

Minutes from the ARCoPEACE Secretariat Meetings

5th, 6th, 7th and 10th (open meeting) of March 1995 in Copenhagen

5th of March - at the Auditorium, School of Architecture in Copenhagen

1. Opening of the Meeting

Present at the meeting:

Sven Thiberg, International and Swedish ARCoPEACE

Jim Morgan, ADPSR (USA) and EC of ARCoPEACE

Martin Valatin, AESR (UK) and EC of ARCoPEACE

Luz María Sánchez, Peruvian ARCoPEACE and EC of ARCoPEACE

Alexander Kudriatsev, Russian Union of Architects and representing Igor Voskresensky.

Anna Pawlikowska - Piechotka, Polish ARCoPEACE

Tony Watkins, New Zealand ARCoPEACE and EC of ARCoPEACE

Germán Perotti, ARCoPEACE Secretariat

Alice Thiberg, ARCoPEACE Secretariat and Swedish ARCoPEACE

Sven proposes the 16 points agenda previously prepared by the Secretariat, which receives no objections. He also informs about the whereabouts of EC members not present, according to the Secretariat's information. Tamura will join the meeting in Akio's behalf; the Secretariat has had contact by fax with Oscar Marginet and he was expected to come, but no further confirmation has arrived; Reuben was attending a meeting in Israel and would make everything possible to join the meeting, no confirmation either about that. Ana and Tony to join the meeting later.

Alexander informs about the situation of the Russian Union of Architects and the splitting of the former Soviet Union's organisation into national Unions of Architects in each country. It was the USSR's Union that was member of ARCoPEACE. An International Association of Architects (CIAS) has been created, but it has not yet any status at the U.I.A. Alexander is nevertheless the official representative of the Russian Union at the U.I.A. and it is in such position he joins the EC meeting, whilst Igor Voskresensky is the General Secretary of the CIAS. However, the southern countries of the Russian Federation are not represented in the CIAS.

2. The Meeting's Agenda

The topics to be brought up in the EC meeting are briefed by Sven.

The practical aspects of ARCoPEACE presence at the WSSD in Copenhagen are discussed and the HABITAT II subject is also brought up. Sven explains that, according to what he has heard, no NGO Forum will be run in Istanbul and ARCoPEACE may have to find a place through national delegations.

Also the general situation of our Participation in the WSSD is discussed. Jim explains his position towards the Summit; he believes that it will mark a new era for the UN, in which the organisation will show more compound of people than governments. Nevertheless, not much can be expected from the Summit, he says, while explaining how difficult it was to bring up an official document to be approved by the meeting. He also reads a statement from the Human Settlements Caucus, explaining for us the concept Caucus (it is new UN slang, meaning: *a group of people convened to put forward an issue at the UN's official meetings*). Jim also proposes that each of us tries to contact our countries' delegations to the WSSD. One could also observe that neither the U.S.A. nor Great Britain are particularly interested in committing themselves to social progress.

6th of March - at the School of Architecture in Copenhagen

Present at the meeting:

Sven Thiberg, International and Swedish ARCoPEACE

Jim Morgan, ADPSR (USA) and EC of ARCoPEACE

Martin Valatin, AESR (UK) and EC of ARCoPEACE

Luz María Sánchez, Peruvian ARCoPEACE and EC of ARCoPEACE

Alexander Kudriatsev, Russian Union of Architects and representing Igor Voskresensky (?)

Anna Pawlikowska - Piechotka, Polish ARCoPEACE

Tony Watkins, New Zealand's ARCoPEACE and EC of ARCoPEACE

Germán Perotti, ARCoPEACE Secretariat

Alice Thiberg, ARCoPEACE Secretariat and Swedish ARCoPEACE

Tamurax, representing Akio Hayashi and Japan ARCoPEACE

1. Opening of the Meeting

Sven opens the meeting and explains the formal steps regarding the agenda.

2. Election of Chairman and Secretary

Sven is appointed chairman of the meeting and Germán is put in charge of the minutes; it is also agreed that Jim will verify the minutes.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The proposed agenda is approved in all its points.

4. Comments to the Minutes from the Chicago EC Meeting

No comments for the moment, as the minutes are attached to the procedures, it is said that possible comments may be made on Saturday, when this meeting will continue.

5. Reports from members

5.1 Anna:

Reports as only ARCoPEACE member in Poland. She reports on these activities at the School of Architecture, which has a tradition of holding housing forums, and at the Ministry of Housing. She is also participating in the organisation of a conference in October, to take place in Warsaw, co-organised with Swedish ARCoPEACE, the theme is "Housing, social responsible architecture and design".

Jim comments that the conference could be called "Housing and Ethical Practice". He also comments that there are many difficulties among Polish architects but he has information on some ten colleagues willing to engage in ARCoPEACE work.

5.2 Tony:

Reports on "Papatanku Conference" in 1993, it dealt with the Maoris verbal tradition; the latter, and their relation to land, can bring about unpredicted ways of conceiving architecture thus, understanding it more as a ritual. Tony is working together with engineers in the Agenda 21. Three cities in New Zealand have adopted the Agenda and the institutes of architects and engineers have adopted the concept "sustainability", although there still are some tensions in this matter. They have also made efforts to engage the 53 heads of Commonwealth States to engage in architectural issues. He reports that it is possible to get UN materials through INTERNET and proposes that ARCoPEACE should subscribe for this as HABITAT GROUP; he urges electronic ARCoPEACE network-discussion. He says that some 40 people will come to Istanbul. Professional ethics are becoming an institutional and public issue, an Institute for this purpose has been proposed. He also conveys Akio's new appointment as professor of Environmental Design at the University of Lake Bywi.

5.3 Martin:

Tells us about AESR's engineers' majority in relation to the number of architects. Issues that are taken up by the organisation are: road building programme, an issue for high political

engagement due to the corruption involved; squatter evictions; nuclear power and weapons monitoring as well as nuclear waste monitoring; architects' unemployment.

5.4 *Alexander (Sacha):*

Explains more in detail the transition from Soviet period. There is a struggle in Russia to preserve the profession of architect now that the "market forces" take over. There is nevertheless passivity Among colleague, who mainly struggle for survival. He tells us about a competition dealing with private luxury housing as symbol of the new situation, and the vacuum that has come upon regarding social responsibility. The latter can be seen in a shift of orientation in the profession: from aiming at serving the society to planning for the rich. This is also reflected in the education of planners and architects; both the social and the environmental areas are neglected, whilst the latter is seen as not belonging to the scope of architects. He nevertheless hopes - and wishes - that through education changes can be promoted.

5.5 *Jim:*

Reports on ADPSR events during 1993, he submitted a written report, attached to these minutes (?). He presents the ADPSR News Letter, the North American organisation's way to keep in touch. Their intention is to start a committee structure for the national executive function and attempt to improve communication at a national level by means of a "Communication Committee". Jim resigned to the Vice-presidency of ADPSR in order to become President of this committee. The average number of active chapters of ADPSR is 12, they come and go. He believes that ARCoPEACE News Letter could be sent by fax instead of ready printed materials, something that would ameliorate the international organisation's economy.

5.6 *Marilú*

Reports on Peruvian ARCoPEACE, which is done through the NGO she works with. There are no more architects involved in the movement in Peru and the intention is work for the engagement of several colleagues in the nearest future.

5.7 *Sven*

Summarises Swedish activities. Swedish ARCoPEACE has 120 paying members, the board is of 15 persons. SAP collaborates actively with other professional groups; among other activities SAP participated in the Non Proliferation Treaty Conference. Inspired by the Chicago map it was attempted to produce a map of Swedish environmentally concerned project, the work has gawn slowly. There are serious economic problems in financing the activity.

6 Report from the Secretariat

Sven reads the Secretariats report covering the period between the last EC meeting in 1993 until now.

7 Economic report from the Secretariat

Sven continues with the report on the economic situation until 1994. There is a discussion about how to produce the News Letter in future. One way could be that the Secretariat sends one example to each regular member and the receiver takes the responsibility to reproduce it locally; high printing and post costs could be saved this way. The problem is related to the membership issue, a discussion to be continued next time we meet.

7th of March - at the School of Architecture in Copenhagen

Present at the meeting:

Sven Thiberg , International and Swedish ARCoPEACE

Jim Morgan, ADPSR (USA) and EC of ARCoPEACE

Martin Valatin, AESR (UK) and EC of ARCoPEACE
Luz María Sánchez, Peruvian ARCoPEACE and EC of ARCoPEACE
Alexander Kudriatsev, Russian Union of Architects and representing Igor Voskresensky (?)
Anna Pawlikowska - Piechotka, Polish ARCoPEACE
Tony Watkins, New Zealand's ARCoPEACE and EC of ARCoPEACE
Germán Perotti, ARCoPEACE Secretariat
Alice Thiberg, ARCoPEACE Secretariat and Swedish ARCoPEACE
Tamurax, representing Akio Hayashi and Japan ARCoPEACE
Hiroko Mizumura, guest researcher from the School of Architecture in Stockholm
Hiroko is asked to present herself.

8 Membership

There is a discussion about membership definition. Few have paid the fees, it is producing much trouble in holding the organisation informed and communicated. Sven points out UN's interest in knowing how many we represent. The issue of the fee amount is brought up and several ideas are given. On one hand strongly motivated people should be helped to keep membership according to Martin; US\$ 50 is a minimum considering what is lost in money exchange according to Jim, who also wanders if one could create a group category among individual members; say 5 persons paying US\$ 10.00 each. Sacha talks about former Soviet Union member organisations, in example the Baltic, that should be contacted in order to make them members of ARCoPEACE; he also suggests the creation of a "friend" category as a way to augment membership. Sven suggests that people who have shown interest in ARCoPEACE before should be addressed; Martin wants that such a letter be sent as soon as possible to England and proposes that it should also include a questionnaire. According to Sven, point 10 in the agenda: How to recruit new members for ARCoPEACE, has been covered in this discussion.

9 General debate on the future of ARCoPEACE

Sven introduces the subject, he talk about the involvement since 1985 in planning for ADDPPNW activity; he also notes that ARCoPEACE has switched connection from UIA to UN in the last time. Martin point out that we should keep our interest on architect's unions. Sven, concretises by asking Sacha to notify UIA our continuing interest at the UIA during its Congress in Barcelona. A proper opportunity for the latter, according to Sacha will be UIA's Council meeting in China on coming May. Jim exposes some details on the different ways in which ARCoPEACE can approach the UN: a) as an independent organisation; b) a part of Habitat International Coalition (HIC), where a Women's Shelter Network exists; c) as part of UN NGO "Women Homes and Community" initiative and, d) taking part in national reports and/or as members of each national delegation. The question, one hopes, especially regarding the objectives of our organisation, will become clearer after the Secretariat's open debate the day after.

Jim brings up the question of a generation shift in ARCoPEACE after Istanbul, it is more the possible that he and Sven will want to leave after June 96.

Minutes taken by

Germán Perotti