

There was an emphasis on the need for reinsurers to seek details of each original claim: only thus could its suitability for inclusion in an aggregation of claims be properly assessed.

Data concerning an original claim could be collected on several occasions, and by different parties. The difficulty of tracing original policies back over many years and collecting details of policies written as long ago as the 1940s is well-known.

The picture presented by some reinsurers is the need to obtain from their cedants a level of information sufficient to provide details of each original claim; on the other hand there are reinsurers who have not handled reinsurance claims in this detailed way historically and who may have to make changes to accommodate the extra work involved.

This was the background to the proposal that a centralised worldwide claims information clearing centre should be set up. The proposal, put forward by Jack E Koepke of Gerling-Konzern Globale, was welcomed by representatives of some English and European reinsurers at the conference, notably Mercantile & General Reinsurance Co Plc, Cologne Reinsurance Co, and Swiss Reinsurance Co.

The enthusiasm displayed by reinsurers was not echoed by some representatives from the London market: both brokers and underwriters were heard to question the approach proposed at the conference, expressing concern that it would result in further delays in reinsurance settlements. They viewed disputes over interpretation of application of policy language as unnecessary and delaying and questioned the need for the level of claims detail sought.

These very differences of view alone may cause this conference to be regarded with hindsight as a milestone in the development of the handling of asbestosis and other major multiple claims within the industry, and of the positions taken by the various sectors within it.

JRMF.

## **HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

In the four years when Ken Davidson occupied the Hon. Secretary's chair the Association saw a considerable expansion of its membership and activities. Many members will have had reason to thank Jean Gerrish, Ken's secretary for the efficiency and familiarity with which she helped Ken to run the organisation. Inevitably when I took over there was a learning curve particularly in familiarising myself with the substantial burden of

administrative and routine work which the secretaryship requires. This clerical and administrative burden had also been troubling Bryan Lincoln in his capacity as Hon. Treasurer and eventually it was decided to take on a part-time administrative secretary, a job now filled by Kathy Dixson who can be contacted through my office. Kathy now copes with all the routine correspondence and business of the association in so far as it affects Bryan and me.

Elsewhere in the journal you will find details of the forthcoming AGM and Conference and we will of course be pleased to see as many members as possible turning up.

Since the beginning of the year we have been pleased to welcome the following new members into the association:-

### **Individual**

A M Lefever	- Solicitor, Pinsent & Company
Ms Y Stewart	- Legal Editor, Sweet & Maxwell
I A Lupson	- Solicitor, Gouldens
A H H Eisdell	- Solicitor, Alexander & Alexander Europe plc
A Fitzsimmons	- Ince & Company
C W O'Connell	- Dominion Insurance Company
A J Payton	- Pinsent & Company
T P W Timson	- Pinsent & Company
A D W Robinson	- Pinsent & Company
A P Long	- Pinsent & Company
D Dowding	- Dorset Institute of H.E.
G Marshall	- Davies Arnold & Cooper
C W Calverley	- Sedgwick UK (London) Ltd
P J Hoggarth	- Provincial Insurance
M E L Weir	- Ketchen & Stevens W.S.
Ms K J Taylor	- Pinsent & Company
T Paget	- Full Time Student
F Mackie	- Clyde & Company
J W Neill	- Commercial Union Assurance
H E Paice	- Commercial Union Assurance
M N Robin	- Saunders Sobell Leigh & Dobin
J Tissington	- AIU (UK) Ltd
F A Crayton	- Irish Life
D E Standen	- Sun Alliance

**Corporate**

- Crown Life Assurance Co Ltd
- Brebner & Co International
- Binks Stern & Partners
- Lombard Continental Ins plc
- Winward Fearon & Co
- Scottish Widows' Fund & Life Assurance Society
- Saunders Sobell Leigh & Dobin

**THEME 1 AIDA 8th WORLD CONGRESS  
COPENHAGEN 18/22 JUNE 1990**

**Introduction & Background**

Members will be aware of the next AIDA Congress to be held on the above date which will be four years after the last Congress held in Budapest in 1986.

The general reporter for Theme 1 is Professor Peter Wetterstein of Finland and we publish here his questionnaire where he has taken the Chernobyl affair as the background although its choice is not meant to limit the discussion at all.

The object of the theme is to examine the tort and insurance implications of disasters arising from human activity affecting at least two countries.

The scope of the theme is wide-ranging, examining national law provisions for disaster compensation, national and international rules of tort and the way in which the insurance market can cope with such disasters either by insuring the tort visa or the victims. International conventions and future developments are also examined.

BILA are to form their own working party in order that we can make a contribution to the Congress and a National Reporter will be appointed. If any member is interested in joining the working party they should contact the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible.

R.H.J.