

DIA-1

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BERKELEY

Thursday, 24 August 1961

Summary Report

A single meeting was held in Dwinelle Hall on the Berkeley campus of the University of California on Thursday, 24 August 1961, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The following were present: V. A. Ambartsumian (President); L. Goldberg, Y. Hagihara, R. M. Petrie, B. Sternberk, R. H. Stoy (Vice-Presidents); D. H. Sadler (General Secretary); J. H. Oort (former President). J. C. Pecker attended as Assistant General Secretary and Miss Nel Splinter as Assistant Secretary.

Professor G. Haro (Vice-President) was unable to attend.

The main purpose of this meeting was to confirm decisions made at the 21st meeting of the Executive Committee and to discuss a few matters of importance that had been referred to it by the old Executive Committee.

Introductory note: The following report is intended primarily as a record of the decisions taken by the Executive Committee at the above meeting. It should be considered in relation to the Summary Report of the 21st meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening by the President.
2. Organization of Future Symposia.
3. Future Organization of the Union.
4. Qualifications for Adhering Countries.
5. Project West Ford.
6. The future Structure of the ICSU.
7. Date and Place of next meeting.

1. Opening by the President. The President welcomed Professor Y. Hagihara as a new Vice-President and Dr. J. C. Pecker as Assistant General Secretary. He expressed his regret that Professor G. Haro was not present.

2. Organization of Future Symposia. Consideration was given to the organization of future Symposia in the light of the recommendations from the 21st meeting (item 26) and the proposals made during the General Assembly by Commissions. At the 21st meeting, individual members of the Executive Committee had been asked to consult with those most directly interested and to prepare detailed proposals in respect of individual symposia. The following proposals were considered:

- (a) The Galaxy and the Magellanic Clouds
- (b) Radio Astronomy and the Galactic System
- (c) Stellar and Solar Magnetic Fields
- (d) Galactic Star Clusters in Galactic Research
- (e) Spectral Classification and Multi-Colour Narrow-Band Photometry
- (f) The System of Astronomical Constants
- (g) Site Testing
- (h) The Theoretical Interpretation of Upper Atmosphere Emissions
- (i) Galactic Radio Emission.

After full discussion, it was decided that the General Secretary should be authorized to proceed with the organization of the following symposia (the numbers of the Symposia were allocated subsequently, and are given here for convenience of reference).

No. 18: "The Theoretical Interpretation of Upper Atmosphere Emissions" to be organized in co-operation with IUGG (Geodesy and Geophysics) and IUPAP (Pure and Applied Physics); (both Unions have since signified their willingness to co-operate).

This Symposium was originally proposed by Commission 21, which appointed a symposium committee consisting of: J. Chamberlain (chairman), J. Blamont, V. I. Krassovsky and M. Nicolet. This committee will form, with additional members representing IUGG and IUPAP, the organizing committee for the Symposium.

It is proposed that the Symposium be held in Paris in June or July, 1962.

No. 19: "Site Testing". On the recommendation of Sub-Commission 9b (The Quality of Images), it was agreed that a Symposium on this subject should be held in Italy, in September or October, 1962 and that the organizing committee should consist of: I. S. Bowen, J. Dommaget, O. A. Melnikov, G. Righini, J. Röschi (chairman), and J. Stock.

No. 20: "The Galaxy and the Magellanic Clouds", to be held in Australia in February 1963, with joint co-operation from URSI (Scientific Radio); (URSI has since signified its willingness to co-operate).

The following names were suggested as a nucleus for an organizing committee for the Symposium: B. J. Bok, F. J. Kerr, J. L. Pawsey and A. W. Rodgers; it was left to Dr. Bok and Dr. Pawsey to make further proposals.

Professor Oort called attention to the desirability of limiting the subject matter of the Symposium to southern hemisphere problems and hoped that it would not embrace the study of the halo and clusters in general.

In regard to financing this Symposium the General Secretary said that a preliminary approach had been made by the Australian National Academy of Sciences to UNESCO and that he would attempt to obtain direct UNESCO support. The Australian National Academy of Sciences had agreed to contribute towards subsistence expenses.

No. 21: "The System of Astronomical Constants". It was agreed that a Symposium on this subject should be organized in Paris in the early part of 1963. It was realized that interest in this subject was now so great that it would be impossible to limit the number of participants in such a way that it could be organized by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (as was the 1950 conference). No organizing committee was appointed. It was left to the General Secretary, in consultation with Professor Danjon, to appoint an organizing committee and to fix a definite date.

No. 22: "Stellar and Solar Magnetic Fields". It was agreed that a Symposium on this subject be held during 1963 and the following were suggested as a preliminary organizing committee: H. Alfvén, Horace W. Babcock, R. Lüst (chairman), A. B. Severny, L. Spitzer.

This committee will report to the next meeting of the Executive Committee with definite proposals for place, time and final membership of organizing committee.

No. 23: "Radio Astronomy and the Galactic System". It was suggested that the proposals by the Presidents of Commissions 33, 34 and 40 for a Symposium on "Galactic Radio Emission" should be incorporated in the above symposium.

It was agreed that such a Symposium should be organized probably in 1963, and possibly in conjunction with the General Assembly of URSI in Tokyo. The co-operation of URSI in the organization of this symposium had already been sought and agreed. No organizing committee was appointed, but those interested would be encouraged to make specific proposals for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

It was agreed that a Symposium on "Spectral Classification and Multi-Colour Narrow-Band Photometry" should be held in conjunction with the next General Assembly of the Union in 1964. Suggested places for the Symposium are Copenhagen and Stockholm. The following names were suggested for an organizing committee: W. P. Bidelman (chairman), M. W. Feast, C. Fehrenbach, W. W. Morgan, R. M. Petrie, B. Strömberg, and either B. Lindblad or A. Reiz, depending on whether the symposium is to be held in Stockholm or in Copenhagen.

This organizing committee will be asked to make definite proposals to the Executive Committee at its meeting in either 1962 or 1963.

Professor Oort suggested that perhaps the subject matter of the Symposium need not be restricted to Narrow-Band Photometry; Dr. Bidelman will be asked to comment on this suggestion.

The proposal for a Symposium on "Galactic Star Clusters in Galactic Research" was withdrawn.

(Note by the General Secretary: The Executive Committee made no specific recommendations regarding the financing of the above symposia. However, it is to be noted that in the budget approved by the General

Assembly a sum of \$18,000 has been set aside for the expenses of Symposia. The General Secretary therefore proposes that the following sums be placed at the disposal of the organizing committees for the symposia:

- No. 18: \$1,500 with a discretionary maximum of \$2,000
- No. 19: \$2,000 with a discretionary maximum of \$2,500
- No. 20: \$3,000 with a discretionary maximum of \$3,500.

Assuming that three symposia will be organized with the General Assembly in 1964, the following very provisional figures are proposed: \$2,000 each for Symposia Nos. 21-26.

In this connection it should be noted that the provisional plans call for two symposia in the calendar year 1962, and four in the calendar year 1963. It might be desirable to defer one of these, possibly No. 23, to 1964.)

3. Future Organization of the Union. Consideration was given to the memorandum on this subject by the General Secretary, together with the broad recommendations of the old Executive Committee. It was agreed that a committee should be appointed to study in great detail the whole future organization of the Union. The committee would be specifically asked to consider not only the questions raised in the memorandum by the General Secretary, but also those raised in item 28 (Limitation of Membership), item 29 (Commission Structure) and item 30 (Publication of Symposia Volumes) of the agenda for the 21st meeting.

No specific terms of reference for this committee (to be known as the Committee on Future Organization) were laid down, since it was desirable that it should be free to discuss and make recommendations on all aspects of the organization of the Union; but it would present its report to the Executive Committee, which would be responsible for making firm proposals to the General Assembly.

The following were appointed to serve on this committee: V. A. Ambartsumian, B. J. Bok, G. M. Clemence, W. Fricke, L. Goldberg, J. L. Greenstein, P. G. Kulikovskiy, P. Th. Oosterhoff, J. C. Pecker, R. O. Redman, D. H. Sadler, E. Schatzman, N. Schwarzschild, P. Swings.

It was agreed that the President, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary should act as an executive body for the committee.

Discussion took place as to whether the Members of the Union as a whole should be consulted, but the General Secretary gave it as his opinion that a questionnaire addressed to all Members of the Union would involve very considerable secretarial work and might not be productive of any clear-cut advice. However, he promised to invite comments from Members of the Union in an Information Bulletin.

The committee was asked to give particular attention to the reason why some senior astronomers do not attend the General Assemblies.

4. Qualifications for Adhering Countries. (see item 7 of the Report of the 21st meeting). This question was referred to the Committee on Future Organization appointed in item 3 of this report.

5. Project West Ford. (see item 4 (G.A. 10 (c)) of the report of the 21st meeting.) The Executive Committee expressed its general agreement with the action taken by the old Executive Committee and confirmed the names suggested to serve on the special committee to act on behalf of the Union and to co-operate with U.S. scientists. It was further agreed that Dr. J. W. Findlay should be asked to be president and secretary of this committee.

Professor Oort stressed the importance of adequate liaison between this group and IUCAF (Inter-Union Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science). It was agreed that the existence and composition of the committee should be announced in an Information Bulletin.

The General Secretary was given discretion to modify the earlier suggestion that copies of Resolution No. 1 should be sent to the governments of all countries; he, in consultation with the President and Assistant General Secretary, would make sure that copies are sent to all countries at all likely, now or in the future, to be able to undertake such experiments, but that he would as far as possible work through the adhering organizations or National Academies.

6. The future Structure of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). (See item 32 of the report of the 21st meeting.) The Executive Committee had not had adequate opportunity to study the paper on the future structure of the ICSU, or the General Secretary's comments thereon. It was agreed that members should address any comments that they might have to the President or General Secretary, who are the Union's representatives at the ICSU meetings.

(Note by the General Secretary: No decisions on the future structure were taken at the General Assembly of ICSU in London, in September 1961, except to refer the whole question to a committee, which would report in about a year's time.)

7. Date and Place of next meeting. Consideration was given to the date and place of the next meeting of the Executive Committee, bearing in mind:

- (a) that there was an outstanding (renewable) invitation for the Executive Committee to meet in Liège;
- (b) that the President had expressed a wish that the Executive Committee should meet during his term of office in Erevan; and
- (c) that the Astronomer Royal had expressed a wish that the Executive Committee should meet again at Herstmonceux.

It was agreed that the General Secretary should express the thanks of the Executive Committee to Professor P. Swings for his renewed invitation, but that the next meeting of the Executive Committee in 1962 should be held either in Erevan or in Herstmonceux.

The final decision would be left for consultation between the President and General Secretary with subsequent confirmation by the Executive Committee.

(Note by the General Secretary: The President and the General Secretary later agreed to propose that the 23rd meeting of the Executive Committee be held in Erevan, about the end of August or the beginning of September 1962.)

Royal Greenwich Observatory
Herstmonceux

D. H. Sadler
General Secretary

October 1961.