

THIRD ANNUAL MEETINGReport of Headquarters Committee Concerning Choice of Headquarters

In accordance with the Commission's Resolution of July 4, 1952, postponing a decision on the question of future headquarters for the Commission and appointing a Committee consisting of the Chairman and the representatives of Spain and Iceland, with the Secretary as Adviser, to explore the possibility of sites other than St. John's and Halifax and report at the Third Annual Meeting, the Committee has considered invitations from St. John's, Halifax, Montreal and Quebec in Canada, and from Kingston, Rhode Island; Boston, Gloucester, and New Bedford, Massachusetts; Durham, New Hampshire; and Brunswick, Maine, in the United States.

The Executive Secretary has, in his capacity of Adviser to the Committee, visited all of these cities, or had a deputy visit them, examined the facilities offered and discussed the terms of the offers with the appropriate officials. His report on these visits has been distributed to all Commissioners. The Committee is indebted to Dr. Poulsen for his careful examination and evaluation of the possible sites.

The Committee is of the opinion that of the sites offered in Canada, Halifax and St. John's are the most worthy of the Commission's serious consideration. Even though St. John's has much to commend it as a major fishing port more or less in the center of the Convention Area, and the physical facilities offered the Commission are attractive, the relatively isolated location of the city and the difficulties in communication weighed heavily with the Committee against its selection. Montreal and Quebec both offer pleasant localities and adequate facilities. However, neither city is a fishing port of importance and both are relatively distant from the Convention Area. The Committee finds that Halifax offers a locality and facilities equal or better than those of Montreal and Quebec and has the additional advantage of being a fishing port of importance located on the edge of the Convention Area, and it has much scientific activity related to the interests of the Commission.

Of the sites offered in the United States, the Committee finds that Boston has the most advantages. Kingston, New Bedford, Gloucester, Brunswick, and Durham are all lovely communities. All have extended generous invitations and some have made liberal offers of accommodations to the Commission. However, all have certain disadvantages from the point of view of the Commission's needs. These disadvantages are discussed in the Executive Secretary's report and need not be gone into further here.

The Committee finds little to choose between Boston (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and Halifax. The major objection to be raised against Boston is that the office space offered by Harvard University is inadequate for the Commission's needs, and to obtain adequate quarters, space must be rented on the open market. The major disadvantage of Halifax is the somewhat remote location of the city and the weather which makes it at times less accessible than Boston.

The Committee has also given due consideration to the wishes of the Secretariat. The Executive Secretary was requested to make the desires of the Secretariat known to the Committee. In his communication to the Chairman of the Committee, he has indicated the Secretariat's preference for Boston with Halifax as a near second choice.

Carefully weighing all advantages and disadvantages of each of the localities under consideration, and taking into prime consideration the total environment in which the free future development and effectiveness of the Commission might best be insured, the Committee has unanimously decided on Halifax as the community which most nearly fits these requirements and so recommends to the Commission.

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J. L. Kask, Chairman

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Petur Eggerz

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Vicente Trelles