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**REPORT OF THE**

**Casale Monferrato, Italy,  
6-8 September 1982**

**31st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION**



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**



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INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION

Executive Committee

Report of the 31st Session

Casale Monferrato, Italy, 6 - 8 September 1982

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1983



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## I. ORGANIZATION

1. The 31st Session of the Executive Committee of the International Poplar Commission (IPC) was held at Casale Monferrato at the kind invitation of the Government of Italy, under the chairmanship of Mr. M. Viart. It was organized by the SAF<sup>1/</sup> Istituto di Sperimentazione per la Pioppicoltura and comprised a general opening meeting, a special meeting, two closed meetings, a general closing meeting, as well as a meeting of the Sub-committee on Nomenclature and Registration.

2. The special meeting was attended only by the elected or co-opted members of the Committee and the FAO Secretariat, whereas the two closed meetings were attended also by the chairmen of the working parties and ad hoc committees as non-voting participants, as well as by two observers from Argentina and China, as decided by the special meeting (see Section 3.1 below). The general opening and closing meetings were attended by all the members of the committee at large and by a number of observers from 18 countries' members of the Committee: Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Italy, Korea (Republic of), the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, USA and Yugoslavia. One non-member country, Sweden, was also represented. A list of participants is given in Annex 2.

3. The meeting of the Sub-committee on Nomenclature and Registration (7 September, p.m.) was chaired by Mr. M. Viart and was attended by Messrs. Avanzo, Herpka, Sekawin, Soulères, Steenakers, van Kraayenoord. Messrs. Fugalli and Levingston served as secretaries.

## II. OPENING OF THE SESSION

4. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Committee at 09.00 hrs on 6 September 1982, who acknowledged the assistance provided by the Italian authorities, in particular those of the National Poplar Commission, the ENCC<sup>2/</sup> and its SAF, and the role of FAO in convening the session. He also welcomed the new members of the Committee.

5. The demise of former members, Muhle-Larsen and Jaime Fanlo, was acknowledged by a brief silence.

6. Mr. S. Salvatici, the Director for International Relations in the headquarters of the Italian Forest Service, acknowledged and thanked the organizations involved in the convening and running of the session, drew attention to the current critical economic situation, the importance of wood (third place in the balance of payments) to the Italian economy, and the related importance of poplar cultivation in all its aspects. He saw the Session as being of particular importance to the furtherance and improvement of poplar culture also in Italy.

7. Mr. G. Scaramuzzi, SAF research coordinator, welcomed participants and observers and thanked the Istituto de Sperimentazione per la Pioppicoltura for its organization of the Session.

1/ Società Agricola e Forestale.

2/ Ente Nazionale Cellulosa e Carta.

8. Mr. J-P. Lanly, Chief of the Forest Resources Development Branch of the FAO Division of Forest Resources, thanked the organizers of the Session and the Executive Committee on behalf of the Director-General of FAO and conveyed the apologies of the Assistant Director-General and Head of the Forest Department, and of the Director of the Division of Forest Resources of FAO who had been unable to be present. He emphasized FAO's interest in the role that poplars could play in developing countries. He acknowledged the work of the previous secretary, Mr. Oscar Fugalli, who had served for 23 years, indicated the appointment of the new secretary, Mr. R. Levingston, and wished the session every success in what is now the 35th year of the life of the International Poplar Commission.

### III. MEETINGS

#### 3.1 Special Meeting

9. A special meeting of the Committee was held on 6 September 1982 to discuss the possible participation of observers (other than chairmen of working parties or ad hoc committees) in the meetings of the Committee. The cases in point were those of the observers from China and from Argentina.

10. It was decided that admission could be granted in cases where a specific request had been received from a government for the participation of an observer on the grounds of representation of an absent member or of a candidate to co-option. The observers would be excluded from discussions on procedural questions but could participate in technical discussions in a non-voting capacity.

11. It was recommended that a quotation of Article VI (2) on membership of the Committee be added to the normally quoted Article X (1) of the International Poplar Convention (Expenses), which is circulated with invitations to sessions of the Committee.

12. The order of the items on the Provisional Agenda was changed as follows:

1. Co-option of members.
2. Background information concerning the Commission.
3. Offers to host the 17th Session.
4. Themes proposed by member countries for the 17th Session of the Commission.
5. Names of cultivars submitted for registration.

#### 3.2 Closed Meeting No. 1 (7 September 1982)

13. Mr. D.C. Sanchez Avalos, alternate representative of Argentina to FAO, gave a brief statement of his government's proposal for co-option and indicated that the suggestion for his own co-option would not satisfy Article VII (2) of the Convention. He then withdrew from the closed meeting.

14. Two vacancies existed for co-opted members. Other proposals that had been received for co-option were:

- from Pakistan: Mr. Mahmoud Iqbal Sheikh
- from the Republic of Korea and Belgium: Mr. Horst Weisgerber (Fed. Rep. of Germany)
- from Canada: Mr. Robert Dobbs
- from Yugoslavia: Mr. Pribislav Marinkovic.

15. The Committee was unanimous in nominating Mr. Mahmoud Iqbal Sheikh. Considering that Yugoslavia was already adequately represented on the Committee, it was agreed that Mr. Weisgerber should fill the other vacancy on the condition that his government agrees to his candidature. If this was not forthcoming, the Committee agreed that the vacancy should be filled by Mr. Robert Dobbs, who would, in any case, serve as special liaison officer with the Committee for the organization of the 17th Session of the Commission (see paragraph 22 below).

16. Mr. M. Viart briefly referred to the history of the International Poplar Commission and his written statement (Annex 3) on the subject, drawing attention to the evolution of the Commission over the past 35 years of its existence and expressing the hope for continued dynamic progress through a process of continued rejuvenation.

17. The offer by Canada to host the 17th Session of the Commission in 1984 was gratefully acknowledged by the Committee.

18. Mr. G. Vallée gave a brief outline of a possible session programme and described the natural and man-made poplar stands to be seen in Canada, as well as the activities associated with their management and harvesting.

19. The Committee resolved to defer a decision on the Canadian offer until its next meeting the following day.

20. The following proposals for a theme for the 17th Session of the Commission were considered by the Committee:

Korea, Rep. of	(12.5.82)	"Poplars and willows for biomass production"
India	(15.5.82)	"Poplars for economic development"
USA	(03.6.82)	"Opportunities for expanding the universal utility of poplars and willows"
Netherlands	(01.7.82)	"The role of the IPC in the development of poplar growing in the world"
France	(01.7.82)	"Le développement de la production de biomasse et de bois d'oeuvre grâce à l'extension des possibilités d'utilisation des peupliers" (Development of the production of biomass and industrial wood due to the expansion of end-uses of poplars)

Sub-themes:

- Amélioration des connaissances sur la chorologie et l'écophysiologie des diverses sections et espèces du genre Populus (Improvement of knowledge on the distribution and eco-physiology of the diverse strains and species of the genus Populus)
- Enseignements susceptibles d'être tirés des essais et des réalisations actuelles sur les limites à l'élargissement de l'aire de culture des peupliers (Lessons to be learnt from the results of experiments dealing with the expansion of limits to the area of poplar culture)

Germany, Fed. Rep. of	(09.7.82)	"Impacts of multi-clonal varieties in poplars"
Belgium	(13.7.82)	For a European meeting: "Maladies foliaires et leurs conséquences" (Leaf diseases and their consequences)
Canada	(23.7.82)	For a North American meeting: "Peupliers et biomasse" (Poplars and biomass) "Le peuplier comme arbre de la forêt" (Poplar as a forest tree) "Production et utilisation de la biomasse" (Biomass production and utilization) "La biotechnologie et le peuplier" (Biotechnology and the poplar.)

21. A certain preference was shown for the theme proposed by India and the economic aspects of poplar cultivation in general. The Committee finally considered that in order to reflect the many suggestions made in writing and during the debate, an appropriate theme should combine economic factors with biomass utilization and the need to expand the range of poplar growing. The Secretariat, in collaboration with a select group, was requested to draft a comprehensive theme and related questionnaire for consideration by the Committee the following day.

### 3.3 Closed Meeting No. 2 (8 September 1982)

22. With regard to the location of the next Session of the Commission, the Committee decided to accept the offer of the Government of Canada to host the 17th Session of the Commission in 1984, and requested the Secretariat to report this decision to the Director-General of FAO and undertake the appropriate followup. The Committee also expressed the hope that the Session could be held just prior to the 9th World Forestry Congress in Mexico, that is, late in 1984.

23. It was anticipated by the chairman that France might consider hosting the 1986 Session of the Committee, as well as meetings of the subsidiary bodies.

24. The final draft of the proposed theme was tabled as "The new perspectives offered by poplars and willows for socio-economic development", together with an outline of the questionnaire to be distributed for completion by national poplar commissions.

25. The Committee agreed to the theme as worded above but discussed the questionnaire in depth, making a number of amendments and changes which were incorporated in a final version (see Annex 4) by a small drafting committee. The final version was presented at the general closing meeting later in the day.

26. Mr. Van der Meiden brought up the subject of "The Economics of Poplar Growing", stressing the increasing importance of this subject. He presented the Committee with two options: either, a) create a special subsidiary body to deal with this subject, or b) add this activity to the terms of reference of one of the existing subsidiary bodies, e.g. the Working Party on Logging and Utilization. The chairman of the above working party indicated that he and his colleagues were willing to be responsible for dealing with this new activity.

27. The Committee recommended that the topic of the economics of poplar growing be dealt with by the Working Party on Logging and Utilization and that its terms of reference be revised accordingly by the forthcoming session of the Commission in 1984.

28. The chairman of the above working party indicated his intention to undertake a survey of poplar-wood markets at regular three-year intervals. The Committee recommended that this also be presented for decision to the forthcoming session of the Commission.

#### IV. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

29. The general closing meeting was attended by both Committee members and a large number of observers. Mr. R.G. Fontaine, Honorary Secretary of the Commission, was also present and was warmly greeted by all participants.

30. The report on the work undertaken by the Working Party on Poplar Insect Pests was presented by Mr. D. Cadahia of Spain. The details of the report are given in Annex 5. He reported that he had been elected chairman of the working party following Mr. G.M. Arru's resignation which was very much regretted. Mr. B. Cavalcaselle was the new technical secretary.

31. The report on the activities of the 15th Session of the Working Party on Logging and Utilization of Poplar Wood was presented by Mr. J.J. Balatinecz of Canada, its new chairman. The details of the activities are presented in Annex 6. The chairman of the Committee drew attention to the past services of Mr. B. Quiquandon, former chairman of the working party, and due recognition was given by participants. As indicated earlier, the working party is prepared to expand its activities into the field of the economics of poplar growing, an aspect closely related to the economics of harvesting and processing.

32. Mr. B. Taxis, Chairman of the Working Party on Poplar Diseases, presented the report on its 22nd session. The theme for the session was "Leaf Diseases of Poplars, a Constraint on the Development of World Poplar Culture". The discussion had been divided into three main sections which are described, together with other details, in Annex 7. The extremely important aspect of the stimulating effect of the occurrence of diseases on research and tree breeding was stressed during the discussion.

33. Mr. L. Zsuffa, the chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Biomass Production presented the report of its second meeting. The ad hoc committee has carried out a survey for the use of poplar and willow biomass for energy in countries of the Commission. Details of this and other work are given in Annex 8. The need for a precise definition of the term "biomass" is evident for both developing and developed countries.

34. Mr. E. Avanzo, the chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Poplar Breeding, presented a concise report on his committee's work (see Annex 9). The exchange of material with the People's Republic of China and recommended research on the application of biotechnology to the breeding of poplars and willows were singled out as a factor, opening up new possibilities in the field of tree improvement.

35. Mr. M. Viart, in his capacity as chairman of the Sub-committee on Nomenclature and Registration, brought this matter to the attention of the meeting and particularly to the members of the Executive Committee. He reported that the Sub-committee at its

meeting held the previous day, had agreed:

- (a) to recommend for registration the name "Balsam Spire" submitted by the United Kingdom for a hybrid of Populus trichocarpa x P. tacamahaca 32, subject to the provision of the number of capsular valves (column 10);
- (b) to recommend for registration the following names proposed by Belgium, subject to the submission of the required registration forms duly filled in:

Beaupre	Boelare	Columbia River	Ogy
Gaver	Ghoy	Gibecq	
Hunnegem	Isières	Primo	
Raspalje	Trichobel	Unal	

- (c) to recommend for adoption by the Committee and eventually by the Commission the third proposal made at the end of Mr. Viart's note "Problems posed in the identification of poplars and willows", that is: to revamp the form FO:CLP/75/49 to take into account the scientific progress achieved in this field by the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (IUPV), principally by adding those characteristics which can improve the identification of the sections Aigeiros and Tacamahaca and thereby broaden the possibilities of identifying the poplars of the sections Leuce Turanga and Leucoides while retaining the present grouping of characteristics; conversely, the scale of annotations used by IUPV for each characteristic should be adopted in order to facilitate passing from one form to the other;
- (d) to recommend that the IUPV registration form should be used for the genus Salix.

36. The Committee concurred with the recommendations of the Sub-committee on Nomenclature and Registration and accepted gratefully Messrs. Viart's and Fugalli's offer to revise the IPC registration form accordingly, as well as the Register of Poplar Names, in time for the 17th Session of the Commission.

37. Suggestions for amending the outline for national progress reports were made by Messrs. Herpka and Johnson (Annex 9). The Committee concurred.

38. Mr. Viart's preparedness to draft the position paper on the theme for the 17th Session of the Commission was acknowledged with gratitude.

39. Mr. Lanly, on behalf of FAO, and Mr. Viart, on behalf of all participants, warmly thanked the authorities of the host country for their great effort to make so many meetings possible in such a short time.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Designation of two co-opted members to the Executive Committee
3. Activities of the Commission since its Sixteenth Session held in Turkey
4. Selection of the theme and formulation of the outline of activities for the Seventeenth Session of the Commission
5. Place of next session of the Commission
6. Any other matters
7. Closing of the Session

ANNEX 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Members of Executive Committee (by countries)

Belgium	V. Steenackers	Italy	Ervedo Giordano
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France	M. Viart (Chairman)	Netherlands	H.A. Van Der Meiden
	B. Quiquandon	Yugoslavia	I. Herpka
	B. Taris (Chairman, Working Party on Disease of Poplars)	USA	R.L. Johnson
Hungary	Béla Keresztesi	New Zealand	C.W.S. Van Kraayenoord

2. Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies

J.J. Balatinecz (Canada)	Chairman, Working Party Logging and Utilization of Poplar Wood	C.M. Arru (Italy)	Chairman, Working Party Insect Pests of Poplars
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3. Ad Hoc Committees

E. Avanzo (Italy)	Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee Poplar Breeding Improvement	L. Zsuffa (Canada)	Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee Biomass Production Systems for Salicaceae
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3. Names and Addresses of all Participants

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THE INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION IS 35 YEARS OLD

Marcel Viart - Chairman of Executive Committee of the IPC

Established in 1947, the International Poplar Commission marks this year the 35th anniversary of its activities. This is certainly an opportunity of drawing up a balance sheet of its work.

Background

The history of the International Poplar Commission is closely bound up with that of the French Poplar Commission, at least at its outset. When the French Commission was set up under an ordinance of 25 January 1947 by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Government instructed it to do its utmost for developing international cooperation in studying poplar cultivation and timber use. In the first months of operation, the French Commission therefore devoted considerable efforts to preparing a meeting of specialists from several European countries to discuss with them the problems faced at the time by poplar growers and users. Contacts had been facilitated by a study tour of Belgium and the Netherlands.

The idea of an international meeting had been welcomed by Mr. Leloup, the then Director of the Forestry Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The prerequisites for success had thus been created, and the French Poplar Commission could organize an International Poplar Week from 19 to 26 April 1947. Eight European countries accepted the invitation of the French Minister of Agriculture - Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland. Their representatives quickly agreed on the principle of establishing an International Poplar Commission. Mr. Leloup gave FAO's formal backing to this new International Commission. The new IPC was born, and 1947 can thus be regarded as the year when the International Poplar Commission was founded.

The second session was organized in 1948 by Italy which has subsequently played an outstanding role in the success of the International Poplar Commission.

Militant enthusiasm and faith in the future of international cooperation were the godparents of the young Commission, whose meetings followed each other at a fast pace. Four international congresses were held until 1953. In 1954, a poplar conference for the Middle East was arranged jointly by Lebanon and Syria. In 1956, Argentina received the delegates to the First Regional Poplar Conference for Latin America. At the Xth session in 1959, 21 countries were represented by some 125 delegates.

At present, the International Poplar Commission has the following 32 member countries in alphabetical order:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Argentina                     | Korea (Republic of ) |
| Austria                       | Lebanon              |
| Belgium                       | Morocco              |
| Bulgaria                      | Netherlands          |
| Canada                        | New Zealand          |
| China (People's Republic of)  | Pakistan             |
| Egypt                         | Portugal             |
| France                        | Romania              |
| Germany (Federal Republic of) | Spain                |
| Hungary                       | Switzerland          |
| India                         | Syria                |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of)    | Tunisia              |
| Iraq                          | Turkey               |
| Ireland                       | United Kingdom       |
| Italy                         | USA                  |
| Japan                         | Yugoslavia           |

The last country to be admitted as an IPC member was the People's Republic of China which, in this capacity, attended the XVith session organized by Turkey in November 1980.

#### Organization of IPC

The International Poplar Commission is governed by a Convention which places it within the framework of FAO and which the FAO Conference adopted at its Xth Session in November 1959. The most recent amendments to the Convention were adopted at the XIXth Session of the Conference held in Rome in November 1977.

In conformity with the statutes, an FAO member nation may join IPC when it formally accepts the Convention. However, the right of admission has been extended to countries that are not members of FAO but are members of specialized UN institutions or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, if they formally accept the Convention.

The purpose of the International Poplar Commission is to facilitate exchanges of ideas, information, research results and plant material among the member countries to promote poplar cultivation and the use of poplar wood. The same objectives cover all Salicaceae, that is, willows cultivated for timber use.

The Commission is summoned in ordinary session every four years (every two years prior to the most recent amendments) by the Director-General of FAO. But it may be assembled in special session, if necessary. A session is organized by one of the IPC member countries after the Director-General of FAO has accepted its candidacy.

An Executive Committee prepares and follows up the Commission's work for the sessions and between sessions. The Committee has 12 members elected in a personal capacity for a four-year term (six years prior to the latest amendments), and a maximum of five members co-opted for the same duration from among candidates presented by member countries for their special qualifications in the subject matter. The Executive Committee elects a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from its members. The Committee meets at each session of the Commission and at least once between such sessions after being summoned by the Director-General of FAO. The Executive Committee set up a Subcommittee on Nomenclature and Registration in 1953, following a decision by the Commission at its VIIth Session organized by the Federal Republic of Germany.

The FAO Forestry Department provides the permanent Secretariat of the Commission.

Scientific and technical problems are investigated by three working parties - on diseases, pests, and logging and utilization of poplar wood. Technical development and scientific progress have called for the establishment of two ad hoc committees - on breeding and improvement, created at the XIVth IPC Session organized by Romania in September 1971, and on biomass production, set up at the XVIth Session by Turkey in November 1980. These working parties and ad hoc committees group are the specialists involved in these fields of studies. They are called for meetings by their chairmen about once a year.

#### Activity of the IPC Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has already met 30 times since its establishment, i.e., a little less than once a year. The session organized by Italy in September 1982 is therefore the 31st meeting.

Apart from its role in the nomenclature and registration of poplar cultivars through its subcommittee, the Executive Committee is the prime mover of the Commission. Its

essential function is to lay down the subject of each session; the theme is announced to the member countries two years before the session and is designed to mobilize efforts for drawing up a special report to be submitted by each member country. The set of special reports represents a rich source of documentation which is at the root of the strides made in the past three decades.

The Committee also gives its opinion on the candidacy of countries offering to organize the ordinary sessions.

The Director-General of FAO consults the Committee on all matters concerning poplar (and willows) cultivation and timber use.

Lastly, the Committee has the important job of synthesizing the information and knowledge gathered and spreading it as widely as possible. It was one of the first tasks of the first Executive Committee to prepare a handbook which appeared in 1956 in the FAO Forestry and Forest Products Studies, entitled "Poplars in Forestry and Land Use", with the number 12. It was a collective job with contributions by the members of the Executive Committee. With Ph. Guinier as Chairman and G. Houtzagers as Vice-Chairman, the first Committee was composed of F.W. Bauer, E. Gaillard, G. Giordano, A. Herbignat, H. Johnson, T.H. Peace, G. Piccarolo, J. Pourtet and R. Regnier. Publication of the handbook in English, French, and Spanish made for considerable progress, and the edition was quickly exhausted. Some 12 years later, therefore, the Committee decided to rewrite the handbook in order to cover the evolution of knowledge and techniques, rather than re-issuing the old text with amendments. This project was carried out in 1979 with the publication of No. 10 in the FAO Forestry Series entitled "Poplars and Willows in Wood Production and Land Use", in French (original text), English, and Spanish.

#### Activity of the Subcommittee on Nomenclature and Registration

The Commission at its VIIth Session in 1953 decided to set up a Subcommittee on Registration and Nomenclature for investigating the best way of establishing a register of poplar names by adapting the nomenclature used by IPC to the new rules on horticultural nomenclature. This job was of special importance in view of the designation of IPC as the official body for the registration of forest cultivars of the genus Populus (International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, Utrecht, 1958).

As the success of poplar cultivation depends very largely on the appropriate choice of cultivars, poplar improvers are engaged in research leading to the creation of new cultivars with good ecological properties for growth in areas where poplar wood production is envisaged and with the greatest possible resistance to pests in those areas. In this way, the number of usable cultivars is gradually increasing. It therefore becomes necessary to identify them correctly and as precisely as possible to avoid possible confusion and to facilitate exchanges among users regardless of whether or not such exchanges are on a commercial basis.

Under the chairmanship of J. Pourtet, who headed the Executive Committee from 1969 to 1975, the Subcommittee fulfilled its task. In September 1971, its work resulted in a registration form with the code number FAO/IPC/71/30 to be used for describing poplar cultivars of the section Aegerios. The latest revision, dealing mainly with extending the possibility of registration to poplars of the section Tacamahaca (balsam poplars) and their hybrids with those of the section Aegerios was made at the XVth Session held at Rome in December 1975. The present form is designated FAO/IPC/75/49.

At present, 52 cultivars are described in line with this form and another eight candidates for registration.

The descriptive form has 85 columns, 40 of which are reserved to descriptive characteristics alone. As J. Pourtet wrote, "This document is not perfect but it has stood the test and makes it possible, especially in temperate Europe, to classify, identify, separate and group the principal clones cultivated there". A revision of the form is under consideration.

#### Work Done During Sessions

The Commission has thus far held 16 ordinary sessions, as follows:

<u>No. of Sessions</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Organizing Country</u>
International Week	1947	France
II	1948	Italy
III	1949	Belgium and Netherlands
IV	1950	Switzerland
V	1951	United Kingdom
VI	1952	Italy
VII	1953	Germany (Federal Rep. of)
VIII	1955	Spain
IX	1957	France
X	1959	Italy
XI	1962	Yugoslavia
XII	1965	Iran
XIII	1968	Canada
XIV	1971	Romania
XV	1975	FAO (Rome)
XVI	1980	Turkey
XVII	1984	CANADA

Each session includes work in plenary when the delegates take note of a general report on the activities of the National Poplar Commission in each member country and of a special report each member country is requested to submit on the subject of the session, as laid down by the Executive Committee. In general, a rapporteur is designated to sum up the information supplied by the member countries in this way.

Moreover, each session affords an opportunity for a meeting of the Executive Committee and of its Subcommittee on Registration and Nomenclature, as well as for at least one meeting of each Working Party and Ad Hoc Committee. For specialists this is always an opportunity of presenting scientific or technical communications on their work. Each chairman of the subsidiary bodies sums up the work and communications submitted.

In this way, each session takes stock of the development of poplar cultivation and the evolution of problems involved in poplar cultivation and the use of poplar wood in the various member countries.

In addition, sessions give rise to international congresses or study tours enabling the delegates to familiarize themselves with the conditions of poplar cultivation and the main lines of research in the organizing country. It should also be pointed out that such tours serve to forge links among international specialists; these friendly bonds gain strength as the number of meetings increases. This is a pledge of vitality marking international relations and cooperation in poplar cultivation.

## Activities of Working Parties

### Working Party on Logging and Utilization of Poplar Wood

This is the oldest Working Party of IPC because its establishment dates from the early 1950s. The Party assembles periodically all experts interested in the question of logging and utilization of poplar wood.

For each member country, the meeting is an opportunity of summing up and reporting on research underway and on the progress achieved. Moreover, the Working Party is drawing up a standard form for technological trials which should describe and qualify the wood of the cultivars used by the member countries. The Party also deals with the use of wood and with developing new possibilities for its utilization.

Nor are economic problems ignored by the Party; on the contrary, data are periodically gathered and submitted to the sessions of the Commission, thus making it possible to monitor the evolution of cultivated areas, the quantities exploited, operating costs and prices.

### Working Party on Poplar Diseases

Since its first meeting in Paris in April 1957, the Working Party on Diseases has met regularly, with increasing attendance by pathologists.

As with the Party on Logging and Utilization, each meeting serves to inform colleagues and to be informed about the health conditions of poplar plantations in the member countries and about the work done and results of research.

A subject is proposed to the participants in a meeting so that discussions can quickly concentrate on a common field. Joint research programmes are designed for the pathology laboratories concerned. Mention may be made of international arrangements for studying the susceptibility of cultivars to Marssonnia brunnea and a research programme on sensitivity to Xanthomonas populi. In carrying out these programmes, pathologists help one another, exchanging information, techniques and sometimes their material. They receive researchers for a period of time when they can familiarize themselves with the methods applied. In this way knowledge of poplar diseases has made rapid strides.

Apart from summary reports on the meetings, with the texts of the communications presented in an annex providing a wealth of documentation, the Working Party in 1981 completed a synthesis which was published under the French title, "Les maladies du peuplier" (Poplar Diseases) by a Forestry Fund set up in 1946 by France to promote the reconstitution, expansion and improvement of French forest resources.

### Working Party on Poplar Insect Pests

This Working Party was created in 1957 after a number of Belgian, French, Italian, Dutch and Spanish entomologists met in Paris. They pointed out the significance of insects, mainly xylophagous ones, for the development of modern poplar cultivation and suggested that the International Poplar Commission set up a working party on poplar pests, along the lines of the Working Party on Poplar Diseases.

Since its establishment, the Working Party has operated regularly under conditions comparable to those of the Party on Diseases, in the same spirit and with the same goals.

The whole chapter on pests of Salicaceae, insects and other animals, in the handbook published by FAO in 1979 was drafted in collaboration with members of the Party.

#### Ad Hoc Committee on Poplar Breeding

On the basis of work done by pathologists and, to a lesser extent, by entomologists who brought out the hereditary character of susceptibility and resistance to diseases and to some insects such as Phloeomyzus passerini, poplar breeders felt the need of setting up a structure for coordination and cooperation. This opened up great possibilities for biological control of certain poplar pests which had to be exploited.

However, until 1971 breeders had confined themselves to taking part in the work of the Working Party on Diseases and to closely observing the research results of pathologists concerning variability in the reaction of cultivated poplars to pathogens. Systematic work done mainly in Belgium on the heritability of certain genetic characters showed that poplar genetics ought to have its place among the concerns of the Commission which therefore agreed to the establishment of the new ad hoc committee.

Some important activities may be mentioned: On the one hand, close liaison with the Poplar Council of the United States of America and, thanks to its cooperation, several harvesting drives for seed from various sources of Populus deltoides, then Populus trichocarpa, which were subsequently distributed to European countries involved in research programmes concerning those species; on the other hand, thanks to a generous offer from the Academy of Forestry Science of the People's Republic of China, a first harvesting drive for propagation material from various sources of Populus maximowiczii, Populus simonii and Populus yunnanensis to be distributed widely among member countries. These undertakings are significant examples for the spirit of international cooperation that has always characterized the member countries of IPC. They are harbingers of a veritable revolution that may affect poplar cultivation in some countries by leading to the creation of new hybrids.

But one should not underestimate the risk of spreading diseases, and close liaison with pathologists must not be relaxed.

#### Ad Hoc Committee on Biomass Production Systems for the Salicaceae

A new group set up at the XVIth Session in 1980, the Ad Hoc Committee on Biomass Production, aims at continuing coordination among poplar specialists concerned with biomass production from Salicaceae, willows and poplars.

Since this is a totally novel kind of poplar cultivation, as to techniques of cultivation, choice of cultivars, and harvesting techniques, the delegates to the XVIth Session preferred to assign these problems to one group rather than splitting their study among the existing Working Parties. The Ad Hoc Committee can certainly better maintain relations with institutions pursuing similar objectives in organizations such as the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations.

The Ad Hoc Committee held its first formal meeting on the occasion of the XVIIth IUFRO Congress in Japan in September 1981.

#### Spreading Poplar Cultivation

In spreading knowledge and promoting poplar cultivation, IPC activities are not limited to preparing the handbooks mentioned earlier. It should be noted that when a country organizes a session or international congress, this is always an opportunity of mobilizing the media in favour of poplar cultivation, and the consequences may be very important. It is an indirect effect, but it must not be neglected.

The Commission was directly involved in the creation of the Populetum mediterraneum proposed by the delegates to the VIIIth Session (Spain, 1955), who approved a recommendation to that effect. The first plantations were made in the Spring of 1956 on a farm of the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Centre at Tivoli, near Rome. Continued in the following years, the plantings have assembled a living collection of some 300 clones of several poplar species. In 1966, IPC sponsored the establishment of a populetum near Cologne, in the Federal Republic of Germany, which groups about 60 clones cultivated in Central and Western Europe. Another populetum for the Near East was established near Ankara, Turkey. The Italian, German and Turkish Poplar Commissions are requested to report on their observations and growth measurements. The data gathered in this way permit useful comparisons and are a remarkable source of information on the behaviour of the species or varieties represented.

#### Technical Assistance

The first results obtained by the International Poplar Commission, not only in the technical field but perhaps even more so in human relations, soon led to requests for technical assistance from FAO.

The International Commission thus acted as technical adviser to the Director-General of FAO to coordinate programmes, provide candidates for consultants' posts in poplar cultivation, and facilitate the reception of foreign colleagues by specialists, generally in Europe, for varying periods of time.

In this way, a network of friendly relations has been gradually built up between the countries most advanced in poplar cultivation and countries where cultivation is being modernized, as in Middle Eastern countries, or where it is being promoted, as in some countries in Asia.

The best example is the establishment of the Poplar Cultivation Institute at Izmir, Turkey, in 1962 after a long period of preparation which began in 1957. But one may list other countries that have received some form of aid - Iraq, Iran, Yugoslavia, etc.

#### Conclusion

Sprung from the enthusiasm of its promoters and their faith in the interest of international cooperation to promote cultivation of one of the most interesting quick-growing species in temperate and temperate-warm climates, the International Poplar Commission has worked without letup along the lines laid down by its founder and president, Ph. Guinier:

- to perfect botanical, ecological and technological knowledge of the species and varieties of the genus Populus;
- to perfect cultivating methods in order to establish prosperous and productive plantations;
- to study animal and plant pests of poplars for better control;
- to improve cultivated poplars; and,
- to perfect the use of poplar wood.

The balance-sheet briefly outlined just now shows that, while these goals have been wholly attained, the means of attaining them are available and that the tools have been forged enabling us tomorrow to find satisfactory solutions to today's problems. At any rate, this balance-sheet shows that the International Poplar Commission, after 35 years, remains a living institution capable of following the evolution of knowledge and techniques, capable of adjusting itself to changes in technology. The establishment of the young Ad Hoc Committee on Biomass Production in 1980 is a significant example in this respect.

Yesterday: enthusiasm and faith in the future

Today: youth and vitality

These are reasons to believe that the two remaining decades of this century, which will certainly witness many changes in meeting the needs of mankind, will find the International Poplar Commission prepared for service to the nations.

THEME OF THE 17th SESSION AND QUESTIONNAIRE

NEW PERSPECTIVES OFFERED BY POPLARS AND WILLOWS  
FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Measures undertaken to widen the knowledge of indigenous species:
  - a) knowledge of the variability and identification of species, provenances and ecotypes;
  - b) identification of the ecophysiological requirements of species, provenances and ecotypes and of their potential for genetic improvement and planting.
2. Measures adopted for the conservation of indigenous and introduced genetic resources:
  - a) present situation;
  - b) suggestions on the measures to be taken and an evaluation of their costs.
3. The present utilization and potential of indigenous species:
  - a) selection of the best provenances and phenotypes for the creation of plantations;
  - b) integration of the best genotypes in tree breeding programmes.
4. New measures envisaged:
  - a) for the protection of nurseries and extensive and intensive plantations against pests and diseases;
  - b) for the detection and prevention of the adverse effects of pests and diseases on the occasion of the exchange of plant material;
  - c) for the studies of the behaviour of new clones in respect of adverse factors.
5. The application of biotechnology to enhance production and diversify utilization of biomass (e.g., for human and animal nutrition, energy for transport and other purposes and organic chemical products).
6. Analysis of the development and of the perspectives of:
  - a) the wood market of poplars and willows;
  - b) the utilization of the biomass of poplars and willows for traditional as well as innovative purposes (see paragraph 5 above);
  - c) the cost/benefit relation of poplar and willow growing.
7. Government incentives to encourage production:
  - a) subsidies and fiscal measures to promote planting;
  - b) measures affecting the level of market prices.

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON POPLAR INSECT PESTS

The Ninth Session of the Working Party on Insect Pests was held in Casale Monferrato, Italy, in September 1982.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Session was opened by the Chairman of the Working Party, Professor Giovanni Arru, and the first point was the adoption of the agenda (see Annex 1).

2. Reports on the State of Health of Poplar and Willow Plantations Presented by National Commissions

Reports by the National Commissions of Bulgaria and Italy were presented.

The first listed briefly the insects at present causing damage in poplar and willow plantations in Bulgaria, from the nursery to the plantation. Particularly noteworthy are the insects Tanymecus palliatus F. and Hyponomeuta rorellus Hbr., seldom found in other countries, that affect young shoots and leaves.

The report by the Italian National Commission did not indicate any important variations in comparison with previous years, apart from attacks by the usual xylophagous and defoliator insects. Mention was made of the recent discovery of the Phlaeothripidae: Liothrips crassipes Jabl. (Thysanoptera) that sucks the trunk and produces suberization of the bark, mainly with smooth-barked clones, because of the toxic effect of their saliva in the punctures. The damage done by this new insect in Italy is related to weakness of the tree following drought. Also noteworthy were the infestations by Phloeomyzus passerinii Sign. in the north of Italy in the spring and summer of 1980 and 1982, whose intensity in terms of damage has not yet been assessed; however, the death of more than 10 000 trees has been recorded, in addition to premature felling of some trees.

There was also news of good results obtained against Cryptorhynchus lapathi and Saperda carcharias in the larva state, through the use of low-toxicity insecticides such as Chlorpiritos methyl (DL50 oral in proportions of 1630-2140 mg/kg). A spray formula of Proposur+ Dichloros localized in larval galleries had proved very effective against S. carcharias.

Experiments have also been made in evaluating populations and flight cover of Paranthrene tabaniformis adults and synthetic sexual attractants. Work has started on the identification of the sexual pheromone of Gypsonoma aceriana Dup.

Continuing with recent lines of work, experiments were carried out on multiclonal susceptibility-resistance of the poplar to C. lapathi and S. carcharias and the aphid Ph. passerinii.

The Swiss Delegation submitted a verbal report on the health situation in that country. The most important damage had been produced by the xylophagous S. carcharia, S. populnea and Aegeria apiformis and the defoliator Stilpnotia salicis. Treatment against the latter pest has been carried out in the River Orbe plain with Bacillus thuringiensis, applied by helicopter.

The Spanish Delegation reported on the health situation in Spain, stating that nothing new had been detected as compared with previous years, apart from the frequent attacks by Melanophlla picta, which no doubt are due to the persistent drought of recent years. Following information obtained at the Eighth Session of the Working Party in Izmir, Turkey, in Spring 1981, 1 200 ha have been treated against S. salicis with an aerial application of Diflubenzuron at a dose of 60 g of active matter per ha, in the form of a powder dissolved in 20 litres of water, obtaining 100 percent mortality of the insect after ten days. Experimental treatment has also been carried out against C. lapathi adults with Fenitrothion at 5% in doses of 12-15 kg/ha; the results are still difficult to evaluate, but the treatment is apparently effective.

### 3. New Insect Pests and Methods of Control

Messrs. Lapietra and Allegro submitted a report on the recent appearance in Italy of the sucker Liothrips crassipes Jabl. (Thysanoptera, Phlaeothripidae), which had already been mentioned in the report by the Italian National Commission; a brief review of its bionomics was also provided.

No other news on new poplar or willow pests was recorded.

### 4. Other Communications and Discussion of them

Four other communications were submitted.

#### 4.1 "Growth of some willow clones and their resistance to Rhabdophaga saliciperda Duf. in the Danubian riverside", submitted by T. Tsanov and J. Naidenov, Bulgaria

The low susceptibility of two Salix alba clones of Bulgarian origin toward Rhabdophaga saliciperda in comparison with other clones was demonstrated in this study. There was an important difference in the degree of susceptibility, depending on the site of the plantation.

#### 4.2 "On the susceptibility of some Euramerican hybrid cultivars to the attacks of Cryptorhynchus lapathi L. and Saperda carcharias L.", submitted by B. Cavalcaselle and E. De Bellis, of the Centro di Sperimentazione Agricola e Forestale, Rome.

The paper described experiments in relative resistance of fifteen poplar clones to C. lapathi and S. carcharias, carried out in Rome and in Umbria. Total resistance of the clone P. alba 42/57 was found for C. lapathi, whereas the two P. deltoides clones tested were highly susceptible; among the Euramerican poplars, the "Carpaccio" and "Bellini" clones were found to be highly susceptible. The susceptibility of both the P. deltoides clones tested was less marked with regard to S. carcharias, whereas the "Carpaccio", "Tiepolo" and "L. Avanzo" clones were very susceptible as compared with I-214.

#### 4.3 "Responses of Paranthrene tabaniformis Rott. (Lepidoptera, Sesiidae) to sex attractants", submitted by G. Lapietra and G. Allegro.

This document summarized briefly the results obtained in trials of sex traps with the sexual attractant (E,Z)-3, 13-C<sub>18</sub>:OH, pure or mixed with other synthetic attractants; the trials were intended to clarify the flight curve behaviour of P. tabaniformis and the utilization of the sex attractants in integrated control of the insect. The sex attractant and its combinations proved very selective and effective, although closer biological knowledge of the insect is necessary to be able to use them in monitoring populations of the insect.

#### 4.4 "Méthode quantitative d'estimation de la sensibilité des peupliers aux phytophages" (Quantitative method of estimating the susceptibility of poplars to phytophagous insects), submitted by L. Nef of Belgium.

This paper described a method by which the "relative susceptibility of poplar clones could be quantitatively evaluated, and the differences detected between these sensitivities. The leaf miners Phyllocnistis suffusella Z., Zengophora planicallis Marsh and Stigmella trimaculella Haw. were used as trial insects.

### 5. Studies of Resistance of Poplars to Insects and Experimental Methods

Professor Arru presented an informal note in which the principles of resistance to insects were defined; the paper is intended as a standardized technical orientation applicable to future research schemes by member countries.

After a long discussion it was proposed to carry out joint basic research schemes covering a small number of important insects, in order to avoid duplication of efforts. Ph. passerini and C. lapathi were selected as being two of the most important ones, because of the severe damage caused by them, their presence throughout the world, and also because they are the insects to which most research efforts have been devoted in recent years. As regards experimental material, it was agreed that it should be provided by one single institute and that the origin of the material must be specified and guaranteed; clones with known and different degrees of susceptibility should be used as comparison or standard clones. A common methodology should also be established for insect breeding and for the establishment of experiments, ideally in coordination with the Working Parties on Diseases and Genetic Improvement.

A note was prepared on this subject for discussion in the Joint Meeting of all the Working Parties of the International Poplar Commission.

#### 6. Other Business

The Chairman of the Working Party, Professor G. Arru, informed those present of his decision to give up the responsibility as Chairman which he had held for eleven years; he proposed that a new Chairman be appointed. All participants joined in recognizing the excellent work done by Professor Arru and asked him to reconsider his decision. Professor Arru then proposed Dr. Cadahia as the new Chairman of the Working Party and Dr. Cavalcaselle as its Technical Secretary. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

Dr. Maksymov thanked Professor Arru, on behalf of all those present, for his dedication to the Working Party over eleven years, and for his efficient work.

The Session was then closed.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON LOGGING AND UTILIZATION OF POPLAR WOOD

The Working Group on Logging and Utilization of Poplar Wood met on the afternoon of 6 September 1982, under the chairmanship of Mr. J.J. Balatinecz.

Attended the meeting:

Balatinecz, J.	Canada
D'Oultremont, C.	Belgium
Giordano, G.	Italy
Prevosto, M.	Italy
Quaglino, A.	Italy
Quiquandon, B.	France
Rojas, G.	Spain
Scaramuzzi, G.	Italy
Van Der Meiden, H.A.	Netherlands

Because of the absence of Mr. Birler, Mr. Scaramuzzi was asked to serve as the Technical Secretary of the Group.

Opening the session, the Chairman said that, also on the suggestion of other members of the Group, he had asked the Biomass Committee Chairman, Mr. Zsuffa, to have joint sessions of the two groups to meet the interests of a number of participants for both fields. Mr. Zsuffa was unable to meet the proposal because of the long meeting agenda of his group. It was therefore agreed to complete the meeting agenda in one day and join in the discussions of the Biomass Group at the second day.

The following tentative agenda was proposed by the Chairman and approved by the Group:

1. Identification of participating countries.
2. Reports from participating delegates concerning harvesting techniques and technology and discussion.
3. Reports from participating delegates concerning utilization of the poplar resource and discussion.
4. News in research and development of poplar-based products.
5. Opportunities for international cooperation in poplar logging and utilization.
6. Future activities and the next meeting of the Working Party on Logging and Wood Utilization.

Resulting from the list of participants, the following countries were represented: Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain.

In opening the meeting, the Chairman recognized the important contribution of Mr. Quiquandon in directing the activities of the Group as its former Chairman. Then Mr. Balatinecz asked Mr. Quiquandon to offer his opening remarks to the members present.

Mr. Quiquandon made reference to the previous meeting of the Working Group in November 1980 in Izmir, Turkey, where the present Chairman, Mr. Balatinecz, was elected and Mr. Birler was elected as Technical Secretary. Mr. Quiquandon pointed out the problem that there are relatively few experts with experience in the wood technology of poplars.

A. Discussion of Logging

Mr. Quiquandon started the discussion by offering further information about the new CTB "Biomass Harvesting Machine" which was shown in a film during the morning. The latest prototype model performed quite well during field trials. Presently, there are only preliminary data about the production capacity and economics of the machine. It was expected that the machine will be manufactured and commercialized by a French company.

During the discussion it was pointed out that more information is needed about the economics of biomass production systems (both plantations and natural stands). Several of the European members expressed their concern about the unfavourable economics of plantations at the present time. It was also recognized that the total energy balance (energy input vs. energy output) of production systems should be evaluated.

The Chairman suggested that the Group might consider developing a list of harvesting equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

B. Discussion of Wood Utilization and Other Topics

Mr. Quiquandon presented a report from CTB on the Properties of Poplar Wood - I 45-51, Fritzi-Pauley and F 41.

Production and utilization data were presented for Belgium, France and Italy.

Mr. Prevosto presented a brief paper on a Proposal of Guidelines for a More Efficient Utilization and Development of the Forest Resources of Italy.

As a new technological development, Mr. Quiquandon presented information about a new rotary wood slicer with constant radius. The machine is suitable for the slicing of small diameter bolts, and the slicer may be used for a variety of applications.

Mr. Balatinecz offered a brief summary about the waferboard industry in North America, which has significantly expanded poplar utilization during the past decade.

Mr. Giordano suggested the preparation of a document gathering information from different countries concerning the sawing, peeling, kiln-drying and other processing of poplar wood. This document should be prepared and presented at the next meeting of the Group.

C. Next Meeting and Recommendations for Future Activities

After considerable discussion of the importance of economics in the production and utilization of poplar wood, it was recognized that there is a need for the IPC to cover and to permanently include ECONOMICS in its activities. Mr. Van Der Meiden suggested that this may be achieved by establishing a new committee or by adding economics to the responsibilities of one of the existing Groups. All members of the Working Group on Logging and Utilization were in favour of recommending to the Executive Committee the addition of Economics to the responsibilities of the Group. This is justified by the presence of economists in the Group and the past coverage of economic themes by Mr. Van Der Meiden.

The Group agreed to carry on the very important periodic survey of the poplar wood market, originally conducted by Mr. Van Der Meiden. However, owing to the size and complexity of the task, a small team of experts will share the workload in the future. Members of the team will represent the different geographic regions of IPC member countries.

The next meeting of the Group will be held during the next session of IPC.

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON POPLAR DISEASES

Introduction

The Working Party on Diseases held its Twenty-Second Session in Casale Monferrato on 6 and 7 September 1982.

Twenty-six participants were present, representing ten countries.

This was the third time the Working Party had met in Italy, since the Fifth and Seventeenth Sessions were also held in Casale Monferrato in 1959 and 1973. Clearly this shows the attachment of the Working Party to this site which, for many, remains the Mecca of poplar growing.

The subject this year was: "Leaf diseases of poplars, a constraint on the development of world poplar culture".

Discussions were divided under three headings:

1. State of plant health and principal problems during the last two years;
2. Papers and discussion on leaf diseases;
3. Papers on various subjects.

State of Plant Health

Although generally the same parasites were mentioned in the many papers, the increased relative importance of certain diseases was nevertheless clear.

- Rusts (Melampsora), which in some countries (for example, Belgium) have, after repeated attacks, led to the loss of vigour and death of many poplar plantations.

Is this due to the development of new physiological races? ... Influence of increased selection pressure on the inoculum? ... Climatic conditions more favourable to parasites? ... Special sensitivity of certain clones? ... Whatever the answer, Belgium, France and Italy (and this list is not exhaustive) are particularly worried about Melampsora rusts, and continued collaboration between pathologists and breeders on this subject is imperative.

- Marssonina spp. was also widely quoted. The disease is present in almost all countries but it seems that, during the last two years, a lowering of intensity of attacks can be noted.

Despite this, the search for resistant clones must be continued.

- Leaf-spot disease (tavelurs), on the other hand, appears to be spreading in many countries (Italy and France in particular), and resistance to diseases causing this should be borne in mind in selection programmes.

- Among other diseases of which new outbreaks had been noted, special mention should be made of Dothichiza populea; Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal and Bulgaria expressed their concern with regard to this parasite.

In a period when maintenance of poplar plantations is becoming less intensive (often for economic reasons), particular attention should be paid to Dothichiza populea, which twenty years ago limited poplar cultivation in many European countries.

Although bacterial and viral diseases were often mentioned, they did not seem to have developed during the last two years into causing grave concern, except in a few special cases.

After the papers on the state of plant health, several short communications were presented.

### Leaf Diseases

Melampsora - Seven communications were submitted on the subject of rusts:

- by Belgium on physiological races;
- by France on notations/quotations;
- by Australia on biology and epidemiology (four communications);
- by Yugoslavia on epidemiology.

It was necessary to learn more about the susceptibility of traditional and "new" clones to this disease. The need to pursue and develop collaboration between pathologists and breeders is imperative.

Marssonina - Eight communications were submitted on this item.

- New Zealand: taxonomy, transmission, prevention, differences in clonal resistance; these five communications were presented on the present state of work carried out in the country, which has been adversely affected by the development of these diseases, to a point where the development of poplar cultivation in this part of the world is being compromised.

Standardized methods of testing at international level are highly desirable.

- Italy: physiology, treatments.
- France: international FAO-ICP Disease test.

The test method selected in 1973 was confirmed, with a few very slight modifications.

It is very important that this method be applied before the distribution of possible new clones within the European Community.

Spot disease - The spread of spot diseases was the subject of four communications mainly dealing with the systematics and the epidemiology of these parasites.

Resistance to these diseases should be given increased consideration in selection programmes.

### Other Diseases - Various Subjects

a) Fungi

Dothichiza

Hypoxylon

Three communications

b) Bacteria

Erwinia salicis - one communication

c) Viruses: behaviour of various clones - one communication

d) Chlorosis - one communication

e) Suberization - one communication

f) Influence of leaf diseases on production - one communication

As evident above, there was a large number of communications (too large for the time allotted), and it is hoped that discussions may be continued during field trips.

This Twenty-Second Session has shown that diseases remain a serious constraint on any breakthrough in poplar cultivation, however, they can also be considered a "driving force", which stimulate research programmes. We hope that, in consultation with the breeders, pathologists will be able to contribute to the spread and expansion of poplar cultivation in the world, in the best interests of posterity.

N.B. Following the invitation presented by Mr. Vallée and Mr. Hubbes, the following decisions were made with regard to the Twenty-Third Session of the Working Party on Poplar Diseases:

- Place: Canada (Ottawa)
- Time: Probably September 1984

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON BIOMASS PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR THE SALICACEAE

The Ad Hoc Committee on Biomass Production Systems in Salicaceae held its second meeting according to a programme recommended and accepted at its first meeting.

Delegates from 10 countries and FAO representatives (for a total of 19 persons) participated in the meetings. On the second day, delegates of the Logging and Utilization Party joined the Session.

Official nominees from seven countries, Canada, France, Italy, Hungary, Korea (the Republic of), the Netherlands and the USA, form the Committee.

The introducing report by the chairman summarized the results of a survey on the use of *Populus* and *Salix* for biomass energy in IPC countries. Nineteen countries, or 60 percent of the member countries, responded to the questionnaire. These responses assisted in placing the question of using poplar and willow biomass for energy into proper perspective. The conclusions drawn were as follows:

- a decrease in the use of crude oil is planned, replaced primarily by nuclear energy, natural gas, coal, hydroelectric energy and bio-energy;
- the present use of poplar and willow biomass for energy is less than 20 percent of the total biomass energy used;
- reserach, development and demonstration work for the production and utilization of poplar and willow biomass is intensive in most countries;
- plans for the production and utilization of poplar and willow biomass to the year 1995 are not finalized as yet;
- the role of poplar and willow biomass in the total energy consumption of most countries will remain below other significant sources of energy used. However, regionally, it may contribute very significantly to the energy production and may create new industries and employment opportunities.

The delegates of Canada, France, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Korea, New Zealand, Sweden, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and the USA presented their national programmes. Five written documents were submitted to the Session.

In discussion it was concluded that socio-economics of countries influence the use of poplar and willow biomass in different ways, and a single approach to the question of biomass production for energy is impossible. It was also concluded that the concept of biomass production is not restricted to very dense plantings harvested in brief (1-3 year) cycles and for energy, but is understood as the concept of utilizing the whole tree for various purposes, such as energy, food, chemical feedstock and traditional or new wood industry products.

A work programme was agreed upon for the period 1982-84, summarized in the following:

1. Definitions for the concept of biomass production will be developed (Mr. Zsuffa).
2. The use of Salicaceae for food in IPC countries will be surveyed and reviewed. This will include history, present status, research results, projects in course, potentials. FAO (Mr. Lanly) agreed to support this study. Mr. Giordano will be contacted for the selection of an expert.
3. The opportunities for, and the limitations to, biomass production for energy, food and other products will be surveyed and reviewed with regard to socio-economic aspects in IPC countries (Mr. Prevosto).
4. A survey of the status of biomass production systems will be carried out in 1984 (Mr. Zsuffa).
5. The identification of critical problem areas and production phases influencing yields and economics, and a concentration for the solution of these problems will be recommended (Mr. Zsuffa).
6. A recommendation will be made to Genetic Committee to consider specific breeding criteria and programmes for biomass production (Mr. Zsuffa).
7. A report on activities of related IUFRO and IEA groups will be prepared (Mr. Zsuffa).
8. A joint session with the Logging and Utilization Party will be prepared in 1984 (Mr. Balatinecz and Mr. Zsuffa).
9. The next meeting of the Committee will be organized at the time and place of the 17th IPC Session, in 1984 (Mr. Zsuffa).

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPLAR BREEDING

Exchange of poplar material with the People's Republic of China will continue next year with the collection of seeds from two provenances of P. euphratica and cuttings of P. pechinensis, P. popularis and P. tomentosa which, in their country of origin, are not attacked by diseases.

It will not be possible to collect P. maximowiczii seeds since the populations visited do not belong to this species. The ad hoc committee considered that the application of biotechnology to the improvement of the Salicaceae could open up new possibilities, and therefore hoped that National Poplar Commissions could encourage research on this subject.

The ad hoc committee suggested that the Working Parties on Diseases and Insect Pests study the possibility of delegating the monitoring of various selections to regional stations. This would allow the detection of susceptibility of the material to endemic diseases, which could become extremely dangerous if spread to other regions.

RESULTS OF SILVICULTURAL RESEARCH AND THEIR PRACTICAL APPLICATION  
TO THE GROWING OF POPLARS AND WILLOWS

Some Headings Suggested for the Presentation of National Progress Reports

I. Herpka and R. L. Johnson

- A. Nursery Production
  - Tending of nursery stock
  - Type and kind of planting material
  - Harvesting care and handling of planting stock
- B. Plantation Establishment
  - Soil evaluation
  - Selection of clonal material and planting stock
  - Site preparation
  - Planting techniques
  - Spacing
- C. Plantation Management
  - Weed control, irrigation, fertilization
  - Pruning
  - Protection
- D. Growth and Yield of Plantings
  - Thinning-timing and intensity
  - Rotation length determination
  - Volume and weight tables
  - Assortment structure

LIST OF WORKING PAPERS PRESENTED TO WORKING GROUPS,  
THE SUB-COMMITTEE AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES

Insect Pests of Poplars

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
FO:CIP:I/82/1	Poplar resistance to insects and methods to assess it - General considerations - G. Arru
FO:CIP:I/82/2	Situation sanitaire des plantations de peuplier et de saule en Italie (1980-1982) G. Lapietra, B. Cavalcaselle
FO:CIP:I/82/3	Sanitary situation of poplar and willow plantations in Italy (1980-1982) - G. Lapietra B. Cavalcaselle
FO:CIP:I/82/4	Responses of <u>Paranthrene tabaniformis</u> Rott. (Lepidoptera, <u>Sesiidae</u> ) to synthetic sex attractants - G. Lapietra, G. Allegro
FO:CIP/I/82/5	A new sap-sucking insect on poplar in North Italy: <u>Lispthrips crassipes</u> Jabl. (Thysanoptera, <u>Phloeothripidae</u> ) - G. Lapietra, G. Allegro
FO:CIP/I/82/6	Evaluation de la susceptibilité de quelques clones de peuplier aux attaques de <u>Cryptorhynchus lapathi</u> L. et <u>Saperda carcharias</u> L. B. Cavalcaselle, E. De Bellis
FO:CIP/I/82/7	Méthode quantitative d'estimation de la sensibilité des peupliers aux insectes phytophages L. Nef, Dr. Sc. (1)
FO:CIP/I/82/8	Strategies for selecting poplars resistant to insects

Logging and Utilization of Poplar Wood

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
FO:CIP:N/82/1	The use of poplar wood for the manufacture of waferboard in Canada - J.J. Balatinecz
FO:CIP:N/82/2	An example of logging and exploitation of poplar plantations in Drava and Danube bottomland - Payle Yratarić
FO:CIP:N/82/3	Situation actuelle du bois de peuplier en Belgique au plan de son utilisation dans les divers secteurs de l'industrie et de son evolution - A. Leclercq
FO:CIP:N/82/4	A proposal of guidelines for a more efficient utilization and development of the forest resources of Italy - M. Prevosto
FO:CIP:N/82/5	Willows for wood production - S. May
FO:CIP:N/82/6	Etude du bois des peupliers - I 45-51, Fritzi Pauley et F 41 - Centre Technique du Bois, Paris

Diseases of Poplars

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
FO:CIP:D/82/1	Croissance et resistance a la cecidomye du Saule ( <u>Rhabdophaga saliciperda</u> Duf.) de quelques clones de saules du Bassin Fluvial du Danube - Zanko Zanol, Iantcho Naidenov
FO:CIP:D/82/2	Aspects de l'Etat phytosanitaire dans la culture du Peuplier en Bulgarie - Iantcho Naidenov
FO:CIP:D/82/3	Resistance aux maladies de l'enorce et des feuilles des clones de peuplier les mieux connus, introduits en Bulgarie - I. Naidenov
FO:CIP:D/82/4	Susceptibility of some Leuce Poplar descendents to the leaf diseases - I. Herpka, V. Guzina

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
FO:CIP:D/82/5	Notes regarding <u>Discosporium populeum</u> - Maria Natércia Santos
FO:CIP:D/82/6	Nouvelle race physiologique de <u>Melampsora Larici-Populina</u> en Belgique - V. Steenackers
FO:CIP;D/82/7	Etude expérimentale préliminaire des <u>Pollaccia inféodés</u> aux Peupliers de la section Leuce - Michel Morelet
FO:CIP:D/82/8	Description d'une méthode de tri de clones pour la sensibilité à la Rouille - M. Morelet
FO:CIP:D/82/9	Observation sur la Sensibilité à <u>Marssonina brunnea</u> à partir du dispositif expérimental adopté en 1975 - M. Lemoine, B. Taris, avec B. Chauvin
	Studies of <u>Marssonina</u> and <u>Drepanopeziza</u>
FO:CIP:D/82/10	1. Taxonomy of <u>Marssonina</u> species pathogenic to poplars - A.G. Spiers
FO:CIP:D/82/11	2. Taxonomy of <u>Drepanopeziza</u> species pathogenic to poplars - A.G. Spiers
FO:CIP:D/82/12	3. Poplar seed-transmission of <u>Marssonina brunnea</u> - A.G. Spiers
FO:CIP:D/82/13	4. Host range and pathogenicity of <u>Marssonina brunnea</u> to poplars - A.G. Spiers
FO:CIP:D/82/14	5. Host range and pathogenicity of <u>Marssonina brunnea</u> to poplars - A.G. Spiers
FO:CIP:D/82/15	Considerations sur l'influence de maladies parasitaires sur l'évolution de la populi-culture italienne - G.P. Cellerino
FO:CIP:D/82/16	Situation sanitaire des Salicacees en Italie (1981-1982) - G.P. Cellerino
FO:CIP:D/82/17	Studies on the epiphytology of <u>Pollaccia elegans</u> Servazzi - N. Anselmi, G-P. Cellerino
FO:CIP:D/82/18	On the susceptibility to <u>Marssonina brunnea</u> , <u>Melampsora alliipopulina</u> and <u>Venturia populina</u> of <u>Populus deltoides</u> from Oklahoma - G-P. Cellerino, N. Anselmi

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
FO:CIP:D/82/19	Reaction to poplar mosaic virus of several clones (Preliminary observations) - N. Anselmi, G-P, Cellerino
FO:CIP:D/82/20	Methods followed by the Poplar Research Institute in Casale Monferrato to value the Clonal resistance of poplar leaves to <u>Venturia populina</u> - G-P Cellerino, N, Anselmi
FO:CIP:D/82/21	Influence of attacks of <u>Marssonina brunnea</u> on the transpiration of poplar leaves - N. Anselmi
FO:CIP:D/82/22	Particular additive actions of the distribution and the persistence of fungicide in poplar treatment - Adriano Boccone, N. Anselmi
FO:CIP:D/82/23	Recherches sur la chlorose ferrique du peuplier - G. Frison, N. Anselmi, A. Boccone
FO:CIP;D/82/24	Research on damages caused by "Iron Chlorosis" to poplars (Preliminary notes) - N. Anselmi, G. Frison, A. Boccone
FO:CIP:D/82/25	Sur des suberifications observées dans l'Italie centre-meridionale sur la tige de quelques clones de <u>Populus x Euramericana</u> - G. Magnani
FO:CIP:D/82/26	Aspen canker by <u>Hypoxyton mammatum</u> (Wahl.) Mill. central Italy - P. Capretti
FO:CIP:D/82/27	<u>Erwinia salicis</u> , a pathogen-destroying willow cultures in the Netherlands - M. de Kam
FO:CIP:D/82/28	Chemical control of <u>Septoria</u> and <u>Marssonina</u> on cottonwood and the importance of ethylene production by <u>Septoria</u> in disease development - T. Filer
FO:CIP:D/82/29	Assessment <u>in vitro</u> of the relative susceptibility of certain cultivars of <u>Populus</u> to <u>Melampsora larici-populina</u> and <u>M. medusae</u> - W.A. Heather
FO:CIP:D/82/30	Pre- and post-inoculation photoperiod effects on the severity of <u>M. medusae</u> leaf rust of <u>Populus</u> species - S.J. Singh, W.A. Heather

<u>Number,</u>	<u>Title</u>
FO:CIP:D/82/32	Temperature-light effects on resistance of poplar cultivars to <u>Melampsora medusae</u> Thum.- S.J. Singh, W.A. Heather
FO:CIP:D/82/33	Temperature-light intensity effects on the antagonism of species of <u>Cladosporium</u> to <u>Melampsora larici-populina</u> Kleb. on cultivars of <u>Populus x euramericana</u> (Dode) Guinier - I.K. Sharma, W.A. Heather
FO:CIP:D/82/34	Histological studies on the reaction of poplar leaf tissue to <u>Marssonina brunnea</u> and <u>Septoria musiva</u> - A. Werner
FO:CIP:D/82/35	Growth rate of <u>Venturia tremulae</u> Aderh., as influenced by temperature and kind of media - Ryszard Siwecki, Ewa Ciesla
FO:CIP:D/82/36	Development and distribution of <u>Ceratocystis fimbriata</u> Ell. et Halst in tissues of poplars

Biomass Production Systems for the Salicaceae

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
FO:CIP:BS/82/1	<u>Populus</u> and <u>Salix</u> biomass for energy - A survey of International Poplar Commission countries - L. Zsuffa, D. Morgan
FO:CIP:BS/82/2	Biomass production in Canada - L. Zsuffa
FO:CIP:BS/82/3	Biomass production systems in <u>Populus</u> and <u>Salix</u> in Britain, their significance and associated problems - R.E. Crowther
FO:CIP:BS/82/4	Biomass growth and production of <u>Populus</u> hybrids in Korea - Don Koo Lee, Sin Kyu Hyun, Eui Rae Noh
FO:CIP:BS/82/5	Technique et economie de la production de biomasse de Salicacées en France - G. Touzet
FO:CIP:BS/82/6	Poplar yield tables - A. Sencer Birler

Poplar Breeding

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
FO:CIP:BR/82/1	A brief account of gene resources of some natural poplar species of China - Zhao Tianxi, Zhang Quiwen
FO:CIP:BR/82/2	Recent poplar breeding in Australia - L.D. Pryor, R.R. Willing
FO:CIP:BR/82/3	A note on the morphology, taxonomy and the selection prospects of <u>Populus ciliata</u> Wall. S. May
FO:CIP:BR/82/4	<u>Populus simonii</u> - Seed ex China, 1981 - A.G. Wilkinson
FO:CIP:BR/82/5	Biomass growth and production of <u>Populus</u> hybrids in Korea - Don Koo Lee, Sin Kyu Hyun, Eui Rae Noh
FO:CIP:BR/82/6	Heritability estimate and response to selection of poplars on susceptibility to the Dothichiza cancer - Ivan Herpka

Nomenclature and Registration of Poplars

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
FO:CIP:NR/82/1	Problèmes posés par l'identification des peupliers et des saules - M. Viart







