MEETINGS OF THE IAS AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY PANELS
DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 23-25, 1961

The following opening remarks were made by the Technical Services Director:

"I feel sure that it is clear to you that the purpose of these Panels is to utilize your talents and experience to help IAS keep the technical aspects of its programs and activities cogent, appropriate, timely and worthy.

"We hope that each of you will feel a compulsion to generate thought and make suggestions leading to the continued improvement in IAS technical services. It is important, particularly, that you feel a responsibility to criticize objectively, but forcefully, IAS meetings, papers, publications, and policy in order that IAS can make worthy contributions to the aerospace sciences. These Panels were formed as Advisory Bodies rather than Committees in order that the IAS could retain its present assigned responsibilities to Committees of the Council and of Program Committees. These Program Committees are formed from the local IAS Sections for all meetings other than Annual Meetings and it is not desired to obviate their responsibility, since the strength of the Local Section activity has been a large measure of the strength of IAS.

"I think you, as Panel Members, will be interested in the findings of Herbert Harris, a Public Affairs Specialist, who has just completed a very thorough 3-1/2 month study of the IAS, its policies, operations, communications, and organization. He travelled throughout the country making some 80 depth interviews with leaders in industry, universities, and government of both members and non-members of IAS and with a number of representative practitioners of aerospace sciences -- again, members and non-members of IAS.

"His findings, in brief, were that the majority desire to make IAS's past accomplishments a prologue to a greater contribution in the future -- they are confident that the opportunity and capability exist -- they felt that IAS is hiding its light under a bushel and that communication within and without is poor, leaving false concepts concerning IAS aims and accomplishments.

"He found almost universal approval of the recent regional restructuring of the IAS as an efficient form of decentralization -- this was frequently accompanied by a suggestion that even more should be done to establish a closer flow of contacts between the Local Sections and IAS Headquarters.

"The majority desire more activity in the space side of the Aerospace Sciences, while continuing its traditional interests in aeronautics.

"He found the "Journal" highly esteemed, but "Aerospace Engineering" much in need of improvement. He found a consensus that IAS should assume the initiative in achieving a new coordination of activities among aerospace societies to eliminate or reduce overlap or duplication."
"There is a widespread sentiment for the IAS to broaden its base by entering affirmatively into new areas of public interest, i.e.:

A. To act as a clearing house for the dissemination of information among the various societies in aerospace.

B. To act as a communication bridge between the aerospace technical community and such publics as:
   1. Executive and Legislative Branches of the Federal Government.
   2. Industrial Management.
   3. Educational Institutions
   4. Press, Radio, and TV.

The overall purpose being to generate wider comprehension among these sections of the laypublic as to the significance and impact on society.

"Harris' findings represent a challenge to the Aerospace Technology Panels to determine how they can assist in effecting improvements in IAS services to correct those findings, which show the need for new actions.

"He found opinion rather divided about the value of Aerospace Technology Panels; however, this was mostly due to the short time which they have been operating. The consensus was that these are pretty busy people and that the Panels would not prove of much value unless we were able to excite their interest and have them feel that they are really contributing an important service. Some interviewers pointed out the desirability of keeping the membership of the Panels active, alert, and interested with a rotation system to permit some younger people to work on the Panels in order to permit them to grow in their profession. Most were quite definite that the success of the Panels depends on the ability of the Chairman and the Director of Technical Services to coordinate the Panels so that with a minimum expenditure of time on the part of the members really significant accomplishments can be realized."

The following is a consensus of the conclusions and discussions, which apply to all of the meetings of the Panels:

1. The formation of the Panels was needed and timely.
2. All seemed pleased to be invited as members and most seemed willing to devote efforts to meet the Precept.
3. There is a need to clarify the methods by which the advice and influence of the Panels can be applied.
4. There is a need to clarify the technical responsibilities of the staff and of committees for each of our meetings and publications.
5. It was agreed that the Panels should be brought into the program planning for meetings, especially the Annual Meeting, earlier so that meeting themes could be coordinated with activities of other societies and serve to supplement and/or lead the programs of other societies rather than duplicate. After the establishment of the theme, the call for papers could go out, inviting papers to meet the theme of the meeting.

6. There was agreement that more activity must be generated for joint professional society meetings and that the A/S Technology Panels are in a good position to foster same.

7. The Annual Meeting Sessions should include, first, a state of the art report, covering accomplishments during the past year, trends, aims, and objectives for future years, then have technical papers on the significant developments and/or potential attainments pertaining to the state of the art paper.

8. It was decided that the term of service should be for one year and that all members, including the Panel Chairman, should be re-invited each year to serve for another year. In considering those who should be re-invited, attention is to be given to the desirability of rotating into panel membership younger scientists and engineers who give promise and to not inviting those who have been too fully occupied to render service or interest the past year. It was felt that a rotation in change of membership of about 20% to 30% should take place each year, and that the re-establishment of the membership should be immediately following the Annual Meeting.

9. It was concluded that in order for panel members to be able to advise on IAS programs and publications that it would be necessary for all panel members to receive all of the information that the members of IAS receive. Therefore, those panel members who are not members of IAS will be added to our mailing list for such data.

10. There was general agreement that a publication of a review of the year's past activities and accomplishments within the interests of the panels would be a worth-while project, but this will depend upon the ability to inspire a hard-working individual on each of the panels who can find the time to devote to such a project. Then additions, comments, and assistance can be procured from the other panel members.

[Signature]
Paul J. Furr
Technical Services Director

PJR:ma