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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Jean-Claude Weber, CIA president

Overall, I would label the Y2K as a successful ballooning year. Not as exceptional as 1999, but nevertheless, quite successful.

It has been my pleasure to attend most of our important events this year, and I can assure you that all were run according to expected standards. Congratulations and thanks to the participants, officials and organisers who all went to great length to guarantee that these events will be remembered for their high standards in sports, media and public appeal. It is fact that these events brought out the best in all people involved. But many other ballooning events took place all over the world and they also have contributed to promote our sport and the aims and objectives of the FAI/CIA. So my congratulations and thanks extend to them as well. Also, some exciting new records were established, and the 1999 Montgolfier Diploma for best performance in a Rozière will certainly go to Kevin Uliassi for his amazing flight of 20455 km in 243hours and 47 minutes.

In other respects, the year was very successful as well.

Two years ago, in our Spring 1998 Newsletter, I wrote: *"Some time into the not so far future, FAI may stop being NAC "heavy" and begin to "slim down" by finding the ways and means to implement reforms, some of which the Air Sport Commissions have been demanding for years. In particular, ASC are waiting to see whether the Member NACs are willing and capable to change the FAI from a fairly conservative organisation, deriving from the statutory NAC "power base", into a modern, international multi-discipline Sports Federation deriving mainly from its activities. Reality very often precedes the change, and since the early 1990s, the FAI Air Sport Commissions have slowly but constantly gained influence and today it will be very difficult to stop this process of change."*

Just back from the FAI General Conference, I am very pleased to report that the FAI has finally started to make serious efforts to adapt to the needs of an ever faster changing environment in the sports world. By disbanding its Council and by replacing it with seven elected Executive Board members (Wolfgang Weinreich, president; Hideo Hirasawa, Japan; Don Koranda, USA; Bob Clipsham, Canada; Pierre Portmann, France; Ivo Mazzola, Italy; Alvaro De Orleans-Borbon, Spain), taking full responsibility for the management of FAI, it has finally managed to shed its century-old structures and to open up to new ideas destined to make the FAI a truly modern international sports federation. Mind you, the FAI's aims and objectives have not been questioned at all, and the General Conference clearly emphasised its conviction that the FAI was not created as a service organisation, but as an in-

PRESIDENTS COLUMN – CONTINUED

stitution with its own identity to promote aeronautics and to give guidance to its members and the world's air sports men and women. Among some other structural changes adopted by the General Conference, you will be surprised to learn that finally the FAI has started to recognise its Air Sport Commissions by giving them voting rights at the General Conference. This may seem to be a futile change, but I can assure you that it entails a lot of consequences for the Air Sport Commissions and their future work. I am convinced that the adopted changes will lead, in the short to medium term, to a stronger, dynamic, and open FAI, caring more about doing what is right than about seeming enlightened and caring.

While event organisers and participants are doing their best to project the best possible picture of our sport to the media and public, I am convinced that in the short to medium term our activity has to adapt to the new conditions of the communication age, and that we will have to find new ways and means to keep the interest of the public and the media. In this respect, the CIA's initiative to promote and test a balloon tracking system was clearly very successful. Balloon tracking and live position transmission, primarily destined as a promotional tool for event organisers, has been successfully tested at some of this year's gas and hot air events. While it is recognised that we still have to tackle some technical and utilisation problems, the system has shown that it holds a huge potential for event organisers, and it is hoped that other airports will join our effort in order to bring down the equipment price and to make it widely available.

The World Air Games seem to be on track, at least as far as ballooning is concerned. As you know, we have planned three events: AA, AX and BX. The AX Test Event in Spain was very successful and more than 60 participants were quite pleased to have had an opportunity to "test" the venue and the organisers' capabilities. Our officials report that they are confident that the three events can be successfully staged in 2001. Due to difficulties with the new selection process for the AX WAG event, the CIA Bureau, on a suggestion from the CC Subcommittee chairman and after the OK from the Rules Subcommittee, has decided to slightly modify the qualification formula used. In fact, as it was felt that the new selection process was unlikely to provide sufficient entries to reach the 101 required, the Bureau decided to increase the numbers of entries from previous events (see details in the WAG LO's report). The Gas balloon event is being handled by Mark Sullivan, the newly appointed event director, and the airship event, although the WAG organisers are prepared to stage this event in any case, is still on hold as the CIA Bureau felt that the CIA should only support such an event if there are 12 or more entries. Invitations for all events are out to the NACs and you should make sure that the organisers get timely replies from your NAC.

The Great Balloon Race is well on its way now, and this year's last quarter activities will firmly establish the base for the first race in 2002. Shortly before the meeting of the FAI Council on the 25th May of this year, a meeting was held at the FAI HQ in Lausanne in order to review the planning, strategy and development of the proposed round the world balloon race, to be called the Great Balloon Race. This meeting followed the CIA's unanimous decision, at our Thessaloniki meeting in March, to go ahead and to support the Great Balloon Race concept. An outside consultant, Mr. David Passmore, Business of Sport Limited, had been contracted by FAI, financed by a generous donation provided by our President of Honour Jacques Soukup, to study the concept, establish a business plan with a critical path for planning purposes, and to research potential sponsoring opportunities for this event. A project document had been circulated to potential partners, and considerable interest had been shown already at that stage, with the identification of one potential site in Dubai for the start of the event in late 2002. Also proposed was the establishment of an independent entity bringing together the partners involved and to which the rights to organise the race would be sold. A Working Group, appointed by the FAI President to co-ordinate the planning process and consisting of himself, the CIA President, and the FAI Secretary General, Max Bishop, together with Mr. David Passmore agreed to move forward according to the Executive Summary to the business plan and the critical path as laid out in this document.

Three critical elements had to be put in place before the race could begin to become a reality:

1. Secure the commitment of a balloon manufacturer and underwrite the costs of the race,
2. Secure the commitment of a preferred location
3. Identify strategic partnership alliances

II WORLD AIR GAMES 2001 (continued)

Invitation and Entry procedure for the WAG Hot Air Balloon Championship

As a result of a suggestion from the Chairman of the Competitors Subcommittee, who felt the procedure as originally approved was unlikely to provide the 101 competitors required, the CIA Bureau, with the agreement of the Rules Subcommittee, decided to slightly modify the procedure. The change increases the numbers invited from previous Category One Events as shown below:

The full entry procedure (as included in the Invitation mailed to National Aeroclubs in September) is:

The CIA decided, at the Plenary Meeting in March 2000, on a new invitation process for this event. Accordingly the Event organisers duly offer the following nomination invitations to each eligible NAC:

ROUND 1

1) *an invitation for ONE competitor*

2) *an invitation for ONE competitor to each NAC organising a qualifying National Championship in 2000*

A qualifying National Championship is one in which:

- a) a minimum of 12 competitors take part*
- b) the event is based on CIA AX MERs (Category One),*
- c) the event has a minimum of 3 tasks in 2 separate flights,*
- d) the results of the events are submitted to the RSC's Scoring Working Group by 31st December 2000*

3) *an invitation for the current WAG Champion;*

ROUND 2

*an invitation for ONE competitor to each country for each placing it achieved in the previous World Air Games ranked **2 to 16** (previously 2 to 11)*

*an invitation for ONE competitor to each country for each placing it achieved in the previous two World Championships ranked **1 to 15** (previously 1 to 10).*

*an invitation for ONE competitor to each country for each placing it achieved in the previous Continental Championships ranked **1 to 8** (previously 1 to 5).*

Incremental as the above list to a maximum 101 participants

At this stage it is not possible for us to know how many places will be available to qualifying countries under Round 2. This cannot be finally decided until after the Round 1 entries under 1 – 3 above are received on 15th November 2000. However, to help with entry planning, the likely allocation of places under Round 2 to qualifying countries is as follows:

<i>Australia</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Austria</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>15</i>

- END -

CIA CONFERENCE 2001

28th February to 3rd March in Bern, Switzerland

AGENDA ITEMS

All items for inclusion in the agenda for the 2001 Plenary meeting must reach the CIA President and the CIA Secretary NOT LATER THAN 22nd DECEMBER 2000
These will then be included in the agenda which will be mailed in January 2001. Agenda items should include any supporting documentation, and a position paper, all of which will be included with the agenda.

PLEASE NOTE: *The CIA Plenary Meeting cannot make final decisions on items that do not appear on the Agenda.*

CONFERENCE DETAILS

DATES

28 Feb &) Subcommittee and Working
 1 March) Group Meetings
 2 & 3 March Plenary Meeting

LOCATION

The Conference will take place at:
 Hotel Allegro Kursaal Bern,
 Kornhausstrasse 3,
 3013 Bern, Switzerland
 Tel: +41 31 339 5500
 Fax: +44 31 339 5510
 Email: kursaal@kursaal-bern.ch
 Contact: Mr Liebermann

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Allegro Kursaal Bern
 SFr 155.00 single occupancy
 SFr 230.00 double occupancy
 Including breakfast, lunch and all taxes.

RESERVATIONS

Please make your own reservations direct with the hotel using the form included with this newsletter.

ACCESS

By air via airports at Bern, Zurich, Genf & Basle (hotel pick-up at Bern Airport on request)
 By train – free tram ticket to hotel from station. Tickets with hotel confirmation

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please complete the form included with newsletter and return it to the CIA Secretary

TIMETABLE

ROOM	1	2	3	4
28-Feb-01				
08.30-09.30	AA/AM WG	Media WG	Score WG	Logo & Prod WG
09.30-10.30	AA/AM WG	Media WG	Score WG	Logo & Prod WG
10.30-11.30		S & SC WG	Event S&E WG	BX WG
11.30-12.30		S & SC WG	Event S&E WG	BX WG
LUNCH 12.30 - 14.00				
14.00-15.00		WAG WG	Records SC	Event D&A WG
15.00-16.00		WAG WG	Records SC	Event D&A WG
16.00-17.00	AX WG	LTAE WG	Records SC	
17.00-18.00	AX WG	LTAE WG	Records SC	
The OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION will start at 18.00, location to be announced				
01-Mar-01				
08.30-09.30	Jury Board	Safety SC	Competitor SC	PR & D SC
09.30-10.30	Jury Board	Safety SC	Competitor SC	PR & D SC
10.30-11.30	Jury Board	Safety SC	Competitor SC	PR & D SC
11.30-12.30	Jury Board	Safety SC	Competitor SC	PR & D SC
LUNCH 12.30 - 14.00				
14.00-15.00		Rules SC	EPAS	Observer SC
15.00-16.00		Rules SC	EPAS	Observer SC
16.00-17.00	Bureau	Rules SC	EPAS	Observer SC
17.00-18.00	Bureau	Rules SC	EPAS	Observer SC
02-Mar-01				
08.30-18.00	PLENARY MEETING			
03-Mar-01				
08.30-18.00	PLENARY MEETING			

REMINDERS

CIA DIRECTORY

The CIA Directory, containing names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers and email details for all National Aero Clubs, Balloon Federations, CIA Officers, Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Jurors, Chief Observers and all concerned with Subcommittees and Working Groups is now only available in one of the following formats on application to the Secretary.

- a) MS Access format via email attachment. This requires MS Access 97 and is a single 776 kb file.
- b) As an MS Word (RTF) version, via email attachment. This requires MS Word 97, and there are two files.
- c) As (a) or (b) above but on floppy disk. Please send a blank disk and self addressed envelope and state which format if you require this version.
- d) In addition to the above a simplified version of the Directory is available on the CIA Web pages showing the following information only: Name, Nationality, Responsibility within CIA, Email address.

The directory is continuously updated as changes are received.

2000 JUROR LIST

The 2000 list of approved Jurors is included with this newsletter. Please use this list when making nominations for Juries for 2001 Sanctioned Events

CIA STATISTICS

Members are reminded of their obligation under Chapter 8 of the CIA Internal Regulations to make an annual return of their national Statistics. A form for this purpose is attached, and should be returned to the CIA Secretary by 31st January 2001

AWARDS GIVEN THROUGH THE CIA

Full details of all FAI/CIA awards available to CIA Members are to be found in the CIA Internal Regulations. Nominations should be submitted to the FAI Office to arrive not later than **31st December 2000**.

- 10.1 THE FAI AIRSPORT MEDAL
- 10.3 THE SANTOS-DUMONT GOLD AIRSHIP MEDALS
- 10.4 THE FAI MONTGOLFIER DIPLOMAS (Hot Air, Gas, Rozier, Service to the Sport)
- 10.5 FAI DIPLOMA FOR OUTSTANDING AIRMANSHIP
- 13 THE CIA INTERNATIONAL BALLOON AND AIRSHIP HALL OF FAME

EVENTS OPEN FOR SANCTION APPLICATION (WORLD AND CONTINENTAL)

2002	2003	2004
WORLD GAS	EUROPEAN HA	WORLD HA
WORLD ROZIER	PACIFIC HA	WORLD GAS
WORLD AIRSHIPS	NORTH AMERICAN HA	WORLD ROZIER
	SOUTH AMERICAN HA	WORLD AIRSHIPS
	EUROPEAN AIRSHIPS	

CIA ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT

for the period from 1st January to 30th September 2000 in Swiss Francs

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
<u>DONATIONS</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u> (details on next page)			
Japan 2000	322	N. Robertson	1175		
Switzerland 2000	172	H. Akerstedt	1058		
UK 1999	541	S. Roux Devillas	600		
Slovenia 1999	78	N. Robertson	1027		
Slovenia 2000	82		4638		
Russia 2000	41				
Turkey 2000	43				
Ireland 1999	40	CIA Medals	234		
Australia 2000	329				
Austria 2000	330	Conference Expenses	778		
Czech Rep 2000	82				
Denmark 2000	40	FAI Medals	640		
Kenya 2000	39				
Brazil 2000	40	CIA Patches	2928		
Korea 2000	40				
	2219				
<u>SANCTION FEES</u>					
Mobilux '00	985				
Gordon Bennett '00	1000				
Hot Air Airships '00	1000				
Montegi '00	835				
Akwawit Cup '00	647				
Tisza Cup '00	500				
	4967				
<u>SALES</u>					
Patches and Ties	254				
<u>SUNDRIES</u>					
FAA Subvention supplement	314				
Protest fee CGB'99	164				
	478				
TOTAL INCOME	7918	TOTAL EXPENSES	8440		
				<u>CASH FLOW</u>	
				BALANCE 1/1/00	22934
				INCOME	7918
					30852
				EXPENDITURE	8440
				BALANCE 30/9/00	22412

Analysis of Expenses for period January to September 2000

NAME	DETAILS	Travel	Hotel & meals	Tel, fax & post	Stationary	Sundries	TOTALS
N. Robertson	Secretary expenses to 30 Nov 99			613	516	46	1175
S. Roux Devillas	WG Chairman's expenses for 1999			600			600
H. Akerstedt	2nd VP expenses for 1999			93			
	Jury Board expenses for 1999			74			
	Record Review expenses for 1999			370			
	Attending Breitling Ceremony in USA	277	244				1058
N. Robertson	Secretary expenses to 31 Mar 2000			612	393	22	1027

Analysis of other Costs

A. Westworth	12 sets CIA Medals	234
N. Robertson	Secretarial services for CIA conference in Greece, March 2000	778
FAI	Medals for World Airships, European Hot Air and Gordon Bennett	640
Logo & Prods WG	1000 CIA Patches	2928

.....

CIA DONATIONS SCHEME

- As you will see from the list on the previous page a number of countries have made a donation to CIA this year, but there are very many more which have not!
- Your donations are very important to the CIA, and enable it to continue to serve our sport world wide in an efficient and effective way.
- The CIA Donations Scheme is based on the number of pilots each country declares in it's Annual Return, and the minimum rates are as follows:

Number of pilots declared	0 – 100	101 – 750	Over 750
Minimum donation in US \$	\$25	\$200	\$350

- Please make your donation using one of the methods listed below.
-

PAYMENTS TO FAI/CIA

All payments under \$500, and ALL Donations, can be paid to the FAI/CIA by Credit Card using the approved form (see last page of Newsletter). All payments over \$500, including ALL Sanction Fees, should be paid by Bank Wire Transfer.

Please use the following bank routing information when you wire funds to FAI for the CIA account: International Money Transfer order or SWIFT Transfer with the following remarks:

SWIFT CODE: COUTCHZZ, Federation Aeronautique Internationale
 BANK A/C NO: Z425737AA (US\$), Z425737AB (CHF) or Z425737AC (FRF)
 BANK: COUTTS BANK (SWITZERLAND) LTD.,
 Talstrasse 69 Postfach, CH-8022 ZURICH, SWITZERLAND.
 MARK: Without charge for the beneficiary, and state what payment is for.

**POINTS FOR ACTION FROM THE CIA PLENARY MEETING,
THESSALONIKI, GREECE, MARCH 2000**

Numbers refer to CIA Plenary Minutes

8. CIA PRESIDENT

To request FAI to build more flexibility in to FAI By-Law 5.6.4.

49. To represent CIA on CASI in future.

18. JURY BOARD

To ensure the addition of the new paragraph concerning approval of scoring software in Section One of the Sporting Code.

To make approved changes to the requirements for experience for jurors.

19. OBSERVER SUBCOMMITTEE

To add approved qualifications for AA and Record Observers to the International Observer Registration programme.

To re-present proposals for Invitation and Selection Policy of Observers for CIA AX Category One Events at the Plenary Meeting in 2001.

20. PR & DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

To make the approved purchases of Patches, Anthems and Flags.

To review CIA name and logo and make recommendations to the Plenary Meeting in 2001.

To pursue the use of CIA logo on basket banners, targets, etc.

26. To arrange the payment of the approved donation to the 5th International Youth Camp.

21. EPAS

To follow up the offer from Gerald Sturzlinger of 10 sets of Fly Track GPS system.

22. RECORD REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

To ensure the incorporation of the approved amendments concerning elastic balloons in Section One of the Sporting Code.

To ensure the incorporation of the approved change of wording of the Equivalence of Gases rule in Section One of the Sporting Code.

To ensure the incorporation of the approved amendment concerning Airship altitude records in Section One of the Sporting Code.

Continued....

POINTS FOR ACTION FORM THE 2000 PLENARY – CONTINUED**25. RULES SUBCOMMITTEE**

To make the approved changes to the AX MER.

To make the approved amendment to Chapter 14 of the AX MER.

To make the approved deletions of AX MER

To make the approved sub-division of the AX MER

To ensure the publication of the approved Version 2.00 of the CIA Internal Regulations.

To ensure the publication of an initial World Ranking List

29. To ensure the addition of the approved rules concerning NO-SHOWS to Section One of the Sporting Code.

35. COMPETITORS SUBCOMMITTEE

To insure the incorporation of the details of the Competitors Subcommittee into the CIA Internal Regulations.

46. To ensure the incorporation of the approved Ranking Working Group in the Plenary Meeting 2001.

36. WORLD AIR GAMES WORKING GROUP

To ensure the use of the approved Competitor Selection Process for the 2nd World Air Games in 2001.

37. CIA SECRETARY

To ensure that current and future issues of the CIA Administration contain a more detailed breakdown of expenses.

- END -

FAI STATUTES AND BYLAWS

The major changes in the structure and management of FAI described elsewhere in this newsletter will, of course, necessitate corresponding changes in the Statutes and Bylaws.

A detailed paper on these changes is being prepared by CIA President Jean Claude Weber for the Rules Subcommittee, and subsequent discussion at the 2001 Plenary Meeting in Bern.

REPORT OF THE FAI PRESIDENT TO THE 93rd FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE (2000) IN LINKÖPING, SWEDEN

INTRODUCTION

As we all know, FAI was founded in 1905. Today, 95 years later, we find ourselves in a world far exceeding anyone's wildest dreams in 1905. Since then, FAI has recorded aviation's exploits from gas balloons and wood-and-fabric aeroplanes into the stratosphere, through the sound barrier and into outer space. A multitude of new aerial activities has emerged that was unimaginable a century ago: gliding, aeromodelling, parachuting, helicopters, hang-gliding, paragliding, microlight aircraft, manpowered aircraft, solar powered aircraft.

This process of change never stops, it keeps on relentlessly and ever faster. Just the past 10 years have changed the world into a very different place, politically, commercially, financially and not least, electronically. News and information have become instant. Computers have become vital to each of us in our personal lives. Some of us may not like this whirlwind of change, we may want the world to stop for a bit, but there is no Stop-button.

In FAI, we have tried to hang on and not fall off in the bends. We have tried not only to adapt to the changes, but also to grasp some of the opportunities that have come flashing by. We have been only partly successful, however, because FAI was not designed for this speed and this scope of operations, with a structure and systems from a past century. We are already past Vne, so to say.

All General Conferences are important. This present one, however, has become more important than most. FAI is now at a point where you, the owners, have to make decisions that will prove crucial to the future of the organisation, realising, of course, that failure to make decisions is also, by default, a decision. To present you the picture, let me walk you through the present register of FAI projects, ventures and plans:

MAIN FAI PROJECTS:

The World Air Games:

This FAI flagship was relaunched with the contract for the Second World Air Games signed in Toulouse in 1998 for the Games to be held in Andalucia in June, 2001. The organisation of this event has caused us many problems, which will be reported on later by the WAGCC. It has, however, also produced some successes.

A key feature of the second edition of the Games was a new approach to the crucial Media and Marketing issues. FAI decided to retain all media rights and created a Joint Venture with the 2001 WAG organiser to exploit them. Despite repeated financial problems and lack of response from Spain, the Joint Venture has, under the management of the WAGCC and the Secretary General, achieved some notable successes:

- 1) A new agreement for the year 2000 between FAI and the television distributor Trans World International (TWI) for yet another series of TV programs to be produced by the Joint Venture and distributed world-wide by TWI (as was the case in 1999). The six programs made in 1999 were a sales success, grossing nearly 150,000 dollars. The six programs being produced this year have already been sold to a number of countries.
- 2) The contract with Discovery Channel Network (DCN) that was signed yesterday covers a 10 year co-operation under which FAI will produce three programs in 2000 (with most production costs covered by DCN) to be aired on their Wings Channel in North America and some other parts of the world. Two of the programs have already been produced and a third is to follow.

In addition to this, the Eurosport Channel will also show the TWI programmes. These three

FAI partners are all “blue chip” companies in the TV world, associates that we dared not even dream about only three years ago. Still, there is some way to go before we see profits, but the success of our productions so far, created with our own resources and under our own control, represents FAI’s definitive media breakthrough.

These successes would have been impossible without professional staff such as WAG Managing Director Srecko Medven, FAI’s Media Officer Patricia Lamy and TV producer Roland Hilfiker. Above all, however, it is the FAI Secretary General who has been at the vanguard of all these operations and who has handled the complicated commercial negotiations and secured the ultimate result.

Future World Air Games:

After launching the bidding process two years ago for the 3rd Games in 2005, providing a six-year lead-time for prospective bidders, we have only one definite proposal on the table today. That bid, however, is very well documented, and the WAGCC will continue its work to present a definite recommendation next spring.

World Games, Akita, Japan, 2001:

This programme of non-Olympic sports creates candidates for the Olympic Program. The 2001 edition of the World Games in Akita, Japan, is proceeding as planned, and FAI will participate in these 6th World Games next year with parachuting events.

FAI World Grand Prix of Aviation:

The magnificent performances of the WGPA contribute to the build-up of aerobatics as a major entertainment feature, and are important to the FAI as a whole. It is driven solely by Jean-Louis Monnet and his WGPA company under an contract with FAI. Unfortunately, it is not proceeding as well as hoped, partly because it is hampered by internal rivalries in CIVA. This needs to be addressed by FAI’s coming leadership. We must not tolerate that a major FAI program is jeopardised by internal cliques within an Air Sport Commission. Some Commissions seem to forget that they are part of FAI and obliged to keep the overall interests of the organisation in mind.

The World Hang Gliding Series:

The contract with the World Hang Gliding Series organisation was terminated by CIVL last year due to poor management and lack of revenue generation. However, some of the events still thrive, and the spectacular Speed Gliding event in Greece this year was the subject of an important TV production that is included in both the TWI series and the Discovery program.

Cyber-Flying:

FAI maintains contact with interested organisations and groups in many countries and a second international contact meeting in December last year was held in Paris in December last year to discuss developments. A dedicated FAI website for cyber-flying has been set up, and a draft Cyber-flying Sporting Code is in circulation. Test competitions have taken place in Italy, and there are plans to present Simulated Flying in the 2001 WAG.

The Great Balloon Race:

The momentous non-stop circumnavigation of the globe by balloon last year has triggered major interest for creating a recurrent ballooning event. Through the company Business of Sport Consultancy Ltd. work is presently under way to create an organisation and a financial basis for instituting a Round-the-World Balloon Race, in order to provide the world’s ultimate ballooning challenge. Later today, the Ballooning Commission president will report more on this project.

These are the on-going major programmes of FAI. They represent our efforts at keeping FAI’s head above the water and, hopefully, to establish the financial footing we need in order

not to be washed into oblivion. All this activity, however, comes on top of the ever-present day to day activities of the FAI secretariat. It involves dealing with the media industry and with event organisers that are growing more and more professional. It involves legal issues, financial issues and policy issues - on a daily basis.

SO WHAT NOW?

These days, as you all now, being "old" is no longer what it was. "Old" used to generate respect through accumulated wisdom and sage decisions. The word "old" today, as often as not, has a negative ring to younger generations. Unfortunately, too many "old" organisations, both commercial and ideal ones, confirm this by fading away, unable to adapt and failing to inspire enthusiasm. If FAI is to survive, we must disprove that perception of "old". We can only do that by demonstrating ability to adapt.

This is also clearly the time to settle the existential question: *What is the purpose of FAI – what is FAI supposed to be and to do?* There are those who maintain that FAI is a service organisation set up to provide certain services to its owners. Others maintain that FAI is an institution with its own identity, created to promote aeronautics and the owners' common interests. One thing is beyond doubt: the FAI that was created in Paris 95 years ago was certainly not intended as a service bureau.

You have only to read the Statute paragraphs 1.2, 1.3 and 1.8 realise that also today, the notion that FAI is a "service organisation" is wide of the mark. Its owners, that is you, the Membership, may decide to change that, but as it stands, FAI is an international institution with a clear mission and a clear responsibility for the development of aviation, sporting aviation in particular. That has been my understanding and my guidance during the eight years that I have been involved in the leadership of this organisation, and it still is. Now it is up to you if you want FAI to stay in that role.

FINAL WORDS

You have given me the privilege of being president of this organisation for six years. Last year, I summed up some of the milestones that we had passed so far and listed the major achievements. For the record, I will do so again, with some updating:

- ◆ In 1994, we put FAI on the Internet, making FAI's vast documentation available to the world and opening up instantaneous electronic communications to everyone. For the first time individuals could communicate directly with FAI.
- ◆ From 1994 onwards, we have engaged ourselves actively in the European JAA activities and, together with our affiliate Europe Airsports, FAI now plays a clear role in these regulatory processes.
- ◆ In 1994, we became full members of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) and the International World Games Organisation (IGWA), and have since developed a string presence on this scene, opening a new path to the Olympic Games.
- ◆ In 1995, in Montreal, the FAI Council held a joint meeting with the Council of ICAO, presenting the case for devolution of national regulatory powers over non-commercial, sporting aviation to national private associations.
- ◆ In 1995, we established an Environmental Commission, which has put in place an overall environment policy for FAI and is developing codes of conduct for the various air sports.
- ◆ From 1995 onwards, we developed a good relationship with the International Aircraft Owners and Pilots Associations (IAOPA), and are closely co-ordinating our policies in regulatory matters.
- ◆ In 1996, we established the FAI Grand Prix of Aviation, our aerobatics flagship, whose magnificent airshow performances around the world are contributing to the build-up of aerobatics as a major entertainment feature.
- ◆ In 1996, we adopted, under the control of CIVL, the spectacular Speed Gliding event, which will shortly be broadcast on the Discovery Channel in the North and South America and United King-

dom.

- ◆ In 1997, we established FAI's ownership rights to all air sports events, securing full control over future income from the media.
- ◆ In 1997, we introduced a common advertising rules framework for the World Air Games and later decided to apply it to all air sports, creating a firm platform for our dealings with sponsors.
- ◆ In 1997, we participated with parachuting in the World Games in Lahti, for the first time producing, with FAI's own resources, the TV signal for Finnish and European TV. In 2001, we will do so again in Akita, Japan.
- ◆ In 1997, after nearly 10 years of continuous effort, we finally created the World Air Games, with Turkey hosting the groundbreaking First World Air Games in 1997 with over 3000 participants.
- ◆ In 1997, we established an Airspace Working Group which has since been actively engaged in battling the regulators and all those who are trying to force air sports out of the sky.
- ◆ In 1997, we entered the world of Cyberflying: flight simulation on private computers, a world inhabited by hundreds of thousands of people, and are actively pursuing this new area.
- ◆ In 1998, we consolidated the World Air Games concept by contracting with Spain for the 2nd Games to be held in Andalucia in 2001, and a decision on the 3rd Games, scheduled for 2005, is approaching.
- ◆ In 1998, we moved FAI operations to Lausanne, the Olympic capital, sharing this location with 14 other international sports federations and have since then been operating vastly more efficiently in an attractive legal environment.
- ◆ In 1999, we actively entered the world of television as producers of our own sports and information programs under long term contracts with major, "blue-chip" TV distributors and networks.
- ◆ During 1997-98 we developed a Business plan framework and this year we present a corresponding medium term budgeting system which will become an important administrative tool in our future activities.
- ◆ This year, 2000, we are in the process of finalising arrangements and financing for the FAI Round-the-World Balloon Race, in order to provide the world with the ultimate ballooning challenge.
- ◆ At this General Conference, we will hopefully agree to increase FAI's management capability by introducing an small Board of Executive Directors to replace the existing Council, improving FAI's ability to deal with its increasing array of special projects and contracts.

There should be no doubt as to where all these initiatives and events are pointing. They all represent unique new opportunities for FAI, which - properly managed - hold a new lease of life for the future of air sports. Also, they all aim at placing FAI in the high profile, high visibility position it deserves as the World's oldest aviation organisation.

I thank you, the membership who have allowed me the honour of serving you for such a long time, and who have, time and again, supported and endorsed the actions of the Officers and the strategy behind them. I thank my dedicated fellow FAI Officers and our Air Sport Commission Presidents, the real FAI, who have all put their weight in and made all this possible, bringing the results of our efforts out to the real people.

Especially, I thank our Secretary General Max Bishop, who has taken all these enormous challenges in his stride and performed miracles with inadequate resources, always bearing over with my often unreasonable demands on his capacity. It is in now your hands to make life better for all these dedicated people.

Eilif Ness, FAI President

Linköping, 28 September 2000.

CIA APPROVED JURORS LIST – 2000

SENIOR LEVEL JURORS	BX	INTERMEDIATE LEVEL JURORS	BX	ENTRY LEVEL JURORS	BX
Hans AKERSTEDT (SWE)	X	James BIRK (USA)		Sid CUTTER (USA)	
Don CAMERON (GBR)	X	Alan BLOUNT (USA)		Thomas FINK (GER)	
Horst HASSOLD (GER)		Garry BRITTON (USA)		Daniel GALBRAITH (AUS)	
Masashi KAKUDA (JPN)		Jakob BURKHARD (SUI)	X	Luc van GEYTE (BEL)	
Garry LOCKYER (CAN)	X	James BYRD (USA)		David GLEED (CAN)	
Les PURFIELD (GBR)	X	Tom DONNELLY (GBR)	X	Jon GRUBBSTEROM (SWE)	
Neil ROBERTSON (GBR)	X	Wolfgang GRUBER (AUT)	X	Torben HANSEN (DEN)	
Jean SAX (BEL)	X	Dominik HAGGENEY (GER)	X	Gerrit HEIRMAN (BEL)	
Tom SHEPPARD (USA)	X	Arnost HONIG (CZE)	X	Vess van HELDEN (NED)	
Arno SIEGER (GER)	X	Sabu ICHIYOSHI (JPN)		Sandor HIDAS (HUN)	
Jacques SOUKUP (GBR)	X	Risto JALAVA (FIN)		Hanne HOHMANN (GER)	
Debbie SPAETH (USA)	X	Helmut KOCAR	x	Patrick KEARLEY (GBR)	X
Victor THORNE (GBR)	X	Alex NAGORSKI (CAN)	X	Cathy KNUCHEL (CAN)	
Jean-Claude WEBER (LUX)	X	Koji OTA (JPN)		Jean le MARCHAND (FRA)	
		Brita PETERSEN (GER)	X	Tom MIKLOUSIC (CRO)	
		Mary Anne STEVENS (CAN)	x	Lindsay MUIR (GBR)	
				Mike MURPHY (USA)	
				Christer ODMAN (SWE)	
				Anita NOGUERA (ESP)	X
				Christer ODMAN (SWE)	
				Mako OIWA (JPN)	
				Ken PENFOLD (CAN)	
				Alain POULET (FRA)	
				Gren PUTLAND (AUS)	
				Murray SCHOLTZ (CAN)	
				Gerold SIGNER (SUI)	
				Bengt STENER (SWE)	
				Darryl STUART (AUS)	
				Mark SULLIVAN (USA)	
				Jonathan THORNTON (BRA)	
				Mike WALLACE (USA)	
14	12	16	9	30	2
The above are qualified to serve as Jury President or Member at any type of event		The above are qualified to serve as Jury President at any type of event except World Championships, and Jury Member at any type of event.		The above are qualified to serve as Jury Member at any type of event except World Championships	
Total Jurors = 60, Total BX = 23					

FAI MEMBERS, CIA DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES - As approved at the 2000 FAI General Conference

COUNTRY		STATUS	BALLOONING	CIA DELEGATE	CIA ALTERNATE
FULL MEMBERS	(75)				
ALGERIA	ALG	OK	NO		
ARGENTINA	ARG	OK	YES	Mazzini, G	Herrmann, C
AUSTRALIA	AUS	OK	YES	Wilson, R	Turnbull, K
AUSTRIA	AUT	OK	YES	Gruber, W	Starkbaum, J
AZERBAIJAN	AZE	OK	NO		
BELARUS	BLR	OK	YES	Zarik, K	Oblasov, W
BELGIUM	BEL	OK	YES	DeCock, P	Ivens, G
BRAZIL	BRA	OK	YES	Brites, L	Haim, S
BULGARIA	BUL	Suspended	YES	none declared	
CANADA	CAN	OK	YES	Nagorski, A	
CHILE	CHI	OK	YES	Torres Ojeda, P	
CHINA	CHN	OK	YES	Wu, G	Li, T
COLOMBIA	COL	OK	NO		
CROATIA	CRO	OK	YES	Miklousic, T	
CYPRUS	CYP	OK	NO		
CZECH REP	CZE	OK	YES	Suchy, M	Skalecka, L
DENMARK	DEN	OK	YES	Vinther, J	Sorensen, H
EGYPT	EGY	OK	YES	Osman, S	
ESTONIA	EST	OK	NO		
FINLAND	FIN	OK	YES	Pakarinen, E	Ollikainen, J
FRANCE	FRA	OK	YES	Villey, T	Poulet, A
GERMANY	GER	OK	YES	Haggeney, M	Schneider, U
GREECE	GRE	OK	YES	Kotsayerides, M	
GUATEMALA	GUA	OK	NO		
HONG KONG	HGK	OK	YES	none declared	
HUNGARY	HUN	OK	YES	Meszaros, B	Hidas, S
ICELAND	ISL	OK	NO		
INDIA	IND	OK	YES	Gupta, V	
INDONESIA	INA	OK	NO		
IRAN	IRQ	OK	NO		
IRAQ	IRQ	OK	NO		
IRELAND	IRL	OK	YES	McCormac, T	Lupton, O
ISRAEL	ISR	OK	NO		
ITALY	ITA	OK	YES	Cisaro, E	
JAPAN	JPN	OK	YES	Ichiyoshi, S	Kakuda, M
KAZAKHSTAN	KAZ	OK	YES	none declared	
KENYA	KEN	OK	YES	Marshall, C	
KOREA	KOR	OK	YES	Lee, S-J	Kim, D
KOREA (PRD)	PRK	Suspended	NO		
LATVIA	LAT	OK	YES	none declared	
LEBANON	LIB	OK	NO		
LITHUANIA	LTU	OK	YES	Komza, R	Mikelevicius, R
LUXEMBOURG	LUX	OK	YES	Sauber, C	Weber, J-C
MACEDONIA	MKD	OK	NO		
MEXICO	MEX	OK	YES	none declared	
MOLDOVA	MLD	OK	NO		
MONACO	MON	OK	NO		
MOROCCO	MAR	OK	NO		
MOZAMBIQUE	MOZ	OK	NO		

FAI MEMBERS, CIA DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES As approved at the 2000 FAI General Conference (continued)

COUNTRY		STATUS	BALLOONING	CIA DELEGATE	CIA ALTERNATE
NAMIBIA	NAM	OK	NO		
NETHERLANDS	NED	OK	YES	de Bruijn, M	Coucke, R
NEW ZEALAND	NZL	OK	YES	Stacey, M	McKee, D
NORWAY	NOR	OK	YES	Klingberg, M	
PAKISTAN	PAK	OK	NO		
POLAND	POL	OK	YES	Czemniawski, J	
PORTUGAL	POR	OK	YES	none declared	
ROMANIA	ROM	OK	YES	none declared	
RUSSIA	RUS	OK	YES	Shifrin, D	Tarassenko, N
SAN MARINO	SMR	OK	NO		
SINGAPORE	SIN	OK	NO		
SLOVAK REP	SVK	OK	YES	Santa, M	Brezan, J
SLOVENIA	SLO	OK	YES	Simoncic, I	Vipotnic, N
SOUTH AFRICA	RSA	OK	YES	Westworth, A	
SPAIN	ESP	OK	YES	Llado-Costa, C	Pusey, G
SWEDEN	SWE	OK	YES	Akerstedt, H	Stener, B
SWITZERLAND	SUI	OK	YES	Burkard, J	Horni, C
THAILAND	THA	OK	YES	none declared	
TURKEY	TUR	OK	YES	Ulusoy, S	Celik, Y
UKRAINE	UKR	OK	YES	Listratenko, K	Karnaukhov, V
UNITED KINGDOM	GBR	OK	YES	Cameron, D	Purfield, L
UNITED STATES	USA	OK	YES	Sullivan, M	Levin, D
UZBEKISTAN	UZB	Suspended	NO		
VENEZUELA	VEN	OK	YES	Delano, J	Dao, A
YUGOSLAVIA	YUG	OK	YES	Stoskovic, M	
ZIMBABWE	ZIM	OK	YES	none declared	
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	(8)				
ARMENIA	ARM	Suspended	NO		
BOSNIA & HERZ	BIH	OK	NO		
JORDAN	JOR	OK	NO		
KUWAIT	KUW	OK	NO		
LIECHTENSTEIN	LIE	OK	NO		
PHILIPPINES	PHI	Suspended	YES	none declared	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATE	UAE	OK	NO		
TEMPORARY MEMBER	(8)				
ECUADOR	ECU	OK	NO		
EL SALVADOR	ESA	OK	NO		
GEORGIA	GEO	OK	NO		
GUAM	GUM	OK	NO		
MADAGASCAR	MAD	OK	NO		
PERU	PER	OK	YES	none declared	
SURINAM	SUR	OK	NO		
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TRI	OK	NO		

CIA Delegates and Alternate Delegate changes from 1999 in italics

FAI Members: 75 Full (3 suspended), 7 Associate (2 suspended), 8 Temporary = 90 (5 suspended)

Active ballooning: 49 full (1 suspended), 1 associate (suspended) = 50 (1 suspended)

43 Delegates and 31 Alternate Delegates declared to FAI

CIA EVENT SANCTIONING

The value of CIA sanctions

The FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA) awards sanctions to organisers of balloon events who require international recognition for their event. Organisers can apply for a sanction to stage any international balloon event, but it is mandatory to apply for a sanction to stage a FAI Category One Championship (World, Continental and Coupe Gordon Bennett).

For organisers of smaller events a sanction guarantees the organiser assistance in the planning and staging of the event. The Commission's Event Planning and Advisory Service (EPAS) works with organisers to ensure the event is staged to the highest international standards for safety and flying operations. This gives the event credibility for competitors and helps the event to grow in size every year.

For organisers of other Category 1 Events and Premier Sporting Events, the awarding of a Ballooning Commission Sanction assists in three ways:

- * Providing International Officials
- * Increasing Competitor Participation
- * Attracting Sponsorship Money

Officials

By applying for a Ballooning Commission Sanction, event organisers can obtain assistance before, during and after the event. Before the event EPAS can provide assistance to important officials such as the Director or Safety Officer. During the event the Commission ensures that the correct international rules are used and the highest standards of safety and sportsmanship applied. After the event the Ballooning Commission and the FAI ratify the results and resolve any disputes or protests.

Competitor Participation

Major events are trying to attract the best pilots from around the world. If an event has a Ballooning Commission Sanction it is recognised by Pilots in every ballooning country in the world as a quality event. The Ballooning Commission advertises sanctioned events every year at its Plenary Meeting and in the FAI Calendar of International Sanctioned Events. Sanctioned Events are also reviewed by the CIA Competitors Committee. This means that the best pilots in every country get to learn about your event and consider attending. All of these reasons will help you to attract the best pilots for your event.

Sponsorship

An Event Sanction can assist in attracting sponsors by providing international credibility to the event and making it easier to get media coverage. In 1999 and 2000 the FAI employed consultants to make films of a number of sanctioned events in each airsport. These films have been sold to several European and American TV distributors. All of this support will help you to attract sponsors to your event.

Conclusion

The FAI Ballooning Commission wants to continue to work closely with the organisers of all International Balloon Events to assist them to run successful and profitable events that are enjoyed by both competitors and spectators. The sanction process has been created to achieve these worthwhile goals.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

CATEGORY 1 SANCTIONED EVENTS 2000

7th World Hot Air Airship Championship			
1	Jacques Besnard	SUI	12465
2	Charles Besnard	SUI	11290
3	Rainer Hasenclever	GER	10580
4	Thomas Ansorge	GER	9260
5	Eckhardt Korner	GER	8840
6	Vratislav Hlavaty	CZE	8830
7	Pawel Bamberski	POL	5240
8	Rick Wallace	USA	4555
9	Helmut Seitz	GER	1100
10	Haimo Wendlestein	GER	750

44th Coupe Gordon Bennett			
1	Eimers & Laudsmann	GER	795.7
2	Abruzzo & Rymer Davis	USA	745.3
3	Jurg & Van Houten	NED	623.0
4	Akerstedt & Balkedal	SWE	432.3
5	Kugler & Sheese	USA	322.8
6	Frieden & Knobelspiess	SUI	278.6
7	Furstner & Sturzlinger	AUT	279.9
8	Herschend & Levin	USA	256.2
9	BrachtendorfHuthmacher	GER	256
10	Van Havere & De Cock	BEL	239.9

12th European Hot Air Balloon Championship			
1	David Bareford	GBR	17118
2	Francois Messines	FRA	16149
3	Josef Scherzer	AUT	15108
4	Per Olof Ekeblad	SWE	15015
5	Michael Genz	GER	14686
6	Pieter Kooistra	NED	14634
7	Carles Llado Costa	ESP	14532
8	Oliver Bleikertz	GER	14353
9	Stephane Bolze	FRA	14350
10	Helmut Pottler	AUT	14296

2nd World Air Games Cup 2000			
1	Uwe Schneider	GER	10915
2	Markus Piper	GER	10308
3	Rubens Kalousdian	BRA	9944
4	Angel Aguirre	ESP	9290
5	Javier Tarno	ESP	9222
6	Ronny VanHavere	BEL	9102
7	Mamoru Endo	JPN	9034
8	Philippe De Cock	BEL	8955
9	Witold Filus	POL	8582
10	Fabio Passos	BRA	8559

Mobilux Trophy '00			
1	Paul Gibbs	AUS	5975
2	Neil Gabriel	GBR	5925
3	Crispin Williams	GBR	5884
4	Mathijs de Bruijn	NED	5634
5	Rubens Kalousdian	BRA	5570
6	Owen Keown	USA	5545
7	David Bareford	GBR	5485
8	Paolo Bonanno	ITA	5481
9	Masahiko Fujita	JPN	5278
10	Jan Timmers	BEL	5228

Motegi International 2000			
Results not available at the time of going to press			

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

The CIA Newsletter is published twice yearly by the CIA Secretary on behalf of the CIA Bureau. It is the only WRITTEN document to be distributed to ALL concerned with the CIA. It is open for the distribution of any suitable articles or material to everybody listed in the CIA Directory, and contributions are welcome. The next edition will be mailed in June 2001, and the deadline for submissions is 15th May 2001.

All information is believed to be correct at the time of publication, but no responsibility can be taken for any errors, omissions etc.

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FORM FOR USE WHEN MAKING PAYMENTS TO FAI/CIA BY CREDIT CARD

To: Federation Aeronautique Internationale
Avenue Mon-Repos 24, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland
Tel: + 41 21 345 1070, Fax +41 21 345 1077

From: (country)

I/we hereby authorise you to debit my/our credit card as follows:

Type of card (eg: Mastercard, Visa, etc)

Number

Expiry date

Name on card

Sum to be debited

Reason for payment **Donation to CIA for 2000**

Signature

Name

Date

CIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bern, Switzerland, 28th February to 3rd March 2001

Accommodation Booking Form for the Conference Hotel

To guarantee accommodation please return to the Hotel at the address below by 31st December 2000.

Kongress + Kursaal Bern AG

Hotel Allegro

Kornhausstrasse 3

3000 Bern 25

Tel: +41 31 339 53 86

Fax: +41 31 339 50 10

Email: kursaal@kursaal-bern.ch

Cancellations: up to 2 days (48 hours) before arrival – no charge, less than 1 day (24 hours) - 50% charged to the credit card.

Last name

First name

Address

Home

Work

Telephone

Fax

Email

Credit Card Type

Number

Valid to

Arrival Date

Departure Date

Rooms required:

Single occupancy

Double occupancy

Special requirements – Pick up at Bern Airport

Signature

Date

CIA STATISTICS AND ANNUAL RETURN

FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2000

COUNTRY

STATISTICS		Total number of balloons & airships	Total number of active pilots	Number of new pilots in year	Number of Intr. Comp. Observers
Balloons	Hot Air				
	Gas - AA				
	Gas - AM				
Airships	Hot Air				
	Gas				

Number of SPORTING LICENCES issued

Number of SAFETY SEMINARS in year

Number of ACCIDENTS in year

Number of FATALITIES in year

Number of EVENTS organised in year

NAC or BF sanctioned International Events

NAC or BF sanctioned National Events

Other Events

Number of pilots taking part in INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS in year

Date and name of next year's NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS in

	Date	Name
AA		
AM		
AX		
BX		

Names of BALLOONING PUBLICATIONS	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Number of NATIONAL RECORDS

	Distance	Duration	Altitude
AA			
AM			
AX			
BX			

Future BALLOON MEETS

NOTES - Please add any other relevant information and points of interest on the reverse of this form

This is a true and accurate summary of the statistics for our country as at _____

Submitted by _____ CIA Delegate

Please return to: Neil Robertson, CIA Secretary, Combe Hay Manor, BATH BA2 7EG, England.
 Fax: +44 1225 837212, Email: Neil.Robertson@dial.pipex.com

CIA CONFERENCE, BERN, SWITZERLAND 28TH FEBRUARY TO 3RD MARCH 2001

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please copy and distribute this form as required

NAMES	NATIONALITY	POSITION (Delegate, Alternate, Observer or Social)

Date of arrival in Bern:

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR CONFERENCE PLANNING THAT THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS KNOWN IN ADVANCE, SO PLEASE HELP BY COMPLETING THIS FORM IN GOOD TIME AND RETURNING IT TO:

**Neil Robertson, CIA Secretary, Combe Hay Manor, BATH BA2 7EG, England.
Tel: +44 1225 840655, Fax: +44 1225 837212,
email: Neil.Robertson@dial.pipex.com**