

The Society of the
Plastics Industry, Inc.



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Ralph L. Harding, Jr.
President

December 18, 1975

TO: Plastics Association Directors

DUESSELDORF MEETINGS

Enclosed is your copy of the summary of our October Meetings at Duesseldorf. This report has been unavoidably delayed until Dr. Camani could send us the plans for our Rigi Meeting next June. I am pleased to enclose not only his schedule for Rigi and an excellent airline guide, but also his up-to-date list of all of the members of our Committee.

Also enclosed is a report from Japan, showing how their association is organized, along with a copy of SPI's 1975 Annual Report and my Christmas card. Here's hoping that 1976 is a much better year for all of us.

Again, on behalf of all of us I want to congratulate and thank our German hosts for making the meeting most pleasant and worthwhile.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ralph L. Harding, Jr.', is written over the typed name.

RLH:ljl
Enclosures

P.S. For those of you who are concerned about our PVC situation, our Environmental Protection Agency published a proposed VCM standard on December 17. While very strict, it appears to be in line with their preliminary proposal discussed with them last summer. With additional effort, the industry can probably conform. In addition, the SPI response and proposal on the proposed Food and Drug Administration regulation for blister pack and bottles was submitted as of December 19. In it we have provided extensive data to support our claims that the VCM content contained in PVC resins has been substantially reduced and that "VCM content in food contact articles is so low (undetectable with the only test methodology agreed to be generally reliable and reproducible) that such articles meet FDA's requirements."

SPI23365

PLASTICS ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

- Thursday 9 October and Friday 10 October, 1975
Bad Godesberg and Dusseldorf, Germany

(After gathering at the North Reception Area of the Fair, the delegates traveled by Taxi, Train, Bus and foot to the Hotel Godesberg on the site of the Bad Godesberg Castle.)

Mr. Bornemann (Germany) as chairman, welcomed all of the delegates to the excellent meeting room in the historic castle, away from the distractions of K-75. Next, Chairman Bornemann called for self-introductions. In attendance were the following:

<u>Argentina</u> -	Nicolas Ricardo Palacios
<u>Austria</u> -	Karl Gruber Friederich Radlwimmer
<u>Australia</u> -	Frank Ashworth
<u>Belgium</u> -	Jean-Paul Demeyer Marcel Vivile
<u>Canada</u> -	Ron Evason
<u>Finland</u> -	Aarno Piltz
<u>France</u> -	A. Bartholoni
<u>West Germany</u> -	Henner Bornemann Henning Diederichs Haimo Emminger Joadim Vetthotter Hans Weber
<u>Great Britain</u> -	Anthony Holmes-Walker
<u>Ireland</u> -	Donal Murphy
<u>Israel</u> -	Amnon Even
<u>Italy</u> -	Roberto Chiodini Roberto Oelker

<u>Japan</u> -	Takaji Hirabayashi Masaru Ishizaka
<u>Mexico</u> -	Renaldo Reyes Retana
<u>Netherlands</u> -	Th. Bekaert
<u>Norway</u> -	I. Grostad
<u>Sweden</u> -	Bertil Lundin
<u>Switzerland</u> -	Adriano Camani
<u>United States</u> -	Al Evans Ralph L. Harding

Mr. Harding (USA), serving as Secretary, asked the delegates to sign the attendance list, showing addresses and telephone numbers. An up-to-date and corrected listing is enclosed, but any further corrections should be sent promptly to Mr. Harding.

Dr. Camani (Switzerland) called attention to the planned retirement of Mr. Geoff Stanley (Great Britain), and Dr. Holmes-Walker (Great Britain) promised to convey best wishes from all of the delegates.

Chairman Bornemann then asked Dr. Holmes-Walker to present his summary of the individual 1974 reports provided by most but not all of the delegates. He also distributed copies, for the record, of his 1973 summary. As requested, Dr. Holmes-Walker agreed to revise the statistical tables in order to include the data from other countries whose reports were made available at the meeting. (Copies of the revisions have been sent directly to all delegates.)

In the discussion Mr. Bartholoni (France) suggested that the price information might be very misleading unless carefully interpreted. There were also a number of questions about proper definitions, especially for "per capita" statistics, and about the possibilities for developing more information via the questionnaires.

Mr. Vivile (Belgium) also presented his summary of the information received in his survey on association responsibilities and activities.

Finally, it was generally agreed that the summary information only should be used by the delegates in published reports to members. Individual country reports are not for publication.

Next, Chairman Bornemann called for individual comments all around the conference table on the 1975-1976 outlook for the plastics business in each country:

<u>Germany</u>	- Some early improvement now; hope it will continue
<u>Belgium</u>	- K-75 is key; we may not yet be at deepest point. 1976 may not be higher than 1975.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| <u>Sweden</u> | - Recession came later - spring 1975, but the situation is no different. |
| <u>Ireland</u> | - Material imports at 50% of 1975 with 25% inflation. Improvement not likely until the last half of 1976. |

(The Secretary apologizes if his notes omitted comments from any of the delegates.)

Following a brief intermission, Chairman Bornemann introduced the subject of vinyl chloride. He pointed out that the problem of work-place regulations, so critical a year ago, has settled down. Today, the chief concern is with food packaging regulations, especially influenced by the USA situation.

Mr. Harding then went into considerable detail in providing special background on the proposed USA regulations of PVC for food packaging, which could result in the banning of PVC bottles and blister pack. He attempted to make it clear that this was more of a political situation than a health matter. He urged the delegates to explain to their governments, as well as their colleagues, that it was not wise and not necessary to follow the USA example. In conclusion, he added that the USA PVC industry remains optimistic about the ultimate outcome after long negotiations and probably a court test.

Chairman Bornemann replied by stating his belief that the USA/FDA approach will not be followed in Europe. In fact, the limit for VCM migration into food is likely to be 0.05 ppm.

Mr. Bartholoni then described the strong anti-PVC campaign waged in France, especially against PVC wine bottles. He pointed out that a special and important committee has been formed among PVC supporters to defend themselves and to persuade authorities and the public that PVC is safe. This new group is organized to include wine company executives, bottle manufacturers, and others, and not just the PVC resin producers. A copy of the program summary for this group, "GECOM", was distributed. Delegates were urged by Mr. Bartholoni to contact him if they had further questions about this activity. Mr. Harding called attention to a similar PVC public relations program in USA.

Dr. Camani added that a top food regulation official in Switzerland had told him that "even in yeast there are cancer causing materials present." The official expressed the need to be careful but realistic about public health regulations. Chairman Bornemann added that all this emphasizes the need for continuing communications among ourselves, since all plastics materials are likely to be under the same kinds of suspicions as vinyl chloride.

(The meeting was then adjourned until 09:30 on Friday. First, however, the delegates had an excellent dinner together at Bad Godesberg Castle. On the return towards Dusseldorf by bus, Dr. Diederichs (Germany) served as the tour director, describing the government buildings in Bonn. The meeting reconvened at about 09:30 on the stage of Hall Number 1 in the Congress Center at the Dusseldorf Fair Grounds.)

* * * * *

To open the Friday morning session Chairman Bornemann called on Dr. Camani to describe a proposed law in Switzerland regulating the toxicity of additives in plastics. This law, when passed, is likely to set the pattern for all of Europe. In its present form the bill is more stringent and more complex than necessary. Expecting that it will be passed in one form or another, the industry is trying to help make it realistic and reasonable. Dr. Camani will provide copies (in German) on request.

Chairman Bornemann then led a brief discussion on non-tariff barriers to international trade. After 15 years the Common Market countries are still struggling to improve the situation. Other countries have special barriers of their own, such as the Japanese requirements for expensive testing in Japan prior to approval. Dr. Gruber (Austria) pointed out that the developments were often contradictory and that governments should control less and help us to sell more.

Mr. Bartholoni informed the delegates that a new environmental law has now been passed in France giving the government wide, but as yet unspecified, regulatory authority. A similar law, according to Mr. Bekaert (Netherlands) is under consideration in Holland, strongly opposed by his federation. Mr. Bornemann indicated that a Batelle Institute study would soon be completed showing the advantages of plastics waste in landfill, compared with other materials.

The next subject was a description of the planned formation of a new international plastics materials association for all of Western Europe. This will be by individual firm rather than country, but it will be tied to CEFIC at Brussels (Common Market organizations).. Heretofore the large chemical companies have felt they could deal with problems individually. Now they see the need for joint solutions. Messrs. Bornemann and Camani are working closely with the new group.

Mr. Vivile also reported that "Eutroplast" now had a chance for survival as the unifying force for processors throughout the common market.

During the break, Mr. Hirabayashi (Japan) asked for a definition of the line between "plastics" and "chemicals." It was agreed generally that the precursors were "chemicals" and the material at polymerization became "plastics," with some exceptions such as the ingredients for cellular plastics. In return Mr. Harding asked the Japanese delegate for an organization chart showing the reporting relationship of all of the various Japanese plastics associations. When received, this will be distributed to all of the delegates.

The next topic was public relations: What should we be doing to remedy the lack of understanding of our materials and our industry? Chairman Bornemann suggested a small, simple publication to the public and the schools. Dr. Holmes-Walker indicated that their small booklet to journalists will be revised for broader use. Mr. Ashworth (Australia) reported on their publication; Mr. Harding stated his belief that the teachers were a critical group among the "influentials" who must be reached. Mr. Bekaert told of a special committee dealing with this problem in Holland. Mr. Lundin (Sweden) said that two educational television programs on plastics had been very successful in Sweden. It was agreed that the exchange of information on such efforts would be very helpful, since the problem is universal.

Next, Dr. Diederichs reported that the pictures taken of our meeting would be released with a brief statement on our proceedings. Also, Mr. Vethotter (Germany) reported that the machinery companies of Europe (EUROMAP) would soon be starting the development of harmonized machinery safety standards for all Europe. Mr. Harding pledged full cooperation from the USA machinery industry.

Beginning the discussion of future meetings, all agreed on the desirability of getting together away from fairs and of the need for the delegates to share in the meeting expenses. Dr. Oelker (Italy) stated that because of decisions reached last year arrangements were not being made for next year's meeting to be in Milan, in anticipation of Dr. Camani's proposal for a meeting in Rigi, Switzerland.

After discussion it was agreed as follows: The Milan Fair is scheduled for June 20-26. However, on June 25 the delegates will gather for luncheon in Milan. We will proceed together by train, etc. to Rigi that afternoon and evening, remaining together in Rigi until June 27 at noon. Dr. Camani's proposed meeting plan is enclosed.

The delegates also voted approval for Mr. Harding to develop a meeting plan in the United States in October, 1977.

Before adjourning, Chairman Bornemann asked for additional comments. Mr. Ashworth strongly urged that more time be given for more topics and that more delegates should participate in the discussions. Mr. Bornemann responded by saying that the meeting had been open to all and that much must be accomplished via the pre-meeting reports and via individual conversations or meetings, and with direct exchanges of information.

Mr. Bartholoni expressed thanks to the organizers of the meeting for the way it had been managed. Mr. Harding asked the delegates to join him in thanking our German hosts for their fine arrangements and wonderful hospitality. He also asked that our special thanks be given to NOWEA for inclusion of the plastics associations in the K-75 catalogue.

Finally, then, Mr. Bornemann thanked the delegates for attending and for making progress in achieving closer understanding. The delegates joined him in congratulating the translators for their outstanding competence.

(Following adjournment, the delegates were the guests of NOWEA in an excellent luncheon in the Conference Center restaurant.)

Respectfully submitted,

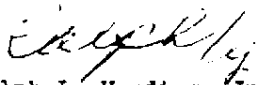
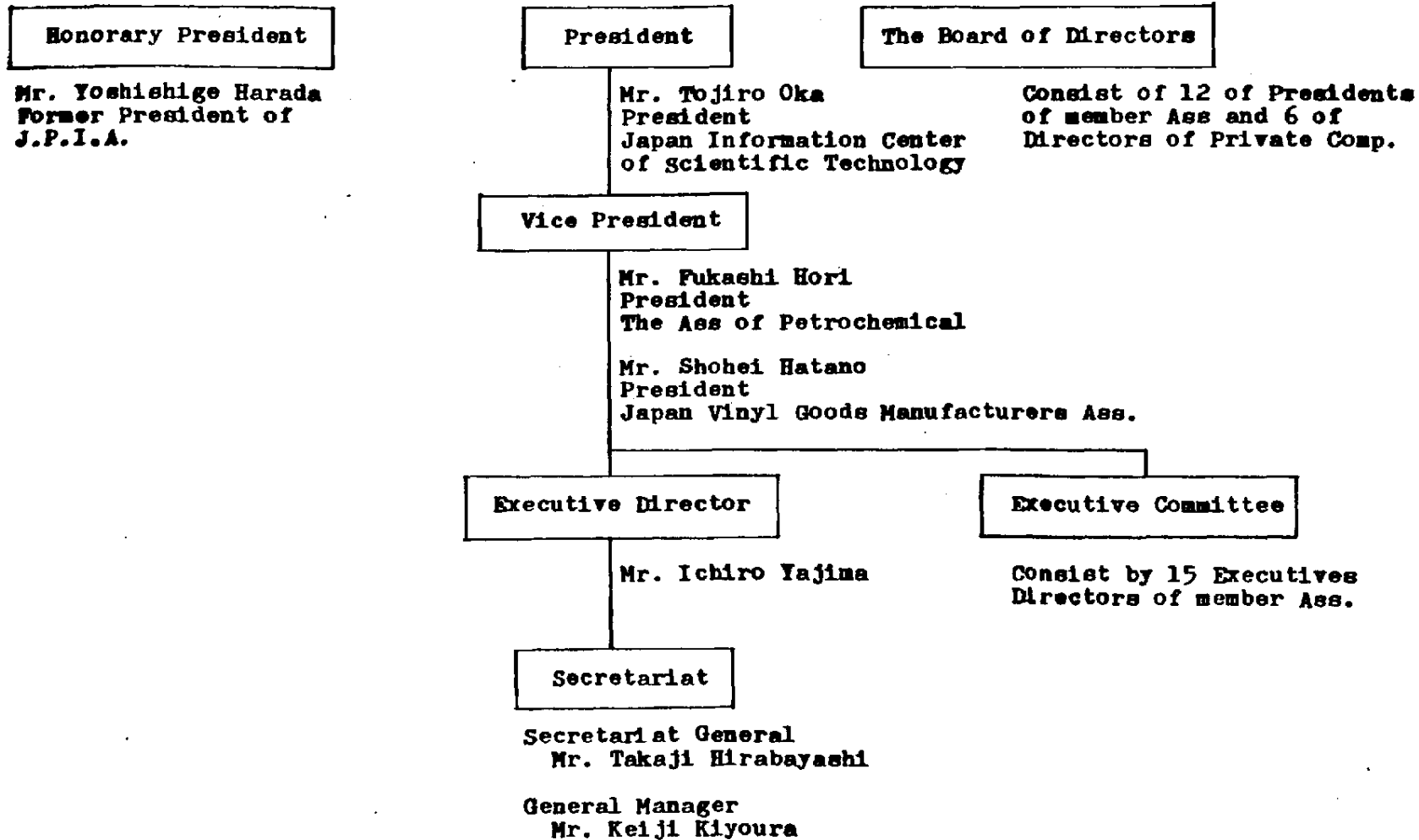

Ralph L. Harding, Jr.

Chart of Organization



SP123373

ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DER SCHWEIZERISCHEN KUNSTSTOFF-INDUSTRIE

PLASTICS ASSOCIATIONS DIRECTORS

Meeting 1976 : Rigi

24th June	10.05	Depart from Milan by TEE-railway "Roland", Lunch
	13.02	Arrival at Lucerne
	14.25	Depart by boat to Vitznau
	15.27	Arrival at Vitznau
	15.30	Depart by cog-wheel railway from Vitznau to Rigi-Kaltbad
	15.49	Arrival at Hostellerie Rigi-Kaltbad, occupation of the rooms
	16.52	(only when weather is fine) Trip by cog-wheel railway to Rigi-Kulm return by foot
	20.00	Dinner cozy chat
25th June	--	Breakfast Refreshing bath in the swimmingpool or early morning walk
	10.00	Meeting(with simultaneane translation F/E)
	13.00	Lunch
	14.30	Meeting continued
	17.30	Walk (facultative)
	20.00	Dinner cozy chat
26th June	--	Breakfast, refreshing bath or walk
	10.07	when weather is good an if not yet made: Trip by cog-wheel railway to Rigi-Kulm and return by foot, or walk
	12.00	Lunch
	15.00	Depart by suspension railway to Weggis (10 Min.)
	15.15	Depart by coach to Zurich (55 km)
	16.30	Arrival at Zurich
	16.50	Arrival at Zurich-Airport

ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DER SCHWEIZERISCHEN KUNSTSTOFF-INDUSTRIE

Flight connections from Zurich

<u>to</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Arrive</u>
Amsterdam	19.00 h	20.25 h
Bruxelles	18.40 h	19.45 h
Buenos Aires	22.30 h	11.30 h •
Dublin (via London)	19.55 h	23.59 h
Frankfurt	19.05 h	20.00 h
Helsinki (via Kopenhagen)	19.20 h	00.10 h *
Kopenhagen	19.10 h	20.50 h
Lissabon (via Madrid)	16.55 h	23.10 h
London	20.00 h	21.35 h
Madrid	16.55 h	20.55 h
Mexiko City	12.00 h •	21.00 h
Milano	18.55 h	20.40 h
New York	12.00 h •	15.40 h
Oslo (via Kopenhagen)	19.10 h	22.35 h
Paris	19.35 h	20.45 h
Stockholm	19.20 h	21.45 h
Sydney	19.00 h	06.50 h *
Tel Aviv	13.20 h *	18.05 h
Tokyo	13.00 h *	20.35 h
Toronto	12.55 h *	17.55 h
Wien	18.45 h	19.55 h

* next day

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