

D R A F T

14th

Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee of the International Astronomical Union on September 3, 8, 10 and 12, 1952 at the occasion of the eighth General Assembly at Rome.

The following took part in the meetings:
B. Lindblad (President), G. Abetti (Vice-President), V. A. Ambartsumian (Vice-President), A. Danjon (Vice-President), O. Struve (Vice-President), G. Tiercy (Vice-President), Sir Harold Spencer Jones (Former President), J. H. Oort (Former General Secretary), B. Strömgren (General Secretary), A. A. Nemiro (Astronomical Council, Academy of U.S.S.R.), P. Th. Oosterhoff (Assistant General Secretary)..

The President opened the meeting with some words of welcome on September 3, 1952.

Then the resolutions from the Report of the Executive Committee (second volume of Draft Report) were discussed.

In resolution 6 (c) one should read I.C.S.U. instead of U.N.E.S.C.O.

Dr Spencer Jones pointed out that the Belgian resolution 7(a) is unpractical, these problems being studied by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures. He recommended that this resolution be studied by the competent Commission 31. The E.C. agreed to this.

It was decided that resolution 7 (b) from the Australian National Committee should be submitted to the commission on notation.

No objections were raised against resolution 6 (a). The General Secretary explained that the present rate of subscription of 500 gold francs can only be changed by a decision from the General Assembly, but that a proposal toward such a decision is not being considered now. The present recommendation will only make possible a raise of the rate of subscription in the future.

The question of abstracts.

At the Zürich meeting in 1948 a resolution, proposed by the Executive Committee, was adopted, stating that every article in a certain language should have an abstract in another language. In this connection the President pointed out that the majority of the non-Russian astronomers have great difficulties in acquainting themselves with the contents of the many publications in Russian language, which do not have any such abstract.

Professor Ambartsumian remarked that arrangements for abstracts in french or english could be made, but that it could be done only on a basis of reciprocity. He would like to see abstracts in russian language to publications in french or english.

After some discussion of the difficulty of foreign languages for people of different nationalities, the President again emphasized the desirability that all publications be accompanied by an abstract in another main language.

The financial status.

Although the Finance Committee will bring out a detailed report on the finances of the Union, the General Secretary reported that during the term of his Secretariat a sum of \$ 10.000 had been put into saving accounts. He expected that a similar sum might be saved during the next three years. As it is uncertain whether financial aid from U.N.E.S.C.O. will be continued in the future at the present rate, the E.C. fully supported the financial policy of the General Secretary.

New members of Executive Committee.

As Professor Struve and Professor Ambartsumian will remain in office as Vice-President for another term and as the E.C. had already decided at its Paris meeting in 1951 that Professor Rybka should be nominated in this office at the next General Assembly, two vacancies should be filled.

Although these nominations had been discussed by the President and the General Secretary with the National Delegates, Professor Ambartsumian as well as Professor Struve regretted that the Union as a whole has very little say in the nomination of these officers. Although they realized that there is hardly time enough for a discussion about the candidates in the General Assembly, they suggested that the manner of election be clearly announced and that the G.A. should be informed about the reasons why the E.C. choose its candidates.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones, seconded By Professor Oort and the General Secretary, pointed out that the E.C. should be responsible after all and that the present system of election was quite logical.

The E.C. decided that no formal change would be made in the system of election. The President promised to let it be known that the National Delegates had been asked for advice.

Place and Time of next General Assembly.

Professor Ambartsumian announced that ~~h~~ he had been authorized by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Science to repeat the invitation from Russia for the year 1955 and that he intended to make a statement to this effect before the G.A.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones then invited the Union in name of the Royal Society for a meeting in 1955 somewhere in the United Kingdom.

Professor Danjon asked whether the E.C. should not ask the National Delegates for advice before taking a decision.

However as time was already well advanced, it was decided that this matter should be discussed at the next meeting of the E.C.

Meeting on 8 September 1952.

The President gave as his opinion that the political tension in the world had not improved as much as we would have liked and that this made us hesitate. In each case should the G.A. be informed about the invitations from Russia and from Great Britain.

Professor Ambartsumian remarked that he understood the difficulties very well, but that he could not see any reasons for withdrawing the Russian invitation.

Professor Struve then gave expression to his deep felt appreciation for the cooperation shown by our Russian colleagues and by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Science. He felt convinced that all the members of the I.A.U. would like to come to Leningrad or to another city in U.S.S.R. for a meeting of the I.A.U. However in his opinion it would be so much easier for all concerned, if this could be done somewhat later in the spirit of true friendship, when the international tension would have lessened.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones and Professor Danjon made short statements in support of Professor Struve's remark.

Professor Abetti, who also expressed gratefulness for the intense cooperation of the Russian astronomers in connection with the Rome meeting, then suggested that the invitation from U.S.S.R. be kept for two terms, but that the E.C. would recommend Great Britain's invitation for the next General Assembly.

Professor Ambartsumian although grateful for this invitation, feared that it could be difficult for U.S.S.R. astronomers to obtain the necessary visa. Furthermore he felt that it was as difficult for him to accept the British invitation as it was for the others to accept the Russian invitation. For this reason he would prefer a meeting in a smaller country and he knew that Professor Rybka would invite the I-A.U. to Poland, if necessary.

Professor Struve thought that if such an invitation from Poland would be accepted, this would lead to a postponement of an Assembly in Russia. As this should be avoided, the invitation of Great Britain seemed to him more opportune.

After the President and Sir Harold Spencer Jones had discussed the advantages of a meeting in Edinburgh, Professor Ambartsumian repeated that it would be impossible for him to accept such an invitation, but that an invitation from Holland or Belgium for example might be considered.

After some discussion the President proposed to postpone a decision in this matter until the next meeting of the E.C. The meeting was then adjourned.

Meeting on 10 September 1952.

In connection with resolution 6 (d), given on page XIV of the second volume of Draft Reports, a Committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. Bourgeois, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Dr. Kulikovsky and the Assistant General Secretary, to draw up rules, which should be submitted to the G.A.

The E.C. then appointed Professor Abetti, Dr. d'Azambuja, M. Newton and Professor Waldmeier as members of the Joint Commission on Solar and Terrestrial Relationships for the next period of three years.

The Assistant General Secretary then put forward a request from Professor Tardi concerning the International Latitude Service. Until 1952 the financial responsibility for this service as well as for the International Time Bureau was shared by I.A.U. and I.U.G.G. Both these Unions used to apply for grants from U.N.E.S.C.O. Since 1952 I.A.U. is in charge of the Time Bureau only, whereas I.U.G.G. takes care of the finances of the Latitude Service. Although the scientific interest of the two Unions in both these permanent services remained unaffected by the new arrangement, the Bureau of the International Association of Geodesy felt that this interest should be symbolized by a financial contribution and consequently it decided to allocate a subvention of \$ 400 from its own resources to the Time Bureau.

According to Professor Tardi the above mentioned Association of Geodesy would highly appreciate a similar gesture from I.A.U. toward the Latitude Service. As the U.N.F.S.C.O. grant for this purpose amounts to \$ 1500, whereas in the years before \$ 1800 used to be available, the E.C. decided to allocate a grant of \$ 300 for the Latitude Service.

After this the discussion about the place of the next G.A. was reopened. The President announced that since the last meeting some new invitations had come in.

- a) An invitation from Belgium, which would only stand if it met no opposition from U.S.S.R. or Great Britain.
- b) An invitation from Poland for a meeting in Warsaw.
- c) An invitation from the Argentine for a meeting in Buenos Aires. The National Delegate of the Argentine had made it clear that this invitation would hold for one of the next General Assemblies.
- d) An invitation from Eire for a meeting in Dublin.

The President had been informed by Professor Rosse-land that an invitation from Norway might be possible, but that he could not make a definite offer at this moment.

The President, Professor Oort and Professor Struve then pleaded for Brussels as a good meeting place, whereas Sir Harold Spencer Jones pointed out that a meeting in Dublin might be stimulating for this young republic.

Professor Ambartsumian was in favour of Poland. According to him the I.A.U must be the Union of the astronomers from all over the world and it seemed to be time now to meet in one of the smaller countries of Eastern Europe. After eight meetings in Western countries it seemed just to meet in one of the Eastern countries now.

After a long discussion in which several members pointed out that the acceptance of the Polish invitation would make it very difficult for the E.C. to decide on a meeting in U.S.S.R. in the near future and that a meeting in Warsaw could not take the place of a meeting in Russia, the General Secretary stated that the Belgian invitations should now be considered withdrawn, as Professor Ambartsumian was against it. Therefore if no compromise could be reached, it seemed simpler to leave the choice to the G.A.

The E.C. would then carry no responsibility and it probably could be arranged that the G.A. could vote from two invitations.

The President then remarked that still four invitations had to be considered, namely from U.S.S.R., Great Britain, Poland and Eire.

Professor Ambartsumian was in favour of reducing this member to two and he decided to withdraw the Russian invitation in favour of that from Poland.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones then also withdrew the British invitation.

The E.C. therefor^{e/} decided to let the G.A. vote between Poland and Eire. The National Delegates should be informed about this before the Assembly. The vote should be secret and by countries, while countries not represented should have no vote.

New Executive Committee.

The President had sounded the opinions of the National Delegates. The great majority appeared to be in favour of Professor O. Struve for the office of President. Professor Struve himself proposed Professor Oort, while Professor Ambartsumian proposed Professor Danjon. Professor Ambartsumian raised objections against the election of an U.S.A. citizen as President. After some discussion a vote was taken and Professor Struve was elected, only Professor ~~inger~~ Ambartsumian voting against.

Then the three vacancies of Vice-President were discussed. The election of Dr. Couder, Professor Swings and Dr. v.d. R. Woolley was agreed upon unanimously. In the same manner Professor Oosterhoff was elected General Secretary.

Virements.

The E.C. agreed at the request of the Assistant General Secretary to an application for virement for a grant of \$ 2500 for the symposium on Coordination of Galactic Research and for the unspent balance of about \$ 1800 from the grant of \$ 3850 for the symposia on Stellar Evolution and Astronomical Instrumentation also for the purpose of the symposium on Galactic Research.

Meeting on 12 September 1952.

Financial reports and financial resolutions.

The E.C. adopted the report of the Finance Committee and it decided to bring Dr. Merton's memorandum to the attention of the future E.C.

As the grant of \$ 300 for the Latitude Service had not been submitted by a standing commission (com.19), it was decided that this item should be paid from the budget of the Bureau.

Most of the financial resolutions were adopted without discussion. Three were deleted, namely 2 for Commission 29 and 1 for Commission 42.

In conversing french francs into dollars the Finance Committee appeared to have made a mistake in connection with the financial resolution of Com. 23 concerning the Carte du Ciel. It was decided that all the money saved on other grants should be brought into one single grant of 25000 gold francs for the Oxford and Melbourne catalogues together and that the U.N.E.S.C.O. subvention should not be considered as a reimbursement, but that it should be added to the I.A.U. grants.

Nominating.

It had been felt that the system of nominating the members of commissions could still be improved upon. The E.C. then appointed a small committee to study these problems. This committee consists of the following members:

Greaves	chairman
Couderc	
Kukarkin	
Nassau	
Petrie	
Swings	

There had been suggestions that the nomination of Presidents of commissions should be discussed in the Nominating Committee. The majority of E.C. members however appeared to be in favour of the old system, where the Nominating Committee was created for the aid of the E.C. It was decided that this problem should also be studied by the advisory Committee of which Prof. Greaves is chairman.

It was decided that no new Présidents d'Honneur should be appointed anymore. Sub-Commission 4a was dropped, Sub-Commission 27a was dropped. It was decided that Sub-Commission 29a (on Spectra of Nevae) be continued. The name of Commission 34 was changed into: Commission de la Matière Interstellaire et des Nébuleuses Planétaires. The name of Commission 40 was changed into: Commission de Radio-Astronomie.

The names of the newly elected Presidents of Commissions are not given here, as they were distributed in mimeographed form during the last session of the G.A.

The General Secretary
P. Th. Oosterhoff