UK scientist and scientific administrator Sir Ben Lockspeiser died on 18 October at the age of 99. In the early 1950s he helped convince an initially dubious UK Government of the importance of establishing CERN, and his signature appears for the UK on the 1953 CERN Convention document. His enthusiasm for CERN resulted in the UK being the first Member State to ratify this document, in December of the same year. As Permanent Secretary of the UK’s Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, his administrative skills were much in demand. He chaired the Interim Finance Committee which helped prepare the administrative foundations for the future Organization, and after the formal establishment of the Organization went on to become its Council Chairman, from October 1954 to December 1957.