free for individuals to have face to face meetings with Bureau counterparts and at six o'clock that afternoon Simon Potts hosted another reception in the RICS Lecture Hall. Bureau members and two hundred invited guests, including senior members of RICS, representatives of allied professional bodies, at least one politician, the Hon. John Butterfill MP, the Argentinian Ambassador to the UK, representatives of a number of Government departments and academic institutions, the press and some members of RICS Staff were in attendance. This was where the FIG handover was to take place.

Effectively it was an RICS show, not an FIG function. Unlike the handover from Finland to Australia in 1992 where the handover dinner was chaired by outgoing President Talvitie and finalised by me after acceptance of the Chain of Office, this was a function run by Simon Potts in which he, or someone delegated by him, launched a new RICS International Directory and presented Grahame Lindsay with Honorary Membership of RICS; and all this before the handover which was the reason why we were in London. It was a dual function reception in which FIG played a minor part. When in September I had seen the proposed programme I had remonstrated with Peter Dale that this handover reception was deliberately designed to minimise the profile of FIG and maximise that of RICS and his reply was that 'it was an RICS affair' but it would not 'detract from the primary objective of the function'.

When the time came to handover the Chain of Office, Potts made a short speech at the end of which he 'invited' me to hand over the Chain of Office as if it was an RICS chain. I replied with a short speech and handed the chain to Dale. Speakers had been asked to limit their speech to no more than five minutes. Well, I was not about to allow my opportunity to brag be taken away so in my turn I launched into a speech extolling the virtues of the Federation, the achievements of the Bureau and the good works of the individual members of it. I referred to the hard work Australian surveyors had under-



Handing over the chain of office 25 Oct 1995; L to R: retiring President Earl James (Australia), incoming President Peter Dale (United Kingdom).

taken in order to win the right to administer FIG, and incidentally, to defeat the UK for that honour. Then I thanked the individual Bureau members for their efforts. I spoke for twelve minutes before I handed the Chain of Office to Dale and emphasised that this transition from Australia to the United Kingdom was what we were there to celebrate that evening.

After a short speech by Dale it was all over – no pomp, no ceremony. That was it. It was all very deflating when contrasted with the 1992 ceremony in Canberra. For me it was a disappointing experience until one member of the assembled throng, whom I think at this late date, was the Argentinian Ambassador, came up and congratulated me on my speech. 'Your speech provided us with some useful information about your organisation and your work' he said and continued on to complain that most such speeches were just plain boring.

The reception was followed by a dinner for both Bureaux members and their wives hosted by Mr. Potts and held in the RICS President's dining room which was attached to the President's apartment with a tremendous view of the Thames and Westminster Abbey. There I carried out my first (and last) function as the past president of FIG. I presented Peter Dale with a cap embroidered with the words TOP GUN. Dale had bought it at the Naval Museum near Nowra which we visited at the time of the Bureau Meeting in Bowral and given it to me.

Then on 28 October Wendy and I flew to Helsinki for a week's holiday with our friend Juha Talvitie before returning home to Darwin. In December I learned that the Councillors of ISA had agreed to nominate John Curdie to be an Honorary Member of FIG and to nominate me to be an Honorary President of the Federation, both of us having served eight years on its administrative Bureau in one way or another.

So ended the relationship between FIG and me.

CHAPTER 17: A REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATION OF FIG

At the end of their term in office, The Finnish Bureau published a review of their activities over the four year period.²² Their achievements have been dealt with in Chapter 7. At the end of our term in office the Australian Bureau published a similar review²³ and sent it via Bulletin No.56 to all members of ISA as well as to the member associations of the Federation. We surely wanted everyone to know what we had done and what the Federation had achieved during our period in office. In addition to that we wanted a definitive document, just like the one published by the Finns four years earlier, to be available to any historian that might take up the task of updating Mr. Ahren's *History of FIG* that ended with the year 1987.

The review dealt with the take-over of the administration from the Finns in February 1992; the administration during our term in office from 1992 to 1995; the internal development of FIG activities during the period; the various Task Forces and the results of their deliberations; relationships with other international professional organisations and sister societies; relations with the United Nations and other inter-governmental agencies; information services provided and created by the Bureau; activities of the Federation's Permanent Institutions; the XX FIG Congress held in Melbourne; and a number of other strategic matters such as the increase in membership, the creation of the FIG Education Foundation and Commission activities.

The review was quite exhaustive in its coverage and is recommended reading for the historian and anyone else who wants to know what five Australians, with the help of an Englishman and a Finlander, achieved. I do not propose to repeat it here. This book is about FIG and me so I will deal with it only briefly and I will elaborate only on those matters that were directly influenced by me or had an influence on me.

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First of all, in Melbourne in 1994 we held what was without question the largest and most successful International Surveying Conference ever held during the one hundred and sixteen year life of the Federation to that date. This conference had the effect of putting the Australian surveying profession on the world map. Some who were present at the earlier Congress in Toronto in 1986 when we made our bid to host the 1994 congress thought at the time that we were a little brash and a little over ambitious. After all, ISA had only been a member of the Federation for a few short years and there we were trying to take over an organisation that had been in existence for a hundred. Well I am proud to say that the Congress Directorate, which consisted mainly of members of the Victorian Division of ISA, with only broad overall supervision by the Bureau, produced a congress that will be remembered for decades. Special thanks must go to the former Surveyor-General of Victoria Ray Holmes for the guidance and overall supervision he gave as Congress Director.

By the end of 1995 we had increased the membership of the Federation from fifty five associations in 1992 to seventy two. I like to think that my visits to South American and Eastern European countries were instrumental in achieving some of that increase as were the efforts of others, particularly Grahame Lindsay, in Asia, Africa and the Mediter-

22 Review of the Activities of FIG During the Finnish Term of Office (1988–1991), FIG, 1992.

23 Review of the Activities of FIG during the Australian Term of Office (1992–1995), FIG, 1995.

anean. In line with increasingly accepted international practice we gained agreement from our member associations to abandon the three language policy and accept English as the only official language of FIG. This decision was not exactly enamoured by the French but the Germans were in total favour of the change.

At the time of the hand-over in 1995, we were in the process of setting up an Education Foundation. Its purpose was to raise funds to be used, among other things, to assist young surveyors throughout the world to attend such educational facilities as future congresses. Grahame Lindsay and Treasurer John Curdie were the prime movers of this innovation. In addition, we had convinced our members that the time had passed when the administration of such a large organisation could be done on a voluntary and honorary basis; that FIG could not function effectively into the future without the services of a permanent secretariat. This was a decision that we left to the incoming UK Bureau to implement. It was up to them to find a permanent home for a new permanent secretariat and I am pleased to say that they did so. The Danish member association took up the challenge. We had not yet achieved a re-organisation of FIG's administration but the UK Bureau was set to carry on the work that we had commenced in this regard.

Raising the profile of the surveyor and the surveying profession within the international community had been high on our list of priorities. We built on the earlier work of the former Finnish Bureau which had set out to make FIG more relevant within United Nations circles. As a result of our efforts to build on the earlier successes of the Finns, FIG now has excellent relations with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), The UN Environment Program (UNEP), the UN Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS, otherwise known as HABITAT), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and many other agencies.

We had input into the UN Conference on the Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) held in Rio de Janeiro, and into the preparatory sessions of the City Summit (HABITAT II) which was to be held in Istanbul during the year following the handover to the UK Bureau. We had some success in convincing the International Labor Organisation (ILO) and others to amend their classification systems so as to give due recognition to the independence of the surveying profession. Best of all in my opinion, primarily through the efforts of VP Peter Byrne, we succeeded in changing the priorities of the UN Cartographic Conferences which were held periodically in different hemispheres. Priorities moved from the consideration of the technicalities of how to do things to the much more important philosophical aspects of why they should be done. In fact our efforts in this regard were even recognised publicly by the Secretary General of the United Nations himself.

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During my eight years of Bureau service the world was undergoing massive change; the Berlin Wall came down and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics fell apart creating many new countries and renewing the claims of sovereignty for others. There followed a flood of membership applications from newly created professional associations in those countries. Bureau members were tasked with meeting the leaders of these associations and assessing their suitability for membership. Day by day technical advancements made the world of the surveyor an ever changing environment and the Federation had to adapt. The Finnish and Australian Bureaux were the catalysts by which FIG commenced a culture change that has taken it into the twenty first century to become the postmodern democratic organisation it is today. By 1995 the modus operandi of the Federation had gone through great change:

- For what I believe to be the first time, the Federation adopted a four year Plan of Work in 1988, a plan instituted by the Finnish Bureau. The practice was continued by the Australian Bureau;
- The appointment of Commission Chairmen was once a matter of deciding which country should have the privilege but by 1995 the emphasis was on the man not the country;
- The venue for PC Meetings was once determined in the same way – but today countries must vie for the privilege;
- Task Force deliberations had been carried out by mail and during PC Meetings once a year. By 1995 Task Forces had access to modern communications and were assisted by group sessions at PC Meetings and Congresses;
- The FIG secretariat was contained within the country of the Bureau but by 1995 the Federation was set on the path towards a permanent secretariat in a permanent location. Research on possible ways to improve the administration of the Federation was well under way;
- There were three levels of administration and although this did not change for some time it was the Australian Bureau that recommended they be merged;
- Funding relied on membership subscriptions, funds from the member association hosting the congress and government and company subsidies. By 1995 Sponsor Membership had become a major source of funds and the creation of an FIG Foundation was well under way;
- In 1988 all documentation had to be submitted in three languages and interpretive services at PC Meetings and Congresses were mandatory. By 1995 there was one official language and interpretive services were optional;
- The first publication series in the history of the Federation was established by the Finns and was continued by the Australians;
- Ancient global communications were replaced by email and the beginnings of a web site;
- The duration of congresses was reduced from twelve to eight days;
- The ad hoc basis for the operation of Commissions was replaced by a requirement to act in accordance with Terms of Reference recommended by the Inter Commission Advisory Committee;
- Where once the Commission change-over occurred at the same time as the Bureau change-over (which could occur at any time during the year), this practice changed to allow the change-over at the end of each quadrennial Congress;
- Bureau activities that were once decided by Bureau members are now decided with the assistance of an Inter Commission Advisory Committee;
- History of surveying was an activity for individuals which changed with the creation of an ad hoc Commission on Surveying and the introduction of History Symposiums during Congresses and PC Meetings;
- Formerly Commissions met in full only at PC Meetings and Congresses but by 1995 many were holding an annual meeting at other times and at other venues;

- While Commissions held workshops and seminars during the years prior to 1998, these were generally not in developing countries. By 1995 Commissions were required, if possible, to hold at least one workshop in a developing country during their four year term.

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During the twenty years that I have had an association with FIG, but more particularly during the eight years of my Bureau service, I saw great change within the Federation and those changes are continuing to the present day. In my early years of involvement, FIG was more of a 'Gentlemen's Club' than a force for the betterment of the profession and the society that the profession serves. Indeed, it was evident during the Australian Bureau's term in office that some individuals from member associations in a few European countries still thought along those anti-deluvian lines. Since then the Federation has gone from being a source of new ideas for members of the so-called 'Liberal Professions' to an organisation that encompasses all aspects of the profession and now has an emphasis on teaching rather than learning. It has gone from being a conglomeration of countries, each with a single member, to one with multiple membership, one that embraces all associations that represent the different aspects of the profession. While some countries still prefer to have a single member association those countries have re-organised themselves so that their member association is a conglomeration of local associations representing multiple surveying disciplines.

And what was the effect of all this on me and my life? On the down-side, a conservative estimate of cost to me would total about three hundred thousand dollars in lost earnings by my company and travel costs necessary for my wife to accompany me to at least one major function each year. Some would say that the presence of one's wife or partner was a self-indulgent luxury but I have always maintained that acceptance of a position of importance always implies a joint commitment by a man and his wife. The support given by one's partner is essential in the social environment that accompanies the duties of officers such as the president or vice president of an organisation, especially an international organisation. My wife Wendy has supported me in this regard throughout my life in public affairs and for this I thank her.

On the up-side I must admit that I certainly have a sense of pride in the achievements of both Bureaux in which I played a part and in the changes that have occurred within the Federation during my eight years as an officer of the organisation. I left the Bureau in 1995 knowing that the Federation had been settled on a course that, in the long term, would be more advantageous to the member associations and their individual members than it had been in the past and that the organisation would soon get the global recognition that was its due. But the most important plus from my point of view was the knowledge that I had made scores of friends from different countries around the world, friends who have maintained contact over the years even though I have long disappeared from public life.

When I was elected President of the Fédération Internationale des Géomètres I was honoured to join the long list of surveyors who had served in that position during the previous century. I felt even more honoured by the fact that my peers within my own professional institution had thought me worthy enough to be the first surveyor from the southern hemisphere to achieve that honour. Just as the Finns did for their country so the members of the Australian Bureau show-cased their country superbly to the professional world. Their enthusiasm, enterprise and professional skills were a potent

force in the evolution and progressive change within the Federation during their term in office. I thank them most sincerely for their support and dedication during what can only be described as an extraordinarily exciting four years.

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Today, 2nd October 2015, I turn eighty four years of age. It is twenty years since I handed the gavel of office to Prof Peter Dale in London yet today I still receive acknowledgment of my existence from surveyors the world over. This morning I find a message from Peter Krenz of Germany who was the chairman of the committee that organised the PC Meeting in Berlin in 1995, a man who is twenty years younger than me:

Renate and I are very pleased to say Happy Birthday to you. ... Be proud of all you have done for our profession round the world, for Australia and for Darwin. We are sure there are a lot of people who are very thankful for your friendship. We are happy to come together with such a man and such a wife.

Receiving such compliments makes it seem that my life with FIG has been worthwhile. I value the friends that I have made around the world. Many, like Peter Krenz remain in contact. I look back on my involvement in FIG over the years with pride for what the Federation has achieved and I wish to thank the surveyors of Australia for giving me that opportunity.

BOOK 3
EPILOGUE
1996 TO 2010

1996

From the day I handed the chain of office to Peter Dale I went from being the 'Cock of the Hoop' to being a feather duster in all matters relating to FIG. No one has ever asked my opinion nor has anyone sought my advice. I did, however have an on-going role in IUSM. I was still the President of that organisation and it was still going through the throes of birthing pains. It would continue to do so during the last two years of my office. Until mid-1997 I had to preside over what I hoped would be the realisation of a Union moving towards maturity. So my life in the international arena was not yet over.

There was, however, still a lot to be done before the Australian Bureau could be wound up. On 30 January 1996 Grahame Lindsay advised the former Bureau members and the Council of ISA that he had closed the FIG office at the AUSLIG site that had been so generously donated by the Australian Government. He had culled unnecessary papers from the records and transferred the remainder to his home where he set about preparing the appropriate records for transfer to both the FIG Archive in London and to ISA in Canberra. I believe the former was achieved when he went to London to attend his next FIG meeting as a member of the British Bureau. The latter was carried out during the 37th Australian Survey Congress in Perth, Western Australia in April that year.

Grahame had prepared a presentation volume containing the published *Review of FIG Activities During the Australian Bureau's Term of Office – 1992–95* together with a number of selected reports that recorded the Australian Bureau's contribution to international meetings; the results of consultations with various United Nations organisations; the creation of FIG policies; and liaison with FIG member associations and potential member associations. This folio of reports was presented to ISA President John Dwyer during the congress by past vice president Peter Byrne as proxy for me.

Neither Grahame Lindsay nor I were able to attend this ISA Congress as we were in Argentina attending the 63rd PC Meeting of FIG in Buenos Aires. However the presentation was accompanied by a letter from me apologising for our non-attendance and expressing the opinion that the success of the Australian Bureau would be judged by the outcome of the work contained in the reports and that all Bureau members hoped that the Institution would benefit from them in pursuing its national and regional aims. Peter Byrne also presented a bound volume of all FIG Bulletins produced during our term in office and copies of all FIG publications produced by the Australian Bureau.

15–19 April 1996 – 63rd PC Meeting of FIG in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Grahame Lindsay was at the PC Meeting in Buenos Aires in his capacity as vice president of FIG. I was there, accompanied by my wife, for the sole purpose of enjoying the company of the many friends I had made over the years, particularly those among the Argentinians. In that regard it was quite an eventful trip. We had a two day delay in New Zealand at the expense of Qantas Airways while their ground staff installed a replacement engine in the aircraft in which we were travelling. On arrival in Argentina we flew to a mountain town in the Andes where we were joined by past president of FIG Juha Talvitie and his partner Maija for a four day tour of the mountains. Then, after the PC Meeting we were hosted by Mario-Jorge and Irene Sackmann at their rural campo about fifty or sixty kilometres outside the city. Mario-Jorge was the chair of the PC organising committee. There we experienced the way of the Gaucho and the effects of heavy rain on black soil. Our return to the city was punctuated with regular stops to re-

move mud from the wheels of the vehicle in which we were travelling or being extracted from bog holes by a tractor that accompanied us until we reached firmer ground. It quite reminded me of many similar journeys I had made in Australia at different times.

John Curdie was also in Buenos Aires so he, Lindsay and I took the opportunity to discuss the payment of outstanding Bureau accounts amounting to about \$8,200.00 and the distribution of the remaining Bureau funds. It was agreed that the accounts should be paid as soon as possible and that consideration should be given to donating some of the remaining funds to the FIG Education Foundation. The Foundation had finally been established with directorships being given to John Curdie and John Medbury (Australia), Robert Forster (USA), Hans-Joseph Platen (Germany) and Stig Enemark (Denmark). The completion of this initiative of the Australian Bureau was a hallmark in the history of FIG. The final distribution of funds was to be determined later in the year at a full meeting of the Australian Bureau.

9–19 July 1996 – 18th ISPRS Congress, Vienna, Austria and the 13th Meeting of the IUSM Executive Board

In May I expressed the opinion via a newsletter that the IUSM meetings held in Boulder the previous year marked the turning point for the Union. The two day workshop held at that time may not have achieved the Plan of Action needed by the Union but it had produced a Vision and a number of Goals for the infant organisation. In my view it also had achieved a reawakening within the membership as to the possibilities that might exist for cooperation between member organisations so I was hopeful that progress would be made.

The two Task Forces created at that meeting in Boulder were due to report at the coming meeting in Vienna which was being held during the ISPRS Congress in July. If Boulder was the turning point then Vienna was scheduled to be the anvil upon which the future of the Union would be hammered out. The Vienna meetings would be, in my view, the 'make or break' point for IUSM. Our prime task would be to create a specific Plan of Action to achieve the goals agreed to in Boulder. Only then would the Union become an effective interdependent union of professional organisations with common interests rather than what it was at that point – a collection of independent organisations that appeared to want to stay that way. However cracks were already beginning to appear in the armour holding this fragile organisation together. For example, two member organisations had declined to help their delegates with travel costs. In a similar vein, even though he was chair of a Task Force, Peter Dale decided that he had more important things to do and sent Tom Kenney (vice president of FIG) as his proxy.

The ISPRS Congress was a ten day affair and the IUSM meetings were scheduled for late in the event. I could not afford to be away for ten days so was therefore unable to attend the opening ceremony. However, VP Ivan Mueller greeted the assembly on my behalf and I was given an opportunity to address the General Assembly on the 16th. There I attempted to explain to the assembled throng that the IUSM charter required us to find ways and means by which the member organisations of the union could cooperate and collaborate to achieve the Union's agreed aim of 'ensuring that science and technology related to geospatial information meets the needs of society'. I told them that we had not yet found a way to do this but I was determined that the meetings of officers of the Union that were scheduled to be held during their congress would achieve this.

The IUSM Task Force No.1 was chaired by Rear Admiral Andreasen and had the task of producing recommendations for the future role and structure of the Union. During the Executive Board meeting he reported in great detail but as far as defining any need for restructure was concerned the end result was simply a recommendation that there be no change to the Statutes. Based on other suggestions in the report the Board agreed to set up an IUSM database. This was intended to sponsor sessions at member organisations' congresses where members could interact with each other on special subjects of mutual interest; to sponsor short courses where the needs of a number of member organisations was indicated; and to develop a home page on the internet. It was also agreed that the name of the Union should be given a sub-title such that it became: *'The International Union for Surveys and Mapping – an alliance of geospatial science and technology organisations'* and that the vision statement adopted at Boulder in 1995 should be changed to: *'IUSM is an alliance of international organisations which facilitates scientific and technological developments in the field of geospatial information.'*

The Task Force was disbanded.

In total contrast, the minutes of the meeting allocate a mere three lines to the report of Task Force No.2 which was asked to liaise with other international organisations involved in spatial information services to develop a vision statement for the geospatial information professions as a whole. This Task Force was nominally chaired by Peter Dale. I cannot recall whether or not there was a round table conference with other sister organisations as required by the task force's terms of reference but I think not! Tom Kenny presented a report after which discussion ranged around the perceived visions of member organisations, the market place and the changing nature of the discipline. No recommendations were forthcoming and no resolutions were agreed to. This Task Force was also disbanded.

Another task force was created to develop a strategy for the orderly rotation of officers of the Union but the anvil of Vienna turned out to be made of putty and the hammers used proved to be too heavy. No Plan of Action was resolved. The independence of member organisations was as evident as ever. The emphasis had been on 'break' rather than 'make' but we pressed on towards our next meeting in Monaco and the end of my presidency.

12 September 1996 – Tele-Conference of FIG Australia Pty Ltd

By the end of July the balance of funds remaining in the bank accounts of FIG Australia Pty Ltd amounted to about \$38,400.00. It became necessary to decide what to do with this money before the company was wound up bearing in mind that there were conditions attached to the donation of about \$40,000 made by the Congress Directorate. It was decided to have a tele-conference to consider: what to do with remaining funds; possible support for Bureau and Congress Directorate members travelling to the Brighton Congress in 1998; other possible grants, e.g. to the FIG Education Foundation; and whether the funds should remain in Term Deposit until 1998 to gain extra interest. We met by telephone on 12 September.

After having attended a recent meeting with ISA Council, Grahame Lindsay put forward a reminder that had the Melbourne Congress made a loss in 1994 then ISA would have had to pick up that loss, so it was not unreasonable for Councillors to believe that if the Bureau had any surplus funds those funds should go to the Institution. He suggested

that any gift to the Education Foundation made by the Bureau at this late stage might be seen by the members of ISA as a presumptive action taken to avoid giving the surplus to the Institution. After much discussion it was agreed that the best action would probably be to: make an ex gratia payment of \$5,000 to Grahame Lindsay in recognition of his work as editor of the FIG Bulletin; transfer \$2,000 to the FIG Education Foundation to cover existing administrative costs; retain \$1,500 in the cheque account to meet any future costs in winding up the company; reinvest the balance of approximately \$28,000 in a term deposit to be used to subsidise travel for no more than eight people to the Brighton Congress in 1998 with a maximum amount of \$4,000 per person; wind up the company in early 1998; any residual funds be given to ISA with a recommendation that they be gifted to the Education Foundation.

1997

14–25 April 1997 – XV International Hydrographic Conference, Monaco and the 14th Meeting of the IUSM Executive Board

In April 1997 my wife and I travelled to Monaco where I chaired the 14th Executive Board meeting of IUSM which was held in conjunction with the International Hydrographic Conference. This function was the conference, held every five years, of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO). The member organisations of the IHO are the governmental hydrographic charting authorities of the maritime nations of the world. The Hydrographic Office of the Royal Australian Navy is Australia's member.

I was invited to address the conference at the opening ceremony during which time I met and shared the podium with Prince Rainier of Monaco who opened the proceedings. My task was to bring greetings from sister societies and to explain to the hydrographers present that IUSM was a union of international organisations which was created to facilitate scientific and technical developments in the field of geospatial information; and that according to the original guiding principles adopted by the founding bodies in 1984, IUSM was 'devoted to co-operation and co-ordination between international organisations involved in the science and art of all types of surveys and mapping of the earth'.

During the congress, IUSM was given a spot for a special session, open to all attendees, exhibitors and even the general public. Representatives of each of the member organisations were given time within the session to describe the changes occurring in the role of surveyors in their spheres of activity and how these changes would affect members of their association in the future. Peter Dale was the nominated speaker for FIG but once again he could not be there on the day although he did arrive in time for the Executive Board meetings. In anticipation of this fact Peter had asked me to make the presentation in his stead and together we had prepared a talk titled 'FIG in the next millennium'. The purpose of the presentation was to describe a number of global changes that would have a significant impact on the surveying profession in all its forms and to suggest areas where cooperation between member organisations of IUSM might be appropriate.

Peter's intention was to convince listeners that there were five major areas of global activity that, even then were having a significant effect on the surveying profession and life in general and would continue to do so. These were: the escalating world popula-

tion and the evolving massive shift of populations to the cities; population pressure on the coastal zones of the world which is where most of the cities are; the growing awareness of environmental issues by the citizens of the world; the need for the integration of governmental policies with the need for spatial data; and the trends by governments to devolve responsibilities to others and the need for decentralisation.

Whilst he had no specific solutions to the problems arising from those factors he was quite specific about the role of the surveyor in the future. Because technology was fast becoming the province of the technician, the future for the surveying profession would be in the management of resources. The key to success would be to focus on the sustainability of land, property, marine resources and environmental protection measures. In conclusion his paper stated that in his view the role of the surveyor would no longer be that of data capture but the more sophisticated role of using that data for social good. It remains to be seen whether or not posterity proves him wrong.

The primary purpose of my visit to Monaco was, of course, the meeting of the Executive Board of IUSM. I have no record of the result of this meeting. The incoming Board neglected to provide me with a copy of the minutes so I must rely on memory and information received from various sources in the following years. At the end of the meeting I once again became a feather duster.

I recall that discussion revolved around Guidelines for the use of Union Funds; the Home Page for IUSM; and the disbandment of the remaining Working Groups, all of which were proceeding quietly. The report of Task Force No.3 was presented and generated lengthy discussion about proposals for re-organisation of the Council. No resolutions were forthcoming and the task force was instructed to continue its work. The last Working Group on LIS/GIS was disbanded. Once again no specific Plan of Action had been resolved.

The four year terms of the officers of the Union expired at this meeting and a new executive was to be elected. Hugh O'Donnell had resigned as Executive Secretary some time ago and his place had been taken in an acting capacity by Doug Selley of Canada who had been a great help to me in my preparations for meetings in both Vienna and Monaco. Both he and O'Donnell were working for the National Resources of Canada but neither wanted to continue in the job. Only one application for the position was received and Pascal Willis (IAG), France, was elected Executive Secretary unopposed. There was also only one nomination for the position of Vice President and this went to Rear Admiral Christian Andreasen (IHO), USA.

The position of President, however, was contested with nominations from both Gottfried Konecny (ISPRS), Germany, and Ivan Mueller (IAG), USA. This was the second time Konecny had sought the position. The first was in Cologne four years earlier when I won the ballot. Gottfried had very firm ideas as to what IUSM should be doing and was a moving force in the ISPRS where the initial push for such a union had originated. But those controlling the Union now were more conservative than Gottfried and his supporters in ISPRS. Gottfried missed out once again and the presidency went to Ivan Mueller.

I left the Union disappointed that my perceived goal of leaving a mature organisation with firm objectives and a Plan of Action had not been achieved. Six months later ISPRS withdrew from the Union citing disillusionment as the reason. The ISPRS Council claimed that the IUSM Board had not addressed the expectations of their members; most activities originally envisaged had been abandoned; the goals agreed to at Boulder had been watered down; Working Groups had been abolished; and there had been

suggestions that the Council should be abolished. This was the next crack to appear in the armour of the Union and it was difficult not to agree with them. Independence was taking priority over interdependence.

4 Dec 1997 – Final Tele-Conference of the five Australian Bureau members

In June 1997 I was pleased to learn that the PC Meeting in Singapore had decided that FIG should establish a permanent office and that the Danish member association had offered accommodation in Surveyors House in Copenhagen. In November John Curdie applied to have FIG Australia Pty Ltd de-registered but action was delayed due to non-provision of appropriate records. On the 4th December the five members of the Australian FIG Bureau met officially for the last time. Once again the meeting was held by means of a telephone link. Skype may have been invented by then but none of us were sufficiently computer literate to be able to use it so the telephone, with all its problems, had to do. There was much discussion with dispersal of remaining funds high on the priority list as well as the winding up of the company.

In the end it was agreed to deposit \$3,500 into the FIG Education Foundation bank account to pay outstanding fees associated with the creation of the Foundation. After that it was time to consider the other recommendations of the meeting of the 12th September last. In order to comply with the conditions attached to the donation made to the Bureau by the Congress Directorate in 1994 regarding the use of those funds, Lindsay had made enquiries of Bureau and Congress Directorate members regarding who would be going to the FIG Congress in Brighton in 1998. It transpired that only six were going. The meeting therefore decided to implement the recommendation of the last meeting that an amount of \$4,000 be provided to each of the six and the balance of the funds in the order of \$6,500 be given to ISA. The five directors then resolved that the company be wound up and left the details to Grahame Lindsay and John Curdie.

1998

19–25 July 1998 – XXI FIG Congress in Brighton, England

On the 29th April 1988 the ISA President Brian Marwick formally thanked the former Australian FIG Bureau for the surplus funds and advised that those funds would probably be given to the FIG Foundation. I have no idea whether or not they were.

In July that year my wife and I travelled to Brighton, England to attend the XXI FIG Congress, best described as a woeful event. However I had the pleasure of fraternising with many professional associates and friends that I had met over the years and the highlight of the event for me was when the General Assembly voted yes to the proposal that I be appointed an Honorary President of FIG. I accepted the certificate with great pride.

IUSM held its 15th Executive Board Meeting during the congress. I was not invited. I did not attend but I later learned that the Board was mainly concerned with the need to find something for the Union to do. Apparently the Board had held a special meeting (no.15) late in 1997 where they proposed further amendments to the Statutes that had the effect of abolishing the Council. They then sent these resolutions to the IUSM Council for ratification and the Council did so. The new Statutes, or Terms of Reference as

they now called them, dissolved the Council and replaced the objectives of the organisation with the Goals that had been developed in Boulder when I was the President. Now the Board was again trying to find ways to achieve those Goals but no specific Plan of Action was resolved.

Apparently this still was not an easy task. The meeting finally decided: to continue to develop a data base; that member organisations would prepare a list of topics where collaboration with others would be beneficial; that the Presidents of member organisations would continue to have face to face meetings with each other; and that the President of IUSM would attempt to gain new members. The cracks were getting wider.

1999

In February 1999 all member associations of FIG were advised that the new FIG office in Copenhagen, Denmark was open for business under the direction of Markku Villika, (Finland) as the Executive Officer. I thought at the time that this was a perfect choice and the service that Markku has given since then has proved me right. This brought to a conclusion another initiative of the Australian Bureau.

At the end of May the PC Meeting, which by this time had been abolished and replaced by the FIG Working Week, was held in Sun City, South Africa and during the proceedings the world of the French member associations fell apart. After all the hard work I put in during the four years of my FIG Presidency to help the warring factions create the Comité Français de Représentation à la FIG, there in Sun City they announced that the Comité had been abolished. There were now two French member associations of FIG – the original Ordre des Géomètre-Experts and the Association Française de Topographie, the organisation that the Ordre had tried so desperately to keep out of the Federation.

In February 1999, FIG informed IUSM that the Federation was going to withdraw from the Union. The crack had turned into a split. Peter Dale's Bureau used the rationale that FIG preferred to enter into bi-lateral arrangements with individual organisations rather than hand problem issues to another organisation to solve. The decision was confirmed by the FIG General Assembly in Sun City in early June. Around the same time IHO advised the Union that it was considering withdrawing for the same reason. Another meeting of the Executive Board of IUSM was held in Ottawa, Canada in August and it proved to be the last. On the 14th August 1999 IUSM ceased to exist and the concept of independence triumphed over interdependence. Once again the informal Joint Board of Sister Societies came into effect as if there had been no disturbance to its life since 1984.

2000 TO 2010

I had always intended to go to the XXII FIG Congress in Washington in 2002 but circumstances were such that when the time came I was not in a position to do so. However, in 2006 my wife and I attended the XXIII FIG Congress in Munich, Germany as observers. I took no part in the congress but after the event we enjoyed a pleasant holiday with Peter Krenz in Berlin, and with Paul Gfeller in Switzerland before returning home.

In 2010 my wife and I once again attended an FIG Congress. This was the XXIV FIG Congress held in Sydney, Australia. I had to see if the Sydney-siders could do as good a job

as the Melbournians had done in 1994. During this congress the five Australian former Bureau members met for the last time, but for the sole purpose of social fraternisation. We enjoyed a waterside luncheon with our wives in Darling Harbour and talked of many things. At the final Congress dinner I presented a speech of congratulations to the organising committee for the work they had done in making the Congress a success. The speech was not the best I have ever made due to an over indulgence of free liquor. Executive Officer Markku Villika made the mistake of asking me to do this at the last minute. I trust the committee found my congratulations to be sincere if a little bawdy. And so, my life with FIG came to an end.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AAM	Australian Aerial Mapping
ACS	Association of Consulting Surveyors Australia
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AFIGEO	Association Française pour l'Information Géographique
AFT	Association Française de Topographie
AIDAB	Australian International Development Assistance Bureau
AIV	Australian Institute of Valuers
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
AUSLIG	Australian Surveying and Land Information Group
CASLE	Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CERN	European Organisation for Nuclear Research
DAS	Department of Administrative Services
DTCD	Dept. of Technical Cooperation for Development, UN
DVW	Deutscher Verein für Vermessungswesen
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic & Social Council
FAO	United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation
FIG	Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (International Federation of Surveyors)
FIHS	Federation of International Hydrographic Societies
GA	General Assembly
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GLOSS	Global Level of the Sea Surface
IAESTE	International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience
IAG	International Association of Geodesy
IAESTE	International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience
ICA	International Cartographic Association
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IFAG	Institute for Applied Geodesy (Germany)
IHO	International Hydrographic Organisation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
ISA	Institution of Surveyors, Australia
ISCED	International Standard Classification on Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification on Occupations
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
ISM	International Society for Mine Surveying
ISPRS	International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
IUGG	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
IUSM	International Union for Surveys and Mapping
JBSO or JB	Joint Board of Sister Organisations
LIS	Land Information Systems
MIL	Finnish Association of Surveyors
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
NGO	Non-Government Organisation

NSW	New South Wales (Australia)
NT	Northern Territory (Australia)
NZ	New Zealand
OGE	Ordre des Géomètre-Experts (France)
OICRF	International Office of Cadastre and Land Records
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PC	Permanent Committee
PCTMSL	Permanent Committee on Tides and Mean Sea Level (UN)
PNG	Papua and New Guinea
QLD	Queensland (Australia)
RAPI	Royal Australian Planning Institute
RICS	Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (UK)
SA	South Australia
SEASC	South East Asian Survey Congress
SORSA	Spatially Oriented Referencing Systems Association
SSSI	Surveyors and Spatial Science Institute (Australia)
TAS	Tasmania (Australia)
THS	The Hydrographic Society
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environ and Development
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlement or HABITAT
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
USA	United States of America
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VIC	Victoria (Australia)
VP	Vice President
WA	Western Australia

APPENDIX 1

BIO-DATA – AUSTRALIAN BUREAU MEMBERS 1992–1995 (As presented to the FIG General Assembly in 1990)

1. Earl James – President

Earl James was born in 1931 in the goldmining town of Gympie, Queensland. He became a Licensed Surveyor in 1958 and worked for most of his professional life in Australia's remote Northern Territory. He is a senior partner in a medium sized private surveying company. He has been in private practice since 1968 after fifteen years in government service in various capacities. He and his wife Wendy live in Darwin, the capital city of the Northern Territory, and he is currently the Deputy Chairman of both the Surveyors Registration Board and the Planning Authority of the Northern Territory.

Both he and his wife have been extremely active in community affairs over the years. Their achievements include five years as an Alderman of the Darwin City Council for Earl, and two years as Convener of the Women's Advisory Council to the Northern Territory Government for Wendy. Earl has been active in the Institution of Surveyors, Australia for most of his professional life and served as National President of that organisation in 1976/79. He has had an interest in FIG since he attended his first Permanent Committee meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1972.

2. Peter Byrne – Vice President

Peter Byrne is a registered surveyor, born in 1942, and a resident of Perth the capital of Western Australia. He is a director of Australian Aerial Mapping Pty Ltd, a large private surveying and mapping company. He served for many years on the Council of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia and is a past national President of that body. During that period he played an important role in developing the enthusiasm of members for the bid to bring FIG to the southern hemisphere.

In his early career he was involved in the massive mining related developments in northern Australia, and later in Southeast Asia. His professional interests encompass diverse applications including industrial photogrammetry and railway route location and design. His company currently has commitments in Thailand, Indonesia and Africa.

3. Grahame Lindsay – Secretary General

Grahame Lindsay is the Australian Commonwealth Surveyor General and general manager of the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG). He is responsible to the national government of Australia for all of its surveying and mapping activities. Born in Perth, Western Australia in 1935, he and his wife Glenys now live in Canberra, the national capital, where his duties relate to the whole of Australia and its Territories including the Australian Antarctic Territory.

He has participated in the affairs of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia from his earliest days as a student member. He served as National President of the Institution in 1988/89 and as a member of its Federal Council for many years. He is chairman of several national and international committees associated with surveying, mapping and remote sensing and have worked in many of the remote areas of Australia during his professional life as a surveyor.

4. Ray Holmes – Congress Director

Ray Holmes was born in Dromana, Victoria in 1928. He qualified as a surveyor in 1949 and worked for the Victorian Government for the whole of his professional career. He was Chief Surveyor of the State Water Authority for seven years and Surveyor General of Victoria for nine years. He retired in 1988. His areas of particular activity included engineering surveying, land titling, mapping and hydrology. He has worked with United Nations agencies on projects in Ethiopia and Jamaica.

He has served on the Council of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia since 1976 and was National President of the Institution in 1985/86. For his outstanding service to the profession he was elevated to the rank of Honorary Fellow of the Institution in 1988. His hobbies include farming, fishing and boat building. He and his wife Pat devote much of their time to their four grandchildren.

5. John Curdie – Treasurer

John Curdie was born in Sydney, New South Wales in 1936. He became a Licensed Surveyor in 1961 and since that time he has obtained additional qualifications in Town Planning and Environmental Studies. He is currently the senior partner in a long established private surveying company in Sydney where he lives with his wife Deirdre and their three children. His is a very diverse practice embracing many aspects of land survey, metrology and settlement, land planning and environmental impact studies.

He has been involved with the Institution of Surveyors, Australia since 1967. He was part of a team which organised the very successful first South East Asian Survey Congress held in Singapore in 1979. He was editor of the Institution's Journal for many years and was National President in 1989/90. He and his wife are joint founders of Sydney's Amateur Astronomy Club which is currently assisting the Macquarie University to raise seven million dollars to build an astronomical observatory and planetarium.

APPENDIX 2

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 3

FIG ORGANISATION CHART 1992-1996

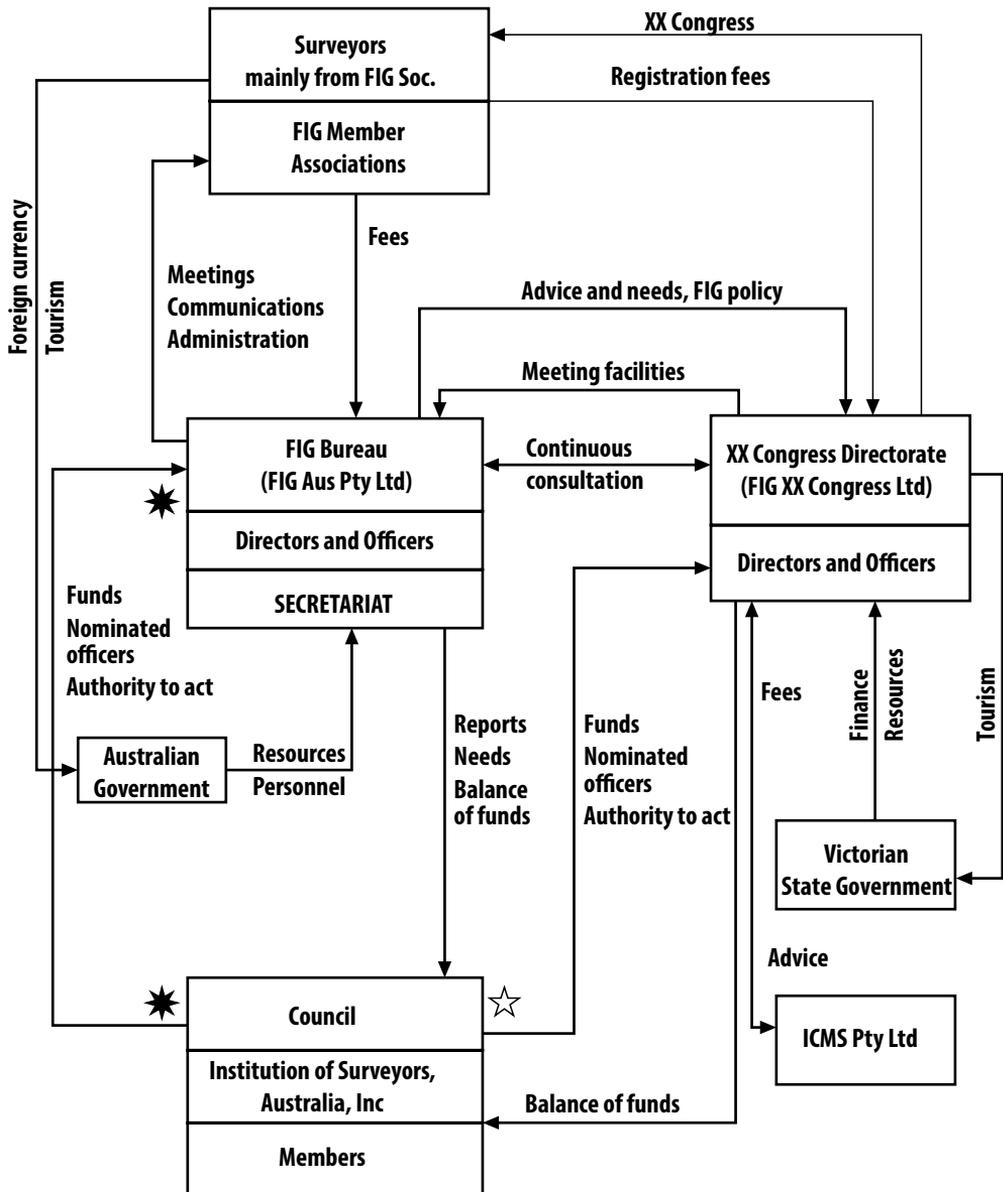


FIG PUBLICATIONS

The FIG publications are divided into four categories. This should assist members and other users to identify the profile and purpose of the various publications.

FIG Policy Statements

FIG Policy Statements include political declarations and recommendations endorsed by the FIG General Assembly. They are prepared to explain FIG policies on important topics to politicians, government agencies and other decision makers, as well as surveyors and other professionals.

FIG Guides

FIG Guides are technical or managerial guidelines endorsed by the Council and recorded by the General Assembly. They are prepared to deal with topical professional issues and provide guidance for the surveying profession and relevant partners.

FIG Reports

FIG Reports are technical reports representing the outcomes from scientific meetings and Commission working groups. The reports are approved by the Council and include valuable information on specific topics of relevance to the profession, members and individual surveyors.

FIG Regulations

FIG Regulations include statutes, internal rules and work plans adopted by the FIG organisation.

List of FIG publications

For an up-to-date list of publications, please visit www.fig.net/pub/figpub

ABOUT FIG



International Federation of Surveyors is the premier international organization representing the interests of surveyors worldwide. It is a federation of the national member associations and covers the whole range of professional fields within the global surveying community. It provides an international forum for discussion and development aiming to promote professional practice and standards.

FIG was founded in 1878 in Paris and was first known as the Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG). This has become anglicized to the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). It is a United Nations and World Bank Group recognized non-government organization (NGO), representing a membership from 120 plus countries throughout the world, and its aim is to ensure that the disciplines of surveying and all who practise them meet the needs of the markets and communities that they serve.



Earl James is an Honorary President of the *International Federation of Surveyors* (FIG). He gained that honorific after serving the Federation as Vice President for four years during the time the administration of the Federation resided in Finland (1988–1992), and then as President for four years when the administration was transferred to Australia (1992–1996). He also served as President of the *International Union for Surveys and Mapping* (IUSM.) from 1994 to 1997.

During most of his working life he was a land surveyor residing in the Northern Territory of Australia. He took an active interest in his professional body, the *Institution of Surveyors, Australia* (ISA.) and over the years rose to be president of that organisation. He attended his first meet-

ing of FIG in 1972 as an Australian delegate representing ISA. He continued to be involved with FIG until 1997.

He has written this record of his involvement in the Federation in an effort to tell fellow surveyors what changes took place, what was achieved during the period and the difficulties experienced in achieving them. This book is a chronological record of the history of the Federation over a twenty-five year period as seen by the author. Hence the name *FIG and Me*. During that period, Finnish and Australian Surveyors played an important role and great changes took place within the Federation, particularly during the four year period that the author was the president. Examples of such changes include: a huge increase in the number of UN organisations that now accept the fact that surveying is not a sub-set of cartography or engineering but a profession in its own right; the creation of a definition of surveying that reflects the usage of the term in so many different countries; an acceptance of that definition by the UN; a realisation of the surveyor's role in environmental land management issues; greatly increased membership of the Federation; the establishment of a permanent secretariat in a permanent location; the adoption of one official language (English) for all communications and documentation.

During the period the author visited more than fifty different countries and in an effort to make this work more readable and interesting he has given the reader the benefit of his observations as a tourist. Of particular interest is the fact that the collapse of the Soviet empire occurred during his presidency thus creating a surge of membership applications from newly created countries and giving him and other surveyors access to many that were previously denied to them.

The author has been honoured for his work in the professional sphere by four organisations: he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia (ISA) in 1997; an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian Planning Institute (RAPI) in 1997; an Honorary President of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) in 1998; and in 1994 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) by the Australian Government.