

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ALLERGOLOGY
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE D'ALLERGOLOGIE
ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE ALERGOLOGIA
INTERNATIONALE GESELLSCHAFT DER ALLERGOLOGIE

Bern, November 29, 1976

President:
Dr. T. Sindo
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Ota-Ku, Tokyo,
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Executive Secretary:
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1390 Sherbrooke Street West
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Concerns: Settlement of IAA debts arising from the
9th IAA Congress in Buenos Aires

Dear colleagues,

Those of you who have attended the Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday following the last Congress will remember that the IAA Treasurer had to report on the probable loss of about \$ 19,000. This sum is not yet final and is still susceptible to slight increase if some unexpected expenses arise. As prescribed by our Constitution and as stated again at the last Executive Committee Meeting, the IAA shall accept final liability for debts incurred by the Local Organization Committee on behalf of the 9th Congress. Forwarding of further monies to Buenos Aires, however, as decided by the Executive Committee, will be dependent upon presentation by the local Organizing Committee of the dutifully audited final account of the Congress.

As you remember, an additional matter remained to be settled, namely the claim by the Sheraton Hotel of a sum of approx. \$ 22,000. This sum was claimed by the Sheraton Hotel on the basis of the fact that the Congress had not fulfilled the obligations imposed by the contract signed on behalf of Dr. Mathov by the official agency Coninter. This contract had foreseen an occupancy of at least 400 rooms for 6 nights during the period of the Congress, whereupon the renting of Congress rooms and auditoria would be free. Since we had not reached that number of rooms, the Sheraton asked us either to pay for the missing number of rooms according to the contract (about \$ 22,000.-) or the rental fee of Congress facilities (which would amount to even more than \$ 22,000). On the basis of information provided to me by Coninter and of various misunderstandings, I had indicated to you at our meeting that according to at least one mode of calculation, (i.e. counting the total number of room/nights spent by IAA members at the Sheraton Hotel) our obligation could be considered

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Vice-Presidents: Dr. Y. Oshima (Japan), Dr. I. Glazer (Israel), Dr. J. A. Stewart (Australia), Dr. M. Salazar-Mallen (Mexico), Dr. J. Pepys (England)

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as fulfilled. During a very hard meeting with the management of the Sheraton Hotel following the IAA Executive Committee Meeting the same Saturday, in the presence of Dr. Mathov and of our Executive Secretary, Miss McGlynn, it clearly appeared that we had not fulfilled the obligations of our contract by any mode of calculation and that the claim of the Sheraton Hotel had therefore some basic justification. Considering that many rooms not occupied by IAA members were in fact occupied during the Congress, it could be estimated that the only real loss incurred to the Sheraton would be the rooms not sold during the Congress. We obtained thereby a figure of \$ 10,098.- representing the effectively "non-sold hotel occupancy" during the Congress period (calculated on a basis of \$ 34.- per room without tax). This, in my opinion and after hard dealings, appeared to be the best possible compromise and out of court settlement.

At this point, there were only two alternatives:

1. Since the IAA has not signed any contract with the Sheraton, it was clear that Coninter and Dr. Mathov are primarily liable and would be attacked by the Sheraton before Argentinian courts. The IAA could wait aside and see what happens. It was quite clear that many of the difficulties arising from the Buenos Aires Congress are due to the fact that overoptimistic estimates were made about the attendance to the Congress; appropriate corrective measures which could have been taken already several months ago when it became clear that registration was proceeding very poorly were not taken. However, the Executive Committee had also clearly indicated at its meeting that it intended to back the local Organizing Committee and Dr. Mathov in their liability for losses incurred by the 9th Congress.
2. Accept a compromise and out of court settlement for \$ 10,098.- which under the present circumstances was the best we could reach. Considering that to let events take their course in Argentinian courts could ultimately prove much more costly to the IAA, I indicated to the Sheraton management that I would accept in principle an out of court settlement but that I had not been empowered by our Executive Committee to settle for more than \$ 5,000 (on the basis of the misunderstood information as indicated above). Accordingly, we could still back off the deal if you disavow me.

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Purpose of this letter is therefore to request from you formal authorization to settle with the Sheraton Hotel for a final amount of \$ 10,098.--. Under the present circumstances, this seems to me the only course of action left to us since legal action against Coninter, Dr. Mathov and possibly the IAA in front of the Argentinian courts can hardly be recommended. I would be grateful if you would send to me by return air mail the enclosed ballot.

As soon as available, I shall send to you a full report on the financial situation arising from the 9th Congress, together with appropriate comments.

With best regards,

A.L. de Weck
Prof. Dr. A.L. de Weck
Treasurer

encl.

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