

PREFACE
An open letter of the President of ICAS
to the First President of ICAS

Dear Theodore,

I don't know exactly where you are now, but I am sure you are somewhere, and you can read the Proceedings of ICAS, whose edition for the XIXth. Congress is offered to your consideration.

Since, even when you were alive, you knew and remembered everything, you will surely remember the many times we met (the last one in 1962) and our reciprocal correspondence. One of the most important meetings was in Madrid, in 1958, the first Congress of ICAS - unforgettable -.

You know, now we are approaching the XIX Congress, and ICAS had a great development since then, at least from a quantitative standpoint; the quality, following your ideas, has always been very high. You can check it on the Proceedings.

In Madrid there were long discussions whether ICAS should have been ICAST, to include technology, but I was with you in insisting on ICAS; because technology changes, science never changes.

We tried to continue your ideas, of course, widening the scope of our fields; I am sure you will be happy with our work.

The papers cover almost all the fields of Aeronautics and the greatest part of active nations is represented.

I know your spirit was always inclined towards international friendship and collaboration: and, again in Madrid, the presence of two Soviet (that was their definition at that time) scientists, was the first attempt to break the ice of the cold war in Aeronautics. Also many of the things you suggested then you will find in these heavy books of our Proceedings: when you said "Boundary Layer Control has a future", "Control in Structures has a future", "An engineering system is like the human body, and it is ruled by the same laws", you were a prophet.

You know, Theodore, many things have changed on this Earth: cold war is past nightmare, and we are approaching an era where peace will be, we hope, a dominant feature.

And now let me remember a famous article you wrote in 1953: "What price is speed?". To-day somebody should write another one: "What price to Peace?" or, even better "What cost is Peace?".

Aeronautics is paying one of the highest fares of this cost and we are having some problems, especially for our younger colleagues, who apparently cannot see a clear future for them. But surely you and me have seen what happens where peace is missing, and you will agree that no cost is high for it. So, probably, the right title of the Article should be: "Peace is never too expensive".

You think we could encourage our Colleagues to continue their efforts, as witnessed in the Proceedings?

I am one of your successors, and I am very proud of it: I don't know whether you feel the same way, since also the current Mayor of Rome is Julius Ceasar's successor, but I am not sure that they will be both delivered to history with the same intensity. Nevertheless, humbly and gratefully, let me offer to your consideration the results of our day-by-day work, on behalf of all the Authors and of the Members of the Council.

Brotherly (if there is such a word in English)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paolo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Paolo