

ALLOCUTION DE M. WALTER D. LAMBERT

PRÉSIDENT DE L'ASSOCIATION.

(lue en séance par M. G. LACLAVERE).

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Members of the Committee;

I send you these few words of greeting through our general Secretary. My great distance from Paris and the high cost of travel keep me from being with you during deliberations. Though I make no claim to the special technical knowledge needed for treating the problems before you, I would like very much to be present during your discussions and perhaps to take some slight share in them. Unfortunately I can not.

It is needless to remind a committee of experts like this one the importance of the problems that confront you. The need for a unified geodetic framework for all Europe, a framework based on all available data and taking account of the last theoretical refinements, has been increasingly felt and that is so for reasons both scientific and practical. Unfortunately we can not always keep to scientific and practical matters. Political and military questions get mixed in, questions that our Association very particularly wishes to avoid but questions that press on us so closely that it is not always easy to avoid them.

As an offset to this difficulty two unusual circumstances favor the success of your work.

1° At Bamberg, Germany, much work has been done under allied military auspices on the geodetic readjustment of Central Europe. Quite possibly the figures obtained may not meet the rigid requirements of the ideal scientific solution of the problem but surely that have some importance as a possible basis for further extension and further refinement.

A representative of the military authorities is a member of your Committee, a situation that will make it easy to set up a small subcommittee and to send it to the computing offices at Bamberg to act as the eyes of the committee, to study the work done at Bamberg and to make recommendations as to the possible future use of that work. Close cooperation with the military authorities may prove to be mutually advantageous. I hope that it may be possible to arrange such a cooperation without the necessity of being involved in the thorny questions of international politics.

2° Our Union has made request to Unesco, on behalf of the Association, for a small subsidy to defray partly at least the expenses of computation and publication, in conformity for a plan that you will submit to the Oslo General Assembly. The general Secretary will give you the latest available infor-

mation on this matter but at this writing it seems probable that the requested subsidy will be granted.

We should therefore, I think, take advantage of the combination of these two favorable circumstances to bring the solution of this long-standing and difficult problem to a successful issue. Not only your European colleagues, who have a rather special and a rather practical interest in the outcome of your deliberations, but also your colleagues everywhere throughout the world, will follow your work because of its high intrinsic scientific interest and as a striking example of international scientific cooperation.

May all success attend your deliberations.

WALTER D. LAMBERT.

Lime Rock, Connecticut.
Oct. 1, 1947.
