

## Opening speech

*of the President of OSTIV, Mr. L. A. de Lange  
delivered at the Xth Congress of OSTIV in South Cerney  
on June 4th, 1965*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We know only too well how eagerly the young people of today accept the opportunities afforded by modern technology and organization, without realizing how much imagination, urge for action, risks, research and laborious toil were required to attain the situation which nowadays is accepted as "a matter of course".

What imagination was required to make man soar from the earth like a bird in a device heavier than the air it displaced? What urge for action the pioneers must have had? What risks had they to take to build and fly such devices without any previous experience? How much research and laborious toil had to be carried out to make today's spectacular soaring flights possible?

The participants in the World Championships here in South Cerney have no time to ponder these things. They have their tasks to prepare for, and carry out. In doing so, they will as "a matter of course" utilize the most up-to-date sailplanes and highly developed equipment; they will avail themselves of meteorological knowledge and soaring techniques which have taken long years to reach their present level of development.

All this came to my mind when browsing through the programme for the tenth OSTIV Congress. How different were the circumstances at the time of the first Congress.

No festive opening, no printed programme, no executive committee. A small group of enthusiasts gathered at Samaden on July 28th, 1948, under the leadership of Dr. R. Jarlaud, to carry on the task of the prewar ISTUS.

A few lectures were read, which never got into print, the new organization was given a name: "Organisation Scientifique et Technique Internationale du Vol à Voile", and finally a provisional executive committee was set up.

Dr. Jarlaud undertook the presidency.

It is amusing to read in Bulletin No. 85 of the FAI (April 1949) that the Commission du Vol sans Moteur of the FAI approved the new name and referred the financial problems involved in the operation of OSTIV to the meetings of the new organization. It was up to us to study the financial matters!

OSTIV never made any very profound study of the financial situation, but it is certainly gratifying to find that our Active Members have never been confronted with a deficit in all our seventeen years, in spite of the steady expansion of OSTIV's activities.

To illustrate the development of these activities, we have set up a small exhibition here.

There you will see that for the second Congress, too, which was held in Paris from May 3rd to 8th, 1949, there was no printed programme and the lectures were not published either.

The General Conference on May 6th, however, chose a definitive Board and confirmed the appointment of Dr. Jarlaud as

President. At those first congresses, there was a pleasant, easy-going atmosphere, with things being left increasingly to the improvisation of the delegates.

When Dr. Jarlaud was unable to attend the third Congress at Örebro, so that one had to do without a "programme leader", the delegates had to "organize" a meeting place first, then draw up an agenda for the General Conference, and finally settle by discussions among themselves when a speaker would deliver his lecture.

Although this easy-going way of doing things admittedly had its charm, the General Conference of Örebro resolved to knock the organization into some sort of shape.

Since Dr. Jarlaud could no longer make himself available, the Conference elected me as President, so that I have had the privilege of leading the development of our organization since 1950.

I am happy to say that Dr. W. A. Eichenberger and Dipl.-Ing. B. J. Cijan, who at Örebro were elected Vice-President and Member of the Board respectively, are still actively discharging their tasks with great enthusiasm and skill.

The lectures delivered at Örebro were published as OSTIV Publication I.

True, it was a small booklet, but it represented the first step to make the work of OSTIV accessible to all soaring pilots.

The 1952 Congress at Madrid had for the first time a printed programme, the look of which has remained the same until today.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I could give you a dry list of all the activities undertaken by our organization in the past. But I won't try your patience that much. The exhibition, better than any words, gives you a well-nigh complete picture of what OSTIV has done to promote gliding.

During the 15 years of my presidency we also had to learn with deep regret of the death of several loyal, enthusiastic and distinguished friends. I am thinking of Karl Eric Övgard, Wolf Hirth, August William Raspet, Ing. Bruno Gumpert and, quite recently, Dr. Wolfgang B. Klemperer.

Dr. Klemperer died suddenly after a short illness on the 25th of March, 1965.

Born in Dresden, where he took his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, he later worked with Professor Theodore von Karman at the Aachen Aeronautical Institute and there earned his doctorate. Dr. Klemperer had already developed a keen interest in aeronautical matters prior to Aachen, but there the opportunity presented itself to turn his dreams into gliding.

Just after World War I, he designed the "Schwarzer Teufel" with which sailplane he participated in the first Rhön Gliding Competition, held in 1920, and made the best performance. This sailplane and the "Blaue Maus", which was a further development of the "Schwarzer Teufel", were clearly forerunners of today's high-performance sailplanes.

Dr. Klemperer was elected as a Member of the Board of OSTIV during the General Conference at Paris in 1949 and remained in office until 1963, when he asked the General Conference in Junin not to re-elect him.

He was an eminent scientist and engineer as well as an ardent supporter of the sport of soaring, in which he was a pioneer. In addition to that, he was a brilliant teacher and

developer of young scientists and engineers. Needless to say that Dr. Klemperer played a valuable part in the development of OSTIV.

Gifted with a fine, bighearted character, always prepared to help lesser men, Dr. Klemperer's passing leaves a void in the world's soaring fraternity which cannot be filled.

Let us observe a moment of silence to commemorate this giant who is no longer with us.

Thank you.

Before opening the Congress, I wish to voice the gratitude of our organization for the kind words which you, Prof. Baxter, have said to us on behalf of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

You, Mr. Wills, I wish to thank not only for your words, but also for the support the British Gliding Association has given to the organization of this Congress.

Mr. Pady, Chairman of the Cirencester Urban District Council, we are grateful for your words of welcome to Cirencester and we hope that, during the busy work of the Congress, we shall find occasion to become acquainted with this fine town and its people. I thank you very much for your cordial words.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now have the honour and the pleasure of declaring the tenth OSTIV Congress opened.