

Minutes from the ARC•PEACE meetings in Istanbul, June 1996

1st meeting Tuesday June 4, 1996

EC members present: *Sven Thiberg, Jim Morgan, Martin Valatin, Luz Maria Sanchez, Tony Watkins*. Secretariat members present: *Germán Perotti, Alice Thiberg, Dick Urban Vestbro*

Others present:

Bruno Ast, Ass. Prof., School of Architecture, University of Illinois, Chicago

Hans Bjønnes, Professor of Planning, NTH, Trondheim, Norway

Dagfinn Braatana, student, NTH, Trondheim, Norway

Andreas Gehe, student, NTH, Trondheim, Norway

Henry Matthews, arch. historian, School of Architecture, Washington State Univ.

Jane McGroarthy, ADPSR, New York, USA

Björn Røe, Prof of Planning, NTH, Trondheim, Oslo

Rafi Samizay, School of Architecture, Washington State University

Bruce Silverberg, journalist, Earth Times; ADPSR

Chi Wah Szeifa, Hong Kong, student of School of Architecture, Auckland, NZ

Introduction

Everybody present introduced him/herself.

Opening

Sven Thiberg opened the meeting and welcomed everybody, explaining that this meeting was an open one where everybody present was welcome to contribute to a principal discussion about the cause of ARC•PEACE.

In his introduction Sven said that ARC•PEACE is standing on three legs: the anti-nuclear issue, the sustainable environment issue and the human settlement issue. The latter is in focus at the Habitat II conference, while the other two are also part of the Istanbul agenda. Sven said that there is a gap between the urgency of all three ARC•PEACE issues and the stagnating membership. One instrument to reach new generations of architects and planners is the Charter for Socially Responsible Schools of Architecture, worked out at a Swedish-Polish seminar last year (distributed in a printed version to those present at the meeting).

From the discussion the following points can be mentioned:

- The charter should be sent with a cover letter to schools of architecture and also be brought to the meetings of the European Association of Architectural Education, to which the US schools are usually invited.
- Private consultants will change attitude not because of their good hearts, but if they realise that it is in their own interest.
- Attempts were made to take the peace issue away from the Habitat II agenda at the Prep-Com meeting in Nairobi, but the ARC•PEACE representatives fought to get it back.
- The idea of peaceful cities should be regarded as natural a concept as that of healthy cities. Architects and planners introducing modern techniques in buildings and proposing constructions on green land also contribute to violence.
- To propose that we should go back to preindustrial society is quite unrealistic. Urban life could be quite sustainable.
- Many cities are violent. Since most wars are carried out in third world countries we should focus on the violent cities of the South.
- ARC•PEACE widened its scope from the nuclear threat to the peace issue in general, and then incorporated the issues of housing and sustainability. Let us try to concentrate on our common denominator and not distance ourselves from our colleagues any more than is already the case.

Sven thanked everybody for their contributions and closed the meeting.

2nd meeting Wednesday June 5, 1996

Present: *Jim, Martin Luz Maria, Sven, Alice, Tony, Germán, Dick*

Opening

Sven opened the formal ARC•PEACE meeting and presented the documents prepared by the Secretariat.

Election of functionaries

Sven was elected to chair the meeting, Dick and Germán to write the minutes and Martin to verify the minutes.

Approval of agenda

The proposed agenda was approved.

Minutes from the meeting in Copenhagen

Draft minutes were distributed and the participants were asked to supply comments during their stay in Istanbul.

Reports from members

Luz Maria reported that ARC•PEACE Peru is giving priority to work among the poor. Ten persons are now members. Meetings take place almost every week.

Martin referred to the reports he has sent to members of the EC about his and AESR's activities. A successful conference had been organised on the Habitat II issue. AESR has been quite active on the issue of French nuclear tests.

Tony informed the meeting about the New Zealand activities in preparation for Habitat II, including the successful attempt to convince the NZ government to come to Istanbul after strong hesitancy to do so.

Jim reported about the activities of ADPSR, including the recent change of president. Twelve chapters are now active under the leadership of Garth Sheriff. Jim also reported from his activities at the UN headquarters on behalf of ARC•PEACE. He furthermore reported from his actions at the NPT conference.

Sven reported from ARC•PEACE Sweden, which now has 110 members. One of the tasks is to carry out projects (e. g. a book) with 15 other professional groups opposed to nuclear arms.

In the absence of Anna Pawlikovska-Piechotka *Sven* reported about activities in **Poland**, including the seminar in Kazemierz with Swedish ARC•PEACE and East European colleagues. Sven also reported that an ARC•PEACE group of 8 members had been formed in **Moscow**. (Alexander later added to this report.)

Reports from **Japan, India, Kenya** were lacking. (A report from **Argentina** was given by Oscar during a later meeting.)

Report from the Chairman

A written report was distributed and presented by Sven. Dick added information about the increase in international correspondence since the last meeting and about attempts made by the Secretariat to recruit new members. The report was **approved**.

Economic report from the Secretariat

Alice distributed the written report she had prepared and supplied oral explanations. The report was **approved** and Alice was thanked for her efforts to keep the financial matters in good order.

Membership

Lists of organisational and individual members were examined. It was **decided** to delete a number of names from the list and to ask the Secretariat to send a warning to others that they would be deleted unless payment was received. It was proposed that junior members should be entitled to a fee less than \$ 50. It was suggested that individuals with scarce resources should be urged to form an ARC•PEACE group paying one \$50 subscription jointly for up to ten people (meeting adjourned).

3rd meeting Friday June 7, 1996

Present: *Sven, Jim, Alice, Luz Maria, Oscar, Alexandre, Tony, Germán, Dick*

Membership (continued)

With reference to non-paying members Sven suggested that those who did not pay their fees during a certain period could become "information receivers". Oscar suggested that letters should be sent to the non-paying members giving them a last chance. The two suggestions were **adopted**.

Composition of the Executive Committee

The question of passive EC members was discussed. It was **decided** to ask the chairman to write to Jai Bhalla and thank him for what he has done as an EC member. It was **decided** to ask Reuben Mutiso how he sees his role in the EC. Oscar will contact him. It was **decided** to ask ARC•PEACE Moscow to appoint a representative in the EC.

The question of extending the EC was discussed. It was **decided** to ask R & C Borowich of Australia, Myrna Mayorga Gutiérrez of Spain, Monique Coté of Canada and Gassan Nasser of Palestina/UAR if they would be interested to become members of the EC.

The questions of leadership, communication between EC members, and a more even distribution of functions were discussed. Members were urged to get faxes and email facilities and to communicate more frequently with each other. It was **decided** to re-elect Sven as chairman of ARC•PEACE.

Instructions to the Secretariat

Jim distinguished five tasks of the Secretariat: membership registration, policy development, finances, communications (including editing of the newsletter) and carrying out executive duties. Some of these functions could be distributed among the EC members. The effectiveness of the Secretariat and the Chairman was discussed.

Sven proposed four main tasks to be carried out after the Istanbul meeting: 1) Follow-up of Habitat II and developing the ARC•PEACE critique of the official declaration; 2) Preparing further actions against the violation of human rights in Turkey, including the right to housing; 3) Dissemination of information about nuclear weapons tests and taking actions against these; and 4) Bringing the ARC•PEACE message to the UIA congress. It was suggested to make the following persons responsible for the respective tasks: 1) Jim, 2) Martin, 3) Sven, 4) Oscar & Luz Maria. An immediate task is to contact those signing their names for further information about ARC•PEACE (to be done by the Secretariat). It was **decided** that the Secretariat should remain in Stockholm.

4th meeting Sunday June 9, 1996

Sven repeated the four points adopted at the previous meeting and suggested that they should be used as a basis for a book in the name of ARC•PEACE to be published in connection with the 10th anniversary of ARC•PEACE. It was also proposed that field experiences from various countries should be included. Previous ARC•PEACE conferences could be summarized

in the same book. After discussion it was **decided** to appoint an editorial committee consisting of Sven, Jim and Oscar to work out a more concrete proposal for the book.

Next ARC•PEACE meeting

The place and time for the next ARC•PEACE meeting was discussed. Lima and Moscow were suggested. It was generally agreed that Lima could be a good place and that a suitable time could be Autumn 1997.

Budget

The organization's budget was briefly discussed. It was proposed that the budget be project based. An example could be the book project. By presenting projects we could approach potential sponsors. The book project was once more discussed and opinions were given about publishing it in several languages; at least English, Spanish, Russian and Japanese. Finally, the Secretariat must present a budget as soon as possible.

Newsletter

Newsletters were discussed. It was agreed that the next newsletter will deal mainly with HABITAT II. It was then **agreed** that the coming newsletters will be produced in different centres. No 10 will be produced by Stockholm, the next two by our Latin American members and the next two in the USA

Message to UIA Barcelona

Finally, it was approved that the draft for the message to the UIA Congress in Barcelona would be prepared by Oscar and Luz Maria. It should then be sent to the Secretariat, which will forward it officially to Barcelona.

Secretaries

Minutes verified

Dick Urban Vestbro Germán Perotti Martin Valatin