

REMARKS FROM THE OSTIV PRESIDENT

IN MEMORIAM

Lodewijk Anthony de Lange

OSTIV, the international scientific and technical organization for gliding commemorates its Honorary President Louis A. de Lange. He was born January 5, 1909 at Leiden, The Netherlands, and died on December 3, 1996 at his home in Voorburg.

In Louis de Lange, we lost one of the last pioneers of the sport of gliding from the 1920's-30's, a man who helped develop and form many of the educational aspects of aviation in a career where he held positions of great influence and responsibility. He enjoyed a distinguished and wide-ranging career in civil aviation, during the course of which he published a number of books on aerodynamics, on grading and training of airline pilots, on training of glider pilots and on aviation history. He received several awards, including the Gold Medal of the Royal Netherlands Aeronautical Association and the Lilienthal Medal of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI).

His career started at the Koolhoven Aircraft Factory, where he designed the FK 43, a four-seater airplane, used as a taxi-plane by KLM before the war, making all aerodynamical and strength calculations by himself. His next job, with the Dutch Civil Aviation Authority, involved supervising flight and ground training of personnel, supervision and encouragement of gliding activities, and representing the Netherlands at the International Civil Aviation Organization ICAO at Montreal, Canada, in 1947 and 1948, where he took the initiative in reducing the required flying hours for private pilot licenses for applicants having a certain gliding experience. He then became Chief Inspector of the Dutch Air Board.

Immediately after World War II, Louis de Lange organized the setting-up of the domestic airline network in the Netherlands - the first post-war activity of KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines. This work led to laying the groundwork for the Dutch Airline Pilot School, where he was then appointed director, a position he held for 11 years.

The last task in his long career was to draw up a plan for a permanent aeronautical exhibition and conference building at Schiphol Airport to a combined order of KLM, Fokker Aircraft Factories and Schiphol Airport Authorities and then to execute the work of construction and fitting both. The building is now well known as the Aviodome.

Louis de Lange founded the first Dutch gliding club in 1929, and became a pilot in 1931. Four years later, he made the first Dutch five-hour flight, a national record at the time. He soon became an instructor at the professional institute at the Ypenburg Airfield, near The Hague,

which was an unpaid, spare time hobby for him, and included training instructors.

Though unable to prove it at the time, Louis de Lange had been convinced before the war that gliding could be used as a "par excellence" means of selection for future airline and military pilots, provided that instructors in gliding schools and clubs were well prepared for the task. For that reason, he developed plans for the establishment of a gliding center with professional instructors in the Netherlands, which - with his co-operation - led to the foundation of the well known Gliding Center at Terlet, near Arnhem, in 1950. De Lange's primary thought had been that a long, unconstrained observation in an environment, where the boy who wishes to become an airline or military pilot actively and with sheer pleasure participates in flying as a sport, especially gliding, is much better suited for the process of determining admittance to the training for airline and military pilots than a "snapshot" of a few days, usually done under the pressure of a pending examination. The fact that this thought was right was shown by data collected during ten years as director of the Dutch Airline Pilot School, and by data obtained from the military authorities, both concerning the results achieved during the grading and the training, with glider pilots and with non-glider pilots.

In lectures delivered for several domestic and foreign authorities, and in articles published in aviation periodicals all over the world, he explained the background of his ideas and showed the results which demonstrated how right they were. It has been certainly the greatest satisfaction of his life that with this activity he made a notable contribution to the acceptance of the value of gliding.

As a representative of the Royal Netherlands Aeronautical Association he participated in the congresses of ISTUS, the International Study Group for Motorless Flight, and gave lectures between 1936 and 1939 in education and training.

After World War II, Louis de Lange was one of the founders of the successor organization of ISTUS, OSTIV (Organisation Scientifique et Technique Internationale du Vol à Voile), established in July 1948 at Samedan, Switzerland; he was elected there as Vice President. In 1950, Louis de Lange was elected as President of OSTIV and organized from then on the scientific-technical congresses to be held at the same time and place as the World Gliding Championships. This co-operation with FAI has resulted, every two or three years, in a unique opportunity for pilots and their teams to meet designers, aerodynamic and construction specialists and me-

teorologists, and discuss with them present problems and future sailplane development, each side learning from the "other".

In 1978, Louis de Lange retired from OSTIV, having firmly held the reins for 30 years, and was then elected Honorary President.

Technicians, scientists, meteorologists, pilots, members of OSTIV and friends of the gliding community honor this great man and his work and say goodbye!

– by Cedric Vernon and Manfred E.Reinhardt.

Figure 1: Honorary President Louis de Lange short after his retirement from OSTIV on occasion of his visit in 1979 at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the German Aerospace Research Establishment (DLR) at Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany. (From left to right :



Prof."Wally"Wallington dec., Chairman Meteorological Panel, Honorary President Louis A. de Lange dec., Dr.Manfred E.Reinhardt, President, Dipl.Ing.Hans Zacher, Honorary Member).

XXV OSTIV Congress Set for Saint Auban sur Durance, July 3-11, 1997

Preparations for the XXV OSTIV Congress are making good progress. To this point, fifty-five proposals for papers offering new ideas, proposals and results in the following field of activities have been received:

For the Technical Section:

- Design and Development (10 papers),
- Loads, Materials and Structures (6 papers),
- Flight Measurements, Instrumentation and Testing (7 papers),
- Training and Safety (12 papers),
- Miscellaneous (7 papers).

For the Scientific Section:

- Convection (5 papers),
- Waves (1 paper),
- Climatology (5 papers),
- Forecasting (3 papers),
- Miscellaneous (4 papers)

The Final Program of the Congress will be sent out along with OSTIV Letter 1/97 by mid-April 1997.

All persons who are interested in further informations about the Congress may contact OSTIV Secretariate directly under the following address: OSTIV c/o DLR, D-82234 Wessling, Germany, Tel: (+49)8153-28 2507 or -28 1797 (Office), (+49)8153-1777 (Home), Fax: (+49)8153-4114.