

PRESENTATION TO THE MEETING OF ORGANIZATIONS\*

by

Paul Jackson

In July, 1972, the UNESCO Conference on Cultural Policies adopted a resolution "to recognize especially that sound recordings are cultural materials and should be treated as such." It was with this in mind that about thirty organizations actively involved with recordings sent representatives to a "summit" meeting at the United Nations to explore ways of solving some of their mutual problems--such as the transmission of accurate recorded sound information to the person needing it--through cooperative effort. After presenting a brief historical survey of ARSC and its aims, I submitted the following proposal to this meeting.

Proposal for a National Recorded Sound Research Center

There is a crying need for a national central archival network facility to organize and offer services which most archives and private collectors are either not allowed, or able, to engage themselves in. These are services that allow for the broadest concept of distribution and referral of source information.

I propose at this time, a Recorded Sound Research Center that would act for the many supporting organizations and archives concerned and would therefore engage in the following activities:

A. A centralized organization to be an agent for collectors and archives (rather than an archival competitor) in the appraisal and disposition of individuals'

and broadcasters' record collections, dealers' overstock, and record manufacturers' and publishers' remainder inventories. It would also serve as an agency for the individual consultants or experts requested by institutions and firms regarding recorded sound projects.

B. In order to facilitate a wider dissemination of recorded sound information, the RSR Center would be instrumental in the publication of directories and the microfilming of catalogs of archives, which are necessary finding aids; it would serve to publish, republish, or microfilm (or to have contracted for) bibliographies and discographies in order to verify and organize information about recordings.

C. The Center would promote the total archiving of newer commercial recordings so they would be available for study in the future. The Center would promote the reissuing of various types of recorded sound for limited markets.

D. The Center might work towards relaying actual AV through the new digital code telephone system, evolving a network of archives.

E. Since the above aims are aligned with those of ARSC and represent the needs of other organizations, it would seem appropriate that ARSC would sponsor such an operation with the support of the groups now engaged in dispersed energies but with the same goals--finding the information about the availability of recorded sound, and resolving an individual's needs by getting the necessary sound to that individual.

\*This meeting was held at the United Nations on September 8, 1972, under the sponsorship of ARSC and the Speech Communication Association.