

III. International Inquiry on the Part of Mathematics and the Mathematician in Contemporary Life.

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III. INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY ON THE PART OF MATHEMATICS AND THE MATHEMATICIAN IN CONTEMPORARY LIFE.

The part occupied by sciences and especially by mathematics in the different spheres of life at a given era can be regarded as one of the characteristic elements for the reached standard of civilization and culture of that particular epoch. The importance of mathematics and thus that of the mathematician in a wider sense is growing in proportion to the development of mankind; new possibilities, new opportunities for applying mathematics are discovered. The extraordinary success made in the exploration of inert and living nature, both in small and large infinite dimensions, the theoretical and technical discoveries with their enormous possibilities of application, the newly acquired perspectives in social and human sciences have not ceased enriching and extending considerably the field of abstract and applied mathematics (among most recent extensions f.i. biometry, econometry, cybernetics) as well as the possibilities of work and activities for the mathematician.

The International Commission of Mathematical Instruction (I.M.I.C.) has decided to arrange for an inquiry on this important question to try to solve it and to present a report to the International Congress of Mathematics which will take place at Amsterdam from September 2nd to September 9th, 1954.

Each national subcommission of the I.M.I.C. is earnestly invited to participate at this inquiry. It is extremely desirable that the reporters appointed by the national subcommission endeavour to consult qualified personages in all sections of contemporary life and that they give account of the gathered opinions as well as of facts that appeared remarkable to them rendering every information as detailed as they can obtain them and adding, if possible, some significant documents. This will provide that the general report will give an idea of the actual situation as exact and complete as possible. As a matter of course the inquiry shall not neglect any aspects of the problems being either of intellectual, scientific, social kind or of the nature of practical application.

The reports to be prepared by the national subcommissions should be sent, *before May 30th, 1954*, to M. G. KUREPA, vice-president of the I.M.I.C., Institute of Mathematics, Zagreb (Yugoslavia).

The presidents of the national subcommissions are asked to let Mr. KUREPA know the names and addresses of the appointed reporters *as early as possible*.