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1. IABSE in Paris-Versailles, August 31 – September 6, 1987

Annual Meetings of IABSE

The Annual Meetings of IABSE took place at the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris on August 31 and September 1 and at the Palais des Congrès in Versailles on September 2, 1987. All meetings were very well attended. One of the reasons is certainly the attractive programme prepared by the French Group of IABSE, another reason could be that 1987 was a year of changes in the membership of Committees; members attending their last Meeting or nominees wishing to be present at these Meetings.

The **Technical Committee** met to review elections in the Working Commissions and to coordinate future events of IABSE.

The **Executive Committee** discussed financial problems of the Association as well as IABSE's «Long Range Planning», and future activities concerning technology transfer or permanent education.

The **Working Commissions** were active in exchanging technical information and in coordinating their various contributions to the meetings or the publications of IABSE. Each Working Commission also reviewed its objectives and activity programme.

The **Permanent Committee** dealt with statutory matters of the Association, in particular hearing the Activity Reports of the President of IABSE and the Chairman of the Technical Committee. The agenda also dealt with finances and elections. Technical presentations were made to the Permanent Committee by four Chairmen of the Working Commissions. Mr. Claude Servant, who was awarded the IABSE Prize 1987, made

a presentation on bridges he designed and constructed in his still very young career.

The **Social Events**, prepared by the French Group of IABSE, were delightful. To name one only, the reception on the first floor of the Eiffel Tower was an experience for all Committee members and their accompanying persons.

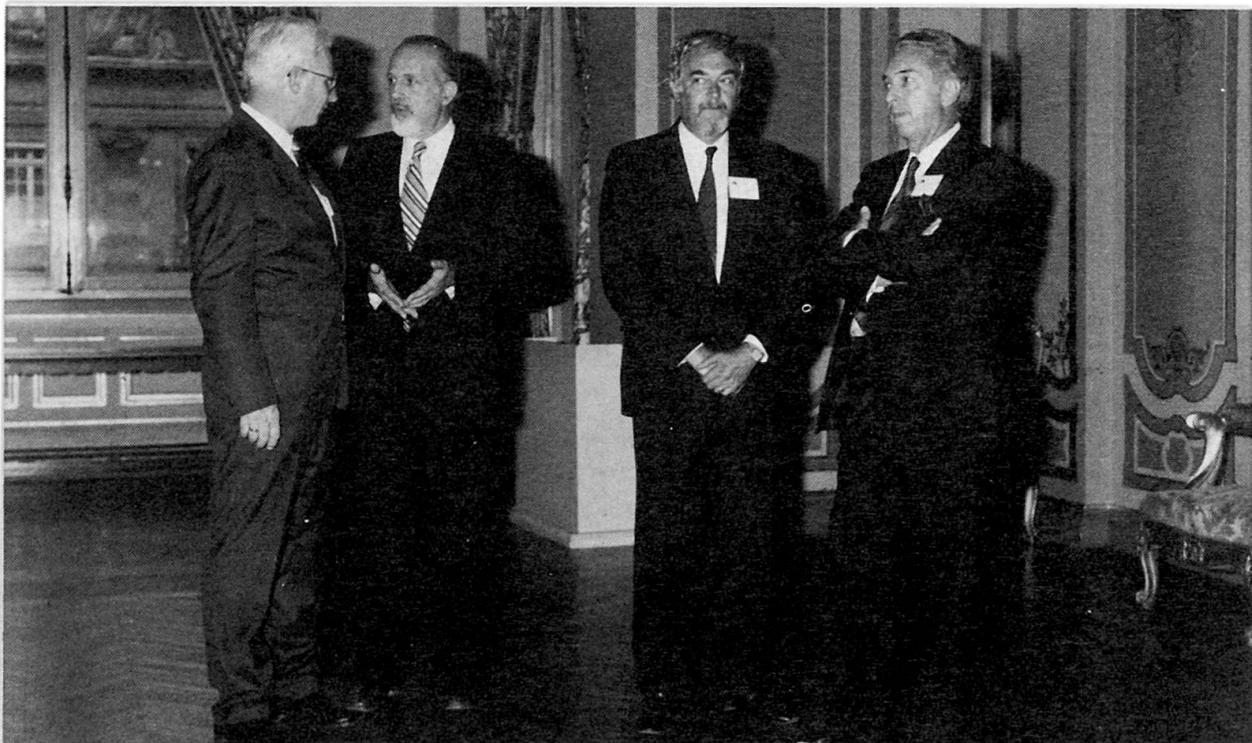
The Meetings in Paris meant for a few members the end of their term of offices with an IABSE Committee; and the President thanked all who had serviced so actively and successfully in the Association. Leaving the Executive or Technical Committee were:

MM. G.F. Fox, USA; S. Marques de Souza, Brazil; J. Schneider, Switzerland; E. Giangreco, Italy; R. Weidle, Fed. Rep. of Germany; H.J. Cowan, Australia; R. Favre, and H.R. Schalcher, Switzerland.

The President expressed his personal thanks to Dr. H. Wittfoht, Fed. Rep. of Germany, who had served four years as Chairman of the Technical Committee and who had now been elected for the Executive Committee. The Permanent Committee had elected Prof. Y. Maeda, Japan, as Chairman of the Technical Committee for the coming term. Mr. J. Brozzetti was elected Vice-Chairman and Mr. R. Fechtig Secretary of the Technical Committee.

As Chairman of the Working Commissions were elected MM. Ito, Japan; Edlund, Sweden; Silman, USA; Cziesielski, Fed. Rep. of Germany and Gotfredsen, Denmark.

The list of new members in the Committees and main positions to be occupied will be presented in the next Bulletin of IABSE.



Some Keynote Lecturers and the President of IABSE in the City Hall of Paris: MM. J. Schlaich, FRG, T.P. Tassios, Greece, H. von Gunten, Switzerland, J. Mathivat, France.



Mr. R. Lacroix

The Symposium in Versailles: «Concrete Structures for the Future»

Mr. Lacroix, Chairman of the French Group of IABSE and of the «Association Française pour la Construction» opened the Symposium in a very lively and humorous way, showing the use of concrete in all «possible fields of publicity and advertising».

Mr. H. von Gunten, President of IABSE, expressed the thanks of the Association for the preparation and organization of the Symposium in Versailles. He presented the yearly awards of the Association to MM. Guohua Li, China, and Claude Servant, France.

The symposium was characterized by plenary sessions, main sessions and seminars. Keynote lecturers had been invited to introduce the topics, and the participants had the opportunity to hear MM. J. Schlaich, Fed. Rep. of Germany; P. Richard, France; W.R. de Sitter, the Netherlands; R. Favre, Switzerland; J.E. Breen, USA; G. Camomilla, Italy; K.H. Ostenfeld, Denmark; M. Momoshima, Japan; J. Mathivat, France; as well as J. Balladur, France; R. Walther, Switzerland and T.P. Tassios, Greece. These keynote lectures as well as papers presented by the participants referred to the various themes of the Symposium:

- Quality and Economy
- Serviceability
- Design for Maintenance
- Innovations in the field of Concrete Structures and Materials
- Structures for Hazard Protection and Composite Structures
- Control of Geometry
- Modern Architecture of Concrete Structures.

A panel discussion on «Design and Construction Contracts» was chaired by Mr. Lacroix and animated by MM. J. Berthier, France; R.A. Dorton, Canada; G.F. Fox, USA; D. Quinon, United Kingdom; T.N. Subba Rao, India and G. Thielen, Fed. Rep. of Germany.

Many technical activities were offered to the participants, such as the Poster Sessions, an exhibition of bridge models in France, technical films and a commercial exhibition. The Sessions were extremely well attended. The working ambiance was excellent and the participants could exchange views and information in a relaxed atmosphere.

The social programme prepared by the Organizing Committee was very interesting. A Cocktail Reception was given at the City Hall of Paris and the Symposium Dinner was served on a «Bateau Mouches», as it sailed on the River Seine at night, illuminating the beautiful bridges and buildings along the river.

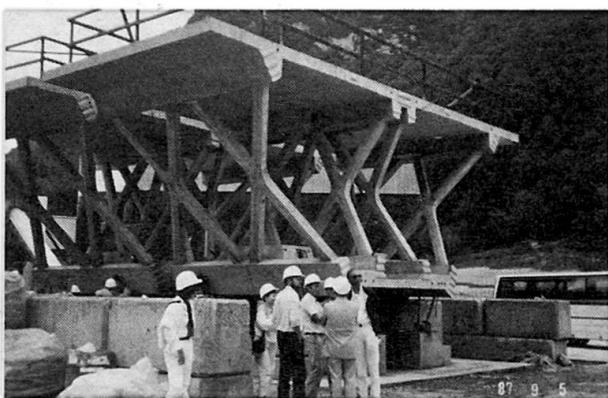
On Saturday morning after the Symposium, technical visits were organized in Paris, and in the afternoon, approx. 150 members and their accompanying persons mounted a special TGV train, leaving for Bellegarde (close to the French Alps). There, construction sites were inspected and young capable French engineers of the Organizing Committee commented the viaducts of Charix and Sylans. Dinner was served in a tent specially built for that occasion on the construction site. The Sunday programme continued with a cultural visit to the Burgundy City of Beaune followed by a dinner in the Castle of Clos de Vougeot. The participants returned to Paris again by special TGV train thus ending a wonderful week in France.

The whole Scientific Committee and Organizing Committee deserves IABSE's thanks for the beautifully organized Meetings in France. A special word of thanks is expressed to Mr. M. Virlogeux who has been animating the Organizing Committee for the past two years.

A. Golay
Executive Director



Sylans Viaduct



A very light segment