

THE IDF SAGA 1903 – 2003

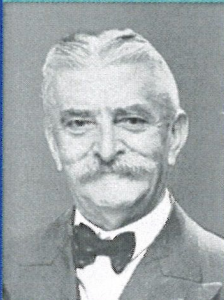
To cut a long story short...

The beginning

First Presidents



**Baron L Peers
de Nieuwburgh (BE),
President 1903-1921**



**J Maenhaut (BE),
President 1921-1940**



**Dr F E Posthuma (NL),
Vice-President
(Acting President
1940-1943)**



**R Burri (CH),
President 1943-1950**

IDF was founded at First International Dairy Congress in September 1903. Its aims were world-wide development of scientific and technical interests while refraining from interference in the economic system in different countries. IDF was intended to work by means of

- congresses
- action with governments to combat fraud and ensure hygienic products
- exhibitions
- premiums for meritorious work
- informing the international market on conditions of transactions
- publication of a Bulletin.

Some of these activities are still with us, some not, and others have been added. This is because the needs have changed.

At the outset a "Permanent Bureau" established in Brussels, comprising volunteers: President, Secretary General and one representative of each member country. There were 16 member countries. A remarkable feature of IDF's early years was the tenacity of its officers. The first President, Baron L Peers de Nieuwburgh, was in post for 18 years. His successor, J Maenhaut van Lemberge, was president for 19 years. Both, however, were outstripped by the Secretary General, E Hegh, who served IDF for 24 years.

The only activity until the 1920s was the organization of Congresses. Creation of an International dairy office was discussed in the mid twenties to study "all scientific, technical and food problems" but these tasks were rapidly assigned to the International Agricultural Institute, the forerunner of today's FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.

In 1924 IDF's first commission was set up. The subject was cheese and the object protection of denominations and standardization of methods of analysis and sampling.

In 1928 the first IDF annual meeting was held. A Commission of Studies was established to supervise the technical programme, together with a number of temporary specialized commissions. By 1938 these commissions covered not only cheese, but also dried and condensed milk, hygiene, industrial techniques, methods of analysis and sampling and dairying in the tropics. An International Convention for Cheese was concluded in 1934 was followed by conventions for the manufacture and trade of condensed milk, processed cheese, dried milk and, in draft, a convention on methods of analysis for dried and condensed milk. IDF was essentially concerned with ensuring fair trading practices. Congresses were held every 3 years but the number of publications was small. The Bulletin virtually ceased to exist.



First Annual Sessions: IDF Annual Sessions The Hague, December 1928
Centre foreground : **J Maenhaut (BE)**, President 1921-1940.

To his right: **E Hegh**, Secretary General 1926-1950. To his left: **F E Posthuma (NL)**

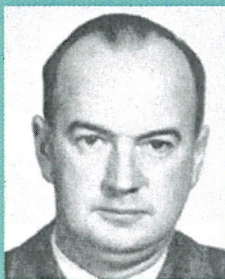
Leading Experts 1937



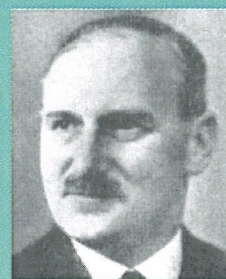
J Keilling (FR)



S O Koch (DK)



G Loftus Hills (AU)



F Proctor (GB)



P Stallinga (NL)

1946 – New start

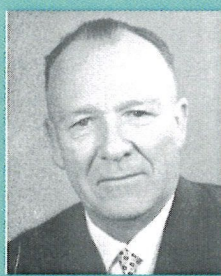
IDF reconvened in 1946 and established contacts with the newly created post-World War II bodies, FAO and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The pre-war commissions were reinstated, and, later,

a new commission on dairy economics, a field hitherto only considered at congresses. The commission on tropical dairying became the Commission for Warm Countries.

Presidents of the new IDF



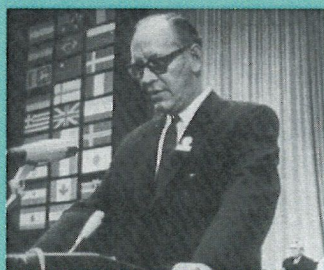
R Mork (NO)
President 1950-1956



P Kästli (CH)
President 1956-1959



A M Guérault (FR)
President 1959-1964



W Ljung (SE)
President 1964-1968

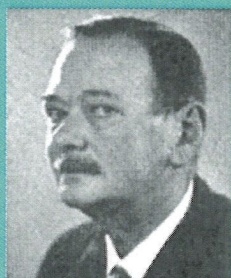


Prof Dr H Mulder (NL)
President of Commission of Studies 1957-1966

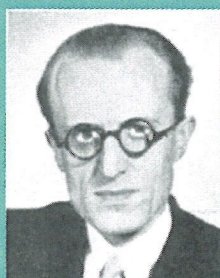
From this time the commissions met in association with the annual General Assembly and IDF's "Annual Sessions" were born, to continue until the implementation of a new Strategic Plan in 1999.

By 1950 IDF's ambitions had outgrown its resources. The membership fee was raised significantly in order to provide for secretariat staff and equipment. The first full-time Secretary General was appointed in 1957. His successor, Pierre Staal, appointed in 1960, continued the earlier tradition of lengthy tenure, breaking Mr Hegh's record and retiring in 1989.

Secretaries General



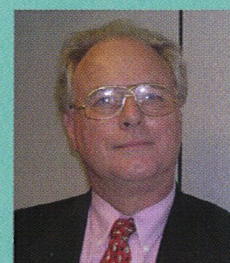
E Hegh
Secretary General 1926-1950



K L Devriendt
Secretary General 1950-1954



(L) P Staal
Secretary General 1960-1989
(R) J Lynn (GB)
Vice-President 1980-1984



E Hopkin
Secretary General 1989
(Director General from 1999)



The Crown Prince of Japan opening IDF Annual Sessions in Tokyo, 1972

Publications, meetings, "weeks"

In the 1970s IDF reaped the benefits of the arrangements of the previous decade. Publications flowed out copiously and an ever-increasing number of events was organized. There was co-operation with more international bodies, on other subjects. And there were more new ideas. Meetings of groups on methods of analysis began to be held together in so-called "weeks". The idea continues today, with up to 180 participants in the course of 5 days, and the opportunity for a short seminar on a shared topic, a laboratory visit, etc. The principle is also applied in other IDF fields of activity – legislation, technology, nutrition. At the Annual Sessions, the proceedings were given a little "spice" by including special addresses on topical issues in the agenda of each of the commissions. This idea has grown, so that nowadays the annual IDF World Dairy Summit comprises a programme of day and half-day conferences on the principal issues, in addition to the essential IDF business meetings.



International Dairy Congress, New Delhi 1974

(L to R) V Kurien (IN), V V Giri, President of India, Sir Richard Trehane (GB), President of IDF 1968-1972

Problems of access

Later Presidents



E G Roberts (AU)
President 1972-1976

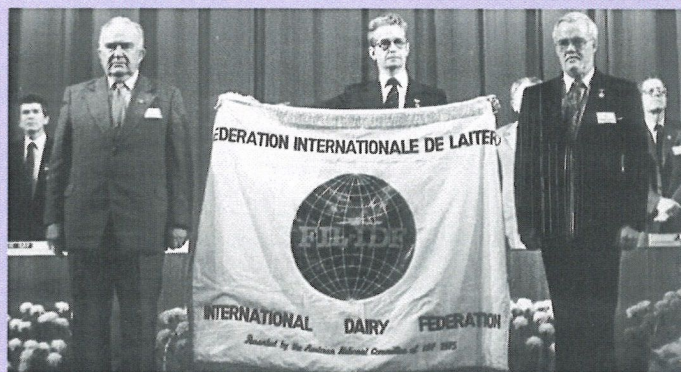


(L) **K G Savage (CA)**, President 1976-1984
(R), **Dr H Kay**, President of Commission of Studies 1974-1982

IDF was not immune from the political climate of the age. The Cold War meant that the world was divided and, in effect, co-operation between specialists in certain nations was discouraged or even forbidden by national authorities. By approaching potential traps of this kind with care, however, IDF managed to maintain a satisfactory level of co-operation for much of the time and occasionally scored a real success in getting persons into countries where strictly they should not have been allowed, and this without subterfuge.

Expansion

By the dawn of the 1980s IDF's Programme of Work and IDF's production had risen to new heights. Now it was the turn of the President (K G Savage) to persuade the Secretary General that he needed more resources. At the end of 1979 an assistant to the SG was appointed and, in due course, the IDF programme expanded further, though this expansion came at a time of financial difficulties that were not to be properly solved until 10 years later.



International Dairy Congress Moscow 1982
The IDF Ceremonial Flag (held by W M Dijkstra (NL)),
(L) S M Antonov (USSR)
(R) K G Savage (CA), President of IDF 1976-1984

IDF continued to contribute extensively to the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Code of Principles Committee and was still heavily committed to the standardization of methods of analysis and sampling. In the late 1980s the topic of nutrition gained in recognition, later becoming a "Strategic Topic" and getting extensive leverage from National Committees.

Leading Experts 1980s and 1990s



T Higaki (JP)



International Dairy Congress,
Moscow 1992
Prof H Jasirowski (PL)

IDF Annual Sessions, Prague 1984
Dr J Gabriel (CS), Vice Presidents 1984-1987

It is also time to recognize an IDF failure. In 1986 occurred the tragic explosion of the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl, in the Ukraine. IDF National Committees were asked to gather information on radiation levels in the environment, in milk etc and on regulations and precautionary measures applied in their countries. A considerable body of information was gathered, but, in the end, IDF was not able to analyse the information and make it available to the dairy sector.

It is still collecting dust in the IDF archives. But there were successes, too. In 1986 the dairy industry was plagued by a "new" menace, *Listeria monocytogenes*. A new work item in 1987 added a method for detection of this micro-organism to the programme. The method was drafted, subjected to interlaboratory test, with financial and material assistance from the Milk Marketing Board of England and Wales, and submitted for approval for publication within two years. Throughout the decade, publications continued to appear and events became ever more frequent.



International Dairy Congress, The Hague 1986
H M Queen Beatrix speaks to **Dr E J Mann** (GB)
 (R) President of Commission of Studies 1982-1990
 with (from L) **H Schelhaas** (NL), **G Braks** (NL) Minister of Agriculture

The end of the decade brought the end of an era for IDF. Pierre Staal, Secretary General for 29 years and 9 months reached retirement age and bowed out bathed in a glow of grateful thanks from all who held IDF dear.

New driver

The new Secretary General, Edward Hopkin, aimed to let the machine continue running smoothly, but he initiated a stream of thinking about how IDF should change to meet the needs of a rapidly changing dairy sector. Dairy firms were merging, becoming larger and fewer. Government sponsored dairy research was being scaled down or stopped, in many countries, and state sponsored milk marketing boards and similar market-related structures began to disappear. Each year the General Assembly had another paper on IDF's possible future, culminating in an Action Plan in 1994. Throughout the 1990s IDF's way of working was modified and refined in subtle ways, to improve efficiency, speed up completion of work, eliminate time wasting, and so on.



IDF Cheese Seminar, Cork (Ireland) 1993
 (L to R) **P Kelly** (IE), **T van Boekel** (NL), **H Werner** (DK) President
 of Commission of Studies 1990-1998, **D B Emmons** (CA)

The financial situation continued to be problematic, until the arrival of Iikka Haka as President. Iikka stimulated the Secretariat into taking the measures, in financial management and in changes to the Official Constitution, necessary to return the finances to health and to streamline decision making. IDF members (National Committees) henceforth would be excluded automatically if the membership fee was not paid within the year. A small Management Committee was established and the unwieldy Executive Committee of 23 members abolished, to be replaced by a Council where all were represented.

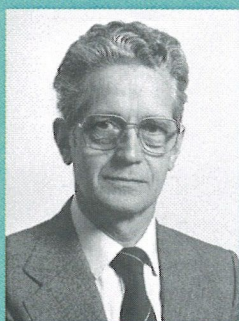


*First meeting of new IDF Council at IDF House, Brussels 22 March 1995
Far left: I Haka, President of IDF 1992-1996*

New strategy

These years and the developments they had brought paved the way for a fundamental re-organization, known as the Strategic Plan, introduced under the stimulus of president Jerry Kozak. The emphasis was on renewal, response to demand, matching activity to resources, the needs of emerging countries, encouraging new membership and paying attention to the increasingly important field of communications. Codex work was reinforced as a priority. The commissions were disbanded and the programme of work assigned to standing committees and task forces. With no commission meetings, the annual meeting changed too. The General Assembly was accompanied by conferences on topical issues and the event renamed "IDF World Dairy Summit". The Strategic Plan was implemented in 1999. Not everybody liked it, just as the previous revolution, in 1969, had met resistance. Jerry's successor as president, Philippe Jachnik, has encouraged consolidation. The last four years of IDF's first century have been spent taking advantage of the facilities the new systems allow, refining structures to meet the needs of all IDF fields of activity and exploring the new potential that is being revealed. But Philippe has also placed emphasis on reaching out to IDF members, and to non-members. The IDF Secretariat has moved to new accommodation, with the capacity for larger meetings, state-of-the-art equipment for electronic communication and without the administrative burden of ownership.

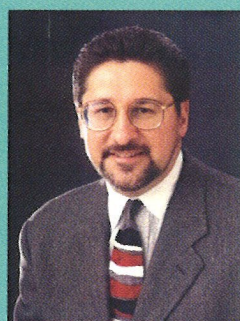
Recent Presidents



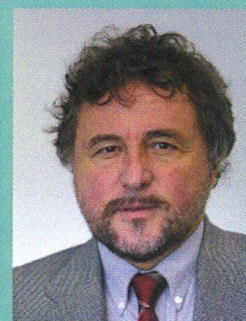
W M Dijkstra (NL),
President 1984-1992



Iikka Haka (FI)
President of IDF 1992-1996



J J Kozak (US)
President 1996-2000



Ph Jachnik (FR)
President 2000-2004