

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted by the First International Conference of
Parapsychological Studies

I. Resolution of Thanks

The members of this Conference share a tremendous burden of gratitude, which no formal resolution can adequately relieve. Collectively we have attended many hundreds of Conferences, but the occasion is rare, indeed, when we encounter either such hospitality, or such efficiency, or such generosity, or such a combination of achievement with enjoyment. On this occasion, these have all been united in the most remarkable and felicitous way and it has troubled us all throughout the period of this Conference that there is no obvious means by which we can repay these outstanding contributions. Perhaps we may hope that those to whom we now offer our thanks will feel best repaid in the knowledge of a joint achievement, and our individual determination that we shall in the future seek to justify the faith in us, which is implied by our presence here.

We therefore resolve that our thanks be placed on record, first to Mrs. Garrett, the Honorable Mrs. Bolton and the Parapsychology Foundation, to whose inspiration and extraordinary generosity the whole of this farsighted enterprise is entirely due; secondly, to the Director of the Foundation, Dr. Michel Pobers, whose unlimited energy and diplomacy have been our universal envy; to Mr. Zorab, who has worked extremely hard in the most unassuming and unselfish way to help us, and finally the Dutch Reception Committee, headed most efficiently by Dr. Fischer, who has made us all so welcome here in this beautiful country, and in the town whose

University has set a courageous example, which it will be our aim to make the general rule.

II. *Five Year Plan*

The International Advisory Committee on Future Projects met three times and discussed both immediate and long range problems in the field of parapsychology. It also heard brief reports about parapsychology and parapsychological research in the different countries. The most inspiring meeting of the group took place on Sunday morning August 2nd, when all the members were deeply moved and impressed by a statement of Mrs. Eileen Garrett, the President of the Parapsychology Foundation. She developed the prospects of a five year plan of continuous support and interest in parapsychological research by the Parapsychology Foundation.

Dr. Fischer reported Mrs. Garrett's moving address to the joint meeting of the Executive Committee and the International Advisory Committee at lunch on Monday August 3rd. It was the unanimous view of all the members of both Committees that Mrs. Garrett's vision and willingness to help in terms of a five year program will make of this Conference in Utrecht an event of great historical importance. The members of both Committees are also deeply grateful to Mrs. Garrett for her statement that Dr. Pobers, to whom this Conference owes so much, will be available for several months each year to coordinate the work in the different countries as liaison-officer for the Foundation in Europe. It is hoped that a permanent European headquarters of the Foundation will be possible and it is the feeling of both Committees that Utrecht in the light of its great importance in history and in the field of scholarship, would be the ideal location for such headquarters.

III. *Publications*

It is recommended that Utrecht should remain a center for the publication of the reports of the Conference. It is further

recommended that, if possible, Utrecht become the world headquarters for the publication of works in the field of parapsychology.

Finally it is suggested that the question of publication of the reports and proceedings of the Conference should be referred to a three-man committee consisting of Dr. Osborn, Mr. Zorab and Dr. Pobers. If possible, such Committee should meet in London in the later part of September 1953 and work out a complete plan for submission to the Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Gardner Murphy.

IV. *Follow Up Committee*

It is recommended that there should be organized a Follow Up Committee to consist of Mrs. Garrett, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Fischer and Dr. Pobers and such other persons as they may coopt and that this Follow Up Committee shall remain in existence as a governing body after the conclusion of the Conference and until such time as a further general International Conference is convened.

It is recommended that a Second International Conference of Parapsychological Studies should take place four years from now, also under the auspices of a university, and that in between a few specialized Conferences or symposia should be arranged, notably the following:

a) A Conference on Relations between Parapsychology and other Scientific Disciplines (perhaps to be held at the University of Heidelberg). This should be attended by a small number of leading scientists of different countries in the different branches of the so-called natural and exact sciences, in order to discuss the most promising methods and types of research in future parapsychological studies, with the view of obtaining support for further research.

The calling of this Conference is to be left to the discretion of the Follow Up Committee which will not call the Conference unless it has first established an adequate Planning Committee of distinguished scientists from the fields of the natural and exact sciences.

b) A Conference on Philosophical Interpretations (perhaps to be held in Switzerland under the leadership of Dr. Marcel, Dr. Price and Mr. Gebser).

c) An International Conference on the Investigation and Reporting of Spontaneous Cases, perhaps to be held in London under the leadership of Mr. Salter and his associates of the British Society for Psychical Research, who, it is hoped, will prepare an outline of the subject matter to be considered at that Conference.

It is believed that a number of scholarships and research grants will be indispensable and that an International Scientific Advisory Board should be organized to select and recommend to the Parapsychology Foundation and other interested groups and individuals the beneficiaries of such scholarships and research grants.

It is recommended that there should be appointed a Bibliography Committee to consist of Mr. Scriven and Mr. Zorab, with the assistance of Dr. Frei and Dr. Dingwall.

It is recommended that an International Medical Verification Center with branches in the different countries be set up for the investigation of cases of so-called "unorthodox healings" and that a Committee be appointed to study the ways and means of setting up such a Center. Such Committee should include among others Mrs. Garrett, Dr. Kat, Dr. Urban and Dr. Rose.

It is recommended that a Committee should be appointed to further specific studies in the ethnographical and ethnological aspects of parapsychology. Such a Committee should include among others Dr. Martiny, Prof. Fischer and Mr. Roll.

This Conference notes with interest that a Committee of Psychoanalysts and Psychotherapists will prepare a questionnaire to collect and collate and evaluate observations relating to telepathic incidents, observed in the therapeutic situation. This Committee shall include among others Drs. Ehrenwald, Gillespie and Servadio.

An important purpose of this Conference is to promote

international cooperation by correspondence between those interested in specific problems of psychical research. It is the sense of the Conference that the Follow Up Committee should encourage, facilitate and support individuals and groups of members, who wish to engage in such correspondence in order to share data, to formulate joint standards and to engage in cooperative projects of international research insofar as such projects commend themselves to the judgment of the Follow Up Committee.