

XXX th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU

(21st June 1921 - 21st June 1951)



Left to Right:  
Sitting down:

Mlle H. SERRA  
(Clerk-Secretariat)

Rear-Admiral  
C. L. NICHOLS  
(Director)

Vice-Admiral  
J. D. NARES  
(President of the  
Directing Committee)

Capt. de Vais,  
H. BENCKER  
(Secretary-General)

Mme P. FAUL  
(Clerk-Accountant)

Standing up:

Mme R. BENNATI  
(Shorthand-typist)

Cdr G. LEMIERE  
(Tech' Ass')

Miss E. BARCLAY  
(Shorthand-typist)

Cdr C. ALBINI  
(Tech' Ass')

Mr. A. ANTOGNINI  
(Tech' Ass')

Mme A. PONS  
(Clerk-Librarian)

Mme A. FERRERO  
(Tech' Employee)

Mlle M. CADARS  
(Shorthand-typist)

## SPEECH

**Delivered by the President of the Directing Committee  
to the Personnel of the Bureau on the occasion of the  
30th Anniversary of the Creation of the International Hydrographic Bureau  
21st June 1951**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are today celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the creation of the I.H.B. although it was not until the 5th July 1921 that the first Directing Committee arrived in Monaco. At that time the Bureau was provisionally housed in the Hotel de la Paix in the Condamine which was situated in the site since bombed by the Allied Air Force during the last war. Two months afterwards the Bureau was installed in a building in the Avenue du Port, near the present Gasometers, and remained there for 10 years, when on 1st January 1931 it was definitely established in the present building, which was specially constructed for that purpose by the Princely Government.

Since the creation of the Bureau there have been 5 Presidents (2 British, 1 Dutch, 1 American and 1 French), and in addition the following Countries have been represented at different times on the Directing Committee (4 American, 1 Norwegian and 1 Italian). There have been 2 Secretary-Generals (1 British and 1 French).

During these 30 years the Bureau has employed 16 Assistants in Category A, 34 in Category B and 5 in Category C.

As regards the present personnel of the Bureau it is interesting and encouraging to note that 4 have served continuously for over 20 years, 4 for over 10 years and 7 less than 10 years.

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Like most other International Organizations the Bureau has had its good and lean times. When originally created there were 19 Member Countries and 3 more joined within the next two years; 9 Countries have joined since then. 10 of these Countries left the Bureau at varying times for various reasons, but 5 have since re-joined and it is confidently expected that at least 2 more will do so in the near future.

At the present time 26 Countries are Members of the Bureau, and we have reason to hope that additional Countries will have joined before the 1952 Conference.

In 1932 the Bureau started a difficult 8 year period. 5 Countries resigned for various reasons and something drastic had to be done — the first thing decided by the Directing Committee was a temporary but none the less drastic all round reduction of salaries and this was accepted by all the personnel in the loyal spirit with which they have always served.

Then came the 2nd World War when it seemed doubtful whether it would be possible to keep the Bureau functioning — however, thanks to the wise administration of M. de Vanssay, the only Director who continued in office during the whole of that period, and the wonderful loyalty of the Staff, the Bureau survived.

Since that difficult period the affairs of the Bureau have continuously improved, new Members have joined and others have rejoined, and I think we will all have the satisfaction of presenting our Bureau to the Delegates at the VIth International Hydrographic Conference next year in a more flourishing position, both financially and otherwise, than it has ever been during its 30 years of existence.

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