

# REPORT ON THE PERIOD 1971-1974

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# COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE

REPORT ON THE PERIOD 1971-1974

by Sir James LIGHTHILL

1. During this period the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) was composed of the members-at-large: J. Lighthill, M. Barner, F. Châtelet, A. Gleason, L. Lombardo-Radice, Y. Mimura, J. Novák, H. Pollak, S. L. Sobolev, J. Surányi and 38 nominees of National Subcommissions. The Secretary was E. A. Maxwell. Vice Presidents were S. Iyanaga and J. Surányi. The Executive Committee consisted of: J. Lighthill (President), S. Iyanaga, J. Surányi, E. A. Maxwell, H. Freudenthal, J. Pollak, S. L. Sobolev.

2. The 2nd International Congress of Mathematical Education was held in Exeter, England from 29 August to 2 September 1972 with an attendance of 1400 full members from 70 different countries. Apart from 7 plenary sessions at which addresses were given to the whole Congress, the work of the Congress took place in 38 Working Groups, in which different topics in mathematical education were actively discussed by those principally interested, and in 17 National Presentations of current developments in mathematical education from many different countries. The Proceedings were published by the Cambridge University Press (1973) under the general title "Developments in Mathematical Education".

3. An ICMI Seminar was held at Echternach, Luxembourg from 4 to 9 June 1973 on "New Aspects of Mathematical Applications at School Level", under the sponsorship of the Luxembourg Government, with participants from 20 countries. Opening addresses were given by the chairman, L. Kieffer, by the President of ICMI, and by the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, and 18 lectures were given. An ICMI Symposium was held at Eger, Hungary from 18 to 22 June, 1973 on "Theoretical Problems of Teaching Mathematics in Primary Schools", under the sponsorship of the

Hungarian Government, with participants from 18 countries. There were 18 main lectures and 20 sectional lectures.

4. ICMI adopted a new policy of holding Regional Symposia to facilitate wider discussion of mathematical education outside those areas of Europe and America where international meetings on the subject have mainly been held hitherto. The first such Regional Symposium, sponsored jointly between ICMI, UNESCO and CEDO (Centre for Educational Development Overseas), is being held in Nairobi, Kenya from 2 to 11 September, 1974 on "The Interaction between Linguistics and Education in Mathematics". The second such Regional Symposium, sponsored jointly between ICMI and JSME (Japan Society of Mathematical Education), is being held in Tokyo, Japan from 5 to 9 November, 1974 on "Curriculum and Teacher Training for Mathematical Education".

5. In 1974, ICMI will meet also in Vancouver, Canada during the International Congress of Mathematicians in August. The Executive Committee has specified the general theme of the Mathematical Education discussions at Vancouver as "Evaluation of Modern Mathematics Curricula".

6. Plans for 1975 include a third Regional Symposium in India, a second symposium on mathematics in primary schools in Poland, and a symposium on aspects of geometry teaching. ICMI is, in addition, a co-sponsor of the 2nd World Conference on Computer Education to be held in 1975 in Marseille, France by IFIP (International Federation of Information Processing).

7. ICMI initiated in 1972 the regular issue of a series of Bulletins including information on ICMI activities and plans and other relevant material (for example, in ICMI Bulletin No. 2 an extensive list of Journals in Mathematical Education from all countries published with the kind permission of the US National Council of Teachers of Mathematics). At the same time the official journal of ICMI continued to be "L'Enseignement Mathématique".

8. The Executive Committee of ICMI accepted the invitation of the National Sub-Commission of the Federal Republic of Germany to hold the 3rd International Congress of Mathematical Education in Karlsruhe, Germany from 16 to 21 August 1976. A Local Committee for the Congress is being formed under the chairmanship of Professor H. Kunle, together with an international Programme Committee. Careful study aimed at ensuring a Congress Programme of outstanding interest has already begun.