

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

LUSTON 4400

24th October 1946

Dear *Professor Fisher,*

It has been proposed that the International Academy for the History of Science should become an adhering Union of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). For this to be possible the countries whose citizens belong to the Academy must be able to vote as countries in the decisions of the Academy, and this implies that each such country must have its own National Committee. Such a change of Constitution can, of course, only be made by re-union of the International Academy, which is due to meet at Lausanne next year. There is little doubt that the Academy will approve of the proposal, for not only does it make the Academy eligible for financial assistance, but also it does not, as formerly, prohibit the unrestricted election of individual members of the Academy having the same privileges as members representing organised bodies. It has been ascertained from the General Secretary of ICSU that application, after the change of Constitution, for adherence by the International Academy for the History of Science will be welcomed.

It has also been ascertained from UNESCO that, if there is a reasonable prospect that the International Academy will apply for adherence to ICSU, UNESCO might meanwhile make a grant to enable the Meeting and International Congress at Lausanne to take place and also to facilitate a preliminary meeting of the Executive of the Academy in December or January. This would appear to be a necessity since it would be difficult, if not impossible, in present circumstances to get a reasonable gathering at Lausanne without such help. It is therefore clearly desirable that the British members of the Academy and others who are interested should meet as soon as possible to consider the matter, and, if affiliation with ICSU is approved, to elect a National Committee and Officers.

I should therefore be obliged if you would kindly let me know as early as possible whether you would attend such a meeting to be held at the Science Museum, South Kensington, sometime during the fortnight, November 11th to 23rd, and if so what dates during that period would be impossible for you. The date will then be chosen to suit as many as possible. If you are not able to come to the meeting it would be of great assistance if you would let me have your views on the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

 H.Dingle.