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CIRCULAR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEES

The International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (I.C.M.I.) will from now on be set up according to the decisions taken by the General Assembly of the International Mathematical Union (I.M.U.), which met at The Hague, September 1st, 1954.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the I.C.M.I. was held in Geneva on July 2nd, 1955. The minutes of the meeting have been forwarded to the National Sub-Commissions.

The following people have been elected to fill the presidential and secretarial posts in the International Commission from January 1st, 1955 to December 31st, 1958.

President: Professor BEHNKE, University of Münster-Westfalen (Germany).

Vice-Presidents: Professor KUREPA, University of Zagreb (Yugoslavia).

Professor STONE, University of Chicago (U.S.A.).

Secretary: Mr. DESFORGE, Inspecteur général de l'Instruction Publique, Paris (France).

I. *Relationship between the I.C.M.I. and the National Sub-Commissions.*

The Office wishes to point out that the work and activities of the I.C.M.I. cannot be effective unless it is assisted by the National Sub-Committees which alone can compile information and undertake research on mathematical instruction at all

levels. It is, therefore, most important that the National Sub-Committees get in touch and remain in frequent correspondence with the I.C.M.I. in order to present suggestions or to point out questions and problems which may be of general interest and could be studied.

II. *Working Programme for 1955-1958.*

During the reunion of the Executive Committee in Geneva, a working program was discussed and drawn up for the period 1955-1958. Three items have been chosen and will be the subjects of the reports at the International Congress at Edinburgh in 1958. These subjects are:

- i) Mathematical instruction up to the age of fifteen years (this study is connected with the survey on mathematical instruction between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, which was started by the 1954 Congress in Amsterdam).
- ii) The scientific basis of mathematics in secondary school teaching.
- iii) A comparative study of the methods used in the initiation to geometry.

The National Sub-Committees are requested to participate in the study of these three questions, so that the information put forward at Edinburgh will cover various points of view and different opinions, thus allowing the drawing of comparisons and pointing out similarities.

The National Sub-Committees are advised to start work as soon as possible and make arrangement between each other for any cooperation they may need on any of the subjects. The Office requests the National Sub-Committees to let it know before May 1st, 1956, what their intentions are as far as their participation in the three surveys is concerned. Wherever possible, they are to add a short draft of each of the reports they intend to send in, and the names of the rapporteurs chosen.

III. *The Congress organised by India for 1956.*

A Congress organised by India, and which will deal with the teaching of the sciences, will be held in Bombay during Feb-