FRANK L. WATTENDORF (1906-1986) IN MEMORIAM

The International Council of the Aeronautical Sciences deeply mourns the passing – in Washington, D.C., on June 11, 1986 – of its Honorary Treasurer for many years and founding member, Dr. Frank L. Wattendorf.

Dr. Wattendorf, a renowned international expert in fluid dynamics, electrofluid dynamics, and the design of aerodynamic and propulsion test facilities, was a disciple and colleague of the late Dr. Theodore von Kármán. During a distinguished career spanning more than 60 years, Dr. Wattendorf was a founding member of the Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development (AGARD-NATO) and later served in various leading positions within the organization. He was a recipient of the United States Medal of Freedom, the Greek Medal of King George I, and the NATO-von-Kármán-Medal and many other awards.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Wattendorf graduated from Havard in 1926 with an A.B. in Mathematics and from MIT in 1928 with an M.S. in General Research. For two years, he performed research in Germany on laminar and turbulent boundary layers under Professor Theodore von Kármán in Aachen and Professor Ludwig Prandtl in Goettingen. In 1930, he accompanied Dr. von Kármán to the California Institute of Technology as his assistant and received a Ph.D. in Aeronautical Engineering from Caltech in 1933.

In 1936, Dr. Wattendorf accepted a two-year assignment in China as a Professor of Aeronautical Engineering and Director of the Aerodynamics Institute in Beijing. During this period, he designed and supervised the construction of China's first large wind tunnel.

In 1939, he was appointed Civilian Director of Wind Tunnels for the Army Air Force at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. There, together with Dr. von Kármán, he designed the 40,000 horsepower wind tunnel complex and supervised its construction. In addition, he designed the vertical and supersonic wind tunnels and other research and test facilities. For these efforts, he was awarded the War Department Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service.

In 1945, Dr. Wattendorf put forth the original proposal which led to the planning and establishment of the Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) and later, was appointed Civilian Chairman of the AEDC Planning Group. In 1946, he was awarded the Medal of Freedom for this work. From 1950-52, Dr. Wattendorf was Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor of the Air Engineering Development Division at the Pentagon, the organization in charge of bringing AEDC into its operational phase.

In 1952, he helped to found AGARD-NATO and became its first director. In 1963, he became Vice Chairman, and in 1968 was appointed Honorary Vice Chairman for Life. He also helped to found the von Kármán Institute for Fluid Dynamics in Brussels.

Upon retirement in 1968, Dr. Wattendorf received the USAF Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service by the Scientific Advisory Board. Even so, he continued his activities as a consultant. For his lifelong work in test facilities, he was awarded the Ground Test Facilities Medal of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 1979.

Dr. Wattendorf was one of the founding members of ICAS, who, for many years, worked actively for ICAS and, as Honorary Treasurer, contributed significantly to its progress. His calm and friendly counsel was felt in our meetings till his last years. His wisdom and devotion to ICAS will always be remembered.

Josef Singer Past President, ICAS

HENDRICUS J. VAN DER MAAS

(1900 - 1987)

The International Council of the Aeronautical Sciences further mourns the passing of another founder member of ICAS, Professor Hendricus J. van der Maas.

Professor van der Maas passed away on February 24th. 1987. He will long be remembered not only for his considerable achievements as a leading aeronautical engineer in the Netherlands, but also for his untiring efforts in the establishment of modes of international co-operation in aeronautics. Professor van der Maas was a close friend of Theodore von Karman, and was one of the international group of outstanding aeronautical engineers who founded ICAS in 1957, under the Presidency of Theodore von Karman. He was an active member of the ICAS Council for many years, and as one of the founder-members, he was made a Life Member. It should be recognised that he took an equally active part in the establishment and work of AGARD, and of the von Karman Institute.

Unfortunately his final years were marred by ill-health which made it almost impossible for him to keep as close an interest in the affairs of ICAS as he had in those important early formative years.

His dedication, application and devotion to ICAS was without question, and he will be very sadly missed.