

This Committee made its debut in Toronto and was able to report that in the few months since its formation its numbers were approaching 70 from 14 countries.

The first meeting in which the Committee participated was held jointly with *Committee L — Patents, Trade Marks, Copyright*; and was designed to introduce Committee L members to the topic of Franchising. The Committee was fortunate in having attracted to its membership some of the most highly experienced practitioners in the field of Franchising and the quality of these practitioners was evident in the presentations made and the written papers which were distributed to participants.

The first speaker at the joint meeting was *Lewis-G Rudnick* of Chicago who provided an excellent introduction to the commerce and legal scope involved in Franchise transactions. He was followed by *Ian Baillie* of London who provided a valuable insight into Franchising from the perspective of a Trade Mark practitioner. The final speaker was *Nick Fyfe* of Ottawa who took a look at the role of *Character Merchandising in Franchising*.

The meeting was well attended and the interest generated was reflected in the lively discussion which followed the formal presentations.

The Committee then moved to its own programme. The programme had been designed to take a view of the world of franchising by regions with an emphasis on the problems associated with franchising in the particular region.

The first session was introduced by the Chairman who outlined the aims and objectives of the Committee.

Vice Chairman *Philip Zeidman* of Washington DC gave an over view of Statutory Regulation in the United States which is the most highly regulated area of the world so far as franchising is concerned. *Harvey Shapiro* of Toronto dealt with Statutory Regulation in Canada. The session was completed by *Stephen Brown* of Mem-

phis who gave an impressive view of the problems of taking one's franchise to South America.

After the formal presentations were concluded the Committee discussed future programmes and activities. Many ideas were forthcoming and two of the suggested items will be incorporated into the Vienna programme. The possibility of establishing a working party to review franchise laws was also discussed and will be implemented. The terms of reference and an invitation to members to participate will shortly be announced.

The last session covered the Far East with *David Shannon* of Hong Kong presenting a review of laws affecting joint ventures Regulation of Investment and Tax followed by the Europeans. Europe's theme was "*Methods of doing business*" and the areas covered were EEC by *Stanley Crossick* of Brussels; The UK by *Martin Mendelsohn* of London; Germany by *Walther Skaupy* of Munich and France by *Oliver Gast* of Paris. *

For this last session the Committee was joined by lawyers who had attended the Associations of Canadian Franchisor's annual legal symposium who expressed themselves pleased with the opportunity to join the session and with the quality of presentations.

A feature of all meeting was the liveliness of the contributions made by members attending and the keen interest shown. Each speaker produced a paper which was available to participants. The overall high quality of the papers raises the hope that they can be published when they will provide a welcome addition to the bookshelf of the international franchise lawyer.

Remarkably for a new Committee the average attendance at the sessions was forty four and on the last afternoon the attendance was so high that more chairs had to be brought into the room.

We look forward with confidence to future programmes and activities.

Martin Mendelsohn, London
Chairman