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CIRCULAR LETTER
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
OF MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION
TO THE NATIONAL SUBCOMMISSIONS

In the last circular letter to the national subcommissions dated July 16, 1956, most of the decisions and projects were discussed in relation to the participation of the I.C.M.I. at the Congress in Edinburgh in 1958. The place of discussion was Münster, the time May 27, 1956.

A new meeting of the Executive Committee of the I.C.M.I. has been held in Paris on December 29, 1956, under the presidency of Professor BEHNKE. Aside from members of the Executive Committee, Messrs CARDOT and DOLMAZON, as representatives for General Inspector CROS, director of the National Pedagogical Institute (former Pedagogical Museum, 29 Rue d'Ulm, Paris, V^e), were present at this session.

The following resolutions were adopted during this meeting:

1. PARTICIPATION OF THE I.C.M.I. AT THE
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN EDINBURGH IN 1958.

The projects that have been worked out at the Münster Meeting on May 27, 1956 were confirmed, as well as the fact that Professor MAXWELL shall be in charge of the negotiations with the directors of the Edinburgh Congress.

The I.C.M.I. disposes of a series of a total of thirty quarter hour periods (which of course is a flexible number fluctuating between twenty-eight and thirty-two, according to the general schedule) for all the speeches which are to be given on the three subject matters proposed for the Congress, which—as you know from Circular Letter of January 23, 1956—are the following ones:

- (1) Mathematical Instruction up to the age of fifteen (given in connection with the material presented at the Amsterdam Congress about mathematical instruction for young people from sixteen to twenty-one years of age),
- (2) The scientific foundation of mathematics on the secondary school level,
- (3) Comparative Studies of methods of teaching beginning geometry.

It was already agreed at the Münster Meeting that the following subject matters are to be introduced by the following speakers:

- (1) Professor FEHR, Columbia University New York,
- (2) Professor BEHNKE,
- (3) Professor FREUDENTHAL, University of Utrecht, Netherlands.

The national subcommissions have been invited by the last two Circular Letters of January 23, and July 16, 1956 to report their contributions to these three subject matters. It has now become indispensable that the Executive Committee be informed about the precise subject of study by each national subcommission. The committee not only has to divide the time of about thirty quarter hours among the national subcommissions, but must also give the results of this endeavor to the Edinburg Conference within the present year of 1957, so that the general program can be prepared easily.

This is why the executive Committee asks the president of each national subcommission to send the answers to the following questions to Professor BEHNKE, president of the I.C.M.I. (Mathematisches Institut der Universität, Schlossplatz 2, Münster, Westfalen, Germany) *before the first of June 1957*:

- (1) Does the subcommission intend to actively participate in the above mentioned subject matters? (Here it is understood that this participation may cover all three topics as well as one or two of them.)
- (2) What is (are) this (these) topic(s) which the subcommission wants to present in Edinburgh? Indicate, if possible, the name of the speaker.

It must be added that, if they so desire, several subcommissions can agree to present one joint report, in which case it would be advisable to notify Professor BEHNKE especially about this.

Since another meeting of the Executive Committee is planned in the beginning of July 1957, it is emphasized again that the reports as to the special wishes and topics have to be sent *in before June 1, 1957*. *Later requests for talks risk not to be considered*. As far as the actual division of the topics by the Committee is concerned, it pledges itself to communicate its decisions as soon as possible.

2. EXHIBITION OF TEXTBOOKS OF MATHEMATICS AT THE EDINBURGH CONGRESS.

The project of an exhibition like the former textbook exhibition during the conference in Amsterdam was talked about and definitely planned. Inspector General CROS, director of the National Pedagogical Institute, who used to be in charge of the Amsterdam Exhibi-