

Summary of decisions
taken by the
Executive Committee of the International Astronomical Union
at its meeting in Stockholm, September 25-27, 1950.

The President opened the meeting on September 25 at 11 A.M.

The following took part in the meetings: B.Lindblad (President), V.A.Ambartsumian (Vice-President), G.Batrousjevitsj (Astronomical Council, Academy of U.S.S.R.), A.Danjon (Vice-President), R.Fraser (Liaison Officer, ICSU-UNESCO), D.H.Menzel (for O.Struve, Vice-President), A.A.Nemiro (Astronomical Council, Academy of U.S.S.R.), J.H.Oort (late General Secretary), Sir Harold Spencer Jones (late President), F.J.M.Stratton (General Secretary, ICSU), B.Strömgren (General Secretary), G.Tiercy (Vice-President).

The Agenda of the meeting were as follows: -

1. President's report.
2. General Assembly 1951.
3. Proposed Symposia in 1951.
4. Financial status of the IAU.
5. Financial situation of the Bureau de l'Heure.
6. Question of reassessment of grants in view of devaluations.
7. Applications for grants-in-aid from UNESCO.
8. Budget of the IAU 1951-54.
9. The President's proposed plan for a change of the organization of committees and meetings.
10. Discussion of procedure for nominating members of standing commissions.
11. Questions concerning Joint Commissions.
12. General Assembly 1954.
- 12a. Addition to the Agenda: Questions of new adhering countries.
13. Any other business.

The decisions are summarized below, arranged in the order indicated by the agenda (which differs somewhat from the order in which the questions were actually discussed).

1. Professor Otto Struve and Professor G.Abetti were unable to attend the meeting. Following a proposal by Professor Struve and the President the Executive Committee decided to ask Professor D.H.Menzel to take part in the meeting as voting member of the Executive Committee in Professor Struve's stead.

2. Professor V.A.Ambartsumian gave an account of the plans of the Astronomical Council of the Academy of U.S.S.R. in connection with the General Assembly of the IAU in Leningrad and Pulkovo, August 1-8, 1951. He indicated that the Academy of U.S.S.R. will take over all the expenses in the Soviet Union of the members of the IAU taking part in the meeting. Travel within the Soviet Union, expenses in connection with a planned excursion to Moscow, and the expenses of the Bureau of the IAU at the Leningrad meeting would be paid by the Academy of U.S.S.R. Expenses in connection with the travel from abroad to Leningrad, or to Moscow airport, would have to be paid by the members themselves. The offer did not include wives and relatives of members, who might wish to come, but arrangements might here be made through the regular Intourist Bureaus.

After the President had asked Professor V.A.Ambartsumian to convey the thanks of the IAU for this very generous offer to the Academy of U.S.S.R., the Executive Committee agreed to accept the offer.

Professor Ambartsumian asked that a list of those intending to come to the General Assembly be sent to the Academy of U.S.S.R. through the General Secretary, preferably before December 1, 1950. This was necessary in connection with the preparations for the meeting. Only minor additions to the list should be made at a later date. With regard to visa, applications should be made by those wishing to attend the General Assembly in the customary way. Assistance would be rendered by the Academy of U.S.S.R. and also in this connection it was essential that the list of those intending to come to the General Assembly was received by the Academy of U.S.S.R. in time.

The Executive Committee decided to ask the Secretary of the IAU to inform all adhering bodies of countries adhering to the IAU that a list of those intending to attend the Leningrad meeting would be sent to the Academy of U.S.S.R. on December 1, 1950, asking each adhering body to prepare a list for the country it represents and to send it to the Secretary of the IAU before the date mentioned.

Questions regarding the program at the General Assembly were discussed in outline. It was agreed to reserve the first and the last day (August 1 and August 8) for full business sessions of the General Assembly. Sunday, August 5, would be reserved for an excursion to Moscow, the participants travelling to and from Moscow during the nights preceding and following the day mentioned. Regarding meetings of the Standing Commissions of the IAU during the General Assembly, cf. section 9 of this report. The Executive Committee decided that three Symposia should be arranged during the General Assembly. The following titles were tentatively agreed upon: Origin and Evolution of the Stars, The Structure of the Galaxy, Astrometric Problems of Faint Stars.

Professor Ambartsumian said that it was highly desirable to have Russian as a working language along with English and French during the meetings of the General Assembly in Leningrad. Interpreters would be available at the meetings. He suggested that a copy of the manuscript of the Draft Report, to be published before the meeting in English or French as usual, be sent to the Academy of U.S.S.R. before April 1, 1951, in which case it would be translated into Russian, and printed in Russian also. The Executive Committee decided to ask the Secretary of the IAU to send a copy of the manuscript of the Draft Report as requested.

The Executive Committee agreed that it was desirable that representatives of the Executive Committee and the Astronomical Council of the Academy of U.S.S.R. meet at a convenient time before the General Assembly to discuss the plans for the organization of the meeting in detail, and it was agreed that an effort should be made to arrange such a meeting in Stockholm or Copenhagen.

3. The Executive Committee decided that two Symposia should be arranged in Stockholm at a convenient time immediately after the General Assembly in August, 1951. The following titles were agreed upon: Problems of Astronomical Instrumentation, Astronomical Problems of Radio-Astronomy.

4. After the financial status of the IAU had been reviewed, the Executive Committee decided to propose to the General Assembly a change of the Statutes to the effect that the maximum of the unit of subscription be raised from 500 gold francs to 750 gold francs. The Executive Committee does not intend to recommend any change of the unit of subscription at the General Assembly in 1951.

5. The Executive Committee decided to put an amount of 4000 dollars at the disposal of the Bureau de l'Heure for 1950. As the IAU has received a UNESCO grant of 2920 dollars for the purpose, the net expense of the IAU will be 1080 dollars.

The Executive Committee further decided to put 3500 dollars at the disposal of the B.d.H. for 1951. As the UNESCO grant to the IAU for the B.d.H. will presumably be 1600 dollars for the year 1951, the net expense of the IAU will probably be 1900 dollars. The amount may, however, be reduced if the IUGG contribution to the B.d.H. will be higher than assumed.

The Executive Committee considered the financial problems in connection with the B.d.H. during the period of the budget that is to be decided at the 1951 General Assembly, i.e. the years 1952, 1953 and 1954. It was tentatively agreed that the Executive Committee will recommend an annual expense toward the B.d.H. of 4650 dollars, expecting the net expense to be at most 2250 dollars. (Cf. also the enclosed report on the question of the finances of the Bureau de l'Heure).

6. The Executive Committee decided that the Presidents of the relevant Commissions and Directors of Bureaus should be asked to consider whether it would be possible to reduce grants in view of reduction of expenses in gold francs in connection with devaluations.

7. The question of the application for grants-in-aid from UNESCO for the year 1952, to be sent in by October 15, 1950, was discussed, and it was decided to apply for the following grants for 1952 (Professor V.A. Ambartsumian abstained from voting, as U.S.S.R. is not an adhering country of UNESCO).

A. International Latitude Service			800	dollars
B. Bureau de l'Heure			3000	"
C. Two Symposia to be held in 1952				
(A. Hydrodynamics of masses of cosmical dimensions, with particular view to electromagnetic phenomena.				
B. Problems of co-ordination of galactic investigations.)			5000	"
D. Publications				
1. Solar Spectrum Tables	1000	dollars		
2. Astronomischer Jahresbericht	1500	"		
3. Transactions of the IAU, Vol.8.	1500	"		
4. Carte du Ciel	1000	"		
5. Heliographic Charts, Photosphere	300	"		
6. Synoptic Charts, Chromosphere	900	"		
7. Ephemerides, Minor Planets	800	"		
8. Name Lists, Variable Stars	250	"		
9. Ephemerides, Eclipsing Binaries	300	"		
10. Bulletin Horaire	600	"	8150	"
E. Transportation, expenses for a meeting of the Executive Committee of the IAU in 1952			1000	"

17950 dollars

M. R. Baillaud, Rédacteur en Chef des Annales Françaises de Chronométrie, had requested the IAU to consider asking UNESCO for a grant, 1952, of 55000 fr.fr. for the Annales Françaises de Chronométrie. After a discussion of the question the Executive Committee decided not to take any action in the matter.

It was also decided to take no action at the present time in the matter of a request for a UNESCO grant of approximately 800 dollars toward the publication of asteroid observations made at the Königstuhl Observatory.

8. The recommendations to be made by the Executive Committee on the IAU budget for 1951-54 in connection with the General Assembly 1951 were tentatively considered. The Executive Committee agreed that it would seem advisable to increase the net expense of the IAU toward the B.d.H. and for Travelling Expenses, Exchange of Astronomers (Commission 38). It might be hoped that the net expense toward publications would be considerably reduced through UNESCO grants.

With regard to the Exchange of Astronomers organized by Commission 38, it was now

clear that no UNESCO grants for this purpose could be expected in 1952 and the years after. It might be hoped that, as a partial compensation, the "Exchange of Persons" Division of UNESCO might invite Commission 38 to nominate a certain number of young astronomers for stipends of 500 dollars each (for stays of two months). Possibly four such stipends would be made available each year. If the IAU could put 1000-2000 dollars annually at the disposal of Commission 38, it would be possible to continue the Exchange of Astronomers arranged by Commission 38 much as before. After the Executive Committee had been informed of this situation, it agreed that it would be desirable to include a grant of the order mentioned in the budget for the years 1952-54.

9. The President's proposed plan for a change of the organization of commissions and meetings was discussed in detail by the Executive Committee (cf. the President's P.M., On possible improvements in the working organization of the IAU). The Executive Committee decided (cf. proposal A of the P.M.) that Presidents of large commissions (of more than about 15 members) be informed that the Executive Committee was of the opinion that questions which are not of principal importance might be dealt with such that the President would consult a limited number of members in his commission which he considers to be the foremost experts on the particular question under consideration.

With regard to proposal B of the P.M. the Executive Committee agreed that it was desirable to organize joint meetings of groups of Commissions at the General Assemblies. The grouping might vary from one General Assembly to another. It was decided that the Executive Committee should reconsider the question of organization of joint meetings of group of commissions at the General Assembly, 1951, when the material consisting of the manuscripts for the Draft Report was available. A tentative schedule of separate and joint meetings of Commissions should then be worked out. This was to be sent to Presidents of Commissions, who would be invited to suggest changes and improvements. Thereafter the Executive Committee would work out a definite schedule for the Commission meetings. The complete schedule of meetings at the General Assembly in Leningrad could then be worked out by the Executive Committee in co-operation with representatives of the Astronomical Council of the Academy of U.S.S.R.

10. After a general discussion of the problems connected with the nomination of members of standing commissions of the IAU, the Executive Committee decided that the following procedure should be adopted.

1. Well in advance of the General Assembly the Executive Committee invites the adhering bodies of countries adhering to the IAU to nominate one member each for a Nominating Committee that is to give advice to the Executive Committee in the matter of nominating members of standing commissions of the IAU.
2. When the Nominating Committee has been formed, the Executive Committee asks the representatives of each adhering country separately to prepare, and send to the Secretary of the IAU, a list of suggested changes in the membership of the standing commissions of the IAU. The members of the Nominating Committee are invited to motivate the suggested changes by brief indications regarding the scientific work of the nominees in question, including, particularly in the case of nominees that are not yet members of a standing commission of the IAU, references to published papers.
3. The suggestions from the members of the Nominating Committee are ordered according to Commissions, and the list for each Commission is sent to the President of the Commission who is invited to comment on it, and to draw up a list of suggested changes for his Commission, which may include other changes than those suggested by the members of the Nominating Committee.
4. On the basis of the material received from the members of the Nominating Committee and the Presidents of Commissions the Executive Committee draws up a preliminary list of recommended changes of memberships of standing commissions. This list is sent to the members of the Nominating Committee.

5. The Nominating Committee meets at the time of the General Assembly under the Chairmanship of one of its members, nominated by the Executive Committee. Basing its work on the list just mentioned, the Nominating Committee works out its final recommendation to the Executive Committee. This is considered by the Executive Committee and put before the General Assembly, as at previous General Assemblies.

11. The new rules for Joint Commissions adopted by the Executive Committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions were discussed, and the Executive Committee agreed that they were satisfactory from the point of view of the IAU.

12. Professor D.H.Menzel informed the members of the Executive Committee that the National Committee of U.S.A. wished to extend an invitation to the IAU to hold its General Assembly, 1954, in California, if it was reasonably certain that the invitation would be accepted by the IAU. The President expressed the thanks of the IAU, and the Executive Committee agreed that it would recommend that such an invitation be accepted, in the hope that the serious economic difficulties connected with the holding of the General Assembly in California could be overcome.

12 a. The President informed the Executive Committee of the contents of letters he had received from Professor Fr. Becker, Vorsitzender der Deutschen Astronomischen Gesellschaft, regarding the possible adherence of Germany to the IAU.

The Executive Committee decided that it must be left to the German Astronomers to set up an adhering body through which it might adhere to the IAU. However, in the answer, to Professor Fr. Becker, it should be mentioned that the Executive Committee of the IAU would consider as unsatisfactory the adherence through separate adhering bodies for Eastern Germany and Western Germany.

After further discussion the Executive Committee suggested that, as the question of the adherence of Germany might not be settled at the time when the list of persons intending to take part in the General Assembly, August 1-8, 1951, would have to be sent in, the President might make use of his right (cf. the Statutes, II, 6) to invite any scientific men to attend a meeting of the General Assembly, inviting a number of German Astronomers. The President, it was suggested, might write to the Deutsche Astronomische Gesellschaft and to the Deutsche Akademie in Berlin for advice as to the persons he would invite.

Professor V.A.Ambartsumian brought up the question of inviting astronomers from other countries that do not adhere to the IAU, namely Albania, Bulgaria, Korea, and Mongolia. It was suggested that the President might also invite scientific men from these countries to attend the General Assembly, 1951, and the President asked Professor Ambartsumian to send him a list of names from these countries suggested for invitations.

In further discussion the question of invitations to scientific men from Austria, Indonesia, and Turkey, was also ~~discussed~~ considered.

13. Following a recommendation from the President of Commission 23 (Carte du Ciel) the Executive Committee decided that 350 dollars of the grant which is available for this commission for the period 1948-51 should be put at the disposal of Professor O.Heckmann, Direktor of the Bergedorf Observatory, for assistance needed for the completion of the work on the Carte du Ciel Zones + 32° and + 33°.

With regard to a question raised by Dr. J.A.Pearce, whether the IAU might give economic help to the Bosscha Observatory, Lembang, to buy photographic plates in U.S.A., it was decided not to take any action in the matter.

With a view to the growing importance of meetings of the Executive Committee it was decided that those taking part in such meetings would receive a per diem of 10 dollars in soft currency countries, and 12 dollars in hard currency countries. These are the rates adopted by the Executive Committee of ICSU. It was agreed that the matter should be reconsidered if the ICSU rates would change in the future.

Professor A. Danjon gave an account of the Paris Conference on the Astronomical Constants, March 27-April 1, 1950. The resolutions adopted at the Conference have been communicated to the relevant commissions of the IAU. The commissions will presumably make recommendations in this connection to the General Assembly, 1951. The President thanked Professor Danjon for his report.

The President closed the meeting on September 27 at 12 A.M.
