

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
UNION ASTRONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE

FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Baltimore, U.S.A., August 11, 1988

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Y. Kozai	President
A.A. Boyarchuk	President-Elect
A.H. Batten	Vice-President
R. Kippenhahn	Vice-President
R.P. Kraft	Vice-President
P.O. Lindblad	Vice-President
M. Peimbert	Vice-President
Y.S. Yatskiv	Vice-President
D. McNally	General Secretary
J. Bergeron	Assistant General Secretary
J. Sahade	Adviser
J.P. Swings	Adviser

In attendance:

M. Orine	IAU Administrative Assistant
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I. OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE IAU

II. INTERNAL MATTERS

II.1. **Approval of the Agenda for EC 57**

The agenda was approved with minor rearrangements of the order.

II.2. **Advisory Group on Union Finances**

As requested by the General Secretary, it was agreed to establish a small advisory group. The following names were suggested: H. Weaver (USA) (either as a member or to recommend a name), P. Shaver (ESO), D. Sugimoto (Japan), T. Deluge (Belgium) (T. Deluge is a member sympathetic to organisations such as the IAU).

II.3. **Membership**

- Reported that the XXth General Assembly admitted to full membership in the Union namely Algeria, Iceland, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and as Associate Members of the Union, Malaysia, Peru. Insufficient documentation had been received from Sri Lanka to proceed at this General Assembly.
- Reported that the total individual membership at the end of the General Assembly was [~]6700. The General Secretary will write to all new members.

II.4. **Commission Matters**

II.4.1. Visiting Lecturers' Programme

- China, People's Rep.: Noting that China as advised by Professor S. Wang, cannot provide a salary for Visiting Lecturers but can provide subsistence and accommodation, it was agreed to set up a committee to consider the establishment of a VLP in China. The Committee suggested was J. Sahade (Argentina), S. Ye (China), D. Wentzel (USA), W. Christiansen (Australia) and D. McNally (General Secretary) to establish a suitable contract. The chairman of the Committee is to be decided.
- Paraguay: A new contract to extend the existing one with Paraguay for a further two years (with an option for a 3rd year) is to be drawn up and sent to J. Sahade (Argentina).

II.4.2. Working Groups

- (i) A. Batten (Canada) reported on the meetings of the Working Group on the Promotion of Astronomy at XXth General Assembly. These meetings produced a number of ideas requiring consideration by the Working Group. It was noted that the meetings had produced a particular request for an ISYA in North Africa. It was agreed that the Working Group should be increased by one further member; J. Percy (Canada) was suggested for an approach. Suggestions were sought at leisure from members of the EC regarding the activities of the Working Group -in particular a better name for the Group.

(ii) It was agreed to establish a Working Group on Astronomical Photography. The group should be advised that the IAU could offer no funding in support. Chairman, Organising Committee and Terms of Reference will be required.

Can I have my notes.

(iii) It was agreed to establish a Working Group on Astronomical Software and Computer Communications. It was further decided that the objectives set out by the proposers were acceptable except that referring to the ultimate establishment of an IAU Commission on Astronomical Software - such a commission was deemed unacceptable. It was suggested that the Working Group should report through Commission 6. Chairman, Organising Committee and Terms of Reference will be required. It was recommended that this Working Group should maintain contact with FITS in keeping with Resolution B2 of the XXth General Assembly.

subject to satisfactory terms of reference being submitted to EC59. - do I have a letter to proposers of this WG.

(iv) The proposal for a Working Group on Relations between Amateur and Professional Astronomers (resolution No. A1 at XXth General Assembly) was welcomed. It was suggested that D. Crawford (USA) be asked to prepare a detailed prospectus for such a Working Group to be presented for consideration by a future EC59.

II.4.3. The EC endorsed the report of the Working Group on Planetary System Nomenclature and recommended preparation of the report for publication in Transactions 21A.

II.5. General Assemblies

II.5.1. • The EC welcomed the receipt of a formal invitation from Prof. S. Wang, President of the Chinese Astronomical Society. The EC deferred consideration of the invitation until its next meeting: EC60 (1990).

- check conference

• It was noted that the Netherlands were prepared to remain as alternate for the XXIst General Assembly in 1991 but reserved their position with respect to a firm proposal for the XXIIInd General Assembly in 1994. The EC expressed its gratitude for this generous support by the Netherlands.

• The dates of the XXIst GA in Buenos Aires were briefly discussed. It was noted that there would be a total eclipse of the Sun on July 11, 1991 visible in Latin America. It was suggested

(i) that the GA should be brought forward but follow the eclipse

(ii) a fortnight should be allowed to elapse between the date of the eclipse and the opening of the GA in order to allow eclipse expeditions to pack up and travel to Buenos Aires. The projected dates for the General Assembly were 23rd July - 2nd August 1991. The GS was asked to investigate the impact of bringing forward or slipping back the date of the GA with the local organisers.

- It was noted that there had been considerable discussion of the format of General Assemblies and that the GS was accumulating a substantial file of conflicting views. The GS will form a digest of such views, write a discussion document and circulate it to the EC and to a subcommittee agreed to be composed of Y. Kozai (President), D. McNally (GS), J.P. Swings (Adviser to GS), J. Lequeux (France), E. Roemer (USA), charged with making a decision on the format of the General Assembly. The subcommittee will report to the next EC meeting (No. 59) with a view to implementation of its recommendations for the XXIst GA.

II.6. Resolutions

- II.6.1. The GS was instructed to communicate the content of the resolutions adopted at the 20th GA to the relevant authorities.
- II.6.2. There was a discussion of the actions to be taken following the withdrawal of the Resolution submitted by the Swedish National Committee for Astronomy. It was recommended that a subcommittee composed of J. Sahade (Chairman, Argentina), F. Drake (USA), B. Gustafson (Sweden), M. McCarthy (Vatican), F.G. Smith (UK), A. Masevitch (USSR) should be convened to consider the question. In the meantime the GS would consult ICSU for advice.
- II.6.3. The GS was asked to convey the concerns underlying the withdrawn Swedish resolution and the withdrawn Argentine Resolution on the adoption of the Buenos Aires by the Astronomical Community to the Ethical Committee of ICSU (News by GS: The Ethical Committee of ICSU was established at the 22nd GA of ICSU Beijing, China 1988 September 4-16).

*check ICSU
News
or N.B.*

II.7. Finances of the Union

II.7.1. Contributions

IRAN

Dr. Sobouti will endeavour to ascertain position of Iran and to get arrears paid.

TURKEY

J. Sahade has written and awaits outcome.

It should be noted that as a result of new adherence the income of the Union has increased by six units.

II.7.2. Photoheliographic Programme

A request has been received from the Debrecin Observatory to help finance publication of Photoheliographic results.

(Note by GS: Debrecin has just published the results for 1977).

~~Publication also includes~~ computational resources for data reduction. No decision was taken. GS to investigate further, taking into account XXth GA Resolution C4.

The request also asks for

II.7.3. It was reported that progress (see Minutes of EC 57) has been made in formulating a request for UNESCO funding. UNESCO has suggested a joint proposal from IAU, URSI, IUPAP and COSPAR. This action will be taken up. It was noted that J.P. Swings would be willing to actively participate in formulating the UNESCO proposal -warmly welcomed by EC.

II.8. **IAU Publications**

II.8.1. Discussions with Kluwer

It was reported that as a consequence of discussions at IAU Colloquium No. 110 -Library and Computer Services in Astronomy- Kluwer had expressed reservations that librarians were proposing to buy paperback editions of IAU Symposia Proceedings and was threatening to only publish in hardback format though with price concessions to IAU members. It was decided that GS should look at contract with Kluwer before responding.

II.8.2. Discussion with ASP

Informal conversation with D.A. McNamara -editor of ASP catalogue series had resulted in the view that while ASP could be interested in publication of IAU Colloquia, it would be premature to consider a bid for IAU Symposia. However, enquiries should be made again when the Symposia contract comes up for renewal. In the meantime Colloquia SOC would be advised of ASP interest.

It is clear from discussions with both Kluwer and ASP at the XXth GA that the IAU is unlikely to get as good terms as under the present Symposia contract.

III. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

III.1. **IAU Symposia and Colloquia**

The following Colloquia have been approved:

IAU Colloquium No. 125: Radio Recombination Lines: 25 Years of Investigation to be held in Pushchino, USSR, September 11-16, 1989.

IAU Colloquium No. 126: Origin and Evolution of Interplanetary Dust, Kyoto, Japan, August 27-30, 1990.

III.2. Future co-sponsored meetings

The following meeting has been approved for co-sponsorship:

SPON 12: Physics of the Outer Heliosphere with COSPAR, September 19-22, 1989, Warsaw, Poland, co-sponsored by the Polish Academy of Sciences and the International Astronomical Union, accepted but not blanket acceptance of COSPAR Series.

The areas of overlap of interest between IAU and COSPAR should be discussed again with a view to closer cooperation in the future.
COSPAR to be advised of IAU interest in science and COSPAR concern with technology. While agreeing to cosponsor the Outer Heliosphere meeting each further proposal will be considered by EC on the merits of each case.

III.4. Future Regional Astronomy Meetings

The following meeting has been approved:

6th Latin-American Regional Meeting, Gramado, state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, October 16-19, 1989. *is this right?*

III.5. Young Astronomers Schools

Young Astronomers Schools are under consideration for Cuba and Egypt. *N. Africa (probably Egypt).*

- Am* The Egyptian school was proposed as a direct consequence of the meeting of North African countries (see II.4.2) and is only at a preliminary stage.
- The GS met with Dr. Alvarez of the Institute of Exact Science, Havana, Cuba to discuss the current situation in regard to planning the Cuban ISYA. It is planned to split the school between the Institute of Exact Science and the Teaching Institute, Holguin. Cuba will look after subsistence for participants. However, there seemed to be a possible problem in that it was hoped to draw Cuban participants in the school from graduates in teacher training rather than scientists. It was explained that it was hoped to recruit future scientists for the Solar Section of the Institute of Exact Science from such participants in the school. It was also the intention to attract young astronomers from the Caribbean area though it was recognised that participation might be limited.

Dr. Alvarez hoped to invite J. Sahade (Argentina), P. Kaufmann (Brazil), C. Sagan (USA), J. Kleczek (Czechoslovakia) plus a lecturer from Mexico and 2 from Cuba itself.

The EC shared the concerns for standards of the school and asked J. Sahade to maintain a careful review of the standards of the school.

- The EC noted that J. Kleczek (Czechoslovakia) had undertaken the direction of the ISYA since their inception in 1967 - a total of 16 schools. The EC further noted that the sheer passage of time means that one must look to the future and seek someone willing to take over the schools when ~~J.~~ Kleczek is no longer able to do so. It was suggested and agreed that a further person be sought to assist Kleczek with the organisation of the schools and to acquire the experience of such organisation which Kleczek has acquired over the years.

IV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- IV.1. In the course of discussions with the Representatives of North African countries, it was suggested that a North African Committee be set up to facilitate cooperation. Financial support would be required and the GS was instructed to approach ALECSO to establish whether or not funding could be made available from that source.
- IV.2. An IAU/URSI/IUPAP/COSPAR Working Group on proposals to UNESCO has been reported under II.7.3 of these minutes.
- IV.3. It was noted that Resolution No. 4 at XXth GA recommended that all IAU Adhering Bodies, Commissions and individual members should give active support to the planning for, and execution of an International Space Year in 1992.
- IV.4. It was agreed to ask Commissions to suggest names for IAU Liaison Members to COSPAR.
- IV.5. G. Westerhout was nominated IAU Representative to CODATA.
Ya. Yatskiv was nominated IAU Representative to IERS.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

The suggested date of the next EC is Stockholm, 1989 August 31-September 4. P.O. Lindblad is to investigate the prospects for a firm invitation.