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Editorial comment

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS to be organized by The Concrete Society formed last year will be held in London from 27 to 29 May 1968. The subject of lightweight concrete was chosen because it was considered that this material had reached a stage in its development at which a great deal of experience had been gained but not yet shared. In one place, a naturally occurring material is suitable as a lightweight aggregate; in another, a waste product produced in embarrassing quantities can, with suitable treatment, become a useful and economic lightweight aggregate; in a third, aeration may be the most economic way of producing a lightweight concrete. In some regions, all three methods have their place concurrently. The properties of the resulting concretes may, or may not, be directly comparable. Their uses may be similar or complementary. Changing circumstances in a particular country may make economically worth while a type of concrete or a use for it that was not so before. All these are good reasons for comparing experience at an international level.

The Congress has attracted substantial official support in this country. Internationally it is being sponsored by the Comité Européen du Béton (CEB), the Conseil International du Bâtiment (CIB), the Fédération Internationale de la Précontrainte (FIP), and the Réunion Internationale des Laboratoires d'Essais et de Recherches sur les Matériaux et les Constructions (RILEM). Some twenty papers are being presented by outstanding authorities in various countries, including several each from the USA and the USSR. Further important contributions will be made during the discussions. The end product and its use will be in mind throughout the Congress, but the papers will include important contributions from recent research.

The technical sessions of the Congress, which are to take place on the first two days, will cover three main themes. The first concerns the properties of lightweight

aggregates and fresh concrete in relation to site and factory operations. Papers will discuss the properties, testing and mix design of lightweight-aggregate concrete and its mixing, handling, transporting and placing.

The second session is concerned with the properties of the hardened material, and deals with both aerated and lightweight-aggregate concretes. Architectural properties will be considered as well as structural properties such as elasticity, shrinkage, creep, bond, shear and strength-weight relationship.

The third main topic will be the general economics and applications of lightweight concrete. Codes of practice and regulations relating to the subject in various countries will be reviewed.

These technical sessions will take place at one of London's newest hotels, the Royal Lancaster, Lancaster Terrace, Hyde Park, W2, which is fully equipped with conference facilities. Simultaneous translation will be provided at the main sessions into the four Congress languages, English, French, German and Russian. On the third day, visits will be arranged to sites, factories and research stations. Further details of the Congress may be obtained from:

G. E. Young

Secretary

International Congress on Lightweight Concrete

c/o The Concrete Society Limited

Terminal House

Grosvenor Gardens

LONDON SW1

Details of membership of The Concrete Society, which reached more than 4,000 in its first year, may be obtained from:

A. B. Harman

Secretary

The Concrete Society Limited

at the same postal address.