

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
UNION ASTRONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE

Forty-sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee
Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada
Thursday, 23 August 1979

P R O C E E D I N G S

The 46th meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Astronomical Union was held in Pavilion 3200 of the Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada, on 23 August 1979.

Present were:

Prof. M.K.V. Bappu	President
Dr M.W. Feast	Vice-President
Dr D.S. Heeschen	Vice-President
Academician E.K. Kharadze	Vice-President
Dr L. Kresak	Vice-President
Prof. S. van den Bergh	Vice-President
Prof. R. Wilson	Vice-President
Prof. P.A. Wayman	General Secretary
Dr R. West	Assistant General Secretary
Prof. A. Blaauw	Adviser, former President
Prof. Edith A. Müller	Adviser, former General Secretary
Dr A. Jappel	Executive Secretary

Introductory Note:

This report has been prepared in the order of the items overleaf in the summary list of the agenda. The documents related to the agenda, and distributed before and during the meeting, have not been included in the present report. They will, however, be kept in the files of the Union for further reference.

A G E N D A

1. Opening by the President
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Correspondence at Montreal
4. Report by the General Secretary:
 - (a) Some decisions of the XVIIth General Assembly
 - (b) Finances of the Union:
 - (i) Summary of provisions in the budget
 - (ii) Opening of the current account in Paris
 - (c) Financial authority and transfer of signature right
 - (d) Next General Assembly
 - (e) Publication Policy (Transactions A,B; Highlights of Astronomy; Symposia; contract with the publisher)
 - (f) New Member Country
 - (g) Relations with and representation in other international organizations
5. Meetings:
 - (a) Regional meetings
 - (b) Symposia and Colloquia
 - (c) Co-sponsorship of and representation at meetings of other organizations
 - (d) Young Astronomers' Schools
6. Future of IAU
7. Any other matter
8. Place and date of next meeting of the Executive Committee
9. Closing by the President

1. Opening by the President

Professor Bappu, President of the IAU, opened the meeting of Thursday August 23rd at 14.15 and welcomed the members of the Committee to another term of office.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as on the preceding page. Point 3, "Correspondence at Montreal" added.

3. Correspondence at Montreal

Nobel-prize winners G. Herzberg, A. Penzias and C.A. Townes had sent a letter to the Executive Committee urging the IAU to appeal to the Soviet Academy of Sciences to restore full freedom of work, communication, movement and the right to emigrate to those Soviet scientists deprived of these rights. The former General Secretary, Prof. Müller, had already drafted a letter to Prof. Mustel on the serious effects of cancelling the attendance of contributors.

In the discussion of this letter the following views were heard:

Prof. Muller said that the IAU covers the whole world and should avoid doing things that might tend to be political in character or hurt our colleagues. The authors of the letter have ample international authority to act in person.

Prof. Blaauw seconded this view and added that the letter might perhaps be channelled to ICSU to act in concert with other Unions, possibly also concerned.

Prof. Muller remarked that ICSU has a special Committee for the Free Circulation of Scientists that deals with such matters. The General Secretary wondered whether the letter should not be sent back to the authors, as it was too general to be dealt with by the IAU Executive Committee.

Dr. Heeschen was of the view that there was no point in sending the letter back to the authors who already had approached the Soviet Academy of Sciences in their own name on similar occasions.

Dr. Kresak remarked that, if there were a case, our Soviet Colleagues might help clarify the matter.

Drs. West and Wilson suggested that the letter should be sent to ICSU.

Prof. Kharadze emphasized that thirty-nine Soviet astronomers had participated well at Montreal. He thought that the eminent authors should write to the Soviet Academy of Sciences directly.

In conclusion of the discussion it was suggested by the General Secretary that the problem should be discussed orally and reported back.

4. Report by the General Secretary

(a) Some decisions of the XVIIth General Assembly.

(i) The General Secretary reported briefly that the proposal of the wording of Statute 18 had been approved by the General Assembly. There were no comments.

(ii) The General Secretary informed the meeting that the resolution on China, as adopted by the General Assembly, has the effect that membership of the Peoples Republic of China may be put into operation before the next General Assembly.

Prof. Blaauw said that in his letter to Chang, of mainland China, he had specifically only mentioned the problem of the name of Taiwan, which is still open. He had not mentioned the two points already agreed upon, namely that of the delegation of the mainland China and that of its contribution to the IAU. The General Secretary, should act upon these two points quickly. In his letter to mainland China he should say that the new Executive Committee endorses the policy of the former Officers of the IAU.

The General Secretary noted that the Chinese situation, as it had developed, is not covered by the Statutes and that it must be considered a temporary solution. He suggested that he would press forward with documents to mainland China, and ask them to decide on the category of adherence to the IAU, including their contribution, and on their representation. This would be done within the next few weeks.

The Executive Committee approved the General Secretary's proposal.

Prof. Blaauw emphasized that the Chinese should

know what is happening in the IAU and, on the other hand, the Union should know what is going on in the other Unions, ~~the IAU included~~. Prof. Blaauw would assemble all documents, notes and names and pass them on to the General Secretary.

Dr. West asked about the prospect of reaching an agreement in 2 months.

Prof. Blaauw answered that according to Prof. Whelan, with whom he had spoken on the telephone, mainland China had most likely already decided the issue favourably in the case of the Biochemical Union. However, the astronomical delegation in Montreal had not yet been instructed and authorized to act in the same way. This may happen in the near future. Prof. Blaauw then informed the meeting that a short account of the negotiations had been given to the press.

(b) Finances of the IAU

(i) Summary of provisions in the budget

The General Secretary passed in review the Comprehensive budget for 1980-82 as approved by the General Assembly. He emphasized that it would be necessary to negotiate for UNESCO through ICSU contracts every year. In this respect recommendations would be made to the Executive Committee.

Prof. Muller reminded that out of the SFr. 20 000.-- foreseen for representation under item 13 of Payments, 6 000.-- had been earmarked for FAGS.

(ii) The General Secretary said that it would be necessary to open a current account in Paris, with the assistance of the Union de Banques Suisses in Lausanne.

(c) Financial authority and transfer of signature right

On the proposal of the President, the Executive Committee delegated the financial authority to the General Secretary as follows:

Financial Authority to the General Secretary

"The Executive Committee, in the exercise of its responsibility to the General Assembly for the conduct of the finances of the Union, instructs and authorizes the General Secretary as follows:

1. Accounts. The General Secretary, acting as treasurer of the Union, shall be responsible for:

- (a) keeping accounts by recording all the Union's receipts and payments.
- (b) preparing the financial statement and accounts to be submitted for consideration by the Finance Committee.

These accounts shall be certified by a qualified professional accountant.

2. Budget. Before each General Assembly, the General Secretary shall prepare an estimate of a budget of income and expenditure for the following period, for submission by the Executive Committee to the Finance Committee, and subsequently for approval by the General Assembly.
3. Expenditure within the Budget. The General Secretary is authorized to incur expenditure and to make payments, on behalf of the Union, within the provisions of the budget *subject to* the approval of the Executive Committee in respect to the individual projects for which an overall total sum (for example for Symposia or for unforeseen projects) has been provided in the budget.

The General Secretary is, in particular, authorized to:

- (a) pay all sums necessary for the efficient conduct of the Administrative Office, including the salaries of the Secretary and other staff ;
 - (b) negotiate contracts for the printing and publication of the Transactions and other publications of the Union, and make the necessary payments in accord with any general directives that may, from time to time, be given by the Executive Committee.
4. Expenditure outside the Budget. The Executive Committee may authorize the General Secretary to incur expenditure and to make payments, on behalf of the Union, outside the provisions of the budget:
 - (a) where the budget provision is considered inadequate, because of increased prices, poor estimation or other reasons;
 - (b) in respect of new items, the necessity for which has arisen since the General Assembly.
 5. Bank Accounts. The General Secretary is responsible for ensuring that all necessary procedures are fulfilled in respect of the Union's current and savings accounts. He may delegate responsibility to the Assistant General Secretary and/or Secretary of the IAU.
 6. Travel and subsistence expenses. The General Secretary,

the Assistant General Secretary, as well as the Secretary and other members of the staff, are entitled to the repayment of travel and subsistence expenses in respect of journeys necessarily undertaken on account of the business of the Union. (Travel expenses in connection with meetings of the ICSU or similar organizations, or scientific meetings, are paid in accord with the standard procedures for members of the Executive Committee.)

7. Expense Account. The General Secretary and the Assistant General Secretary are authorized to receive repayment, from the funds of the budget, of the responsible expenses of hospitality incurred in the conduct of business of the Union, subject to a maximum of 400 US dollars in any one year."

It was noted that duly completed signature cards transferring the signature right to the President and General Secretary had been handed over to the General Secretary for the current accounts at the Union de Banques Suisses, the Chemical Bank and the Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, and the Washington-Lee Savings Bank. The transfer of the signature right for the two savings accounts at the Provident Savings Bank and for the savings account at the Bowery Savings Bank will have to be arranged by correspondence.

Prof. van den Bergh expressed his worry that the IAU has too much funds invested in US dollars and suggested that it might be reasonable to reduce the US dollars reserves.

The General Secretary took upon himself to review this question positively within 3 months.

(d) Next General Assembly

The situation arisen after the withdrawal of the Bulgarian invitation to host the 1982 General Assembly in Sofia was discussed, and the possibilities of holding the General Assembly in another adhering country in 1982 or 1983 were investigated. The Executive Committee eventually agreed on the following priorities for the next venue:

1. Greece in 1982, if the formal invitation arrives in 2 months
2. U.S.A. in 1982
3. Spain in 1983

It was noted with satisfaction that India is prepared to host the XIXth General Assembly in 1985 or 1986.

Prof. Blaauw expressed the view that one of the criteria for accepting an invitation for a General Assembly might be the contribution of the host country towards travel expenses of some participants. The President said that in this respect the U.S.A. might have more funds available.

Asked by Dr. Feast about the next Officers' Meeting, the General Secretary answered that it would be held in November 1979, or early December.

(e) Publication Policy

The General Secretary reported that the method of producing IAU publications by the offset method has proved satisfactory and that there are no reasons not to carry on similarly. The IAU publications policy will be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee one year from now.

(f) New Member Country

The General Secretary announced that Indonesia has become the 49th country adhering to the Union. The organization through which it adheres is the

Department of Astronomy
Bosscha Observatory
Bandung Institute of Technology
Jalan Tamansari No. 64
Bandung- Indonesia

Prof. van den Bergh mentioned the possibility of Saudi Arabia applying for admission to the IAU. According to Prof. Muller, other candidates for IAU Membership are Nigeria, Algeria and Sri-Lanka.

(g) Relations with and representation in other international organizations

The Executive Committee ratified the list of IAU representatives in other international organizations as set up by the 45th meeting of the Executive Committee, as follows:

COSPAR: P.A. Wayman	BIH: H. Enslin, H.M. Smith
Conference Committee, EPS: R. West	IPMS: K. Yokoyama
ISCU-AB: W. Heintz	CDS: Wm. Markowitz
CCDM: A.H. Cook	FAGS: H. Enslin, V. Bumba
CODATA: B. Hauck	IUCAF: R. Wielebinski, L. Doherty
SCOSTEP: M.R. Kundu	CCIR: B. Robinson, E. Blum
QBSA: F. Moryjama	SBARMO: P. Simon(Belgium)
IUWDS: V. Bumba	CTS: L. Houziaux
IUCS: B. Edlen, J.G. Philips and M.J. Seaton	SCOPE: F.G. Smith

5. Meetings (a-c)
The following list of meetings was approved for 1980 and 1981:

1980 IAU Symposia, Colloquia and Regional Astronomy Meetings

13-16 May	Colloquium No. 57	Kailua-Kona, Hawaii	Satellites of Jupiter
2-7 June	COSPAR Symposia co-sponsored by IAU	Budapest	Progress in Planetary Exploration, Cosmic Rays in the Heliosphere, Physics of Planetary Magnetospheres, Theoretical Problems in High Energy Astrophysics
11-14 June	Symposium No. 94 (IAU-IUPAP)	Bologna	Origin of Cosmic Rays
23-27 June	Symposium No. 96	Kailua-Kona	Infrared Astronomy
22-25 July	Symposium No. 93	Kyoto	Fundamental Problems in the Theory of Stellar Evolution
July	Colloquium No. 55	Toronto	X-Ray UV Spectroscopy of Astrophysical and Laboratory Plasmas
28 July- 1 August	Fifth European Regional Astronomy Meeting	Liege	Variability in Stars and Galaxies
August	Colloquium No. 58	Los Alamos	Stellar Hydrodynamics
8-12 Sep- tember	Colloquium No. 56	Warsaw	Co-ordinate Reference Systems
September	Symposium No. 95	Bonn	Pulsars
September	Colloquium No. 59	Trieste	Effects of Mass Loss on Stellar Evolution

1981 IAU Symposia, Colloquia and Regional Astronomy Meetings

January	Second Latinamerican Regional Meeting	Merida, Venezuela	
April	Colloquium No. 60	Bath, U.K.	Uranus and the Outer Solar System
August	Symposium No. 97	Albuquerque New Mexico	Extragalactic Radio Sources
August	Second Asian-Pacific Regional Meeting	Bandung, Indonesia	
October	Sixth European Regional Astronomy Meeting	Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia	Sun and Planetary System

The Executive Committee approved the following IAU representatives for the COSPAR Symposia to be held in Budapest:

E.A. Marov for "Progress in Planetary Exploration"
E. Sarris for "Cosmic Rays in the Heliosphere"
T. Owen for "Physics of Planetary Magnetospheres"
J. Lequeux for "Theoretical Problems in High Energy Astrophysics"

As regards IAU Colloquium No. 58 "Stellar Hydrodynamics", A.N. Cox should suggest a name for the Chairman of the Scientific Organizing Committee. The Executive Committee considered W.D. Arnett, S. Colgate or R. Stobie to be suitable.

(d) Young Astronomers' Schools

Prof. Muller reported that one such School will now be held, with UNESCO support, at Tenerife, Spain for about 40 students, and that another is planned for Hvar, Yugoslavia for students from the Mediterranean. The Yugoslav organizers can count on the help of Czechoslovak astronomers with whom they co-operate at the Hvar Observatory.

The President said that the schools should be aimed at something more advanced, and Dr. Feast remarked that mixing low level students with students fairly advanced should be discouraged.

The President asked Prof. Muller whether there are some reports of the results achieved by the Young Astronomers' Schools.

Prof. Muller replied that she had spoken with several students who had attended these schools and that they all testified to the fact that they had profited from them very substantially. They got motivation, impulse and direction. Some such event could start astronomical activities even in very unpromising conditions.

Moreover, Young Astronomers' Schools have indirect effects. In Nigeria, for instance, the school and its results persuaded the Government to establish an astronomy department at the University of Nsukka. Though not a great success in itself, the Indonesian Young Astronomers' School helped Dr. Hidajat in promoting astronomy in his country. Dr. West was of the

opinion that YAS are a good basis for forming personal relationships.

The President summarized the discussion by saying that the IAU can be reasonably satisfied with the results achieved.

Prof. Muller noted that Commission No. 46 had been asked in Grenoble to prepare guide-lines for Young Astronomers' Schools. The guide-lines have now been handed over to Dr. Kononovich and read as follows:

Rules and Guidelines for International Schools for Young Astronomers

(a) Rules

1. The President, Vice-President(s), Past President of Commission 46 and Secretary of ISYA will constitute a sub-committee of Commission 46 to regulate the organization of the ISYA. The Secretary of the ISYA will be the Secretary to the sub-committee and will keep the sub-committee informed of all proposed ISYA, the details of their organization and evaluation. The President of the Commission will inform the General Secretary of the Union of the programme for each proposed School only when approved by the sub-committee.

Procedure: Subcommittee approves preliminary programme, then President of the Commission informs General Secretary. Final version of the programme must take into account the Executive Committee recommendations together with those given by Subcommittee members.

2. The Secretary of the ISYA at each General Assembly will ask the opinion of the Commission for possible venues, topics, lecturers for ISYA in the succeeding 3 year period.
3. The ISYA sub-committee will meet at least once during each General Assembly, following discussion in the full Commission, to discuss the suggestions, order of priorities, and the evaluation of previous schools. A report on immediate past schools and plans for future schools should be submitted to the IAU Executive Committee.

(b) Guidelines

1. The choice of venue, topic(s), lecturers and general calibre of students for each ISYA should be carefully considered with respect to local conditions and goals;

e.g. a school may be held to support a growing astronomical activity, or to explain and demonstrate techniques. The goals of each school should be carefully stated in advance. Topics should be directly appropriate to local conditions, and lecturers should be chosen with due regard to the contribution they may be expected to make towards the realization of the goals of the school.

2. The students should have an adequate academic background to profit from the school (normally a person with a degree in physical or related sciences from an established university or institution of similar standing or, a person undergoing training in an established observatory). Students of inadequate academic background are unlikely to benefit, and should be discouraged from the schools, as they may hinder the progress of the majority of the better qualified students.

As far as practicable, the local organizer of the school must inform the Secretary of the ISYA and the ISYA sub-committee of the qualifications of the proposed students. The sub-committee may at its discretion ask for the removal of any proposed student who is believed to be inadequately qualified.

3. The Secretary of the ISYA, one year after each school, should collect such information as is necessary to evaluate the school.

6. Future of the IAU

The President invited the members of the Executive Committee to give some thought to the matter of the functioning of the IAU and to bring their ideas before the next meeting one year from now.

7. Any other matter

No topic was introduced for discussion.

8. Place and Date of the next Meeting of the Executive Committee

The question of the place of the 1980 meeting of the Executive Committee was discussed. It was resolved to leave it open for decision later.

Professor Kharadze invited the Executive Committee to meet in Tbilisi in 1981.

9. Closing by the President

The President closed the meeting at 16.50 hours, thanking the Members of the Executive Committee for their work and contribution to the discussion.