

CURRENT CONCERNS, TRENDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE YUGOSLAV RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
IN THE FIELD OF RADIATION PROTECTION

P.D. Marković
President of the Association

1. Introduction

One of the major characteristics of the Yugoslav Radiation Protection Association (YRPA) activity is that the part of work being done by the Association is very closely related with the work on many problems in the field of radiation protection which is done by the research institutes and government agencies. Society is very often initiating activities in different branches of radiation protection such as are research, legislature, and almost always takes stands on the current radiation protection issues in the country. Beside that YRPA, as one of the IRPA founding Societies, is very active in promoting international cooperation of the Society's membership.

Here, in this review, we will shortly elaborate on some of the current issues, trends and efforts of our Society, some of which might be, and the most probably are, of interest for the other Societies too.

2. Society's Current Activities and Efforts on the National Level

- 2.1 Yugoslav Radiation Protection Association has always been in our country an active partner in the field of radiation protection legislature. In recent years attention in this field was focused on the application of the ICRP Recommendation, Publication 26. This effort has resulted in a new Yugoslav "Law for Protection Against Ionizing Radiation", which opened possibility for more detailed application of the ICRP three basic principles: (a) justification of practice, (b) optimization of protection and (c) limitation of individual risk. These principles will be incorporated into nine Regulations which follow the Radiation Law. Our Society published a book on this subject, which is actually a collection of papers of the competent Society's members. This book will serve as

a some kind of guide for future work on Radiation Protection Regulations. It could be said that the application of the ICRP latest recommendation in the national legislatures is still an international problem. Special difficulties arise when these recommendation have to be applied in practice.

- 2.2 In Yugoslavia, as well as in many others countries, one of the problems in radiation protection is population exposure due to sources of ionizing radiation in mass application, such as are fire warning devices, radioactive lightning rods etc. Tens, and maybe hundred, of thousand of these sources have been mounted, and still are being mounted in the country, very often in the inhabited areas. Our society took this issue very seriously, and the whole activity was summarized in a booklet which now serves as a some kind of guide for the protection against exposure due to this kind sources. It should be emphasized that this is an international problem too since these sources, produced in few countries, are world wide applied. Very often competition between companies which are making these kind of sources ignores radiation problems.
- 2.3 Medical exposure to radiation is a concern of our Society, as probably is of all others. Much of the effort has been done by the Society to improve situation in this field. The most important recent step in that direction done by the Society was a try to include into Radiation Protection Regulations few items regulating medical application of radiation on the bases that: "Unnecessary exposures should be avoided; necessary exposures should be justifiable in terms that would not otherwise have been received; and doses actually administered should be limited to the minimum consistent with medical benefit to the individual patient."
- 2.4 The realibility of the personnel dosimetry, with film bages or TLD, has occupied and is still occupying attention of our Society. One of its committies is studing this problem, especially the question of the interrelationship between personnel dosimetry results and results obtained by the periodical, usually once in a year, control of the working conditions and radiation fields arround sources. Correct results and conclusions could

probably be obtained only by combining these two approaches of irradiation control.

- 2.5 Problem of Protection against nonionizing radiations is rather serious in our country. Even though that research in this field is going on in many Institutes, and sources of nonionizing radiation are being rather widely applied, standards and limits for exposure to this radiation do not exist. Society had included problem of the protection against nonionizing radiation into its Program, and we are now about to initiate procedure, at the responsible government agencies, for establishment of the corresponding limits for nonionizing radiation.
- 2.6 Program and activities on indoor exposure to Natural Radiation and related risk assessment has not yet been defined on a national level. Executive Council of YRPA has decided recently to initiate this program by organizing the first Yugoslav meeting on indoor exposure to be held in September 1984.

3. Society's Current International Activities and Efforts

- 3.1 Yugoslav Radiation Protection Association is one of the IRPA founding Societies and as a such has been very active in promoting international cooperation of its membership. Just to mention that the members of YRPA, as well as the YRPA itself, have been very active in organizing and participating in such activities as are Yugoslav Summer School on Radiation Protection, Few Meetings sponsored by the IAEA, etc. These efforts will continue in the future.
- 3.2 In september of the year 1983 in Vienna was held "XI.Regional Congress of IRPA; Austrian-Hungarian-Yugoslav Radiation Protection Meeting", organized by Austrian Association for Radiation Protection in association with Hungarian Radiation Protection Society and Yugoslav Radiation Protection Association. It has been agreed by these three Associations to have such a meeting again, organized in Yugoslavia, the most probably in September 1986.

4. Conclusion

All radiation problems discussed, or just mentioned, in this short review are international in scope, and should be discussed and solved internationally, appreciating differences from country to country. Each Society can make considerable contribution to the solution of these problems in its own country, but on international level too. One of the ways to achieve the latest is active cooperation and work of our national Societies through IRPA.