COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SECTION MEETINGS

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN 1977-1980 STANDING COMMITTEE
ON SUGARCANE DISEASES

By Claude Ricaud, Chairman

There has been a good participation of members in the activities of the Standing Committee during this three-year period, but as usual some have been more involved than others.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Due to the retirement of several pathologists and the change in interest of others, there have been many changes in the membership of the committee. Most of these were decided at the meeting of the committee at the 16th Congress in 1977, a few other names have been added, following suggestions made later. Members who have shown no response to our letters have been deleted from our list. The inclusion of new members in order to cover as many important sugarcane areas as possible, particularly in South-East Asia and Latin America, should be discussed at the next Congress.

WORLD LIST OF SUGARCANE DISEASES

I wish to record the good response from committee members for the updating of the list. There have been few amendments in general except for smut and the rusts. It is the wish of the committee that the list be published in extenso in the proceedings, because of its importance as a reference.

SUGARCANE PATHOLOGISTS' NEWSLETTER

The flow of contributions to the Newsletter has been steady and its publication has been regular, twice yearly, since the last Congress, with an average of about 20 contributions for each issue. The distribution list was revised after a circular letter was sent around to recipients, not only to cut down on production and mailing costs, which are borne by the sponsoring body, but to ascertain that the Newsletter was meeting its objectives and was being sent to those directly interested in sugarcane diseases. There are now 250 recipients from 49 countries. However, to ensure rapid spread of information, a limited number of copies is sent by air. Senior authors of articles are included in this exclusive distribution and it is ascertained that each organization concerned with sugarcane research receives at least one copy by air.

We would like to thank the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute for having sponsored the publication of the Newsletter for the last inter-congress period.

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The editorship will pass to Dr. A. G. Gillaspie, Jr. for the next three years during which the Newsletter will be sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture.

PUBLICATION OF BOOK ON SUGARCANE DISEASES

At the 1977 Congress, it was decided that consideration would be given to the desirability of publishing a new edition of the book Sugarcane Diseases of the World, Vol. I.

This project has been a major preoccupation of the committee during the last three years. Elsevier Publishing Co. is agreeable to undertake the publication of the book. An Editorial committee has been set up, consisting of the following:

C. Ricaud, Mauritius (Chairman)
B.T. Egan, Australia
A.G. Gillaspie, Jr., U.S.A.
C.G. Hughes, Australia

The editorial committee has come to the conclusion that a new version dealing with the major diseases of sugarcane could be more useful than just a revised edition of the old volume. This has had the approval of Standing Committee members. In the new version some of the chapters of the last book will be retained, with minor or major revision. Other topics in which considerable development has occurred will be completely rewritten by new authors. Some topics will be deleted altogether for inclusion in another edition of Volume II, the publication of which will be undertaken at a later date. Certain diseases which had been dealt with in Volume II, but which are now considered more important, will be included in the new version on major diseases.

The organization of editorial procedures have been finalized and authors are now being contacted definitely. It is hoped that the new book will be published in 1982.

AFFILIATION TO ISPP

At the last Congress it was also decided, that the ISSCT, through its Standing Committee, should become affiliated to the International Society for Plant Pathology. This affiliation has been sought and accepted. At the third International Congress for plant pathologists the objectives of such affiliation were discussed. Several other crop orientated groups of plant pathologists are affiliated to the ISPP which stimulates and co-ordinates international co-operation for work on plant diseases.

There is possibility to organize discussions sessions for the crop-orientated groups at the International Congresses organized by ISPP.
INCANDEX

The difficulties faced in maintaining the International Cane Disease Index (INCANDEX) had been raised by the previous Chairman of the Committee Proposals have been made by those responsible for its reorganization. These have been followed and printouts of new references stored have been published in the Sugar-cane Pathologists' Newsletter, although not as frequently as it had been intended. The possibility of moving INCANDEX to an international computer network had been proposed but the project has not been pursued. We are thankful to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company who will continue to service the System; better computer facilities have been made available, which will improve information retrieval.

I should like to express my warmest thanks to all those who have assisted me during these three years.