

19. COMMISSION DE LA VARIATION DES LATITUDES

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CENTRAL BUREAU

On January 1, 1949, the Central Bureau was transferred from Capodimonte under the direction of M. Carnera to Turin under the direction of M. Cecchini, in accordance with the resolution passed by the Commission at the meeting in August 1948.

The report on the variation of latitude and the motion of the pole based on observations from January 1949 to April 1950 is in the Press. In his Report Prof. Cecchini proposes discussion of the following subjects at the next meeting of the Commission.

(1) *Central Office.* Beginning January 1952, a new programme of observations for the international stations should be put into effect, because the present programme does not conveniently satisfy the conditions necessary for the calculation of the systematic errors of the group means, which depend on the micrometer errors. The new programme will entail the minimum possible number of changes of the star pairs used in the present programme, and will satisfy the above-mentioned requirements for a period of at least six years.

The Central Office now has charge of the task of reckoning the apparent positions of pairs of stars observed by the northern international stations, and will continue with these calculations in the future. Since the only southern station is at La Plata, the calculations of apparent declinations for 1950 are limited to the evenings of observation at that station.

At the Central Office the international observations since 1900 are also in the process of revision. The final results will be communicated, if possible, at the next meeting of the Commission.

(2) *Introduction of New Instruments.* It is believed that the instrumental equipment of the international service ought to be effectively improved, and that the principal instrument available is the photographic zenith tube. It is not known how the great expense of new equipment could be met, as it would also be necessary to train adequate specialized personnel.

When the new photographic zenith tubes are put into operation observations should be made concurrently with the present instruments for at least a year. This direct comparison will be of great importance and will avoid discontinuity and lack of homogeneity.

(3) *Questions Concerning the Variation of Latitude.* One of the most important questions in the problem of latitudes is that of the displacement (slow or sudden) of the stations. Prof. Cecchini's Report seems to confirm the variations of the mean latitudes of Mizusawa and Kitab. It also shows the caution with which the progressive displacement of the mean pole should be considered, as this becomes considerably less when the stations are assumed to have shifted.

INTERNATIONAL LATITUDE STATIONS

Canberra. A site for a new latitude station has been chosen in the open country north of Canberra. This is to take the place of the latitude station which was at Adelaide before World War II. The 100 mm. Wanschaff zenith telescope which had been lent by the Mizusawa Observatory for use at Adelaide for a period of seven years has now been lent again for an additional period of seven years at Canberra. Since the latitude of the new

station is nearly the same as at Adelaide and La Plata, it will be possible to begin observations using the current list of La Plata stars.

An order has been placed with Sir Howard Grubb, Parsons and Company for a photographic zenith tube. It is to be the kind which that firm designates as type 2, except that a simple bubble level will be used instead of an autocollimator for checking the star plate level. The clear aperture is 25 cm. and the focal length is about 344 cm. The design provides for the plate carriage to be driven at constant speed along optically polished tracks by means of a screw and nut. Timing is obtained by electrical contacts. Micrometer microscopes are used to verify the angle of rotation of the rotary. The mercury level can be checked by means of a spike making electrical contact. The small rotating drum shutter is mounted under the objective. It is hoped that the instrument will be in operation in 1953.

Carloforte. No report has been received from this station, but it is understood that the regular programme of observations is being carried on.

Gaithersburg and Ukiah. These stations have been in continuous operation as previously, with E. L. Williams observing at Gaithersburg and L. S. Caouette at Ukiah. Micrometer comparators are being mounted on the zenith telescopes at both stations, for the purpose of measuring the periodic and progressive errors of the micrometer screws.

Kitab. In the near future the instruments at this station are to be improved, and observations of the variations in the force of gravity, both in intensity and direction, will be begun. The variation of latitude at Kitab for 1949 is published in the *Astronomical Circulars of the U.S.S.R.* Nos. 98 and 99. Detailed data concerning Kitab observations are published in the Publications of the Uzbek Ulugh-Beg International Station at Kitab.

La Plata. This station is continuing observations on the same programme as in previous years. The star positions have been improved by meridian circle observations published in *Estrellas de Latitud, Serie Astronomico*, Tomo **II**.

The original Wanschaff zenith telescope still in use has recently been improved and adjusted. Prof. Baldini is investigating the micrometer screw by a method which consists of observing polar stars in the vicinity of the greatest elongations.

Mizusawa. Director, Tetsuro Ikeda, gave the following report:

The International Latitude Observatory of Mizusawa is composed of the following three sections:

1. *Astronomical Observation Section*

Main work of this section is as follows:

(a) *Latitude Observation with the Visual Zenith Telescope.* This is a part of the International Latitude Service. Observations have been continued from the beginning of the international co-operation in December 1899 up to the present without any interruption.

(b) *Latitude Observation with the Cookson Floating Zenith Telescope.* Latitude observations with the Cookson floating zenith telescope parallel with the international visual zenith telescope were planned by the late Prof. Kimura and put into practice by the late Dr Kawasaki. The floating zenith telescope at Mizusawa was manufactured in Japan according to the design which Dr Kawasaki had copied from the original Cookson telescope during his stay at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, by courtesy of Sir Frank Dyson, the then Astronomer Royal. Observations with this instrument were begun in 1939. Summary of the results, reduced and studied mainly by T. Hattori, is given in the latter part of this report.

(c) *Time Observations with the Transit Instruments.* With the Bamberg and Prin transit instruments, the observation of time has been made using a Riefler astronomical clock. Recently, receiving radio time signals from Tokyo, continuous observation of the longitude difference between here and Tokyo has been carried on. Preliminary results show that the longitude difference has become somewhat larger than that determined by Drs Kimura and Sotome in 1903. A detailed study of the longitude variation by reception of world-wide time signals is intended to follow.

(d) *Astronomical Observation with the 15 cm. Equatorial Refractor.* Observations of the occultation of stars by the moon, sun-spots and eclipses have been made with the home-made 15 cm. equatorial refractor.

2. *Computing Section*

In this section, the computation of star places and other preparatory calculations necessary for our astronomical observations are made. Part of the reductions of the astronomical observations is made as well.

3. *Meteorological Section*

General meteorological and seismological observations have been carried on since 1902. The observations of the wind velocities in free atmosphere by pilot balloons have also been continued since 1922. In these three years the diurnal variation of the upper atmosphere has been investigated by the pilot balloon observations six times a day. Observations made in this section are utilized for the study of the meteorological effect on the astronomical observations.

RESULT OF THE OBSERVATION OF LATITUDE WITH THE FLOATING ZENITH TELESCOPE AT MIZUSAWA

A brief history of establishing the floating zenith telescope at Mizusawa has already been described in the Director's Report of the activities of the observatory.

After about one year's test observation, regular latitude observation parallel with the visual zenith telescope was begun at the beginning of 1940. Of two methods of observations available with this instrument, we preferred the Talcott's method to the observation of single star culminating nearly at zenith.

At the beginning, the observing star programme was the same as the international one. The programme, however, was found inadequate for the photographic observation, owing to the faint photographic magnitude of some stars and to the low sensitivity of available photographic plates. Therefore another programme has been used for this instrument since September 1942. It divides the whole sky into twelve groups of pairs as in the case of the old programme, while eight star pairs are contained in each group instead of six as in the old one. At least one pair in a group, however, was left unaltered for the convenience of comparison with the simultaneous visual observation. Total number of such common pairs is thirty-two. Positions of all stars used in the F.Z.T. observation are based on the Boss' *General Catalogue*, and the apparent declinations are calculated in this observatory except for those of common pairs, which are calculated at the Central Bureau.

With a comparator, mutual distance of two star trails of a pair is measured at four points of the trail, equatorial distances from the meridian being 6.5 and 19.5 seconds of time respectively. The mean of these four measurements is reduced to the meridian applying the curvature-, tangent- and refraction-corrections. The plate is measured in direct and reversed positions, and the final value of latitude from a pair is the mean of independent measurements by two persons.

Scale value, i.e. the angular distance per mm. on the plate, was determined from 1030 observations of specially chosen scale pairs in the interval 1940-49, as well as eighteen observations of Pleiades stars in the years 1947-49.

As has been stated, the star pairs used in the F.Z.T. observations being different from visual ones after September 1942, the declination and proper motion corrections should be calculated independently after that epoch. Applying these corrections and other small corrections such as (1) corrections for mean parallax, (2) corrections due to the diurnal change of the plumb line by the Sun, and (3) Battermann's correction, monthly mean latitudes were obtained, evening and morning observations treated separately. By the identical method, monthly mean latitudes were obtained from the visual observations in the same interval. In general, the agreement of the two is fairly good, except a slight constant difference. Seven years' mean of these differences is

$$\text{F.Z.T.} - \text{V.Z.T.} = -0''.053.$$

The monthly mean latitudes were plotted on the squared paper against their respective mean epochs, and the normal curve was drawn. From this curve daily normal latitude was read and was subtracted from the observed daily mean latitude. The daily mean residual latitudes thus obtained were found to have close relation with the direction and velocity of wind. These results show that the north component of the wind has the greatest effect, and that the effects are quite different for two instruments. The north component is larger for the F.Z.T. than the V.Z.T., probably due to the effect of wind on the flotation of the instrument.

Relations between residual latitudes and the direction of wind were also examined. The dependence of the residual latitudes upon the direction of wind was found to be real for both instruments. But the mode of the dependence is quite different. With regard to the F.Z.T., the amplitude is much larger in the case of strong wind than that of weak wind. The phase angles are almost coincident and the maximum occurs at south wind. These facts can be explained by the northward tilt of the top of the telescope of the F.Z.T. by the south wind. As to the V.Z.T., the relation is more complicated; the difference of amplitudes cannot be found, the maximum residuals occur at north or north-west winds. These facts suggest that the wind effect on the V.Z.T. will perhaps be attributable to the inclination of the air strata of equal density, which results in a change of apparent zenith on one hand and causes wind on the other hand. If this is the case, the wind effect derived from the V.Z.T. observation must be common to both instruments, and the pure effect on the flotation of the F.Z.T. will become still larger.

Comparison of the Z -terms for the two instruments was also made. Among the Z -terms, those having a form of $\alpha_1 \sin (\odot - \alpha + A_1)$ can be obtained as closing errors. Seven years' mean of the closing error was $-0''.190$ for the F.Z.T. and $-0''.196$ for the V.Z.T. Concordant values for the two instruments show that the origin of the closing error is outside the instruments.

The Z -term of a form of $\alpha_2 \sin (2\odot - \alpha + A_2)$ is obtainable from the difference of latitudes of evening and morning observations of the same group, assuming normal monthly mean latitudes. From six years' materials extending from September 1943 to September 1949, the following results were obtained:

$$\begin{array}{l} 0''.013 \sin (2\odot - \alpha + 344^\circ) \quad \text{for the F.Z.T.} \\ \quad \pm 3 \qquad \qquad \qquad \pm 15 \\ \text{and} \\ 0''.011 \sin (2\odot - \alpha + 305^\circ) \quad \text{for the V.Z.T.} \\ \quad \pm 4 \qquad \qquad \qquad \pm 19 \end{array}$$

The agreement of the amplitudes and phase angles indicates that the origin of this term must be sought for outside the instruments.

Recently we have received the polar co-ordinates up to 1950.3 from the Central Bureau. Normal latitude at Mizusawa calculated from the polar co-ordinates was compared with our results. Systematic difference between them can almost wholly be explained by the difference of adopted micrometer values. As far as the present materials are concerned, the local Z -term at Mizusawa can be reduced to zero, adopting adequate micrometer and scale values.

The declination and proper motion corrections of each star pair calculated from the observed latitudes themselves are seriously affected by the system of stars used in the observation. Simultaneous observations of one and the same star pair with the two instruments will avoid this difficulty. We have thirty-two such pairs in a year. The difference of latitude derived from the simultaneous observations of these pairs with the two instruments will give purely instrumental difference free from the declination and proper motion errors and the atmospheric effect as well. Comparison of these pairs shows no secular or periodic tendency, except a constant difference of mean latitudes. The difference is

$$\text{F.Z.T.} - \text{V.Z.T.} = -0''.100,$$

as the mean of nine years extending from October 1940 to September 1949. As the two instruments stand almost in the same parallel of latitude, this difference is too large to be

explained by the relative position of the instruments. The origin should be sought in the instrumental defects. This is one of the problems to be studied fully in the future.

The errors of observations, estimated from the daily discordance among the monthly observations, are somewhat larger in the F.Z.T. than the V.Z.T. observation. Errors of both instruments have a change of annual period. The unbiased estimate of the standard error of a single pair varies from 0".14 in July to 0".26 in January for the V.Z.T. observation, compared with 0".18 in July and August and 0".31 in January for the F.Z.T. Thus the major part of the error would be attributable to the seasonal change of seeing and steadiness of star images.

TADAHIKO HATTORI

OTHER LATITUDE STATIONS

Belgrade. The Belgrade University Observatory suffered heavy damage during the war and was forced to suspend all of its activities. In 1949, after repairs and an exhaustive study of the instrumental constants, the regular observations were resumed, using the same methods as at the international stations. The observers are P. Djurković, B. Ševarlić, and Z. Brkić. The results are published regularly in the *Bulletin of the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory*.

Prof. Michkovitch has studied the construction of the photo-electric prismatic astrolabe with two prisms. This is to be used to check the results of the latitude determinations, as well as to investigate the behaviour of the refraction in different azimuths.

Dehra Dun. This Observatory has two zenith telescopes manufactured by Cooke, Troughton, and Simms. One has a focal length of 30 inches and an aperture of 2.5 inches, and the other has a focal length of 41 inches and an aperture of 3 inches.

A programme of observations consisting of a chain of six groups was carried out with the larger zenith telescope at Dehra Dun from 1930 to 1933, and at Agra from 1937 to 1940. The closure error during the three cycles was very consistent, and tended to be of one sign. The observed latitude variation, both at Dehra Dun and at Agra, came out to be very large and it is desirable to carry on further observations. Due to a shortage of personnel, however, it may not be possible to resume this activity for another two years.

It is proposed that the International Astronomical Union consider sponsoring the erection of a photographic zenith tube either at Dehra Dun, where the precision clocks at the Observatory would make time determinations possible, or at a place in southern India near the magnetic equator.

Greenwich. No variation of latitude observations have been made at the Royal Greenwich Observatory since 1948. Latitude observations will be resumed as soon as the photographic zenith tube, which is far advanced, has been installed and tested.

Observations will be made after dusk and before dawn in order to provide an effective control over periodic errors in the right ascensions of the stars, and to smooth out their positions. The stars on the programme are being observed with meridian instruments at Greenwich, Washington and Ottawa.

A commencement has been made with the analysis of the International Latitude Observations for the determination of the nutation, to derive separately the nutation in longitude and obliquity. The theoretical discussion by Prof. Harold Jeffreys indicates that the nutation constant may have different values for the two components.

Ottawa. A photographic zenith tube to be mounted at or near the Dominion Observatory is nearing completion. This instrument, patterned after the zenith tube at Richmond, Florida, will have a 10-inch objective with a focal length of 14 feet, constructed by the Perkin-Elmer Corporation. All the metal castings, including the mechanism for rotating the head through 180°, are being constructed by Canadian Vickers, Ltd. A list of approximately 250 stars has been selected and is being observed by the meridian circle at Ottawa. They will be based on the FK 3 system.

Tokyo. A new photographic zenith tube for the Tokyo Observatory at Mitaka is now being constructed in Japan. It will be patterned after the Richmond instrument, and will have an aperture of 8 inches. It is expected to be put into service about April 1952, for the determination of latitude and time.

Richmond, Florida. During 1948 a new photographic zenith tube of improved design was constructed at the Naval Observatory. Early in 1949 it was installed at a temporary site at Richmond, about 18 miles south-west of downtown Miami, at a latitude of $25^{\circ} 37' 28''$. The first year of observing was considered preliminary. Regular results in latitude and time are available since the early part of 1950. The higher percentage of clear weather at Richmond as compared with Washington has been found to be a great advantage.

Washington. Latitude observations have been continued, using the photographic zenith tube. The instrument is an old one which has been remodelled several times. It still retains a poor plate drive mechanism which has been suspected of introducing errors in the latitude results on several occasions. In order to correct these defects, a new instrument is now under construction, similar to the Richmond photographic zenith tube. The variation of latitude results for both Washington and Richmond are published in the *Astronomical Journal*.

U.S.S.R. Stations. Latitude observations in the U.S.S.R. are conducted at Pulkovo, Poltava, Kazan (Engelhardt Observatory), as well as Kitab, the international station which has already been discussed. A latitude station is being organized at Gorky.

Observations of tidal changes in intensity and direction of the force of gravity are conducted, as well as experiments for the determination of polar motion, by means of observations of latitude and azimuth at one station. The results obtained in this work and in related investigations were discussed at conferences at Poltava in 1939, at Moscow in 1949, and at Leningrad in 1950.

At Pulkovo the observations were resumed after the war in a new pavilion, since the old one had been destroyed. The chain method is used. The same zenith-telescope with a fixed tube is being used for experiments in the determination of latitude, based on faint stars near the zenith.

At the Engelhardt Observatory. latitude observations are made with a 90 mm. Bamberg zenith telescope. Observations are made all night, from sunset to sunrise. Not only pairs of stars but also faint zenith stars are observed, the total number of observations being greater than at any other station. As a result of the heavy schedule, the reductions are somewhat in arrears. In the immediate future observations of gravity variations are to be begun with the aid of horizontal pendulums and gravimeters.

At the Poltava Observatory two zenith telescopes (Zeiss 135 mm. and Bamberg 100 mm.) are used. Four groups of stars, each of two hours' duration, are observed. The mean right ascensions of the groups are 0^{h} , 6^{h} , 12^{h} and 18^{h} . In addition the near-zenith stars α Persei and ζ Ursae Majoris are observed. A study of these observations shows that the latitudes found from each star contain lunar semi-monthly components. The phases of these components have a difference approximately equal to the difference of the right ascensions of the two stars (156°), and are opposite to the phases of the nutation terms in the mean place reductions. The conclusion reached at Poltava is that the error is in the nutation terms, and that the discrepancy may be removed by supposing that the core of the Earth is liquid and not rigid. The observations at Poltava have been used for determining the relative declinations of 154 stars in the zone $38^{\circ} 56'$ to $39^{\circ} 17'$, and the declinations of a larger number of stars in the zone $49^{\circ} 29'$ to $49^{\circ} 43'$. The first of the zones is at the zenith for the international latitude stations, and the second zone is at the Poltava zenith. In 1948–49 latitude observations were conducted with a field-type universal instrument for the purpose of ascertaining the existence of systematic errors in such observations. Stationary observations in Poltava consisted in the registration of the movement of horizontal pendulums on a thread suspension as devised by Prof. G. V. Levitsky.

FUTURE PLANS FOR LATITUDE WORK

From the foregoing report it will be seen that the latitude work is undergoing considerable expansion and change. The original plan of the international latitude work was based on the operation of several stations, all having the same latitude and all observing

the same star-pairs with similar instruments. Later this was expanded to include southern stations. Now one of the southern stations is planning to install a photographic instrument, and observe stars very close to the zenith instead of star-pairs. The desirability of making improvements in the instrumental equipment at the other stations is also evident. There are several stations not in the international group which are making good latitude observations, and this number will be increased still further as soon as the new photographic zenith tubes at the Greenwich, Dominion, and Tokyo observatories go into service. In addition, plans for a similar installation at the Neuchâtel Observatory are well advanced, and similar plans are under consideration at several other places. It would be very desirable for the Central Bureau to consider the results obtained at all these stations in arriving at the polar motion. The problem is complicated by the irregular locations of the stations. While the usefulness of these stations would be enhanced if they were more ideally located, they are by no means without value in their present locations. In some cases, for example, special groupings of stations can be worked out. The stations at Ottawa, Gaithersburg, Washington and Richmond form a possible group, since they all have almost the same longitude, the greatest difference between them being 19 minutes of time. Moreover, a great circle passing through Ottawa and Richmond misses Gaithersburg and Washington by less than one minute in longitude. Under these circumstances it appears that, with very little additional labour, the Gaithersburg results could be compared with and checked by the results at the other three stations. By a more elaborate method of computation, data from all of the stations making precise latitude determinations could be combined in one solution, giving polar positions of increased accuracy. Such a procedure might increase the work of the Central Office sufficiently to make additional funds necessary. This is particularly likely in view of the fact that the Central Office is finding its funds inadequate for its present workload. It is suggested that all members of the Commission give the matter their careful consideration, in order that they may be prepared for its discussion at the next meeting of the Unions.

P SOLLENBERGER
President of the Commission

APPENDIX TO MIZUSAWA REPORT

MONTHLY MEAN LATITUDES

Date	F.Z.T.		V.Z.T.		$\phi_p - \phi_v$	Date	F.Z.T.		V.Z.T.		$\phi_p - \phi_v$
	ϕ_p 39° 8'	No.	ϕ_p 39° 8'	No.			ϕ_p 39° 8'	No.	ϕ_p 39° 8'	No.	
1942-81	3'457	130	3'504	111	-047	1944-30	3'243	74	3'364	90	-121
·88	·425	129	·482	96	-057	·39	·163	137	·254	136	-091
·98	·432	116	·410	97	+022	·47	·155	76	·176	85	-021
1943-06	·427	129	·416	113	+011	·59	·174	69	·257	89	-083
·16	·287	69	·446	60	-159	·64	·280	130	·248	124	-032
·23	·283	162	·432	136	-149	·74	·295	116	·430	118	-135
·31	·320	172	·407	150	-087	·81	·475	171	·577	166	-102
·39	·213	152	·329	124	-116	·89	·540	128	·636	120	-096
·47	·284	103	·344	96	-060	·97	·656	60	·580	65	-076
·57	·312	93	·384	96	-072	1945-06	·485	119	·607	125	-122
·63	·367	125	·383	116	-016	·14	·506	68	·614	73	-108
·74	·448	48	·461	43	-013	·23	·298	108	·492	111	-194
·80	·479	139	·534	167	-055	·31	·278	147	·395	167	-117
·91	·422	73	·484	60	-062	·40	·180	123	·267	139	-087
·98	·356	81	·437	66	-081	·48	·099	65	·154	83	-055
1944-06	·462	74	·443	87	+019	·56	·148	60	·101	78	-047
·14	·296	72	·453	68	-157	·63	·095	47	·147	97	-052
·23	·296	68	·433	72	-137	·73	·349	22	·279	42	+070

MONTHLY MEAN LATITUDES (continued)

Date	F.Z.T.		V.Z.T.		$\phi_p - \phi_v$	Date	F.Z.T.		V.Z.T.		$\phi_p - \phi_v$
	ϕ_p 39° 8'	No.	ϕ_v 39° 8'	No.			ϕ_p 39° 8'	No.	ϕ_v 39° 8'	No.	
1945-83	3'413	36	3'427	80	-.014	1947-81	3'139	131	3'164	136	-.025
89	.472	128	.577	137	-.105	88	.079	111	.176	103	-.097
97	.587	46	.549	59	+.038	97	.191	85	.228	72	-.037
1946-06	.568	81	.713	92	-.145	1948-05	.177	84	.250	89	-.073
13	.698	65	.691	93	+.007	14	.251	121	.365	132	-.114
22	.723	149	.717	120	+.006	23	.353	199	.429	156	-.076
31	.700	164	3'554	165	+.146	31	.394	179	.481	165	-.087
39	.442	101	.382	105	+.060	38	.409	116	.521	93	-.112
47	.266	133	.274	134	-.008	46	.444	87	.564	73	-.120
56	.253	52	.125	185	+.127	58	.478	84	.528	81	-.050
65	.356	120	.140	119	+.216	65	.416	92	.506	96	-.090
72	.383	95	.173	109	+.210	73	.405	93	.470	87	-.065
82	.331	134	.205	137	+.126	81	.083	110	.380	110	-.297
90	.259	87	.352	101	-.093	88	.262	93	.305	89	-.043
96	.332	65	.351	78	-.019	97	.075	83	.252	84	-.177
1947-06	.558	71	.512	98	+.046	1949-06	.202	70	.192	77	+.010
14	.512	91	.584	113	-.072	14	.127	115	.121	136	+.006
23	.624	114	.658	131	-.034	23	.138	140	.172	132	-.034
31	.471	179	.588	175	-.117	30	.066	133	.207	137	-.141
39	.385	129	.500	130	-.115	39	.169	207	.278	180	-.109
48	.309	34	.441	77	-.132	47	.213	69	.318	44	-.105
54	.253	49	.320	68	-.067	55	.426	98	.395	78	+.031
65	.149	124	.236	148	-.087	63	.567	117	.569	101	-.002
74	2'981	32	.196	83	-.215	72	.651	122	.642	108	+.009

ON THE TABLE OF CORRECTIONS TO THE NUTATION TERMS

by S. UEMAE

In 1912, Dr F. E. Ross pointed out that small corrections should be applied to the nutation terms of the *Berliner Jahrbuch* in order to secure the accuracy necessary for investigating the *z* or Kimura-term in latitude variation, where the apparent star places were reduced by the *Berliner Jahrbuch*. He has computed the sensible terms for every ten days from 1900 to 1920 and tabulated his results in *A.N. Bd. 192*, No. 4587 (1912) as Tables I, IIa and IIb.

Recently, looking through the *Berliner Jahrbuch* to tabulate the nutation corrections since 1940, closely following the Ross method, I have found the fact that the arguments of Besselian Day Numbers adopted in the *Berliner Jahrbuch* were altered and new terms were added in 1916, and moreover other new small terms were added in 1938. The general aspect is as follows:

Arguments and Coefficients of Besselian Day Numbers A and B adopted in the Berliner Jahrbuch

From 1900 till 1915

Year ...	A						B	
	1900	1901-04	-1907	-1910	-1914	1915	1900	1901-15
Argument								
Ω	-0.34252	-0.34210	-0.34211	-0.34212	-0.34213	-0.34214	-9'2240	-9'2100
2Ω	+0.00410	+0.00409	+0.00409	+0.00409	+0.00409	+0.00409	+0.0895	+0.0895
$2\odot$	-0.02519	-0.02526	-0.02526	-0.02526	-0.02526	-0.02526	-0.5506	-0.5519
$\odot + 82^{\circ}*$	+0.00292	+0.00293	+0.00293	+0.00293	+0.00293	+0.00293	0	0
$\odot + 281^{\circ}\dagger$	0	0	0	0	0	0	-0.0092	-0.0092

*, † = neglected small yearly change.

Since 1916

Year ... Argument	A		B	
	1916-37	1938-	1916-37	1938-
ϖ	$-(0.34215 + 0.00031T)$	$-(0.34213 + 0.00034T)$	$-(9.210 + 0.001T)$	$-(9.210 + 0.001T)$
2ϖ	+0.00415	+0.00415	+0.090	+0.090
$2L_{\odot}$	-0.02526	-0.02525	-0.551	-0.551
M_{\odot}	+0.00251	+0.00250	0	0
$2L_{\odot} + M_{\odot}$	-0.00099	-0.00099	-0.022	-0.022
$2L_{\odot} - M_{\odot}$	+0.00042	+0.00042	+0.009	+0.009
$2L_{\odot} - \varpi$	+0.00025	+0.00024	+0.007	+0.007
$2L_{\oplus} - 2M_{\oplus} - \varpi$	0	+0.00010	0	+0.003
$2L_{\oplus} - 2L_{\oplus} + 2M_{\oplus}$	0	+0.00008	0	0

Looking over the above tables, we can conclude that the tables of Dr Ross should be modified slightly for the dates since 1916.

Following the Ross classification, I have calculated the new tables of corrections for the reduction to the apparent places of the *Berliner Jahrbuch* since 1916.

(1) Terms having only the Sun's longitude as argument. (This corresponds to the Ross first class and Table I.)

Comparing the Oppolzer nutation terms with the adopted terms in the *Berliner Jahrbuch*, I have obtained as Opp.—*B.J.* (1916):

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \epsilon \delta \lambda_0 &= +0''.0006 \sin 2g' - 0''.0006 \sin (4g' + 2\omega' + 2\varpi), \\ \delta \epsilon_0 &= +0.0007 \cos (4g' + 2\omega' + 2\varpi). \end{aligned}$$

Table 1 shows the numerical values for every ten days during 1925.

TABLE I

Unit: 0.001

Date	$\sin \epsilon \delta \lambda_0$	$\delta \epsilon_0$	Date	$\sin \epsilon \delta \lambda_0$	$\delta \epsilon_0$	Date	$\sin \epsilon \delta \lambda_0$	$\delta \epsilon_0$
Jan. 0	0	-1	May 10	-1	+1	Sept. 17	0	-1
10	+1	0	20	-1	+1	27	0	-1
20	+1	0	30	-1	0	Oct. 7	0	-1
30	+1	0	June 9	-1	0	17	0	0
Feb. 9	+1	+1	19	-1	-1	27	0	0
19	0	+1	29	0	-1	Nov. 6	0	+1
Mar. 1	0	0	July 9	+1	-1	16	-1	+1
11	0	0	19	+1	0	26	-1	0
21	0	-1	29	+1	0	Dec. 6	-1	0
31	0	-1	Aug. 8	+1	+1	16	-1	0
Apr. 10	0	0	18	0	+1	26	0	-1
20	0	0	28	0	0			
30	0	0	Sept. 7	0	0			

In addition, the result of Opp.—*B.J.* (1911) using my own terms coincides very well with the Ross result given in *A.N.*

(2) Terms having as argument the Sun's longitude combined with the longitude of the Moon's node or perigee. (This corresponds to the Ross second class.)

The sensible terms of the second class are found to be the following:

For 1916-37

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \epsilon \delta \lambda_1 &= -0.0006 \sin 2\omega \\ &+ 0.0021 \sin (2\omega + \varpi) \\ &+ 0.0002 \sin (2\omega + 2\varpi) \\ &+ 0.0018 \sin (2g' + 2\omega' - 2\omega) \\ &- 0.0008 \sin (2g' + 2\omega') \end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned} \sin \epsilon \delta \lambda_1 &= +0.0005 \sin (g' - \varpi) \\ &- 0.0006 \sin (g' + \varpi) \\ \delta \epsilon_1 &= -0.0028 \cos (2\omega + \varpi) \\ &+ 0.0006 \cos (g' - \varpi) \\ &+ 0.0008 \cos (g' + \varpi) \end{aligned}$$

For 1938

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \epsilon \delta \lambda_1 = & -0.0006 \sin 2\omega & \delta \epsilon_1 = & +0.0006 \cos (g' - \omega) \\ & +0.0002 \sin (2\omega + 2\omega) & & +0.0008 \cos (g' + \omega) \\ & -0.0008 \sin (2g' + 2\omega') \\ & +0.0005 \sin (g' - \omega) \\ & -0.0006 \sin (g' + \omega) \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the above formulae with the Ross formulae given in *A.N.* we can see the following terms are rejected from the latter:

For 1916-37

$$\begin{aligned} & +0.0012 \sin 2\omega \\ & +0.0049 \sin (2g' + 2\omega' + \omega) \\ & -0.0007 \cos 2\omega \\ & -0.0066 \cos (2g' + 2\omega' + \omega) \end{aligned}$$

For 1938

$$\begin{aligned} & +0.0021 \sin (2\omega + \omega) \\ & +0.0018 \sin (2g' + 2\omega' - 2\omega) \\ & -0.0028 \cos (2\omega + \omega) \end{aligned}$$

Combining the results of (1) and (2) we can obtain Table 2 just as Dr Ross has obtained his Table II.

The reduction to the apparent declinations of star-pairs for the use of the International Latitude Service for the period 1945-46 was made by the Central Bureau of the International Latitude Service at Napoli, Italy, using the *Nautical Almanac*; next, for the period 1947-49 and for the year 1950, the work was done by the Nautical Almanac Office of U.S. Naval Observatory and the Central Bureau of the International Latitude Service at Torino, Italy, respectively, both using the *American Ephemeris*.

The next table shows the Besselian Day Numbers *A* and *B* adopted in the *Nautical Almanac* and the *American Ephemeris* during the above period, and comparing this table with the first shown table of the *Berliner Jahrbuch* we can notice the very good coincidence of arguments and coefficients among them.

Consequently, so far as the small nutation terms are concerned, the new table should be applied to the nutation terms of the *Nautical Almanac* and of the *American Ephemeris* during the above period instead of using the Ross table.

Arguments and Coefficients of Besselian Day Numbers A and B adopted in Nautical Almanac and American Ephemeris

Year ...	A			B	
	<i>Nautical Almanac</i>	<i>American Ephemeris</i>		<i>Nautical Almanac</i>	<i>American Ephemeris</i>
	1945-46	1947-49	1950-51	1945-46	1947-51
Argument					
ω	-0.34230	-0.34230	-0.34231	-9.210	-9.210
2ω	+0.00415	+0.00415	+0.00415	+0.090	+0.090
$2L$	-0.02525	-0.02526	-0.02526	-0.551	-0.551
$L - P$	+0.00250	+0.00251	+0.00251	0	0
$2L - P$	-0.00099	-0.00099	-0.00099	-0.022	-0.022
$L + P$	+0.00042	+0.00042	+0.00042	+0.009	+0.009
$2L - \omega$	+0.00024	+0.00025	+0.00025	+0.007	+0.007
$2P' - \omega$	+0.00010	+0.00010	+0.00010	+0.003	+0.003
$2(L - P')$	+0.00008	+0.00009	+0.00009	0	0

From the above, we can notice that the values of apparent declination of stars which were used for the deduction of the latitude values given in the *Result of the International Latitude Service*, Vols. 7 and 8 should be corrected by the new table, because in these two volumes the old Ross corrections were adopted.

The corrections that should be given to the above volumes will be calculated in the form

$$\Delta \delta_R = U - R,$$

where *U* = correction obtained from the new table,

R = correction obtained from the Ross table.

TABLE 2

$A = \sin \epsilon \delta \lambda.$ $B = \delta \epsilon.$ Unit: 0^o001.

Date	1916		1917		1918		1919		1920		1921		1922		1923		1924		1925	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Jan. 0	+2	+2	-2	-3	+1	-2	+3	+2	0	-1	-1	-5	+1	-1	-1	0	0	-4	+3	-4
10	+2	+3	-1	-2	+1	-2	+3	+2	0	-1	+1	-4	+2	-1	-1	+1	+1	-4	+4	-3
20	+3	+3	-1	-2	+1	-1	+2	+2	+1	-1	+2	-4	+2	0	-1	+1	+1	-3	+4	-3
30	+3	+3	0	-1	+1	0	+2	+3	+1	0	+3	-3	+3	0	-1	+2	+1	-3	+4	-2
Feb. 9	+2	+3	0	-1	+1	0	+1	+3	0	0	+3	-3	+3	+1	-2	+2	0	-3	+4	-2
19	+1	+3	0	-2	+1	0	0	+3	0	0	+4	-3	+3	+1	-3	+2	-1	-3	+4	-2
Mar. 1	0	+2	0	-2	+1	0	0	+3	-1	-1	+3	-3	+3	+1	-3	+2	-2	-3	+3	-2
11	-1	+2	0	-3	+2	-1	-1	+3	-2	-1	+3	-3	+3	+1	-4	+1	-3	-3	+2	-2
21	-2	+1	0	-3	+3	-1	-1	+2	-2	-2	+3	-3	+4	+1	-3	+1	-3	-3	+2	-2
31	-2	+1	+1	-3	+3	-1	0	+2	-2	-2	+3	-3	+4	+1	-3	+1	-3	-3	+2	-2
Apr. 10	-2	+1	+1	-3	+4	0	0	+3	-3	-1	+2	-3	+4	+2	-3	+1	-3	-3	+2	-1
20	-3	+1	+1	-3	+4	0	0	+3	-3	-1	+2	-2	+4	+2	-2	+2	-2	-2	+2	0
30	-3	+1	0	-2	+4	+1	0	+4	-4	0	+1	-1	+3	+3	-2	+2	-2	-2	+2	0
May 10	-4	+1	-1	-2	+4	+1	0	+4	-5	0	-1	-1	+2	+4	-2	+3	-2	-1	+1	+1
20	-5	+1	-2	-2	+3	+1	-1	+4	-6	0	-2	0	+1	+4	-2	+3	-1	-1	+1	+1
30	-5	0	-3	-3	+2	+1	-1	+4	-6	0	-2	-1	0	+4	-2	+3	-1	-2	+1	+1
June 9	-4	-1	-3	-3	+1	+1	-1	+3	-5	-1	-3	-1	0	+4	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	+1
19	-4	-1	-3	-4	+1	+1	-1	+2	-4	-1	-2	-1	0	+3	-1	+2	+2	-2	+2	0
29	-3	-1	-3	-4	+1	+1	-1	+2	-3	-2	-1	-1	0	+3	0	+1	+3	-2	+3	0
July 9	-2	-1	-3	-4	+1	+1	0	+2	-2	-2	0	-1	0	+4	0	+2	+4	-2	+4	+1
19	-1	-1	-2	-3	0	+1	-1	+3	-1	-1	+2	0	+1	+4	0	+2	+5	-2	+4	+1
29	-1	-1	-2	-2	0	+2	-1	+3	0	-1	+3	0	+1	+4	-1	+2	+4	-1	+4	+2
Aug. 8	-1	0	-2	-2	0	+2	-1	+3	0	-1	+3	+1	+1	+5	-2	+2	+4	-1	+4	+2
18	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	+2	-2	+3	0	-1	+4	0	0	+4	-3	+2	+3	-1	+4	+2
28	-1	-1	-1	-3	0	+2	-2	+2	0	-2	+4	0	0	+4	-4	+1	+2	-2	+3	+2
Sept. 7	-2	-2	0	-3	0	+2	-3	+2	0	-2	+4	0	0	+3	-4	0	+1	-2	+3	+2
17	-2	-2	+1	-3	+1	+1	-3	+1	0	-3	+4	-1	0	+3	-5	0	0	-3	+3	+1
27	-1	-2	+2	-3	+2	+1	-3	+1	-1	-3	+5	-1	0	+2	-5	-1	0	-3	+3	+1
Oct. 7	-1	-2	+3	-3	+3	+1	-2	+1	-1	-3	+4	-1	+1	+2	-4	-1	0	-3	+2	+1
17	-1	-2	+4	-2	+4	+2	-2	+1	-1	-3	+4	-1	+1	+2	-4	-1	-1	-3	+2	+2
27	-2	-1	+4	-2	+4	+2	-2	+1	-2	-3	+3	0	0	+3	-4	-1	-1	-3	+1	+2
Nov. 6	-2	-1	+4	-1	+4	+3	-2	+1	-3	-3	+2	0	0	+3	-4	-1	-1	-2	0	+2
16	-3	-1	+3	-1	+4	+3	-3	+1	-4	-3	+1	0	-1	+3	-3	-1	-1	-2	-1	+2
26	-3	-1	+2	-1	+4	+3	-3	0	-4	-3	0	0	-1	+2	-3	-2	-1	-3	-2	+2
Dec. 6	-3	-2	+1	-2	+3	+2	-2	0	-4	-4	0	-1	-1	+1	-2	-3	0	-3	-2	+2
16	-3	-2	+1	-2	+3	+2	-2	-1	-3	-5	0	-1	-1	+1	-1	-3	+1	-3	-2	+1
26	-2	-2	+1	-2	+3	+2	-1	-1	-2	-5	+1	-1	-1	+1	0	-4	+2	-4	-2	+1

TABLE 2 (continued)

		$A = \sin \epsilon \delta \lambda.$		$B = \delta \epsilon.$		Unit: 0 ^o 001.															
		1926		1927		1928		1929		1930		1931		1932		1933		1934		1935	
Date		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Jan.	0	-1	+1	-4	0	0	-3	+2	0	-3	+3	-4	0	+2	-2	+4	+3	+1	+2	-2	-3
	10	-1	+2	-4	0	0	-3	+3	0	-2	+3	-3	0	+2	-1	+5	+3	+1	+2	-1	-2
	20	-1	+2	-5	+1	0	-3	+3	+1	-1	+4	-2	0	+2	-1	+5	+3	+2	+2	-1	-2
	30	-1	+3	-5	+1	0	-2	+3	+2	0	+4	-2	0	+2	0	+4	+4	+2	+3	-1	-2
Feb.	9	0	+3	-5	+1	-1	-2	+3	+2	0	+4	-1	0	+1	0	+3	+4	+2	+3	-1	-1
	19	-1	+3	-5	+1	-1	-2	+3	+2	+1	+4	-1	0	+1	0	+2	+4	+1	+3	-1	-2
Mar.	1	-1	+2	-5	0	-2	-3	+2	+1	+1	+3	-1	-1	0	-1	+1	+3	0	+2	-1	-2
	11	0	+2	-4	-1	-1	-3	+2	+1	+1	+2	-1	-2	0	-1	0	+3	-1	+1	0	-3
	21	+1	+2	-3	-1	-1	-3	+2	+1	+1	+2	0	-2	0	-2	-1	+2	-1	+1	0	-3
	31	+1	+2	-2	-1	0	-4	+2	0	+1	+2	+1	-3	0	-2	-1	+2	-2	0	+1	-3
Apr.	10	+2	+2	0	-1	+1	-3	+1	+1	0	+2	+1	-3	+1	-2	-2	+2	-2	0	+1	-3
	20	+2	+3	+1	-1	+2	-3	+1	+1	0	+2	+1	-3	+1	-2	-2	+2	-3	0	+1	-3
	30	+1	+3	+1	0	+2	-3	0	+1	-2	+2	0	-3	+1	-1	-2	+3	-3	0	+1	-3
May	10	+1	+4	+1	0	+2	-2	-1	+2	-3	+2	0	-2	+1	-1	-2	+3	-4	0	0	-2
	20	-1	+4	+1	0	+2	-2	-1	+2	-4	+2	-1	-3	+1	-1	-2	+3	-5	0	-1	-2
	30	-1	+3	0	-1	+2	-3	-1	+1	-5	+1	-2	-3	+2	-2	-1	+2	-5	-1	-2	-3
June	9	-2	+3	0	-2	+3	-3	-1	+1	-5	0	-2	-4	+2	-2	-1	+2	-5	-1	-2	-3
	19	-2	+2	0	-2	+3	-4	0	0	-4	0	-1	-5	+3	-2	+1	+1	-4	-2	-2	-4
	29	-2	+2	0	-2	+4	-4	+1	0	-3	-1	-1	-5	+4	-3	+2	+1	-3	-2	-2	-4
July	9	-2	+3	-1	-2	+4	-3	+2	+1	-3	0	-1	-5	+4	-2	+3	+1	-2	-2	-2	-4
	19	-2	+3	-1	-2	+5	-3	+3	+1	-2	0	0	-4	+4	-2	+3	+2	-2	-2	-2	-3
	29	-2	+3	-1	-1	+4	-2	+3	+2	-1	0	0	-4	+4	-1	+3	+2	-1	-2	-2	-3
Aug.	8	-2	+4	-2	-1	+4	-2	+4	+3	0	+1	0	-3	+3	0	+2	+2	-1	-1	-2	-2
	18	-2	+3	-2	-1	+3	-1	+3	+3	0	+1	0	-3	+2	0	+1	+2	-1	-1	-2	-2
	28	-2	+3	-2	-2	+2	-2	+3	+2	+1	0	-1	-3	+1	0	0	+2	-1	-2	-1	-2
Sept.	7	-2	+2	-2	-2	+2	-2	+3	+2	+1	0	0	-4	0	0	-1	+2	-1	-2	-1	-3
	17	-1	+2	-2	-3	+1	-2	+2	+2	+1	-1	0	-4	0	0	-1	+2	-1	-2	0	-3
	27	-1	+2	-1	-3	+1	-2	+2	+2	+1	-1	0	-4	0	0	-2	+2	-1	-3	+2	-3
Oct.	7	0	+2	0	-3	+1	-1	+1	+2	+1	0	+1	-3	0	+1	-2	+2	-1	-2	+3	-2
	17	0	+2	0	-2	+1	-1	0	+3	0	0	+1	-3	0	+1	-2	+2	-1	-2	+4	-2
	27	0	+2	+1	-2	+1	0	-1	+4	-1	+1	+1	-2	0	+2	-2	+3	-1	-2	+4	-1
Nov.	6	-1	+2	+1	-2	0	0	-3	+4	-2	+1	+1	-1	+1	+3	-3	+3	-1	-1	+4	-1
	16	-2	+2	+1	-2	0	+1	-4	+4	-3	+1	+1	-1	+1	+3	-3	+4	-2	-1	+4	-1
	26	-3	+2	0	-2	0	+1	-5	+4	-4	+1	+1	-1	+1	+3	-3	+3	-2	-1	+3	-1
Dec.	6	-4	+1	0	-3	0	0	-5	+4	-5	0	+1	-1	+2	+3	-2	+3	-3	-2	+3	-1
	16	-4	+1	0	-3	0	0	-4	+3	-4	0	+1	-2	+3	+3	-1	+2	-2	-2	+3	-1
	26	-4	0	0	-3	+1	0	-4	+3	-4	0	+2	-2	+4	+3	0	+2	-2	-3	+3	-1

TABLE 2 (continued)

		$A = \sin \epsilon \delta \lambda.$		$B = \delta \epsilon.$		Unit: 0 ^c 001.															
		1936		1937		1938		1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
Date		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Jan.	0	+3	-1	+3	+2	0	-1	0	-2	+1	-2	0	-2	0	-2	+1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1
	10	+2	-1	+3	+2	+1	-1	+1	-1	+2	-2	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1	-2	0	-1	-1	-1
	20	+2	0	+3	+3	+1	-1	+1	-1	+2	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	+2	-1	0	-1	-1	-1
	30	+2	+1	+2	+3	+1	0	+1	0	+2	-1	+2	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	-1	0	-1	0
Feb.	9	+1	+1	+1	+4	+1	0	+1	0	+2	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	-1	0	-1	0
	19	+1	+1	0	+3	0	0	+1	0	+2	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	0	-2	0	-1	0
Mar.	1	0	+1	-1	+3	0	0	+1	0	+2	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-2	0	-2	0
	11	+1	0	-1	+3	0	0	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1
	21	+2	0	-1	+2	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1
	31	+2	0	-1	+2	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	0	-1
Apr.	10	+3	0	-1	+2	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1
	20	+4	+1	-1	+3	0	0	0	+1	+1	+1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+1	0
	30	+4	+1	-1	+3	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	0
May	10	+4	+2	-1	+3	+1	+1	-1	+2	-1	+2	-2	+2	-1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1
	20	+3	+2	-2	+3	-2	+1	-2	+2	-1	+2	-2	+2	-1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1
	30	+3	+2	-2	+3	-3	+1	-2	+1	-2	+2	-2	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	0
June	9	+2	+1	-2	+2	-3	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	0
	19	+2	+1	-1	+2	-3	0	-2	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	0	+1	-1
	29	+2	+1	-1	+2	-2	0	-1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+2	+1	+2	0	+1	0	+2	-1
July	9	+1	+1	-1	+2	-2	0	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+1	+1	0	+2	0
	19	+1	+2	0	+2	-1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+3	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	+2	0
	29	+1	+2	-1	+2	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+3	+2	+2	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1
Aug.	8	0	+3	-1	+3	-1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+1	+2	+2	+2	+1	+2	0	+1	+1	+1
	18	-1	+3	-2	+2	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+1	+2	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1
	28	-1	+2	-2	+2	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1
Sept.	7	-1	+2	-3	+1	-1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	+1	0
	17	0	+2	-3	+1	0	0	+1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	+1	0
	27	+1	+2	-3	0	0	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	0	+1	-1	
Oct.	7	+2	+2	-3	0	0	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	0	+1	0
	17	+2	+2	-3	0	0	-1	+1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	+1	0
	27	+3	+3	-3	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	+1	0
Nov.	6	+3	+3	-3	+1	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	-2	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	+1	+1	+1
	16	+3	+3	-3	0	-1	0	-1	0	-2	0	-2	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	+1	0	+1
	26	+3	+3	-3	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	-2	0	-1	+1
Dec.	6	+3	+2	-3	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	-1	0
	16	+3	+2	-2	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
	26	+3	+2	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	-2	0	-2	0	-2	+1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1

TABLE 2 (continued)

		$A = \sin \epsilon \delta \lambda.$		$B = \delta \epsilon.$		Unit: 0 ^o 001.														
Date	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	l
Jan. 0	0	-1	-2	0	-2	0	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+2	-
10	0	0	-2	0	-1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+3	+1	+2	+1	+2	0	+2		
20	0	0	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+3	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	
30	0	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	+2	+
Feb. 9	0	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	+2	+
19	0	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+1	+2	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+
Mar. 1	-1	0	-1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	+1	
11	0	0	-1	0	0	0	+1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	+1	
21	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	+1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	+1	
31	+1	-1	0	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	0	0	+1	-
Apr. 10	+2	-1	+2	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	+1	
20	+2	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	+1	
30	+2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	+1	+
May 10	+2	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-2	0	-1	0	-1	0	-2	0	0	+1	0	+
20	+1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-2	0	-1	0	-1	0	-2	0	0	+1	-1	+
30	+1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	+
June 9	+1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	
19	+1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	
29	+1	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	0	-2	0	-2	+1	-2	0	-2	-1	-2	0	-1	-1	-
July 9	+1	-1	0	-1	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1	-2	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	
19	+1	0	+1	-1	+1	-1	+2	-1	+1	-2	+2	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	
29	+2	0	+1	0	+2	-1	+2	-1	+2	-1	+2	-1	+1	-1	-1	0	0	0	-1	
Aug. 8	+1	+1	+1	0	+2	0	+2	0	+1	-1	+2	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	+
18	+1	+1	0	0	+2	0	+2	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	+
28	+1	0	0	0	+2	0	+1	0	0	-1	+1	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	-1	0	-1	
Sept. 7	+1	0	0	0	+1	0	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	0	-1	
17	+1	0	0	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	0	-1	0	-
27	+1	-1	0	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1	0	-
Oct. 7	+1	0	0	0	+1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1	+1	-
17	+1	0	0	0	+1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+2	0	+1	
27	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	+2	0	+1	
Nov. 6	0	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+2	+1	+1	
16	-1	+1	-2	+1	-1	+2	-2	+2	-2	+2	0	+2	0	+1	0	+1	+2	+1	0	
26	-2	+1	-3	+1	-2	+1	-2	+2	-2	+2	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	
Dec. 6	-2	0	-3	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	0	0	
16	-2	0	-3	0	-2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	0	+2	-1	0	-
26	-2	0	-2	0	-1	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	+2	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+2	-1	0	-

It is, however, to be noted that these corrections should be applied to the apparent declination for the present, and still there remains a minor problem to be discussed in the future—to use them as corrections to the observed latitude given in Vols. 7 and 8, considering the method of reduction adopted in the above two volumes and the character of the \bar{z} -term.

The following reference table shows the values of the corrections that should be applied to the group mean of the apparent declinations at each common epoch during the years 1922–34 instead of giving the corrections to the individual star pairs.

TABLE OF $\Delta\delta_R$ FOR GROUP MEAN

Unit: 0'001

Fraction of year	Group	1922		1923		1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
		<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>
0.058	IV-V	—	—	+6	+8	+3	+5	+1	+3	-1	+2	-3	+1	-5	-1
.140	V-VI	—	—	0	+3	-4	0	-6	-2	-6	-2	-6	-4	-6	-4
.222	VI-VII	—	—	-7	-3	-9	-6	-9	-6	-10	-8	-9	-7	-7	-7
.305	VII-VIII	—	—	-7	-6	-8	-8	-9	-9	-8	-8	-6	-8	-4	-7
.389	VIII-IX	—	—	-5	-6	-6	-7	-5	-8	-3	-6	-1	-5	+1	-3
.472	IX-X	—	—	-4	-4	-3	-4	0	-2	+2	0	+4	+2	+8	+5
.555	X-XI	—	—	-3	-3	-1	-2	+2	0	+4	+3	+6	+5	+7	+6
.638	XI-XII	—	—	-1	-3	+2	+1	+4	+2	+4	+3	+4	+4	+3	+3
.721	XII-I	-1	-5	+1	-3	+3	-1	+3	+1	+3	+1	+1	+1	-2	0
.805	I-II	+1	-2	+3	0	+4	+2	+4	+3	+3	+3	+2	+2	-1	+1
.888	II-III	+7	+6	+7	+7	+7	+7	+5	+7	+3	+6	+2	+3	0	+3
.972	III-IV	+10	+10	+8	+10	+7	+9	+5	+7	+2	+4	-1	+3	-3	+1

Fraction of year	Group	1929		1930		1931		1932		1933		1934	
		<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>m</i>
0.058	IV-V	-5	-2	-4	-2	-3	-3	-3	-2	-1	-3	+1	-2
.140	V-VI	-5	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-2	-4	0	-2	+1	-2
.222	VI-VII	-7	-8	-5	-7	-4	-7	-2	-5	-2	-4	-1	-3
.305	VII-VIII	-2	-6	-2	-6	+1	-4	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1	0
.389	VIII-IX	+2	-2	+5	0	+5	+2	+5	+4	+6	+5	+6	+7
.472	IX-X	+8	+6	+9	+7	+9	+9	+8	+8	+7	+9	+5	+7
.555	X-XI	+6	+5	+5	+7	+4	+6	+3	+7	+1	+5	-1	+4
.638	XI-XII	+2	+4	0	+3	-1	+2	-3	+2	-4	+1	-5	0
.721	XII-I	-1	+1	-4	0	-5	-1	-5	-1	-7	-3	-6	-4
.805	I-II	-2	+1	-4	-1	-6	-3	-5	-4	-5	-5	-7	-7
.888	II-III	-2	0	-3	-1	-3	-3	-4	-4	-3	-5	-3	-5
.972	III-IV	-3	-1	-3	-1	-3	-3	-1	-3	-1	-3	0	-2

RAPPORT SUPPLÉMENTAIRE

WORK CARRIED OUT IN THE U.S.S.R. DURING 1948–51

In 1947, in Pulkovo, a zenith telescope was again installed in a new temporary wooden pavilion. In October 1948, a continuous series of observations with the zenith telescope on a new programme of ninety-three pairs and nine zenith stars was begun. 6250 observations were made until 1952.0; their reduction is done without delay, and upon the expiration of each month a certain preliminary value is obtained.

The article 'Preliminary Values of the Variations of Latitude of Pulkovo from 1948.0 to 1950.0' is being published. In addition, an important work, 'The Results of the Observations with the Pulkovo Zenith Telescope from 1929 to 1941', is ready for publication. This is the final homogeneous reduction of 14,788 observations. The corrections of inclination were derived by the catenary method, corrections of the screw-

pitch from the observations of the widest pairs were obtained on the value differences of latitude of one and the same evening from pairs most differing in z ; corrections of proper motions of pairs and, as a result, the final curve of the variation of latitude, were also obtained.

A. S. Vasilyev, who died during the war, conducted observations with a passage instrument in the prime vertical. All the unpublished material from this cycle of observations has now been prepared for publication. Approximately 6000 zenith distances have been obtained for the period indicated.

The Pulkovo observations with the zenith telescope and the passage instrument in the prime vertical gave, and are still giving, material for numerous investigations. In particular, V. Struve's observations of 1840–42 are being reworked and the expression for the components of 1.0 and 1.2 years obtained as follows:

$$\Delta\phi = 0''.11 \cos(300t - 87^\circ) + 0''.08 \cos(360^\circ t - 328^\circ),$$

and for the daily term:

$$\Delta\phi = 0''.05 \cos(t + 11^\text{h}).$$

Finally, the experiment determining the co-ordinates of the pole by means of a joint reduction of the results of the observations of latitude at Pulkovo from 1812 to 1925 is carried out.

PROPOSALS

ON QUESTIONS OF LATITUDE AND MOTIONS OF THE POLE

The idea of creating an international organization for the study of polar motions appeared about seventy years ago, when the determination of the secular displacement of the pole due to geological causes was especially borne in mind. Chandler's discoveries, made during the last two decades of the past century, directed the interests and the efforts of astronomers toward the search and study of the periodical variations of latitude, but Fergol's first idea, mentioned in Schiaparelli's report at the International Geodetic Conference at Rome in 1883, was almost forgotten. The programme of latitude observations developed by Helmert and Albrecht, adopted in 1889 and still retained with no substantial changes, is compiled in a manner that does not provide any material which would allow judging the nature of the slow variations of latitude. In view of this, it is still impossible to decide whether or not secular displacement of the pole exists.

The attempts to determine constant nutation according to international latitude observations also met with great difficulties. These difficulties, as also in the study of the secular motion of the pole, make it necessary to replace certain star pairs with new pairs from time to time. Therefore, the observations result as individual series and cannot possibly be well connected as a whole.

The few pairs which remained in the programme of the International Survey of Latitude from the beginning of its activities (there are only ten) cannot serve for a positive derivation of constant nutation and study of slow variations of latitude since, in the majority of them, the difference between the semi-sum of inclinations and latitude is already great and will increase in the future. Consequently, even small variations of the screw-pitch of the ocular micrometer not taken into consideration may considerably distort the observation results of these pairs.

Thus, in keeping the now adopted programme, the International Survey of Latitude will be unable to settle the question of the slow variations of latitude.

Furthermore, the reduction of the observations of the International Survey of Latitude requires a great deal of effort and time and consequently, the publication of its final results is greatly delayed and their practical value is therefore considerably diminished.

On the basis of these considerations, we think that in examining the question of improving the work of the International Survey of Latitude it is necessary to proceed from the following general requirements:

(1) It is necessary that the observations of the International Survey of Latitude offer data which would determine not only periodical, but secular variations.

(2) It is desirable that the method for reducing an observation be considerably simplified and more economical in relation to time and means employed. Preliminary results should be published immediately following the cycle of observations.

A programme to meet these basic requirements was drawn up at the Poltava Observatory after a series of tests and observations were begun in 1949 with two zenith telescopes of 110 and 135 mm. lens aperture respectively. This test showed that the observations according to the new programme, first, provide the material for the judgement of secular variations of latitude, practically free of errors in the adopted screw-pitch of the ocular micrometer, and secondly, allow receiving reliable data on periodical variations of latitude with approximately four times less computation than in the ordinary catenary method used by the International Survey of Latitude.

On the basis of the test of the Poltava Observatory, we recommend introducing the following changes into the programme of the International Survey of Latitude:

(1) Instead of the existing twelve-group programme, adopt a new four-group programme with mean right ascensions 0^h , 6^h , 12^h and 18^h (see p. 262), which should be observed not around midnight but at any time of the night, thus lengthening the observation period of each group up to five months.

(2) Reduce complete group observations only, that is, observations when not even one pair in a group would be omitted. Compute one mean latitude at each such observation by leaving out the computation of latitude in separate pairs. This method of reduction allows decreasing the volume of computation considerably.

(3) To determine secular variations of latitude use only the observations of the new groups recommended with mean right ascensions 6^h and 18^h . Observations of these groups may be continued during many centuries with results practically free of errors, whose source is the inaccuracy in the assumed screw-pitch of the ocular micrometer since the mean inclinations of the stars in each group are almost equal to the latitude and remain constant.

(4) In order to improve the connection between all previous programmes of the International Survey of Latitude and to derive accurate proper motions of stars of the new programme it is necessary to arrange the observations of the star inclinations of these programmes with the meridian instruments of various observatories in order to compile a special Catalogue of Stars of the International Survey of Latitude. Also, in order to derive absolute proper motions of stars of this catalogue in the future, it is desirable to attach them to the extragalactic nebulae through the Catalogue of Faint Stars which is now being observed in the Soviet Union.

The reworking of the latitude series on the basis of the inclinations of the new catalogue will permit obtaining more reliable values of the variations of mean latitudes of international stations.

In conclusion we should like to stress again the necessity of ascertaining and finally adopting the definitions 'mean latitude' and 'mean pole'. Concrete proposals on this question have already been made at the International Congress at Zürich in 1948 (see *Transactions of the I.A.U.* 1950, 7, 213).

A. YA. ORLOV.
YE. P. FEDOROV,
K. A. KULIKOV,
M. S. ZVEREV.

Mean Right Ascension 0^h

Pair no.	General Catalogue Star no.	Magnitude	α 1950.0	δ 1950.0	$\frac{1}{2}(\delta_s + \delta_n)$	z_{cp}																																																																																								
			h m	° ′	° ′	° ′																																																																																								
1	32209	5.9	23 5.0	20 51.8	39 7.2	18 15.4																																																																																								
	32416	7.4	14.6	57 22.5			2	32562	7.0	23 21.6	29 23.9	39 7.7	9 43.8	32684	6.4	27.7	48 51.4	3	32864	5.3	23 36.7	50 11.7	39 8.6	11 3.0	33041	7.4	46.1	28 5.6	4	33320	5.7	23 59.1	60 56.7	39 6.1	21 50.6	154	7.2	0 6.7	17 15.4	5	351	7.3	0 15.3	19 57.0	39 6.8	19 9.8	533	7.2	24.9	58 16.6	6	708	5.1	0 33.3	53 53.6	39 7.5	14 46.2	822	6.0	38.9	24 21.3	7	938	6.1	0 44.6	19 18.3	39 6.5	19 48.2	1115	4.8	53.7	58 54.7	8	1311	7.1	1 3.0	57 29.3	39 7.7	18 21.5	1437	4.9	8.8	20 46.2	Mean according to group					39 7.3					
2	32562	7.0	23 21.6	29 23.9	39 7.7	9 43.8																																																																																								
	32684	6.4	27.7	48 51.4			3	32864	5.3	23 36.7	50 11.7	39 8.6	11 3.0	33041	7.4	46.1	28 5.6	4	33320	5.7	23 59.1	60 56.7	39 6.1	21 50.6	154	7.2	0 6.7	17 15.4	5	351	7.3	0 15.3	19 57.0	39 6.8	19 9.8	533	7.2	24.9	58 16.6	6	708	5.1	0 33.3	53 53.6	39 7.5	14 46.2	822	6.0	38.9	24 21.3	7	938	6.1	0 44.6	19 18.3	39 6.5	19 48.2	1115	4.8	53.7	58 54.7	8	1311	7.1	1 3.0	57 29.3	39 7.7	18 21.5	1437	4.9	8.8	20 46.2	Mean according to group					39 7.3							+0.33									
3	32864	5.3	23 36.7	50 11.7	39 8.6	11 3.0																																																																																								
	33041	7.4	46.1	28 5.6			4	33320	5.7	23 59.1	60 56.7	39 6.1	21 50.6	154	7.2	0 6.7	17 15.4	5	351	7.3	0 15.3	19 57.0	39 6.8	19 9.8	533	7.2	24.9	58 16.6	6	708	5.1	0 33.3	53 53.6	39 7.5	14 46.2	822	6.0	38.9	24 21.3	7	938	6.1	0 44.6	19 18.3	39 6.5	19 48.2	1115	4.8	53.7	58 54.7	8	1311	7.1	1 3.0	57 29.3	39 7.7	18 21.5	1437	4.9	8.8	20 46.2	Mean according to group					39 7.3							+0.33																				
4	33320	5.7	23 59.1	60 56.7	39 6.1	21 50.6																																																																																								
	154	7.2	0 6.7	17 15.4			5	351	7.3	0 15.3	19 57.0	39 6.8	19 9.8	533	7.2	24.9	58 16.6	6	708	5.1	0 33.3	53 53.6	39 7.5	14 46.2	822	6.0	38.9	24 21.3	7	938	6.1	0 44.6	19 18.3	39 6.5	19 48.2	1115	4.8	53.7	58 54.7	8	1311	7.1	1 3.0	57 29.3	39 7.7	18 21.5	1437	4.9	8.8	20 46.2	Mean according to group					39 7.3							+0.33																															
5	351	7.3	0 15.3	19 57.0	39 6.8	19 9.8																																																																																								
	533	7.2	24.9	58 16.6			6	708	5.1	0 33.3	53 53.6	39 7.5	14 46.2	822	6.0	38.9	24 21.3	7	938	6.1	0 44.6	19 18.3	39 6.5	19 48.2	1115	4.8	53.7	58 54.7	8	1311	7.1	1 3.0	57 29.3	39 7.7	18 21.5	1437	4.9	8.8	20 46.2	Mean according to group					39 7.3							+0.33																																										
6	708	5.1	0 33.3	53 53.6	39 7.5	14 46.2																																																																																								
	822	6.0	38.9	24 21.3			7	938	6.1	0 44.6	19 18.3	39 6.5	19 48.2	1115	4.8	53.7	58 54.7	8	1311	7.1	1 3.0	57 29.3	39 7.7	18 21.5	1437	4.9	8.8	20 46.2	Mean according to group					39 7.3							+0.33																																																					
7	938	6.1	0 44.6	19 18.3	39 6.5	19 48.2																																																																																								
	1115	4.8	53.7	58 54.7			8	1311	7.1	1 3.0	57 29.3	39 7.7	18 21.5	1437	4.9	8.8	20 46.2	Mean according to group					39 7.3							+0.33																																																																
8	1311	7.1	1 3.0	57 29.3	39 7.7	18 21.5																																																																																								
	1437	4.9	8.8	20 46.2			Mean according to group					39 7.3							+0.33																																																																											
Mean according to group					39 7.3																																																																																									
					+0.33																																																																																									

Mean Right Ascension 6^h0

Pair no.	General Catalogue Star no.	Magnitude	α 1950.0	δ 1950.0	$\frac{1}{2}(\delta_s + \delta_n)$	z_{cp}																																																																																								
			h m	° ′	° ′	° ′																																																																																								
1	6086	6.7	4 56.9	39 34.9	39 6.2	0 28.8																																																																																								
	6291	7.0	5 6.2	38 37.4			2	6689	5.9	5 23.5	34 21.0	39 7.6	4 46.6	6876	7.2	30.5	43 54.3	3	7122	7.3	5 39.5	50 40.8	39 6.5	11 34.3	7299	7.3	46.5	27 32.2	4	7426	5.8	5 51.7	31 41.8	39 8.6	7 26.8	7674	7.0	6 0.9	46 35.3	5	7888	6.0	6 9.1	32 42.4	39 10.2	6 27.8	8157	7.4	18.1	45 38.1	6	8367	7.6	6 25.2	34 31.5	39 8.2	4 36.6	8565	7.1	32.3	43 44.8	7	8724	6.3	6 38.3	35 58.8	39 9.0	3 10.2	8829	7.2	42.6	42 19.1	8	8995	6.2	6 49.7	35 51.0	39 7.0	3 16.0	9158	6.6	55.8	42 23.0	Mean according to group					39 7.9					
2	6689	5.9	5 23.5	34 21.0	39 7.6	4 46.6																																																																																								
	6876	7.2	30.5	43 54.3			3	7122	7.3	5 39.5	50 40.8	39 6.5	11 34.3	7299	7.3	46.5	27 32.2	4	7426	5.8	5 51.7	31 41.8	39 8.6	7 26.8	7674	7.0	6 0.9	46 35.3	5	7888	6.0	6 9.1	32 42.4	39 10.2	6 27.8	8157	7.4	18.1	45 38.1	6	8367	7.6	6 25.2	34 31.5	39 8.2	4 36.6	8565	7.1	32.3	43 44.8	7	8724	6.3	6 38.3	35 58.8	39 9.0	3 10.2	8829	7.2	42.6	42 19.1	8	8995	6.2	6 49.7	35 51.0	39 7.0	3 16.0	9158	6.6	55.8	42 23.0	Mean according to group					39 7.9							-0.005									
3	7122	7.3	5 39.5	50 40.8	39 6.5	11 34.3																																																																																								
	7299	7.3	46.5	27 32.2			4	7426	5.8	5 51.7	31 41.8	39 8.6	7 26.8	7674	7.0	6 0.9	46 35.3	5	7888	6.0	6 9.1	32 42.4	39 10.2	6 27.8	8157	7.4	18.1	45 38.1	6	8367	7.6	6 25.2	34 31.5	39 8.2	4 36.6	8565	7.1	32.3	43 44.8	7	8724	6.3	6 38.3	35 58.8	39 9.0	3 10.2	8829	7.2	42.6	42 19.1	8	8995	6.2	6 49.7	35 51.0	39 7.0	3 16.0	9158	6.6	55.8	42 23.0	Mean according to group					39 7.9							-0.005																				
4	7426	5.8	5 51.7	31 41.8	39 8.6	7 26.8																																																																																								
	7674	7.0	6 0.9	46 35.3			5	7888	6.0	6 9.1	32 42.4	39 10.2	6 27.8	8157	7.4	18.1	45 38.1	6	8367	7.6	6 25.2	34 31.5	39 8.2	4 36.6	8565	7.1	32.3	43 44.8	7	8724	6.3	6 38.3	35 58.8	39 9.0	3 10.2	8829	7.2	42.6	42 19.1	8	8995	6.2	6 49.7	35 51.0	39 7.0	3 16.0	9158	6.6	55.8	42 23.0	Mean according to group					39 7.9							-0.005																															
5	7888	6.0	6 9.1	32 42.4	39 10.2	6 27.8																																																																																								
	8157	7.4	18.1	45 38.1			6	8367	7.6	6 25.2	34 31.5	39 8.2	4 36.6	8565	7.1	32.3	43 44.8	7	8724	6.3	6 38.3	35 58.8	39 9.0	3 10.2	8829	7.2	42.6	42 19.1	8	8995	6.2	6 49.7	35 51.0	39 7.0	3 16.0	9158	6.6	55.8	42 23.0	Mean according to group					39 7.9							-0.005																																										
6	8367	7.6	6 25.2	34 31.5	39 8.2	4 36.6																																																																																								
	8565	7.1	32.3	43 44.8			7	8724	6.3	6 38.3	35 58.8	39 9.0	3 10.2	8829	7.2	42.6	42 19.1	8	8995	6.2	6 49.7	35 51.0	39 7.0	3 16.0	9158	6.6	55.8	42 23.0	Mean according to group					39 7.9							-0.005																																																					
7	8724	6.3	6 38.3	35 58.8	39 9.0	3 10.2																																																																																								
	8829	7.2	42.6	42 19.1			8	8995	6.2	6 49.7	35 51.0	39 7.0	3 16.0	9158	6.6	55.8	42 23.0	Mean according to group					39 7.9							-0.005																																																																
8	8995	6.2	6 49.7	35 51.0	39 7.0	3 16.0																																																																																								
	9158	6.6	55.8	42 23.0			Mean according to group					39 7.9							-0.005																																																																											
Mean according to group					39 7.9																																																																																									
					-0.005																																																																																									

Mean Right Ascension 12^h0

Pair no.	General Catalogue Star no.	Magnitude	α 1950.0	δ 1950.0	$\frac{1}{2}(\delta_s + \delta_n)$	z_{cp}																																																																																	
			h m	° ′	° ′	° ′																																																																																	
1	15039	6.4	10 53.9	25 46.0	39 10.9	13 24.9																																																																																	
	15251	7.3	11 3.0	52 35.8			2	15517	6.7	11 14.5	60 32.7	39 7.7	21 25.0	15618	7.0	19.9	17 42.7	3	15781	6.8	11 27.8	43 51.2	39 10.1	4 41.1	16035	5.5	38.4	34 29.0	4	16180	7.0	11 46.0	29 4.7	39 8.7	10 4.0	16285	7.4	52.1	49 12.8	5	16442	6.6	11 59.2	22 22.4	39 10.7	16 48.3	16671	7.4	12 9.8	55 59.0	6	16804	6.3	12 17.0	28 26.2	39 10.4	10 44.2	17008	7.1	26.3	49 54.7	7	17404	5.9	12 46.5	60 35.5	39 8.1	21 27.4	17616	5.0	56.5	17 40.7	8	17768	7.4	13 3.9	41 11.4	39 10.2	2 1.1	17912	6.7	11.3	37 9.1	Mean according to group			
2	15517	6.7	11 14.5	60 32.7	39 7.7	21 25.0																																																																																	
	15618	7.0	19.9	17 42.7			3	15781	6.8	11 27.8	43 51.2	39 10.1	4 41.1	16035	5.5	38.4	34 29.0	4	16180	7.0	11 46.0	29 4.7	39 8.7	10 4.0	16285	7.4	52.1	49 12.8	5	16442	6.6	11 59.2	22 22.4	39 10.7	16 48.3	16671	7.4	12 9.8	55 59.0	6	16804	6.3	12 17.0	28 26.2	39 10.4	10 44.2	17008	7.1	26.3	49 54.7	7	17404	5.9	12 46.5	60 35.5	39 8.1	21 27.4	17616	5.0	56.5	17 40.7	8	17768	7.4	13 3.9	41 11.4	39 10.2	2 1.1	17912	6.7	11.3	37 9.1	Mean according to group					39 9.6	-0.33								
3	15781	6.8	11 27.8	43 51.2	39 10.1	4 41.1																																																																																	
	16035	5.5	38.4	34 29.0			4	16180	7.0	11 46.0	29 4.7	39 8.7	10 4.0	16285	7.4	52.1	49 12.8	5	16442	6.6	11 59.2	22 22.4	39 10.7	16 48.3	16671	7.4	12 9.8	55 59.0	6	16804	6.3	12 17.0	28 26.2	39 10.4	10 44.2	17008	7.1	26.3	49 54.7	7	17404	5.9	12 46.5	60 35.5	39 8.1	21 27.4	17616	5.0	56.5	17 40.7	8	17768	7.4	13 3.9	41 11.4	39 10.2	2 1.1	17912	6.7	11.3	37 9.1	Mean according to group					39 9.6	-0.33																			
4	16180	7.0	11 46.0	29 4.7	39 8.7	10 4.0																																																																																	
	16285	7.4	52.1	49 12.8			5	16442	6.6	11 59.2	22 22.4	39 10.7	16 48.3	16671	7.4	12 9.8	55 59.0	6	16804	6.3	12 17.0	28 26.2	39 10.4	10 44.2	17008	7.1	26.3	49 54.7	7	17404	5.9	12 46.5	60 35.5	39 8.1	21 27.4	17616	5.0	56.5	17 40.7	8	17768	7.4	13 3.9	41 11.4	39 10.2	2 1.1	17912	6.7	11.3	37 9.1	Mean according to group					39 9.6	-0.33																														
5	16442	6.6	11 59.2	22 22.4	39 10.7	16 48.3																																																																																	
	16671	7.4	12 9.8	55 59.0			6	16804	6.3	12 17.0	28 26.2	39 10.4	10 44.2	17008	7.1	26.3	49 54.7	7	17404	5.9	12 46.5	60 35.5	39 8.1	21 27.4	17616	5.0	56.5	17 40.7	8	17768	7.4	13 3.9	41 11.4	39 10.2	2 1.1	17912	6.7	11.3	37 9.1	Mean according to group					39 9.6	-0.33																																									
6	16804	6.3	12 17.0	28 26.2	39 10.4	10 44.2																																																																																	
	17008	7.1	26.3	49 54.7			7	17404	5.9	12 46.5	60 35.5	39 8.1	21 27.4	17616	5.0	56.5	17 40.7	8	17768	7.4	13 3.9	41 11.4	39 10.2	2 1.1	17912	6.7	11.3	37 9.1	Mean according to group					39 9.6	-0.33																																																				
7	17404	5.9	12 46.5	60 35.5	39 8.1	21 27.4																																																																																	
	17616	5.0	56.5	17 40.7			8	17768	7.4	13 3.9	41 11.4	39 10.2	2 1.1	17912	6.7	11.3	37 9.1	Mean according to group					39 9.6	-0.33																																																															
8	17768	7.4	13 3.9	41 11.4	39 10.2	2 1.1																																																																																	
	17912	6.7	11.3	37 9.1			Mean according to group					39 9.6	-0.33																																																																										
Mean according to group					39 9.6	-0.33																																																																																	

Mean Right Ascension 18^h0

Pair no.	General Catalogue Star no.	Magnitude	α 1950.0	δ 1950.0	$\frac{1}{2}(\delta_s + \delta_n)$	z_{cp}																																																																																	
			h m	° ′	° ′	° ′																																																																																	
1	22933	7.0	16 58.3	34 24.7	39 8.7	4 44.0																																																																																	
	23073	6.4	17 3.6	43 52.7			2	23224	7.1	17 10.2	56 43.2	39 8.6	17 34.6	23441	7.0	18.6	21 34.1	3	23841	6.8	17 33.0	34 47.0	39 8.4	4 21.4	23993	6.7	39.1	43 29.7	4	24251	5.9	17 48.7	22 19.7	39 9.1	16 49.4	24410	6.1	54.5	55 58.5	5	24633	6.2	18 2.6	23 56.3	39 6.3	15 10.0	24820	5.9	9.5	54 16.3	6	25137	5.0	18 22.6	39 28.7	39 8.2	0 20.5	25352	6.9	31.2	38 47.7	7	25732	5.9	18 44.6	41 23.2	39 8.8	2 14.4	25934	5.5	52.0	36 54.5	8	26150	6.7	18 59.3	42 10.9	39 6.0	3 4.8	26338	5.1	19 5.5	36 1.2	Mean according to group			
2	23224	7.1	17 10.2	56 43.2	39 8.6	17 34.6																																																																																	
	23441	7.0	18.6	21 34.1			3	23841	6.8	17 33.0	34 47.0	39 8.4	4 21.4	23993	6.7	39.1	43 29.7	4	24251	5.9	17 48.7	22 19.7	39 9.1	16 49.4	24410	6.1	54.5	55 58.5	5	24633	6.2	18 2.6	23 56.3	39 6.3	15 10.0	24820	5.9	9.5	54 16.3	6	25137	5.0	18 22.6	39 28.7	39 8.2	0 20.5	25352	6.9	31.2	38 47.7	7	25732	5.9	18 44.6	41 23.2	39 8.8	2 14.4	25934	5.5	52.0	36 54.5	8	26150	6.7	18 59.3	42 10.9	39 6.0	3 4.8	26338	5.1	19 5.5	36 1.2	Mean according to group					39 8.0	0.00								
3	23841	6.8	17 33.0	34 47.0	39 8.4	4 21.4																																																																																	
	23993	6.7	39.1	43 29.7			4	24251	5.9	17 48.7	22 19.7	39 9.1	16 49.4	24410	6.1	54.5	55 58.5	5	24633	6.2	18 2.6	23 56.3	39 6.3	15 10.0	24820	5.9	9.5	54 16.3	6	25137	5.0	18 22.6	39 28.7	39 8.2	0 20.5	25352	6.9	31.2	38 47.7	7	25732	5.9	18 44.6	41 23.2	39 8.8	2 14.4	25934	5.5	52.0	36 54.5	8	26150	6.7	18 59.3	42 10.9	39 6.0	3 4.8	26338	5.1	19 5.5	36 1.2	Mean according to group					39 8.0	0.00																			
4	24251	5.9	17 48.7	22 19.7	39 9.1	16 49.4																																																																																	
	24410	6.1	54.5	55 58.5			5	24633	6.2	18 2.6	23 56.3	39 6.3	15 10.0	24820	5.9	9.5	54 16.3	6	25137	5.0	18 22.6	39 28.7	39 8.2	0 20.5	25352	6.9	31.2	38 47.7	7	25732	5.9	18 44.6	41 23.2	39 8.8	2 14.4	25934	5.5	52.0	36 54.5	8	26150	6.7	18 59.3	42 10.9	39 6.0	3 4.8	26338	5.1	19 5.5	36 1.2	Mean according to group					39 8.0	0.00																														
5	24633	6.2	18 2.6	23 56.3	39 6.3	15 10.0																																																																																	
	24820	5.9	9.5	54 16.3			6	25137	5.0	18 22.6	39 28.7	39 8.2	0 20.5	25352	6.9	31.2	38 47.7	7	25732	5.9	18 44.6	41 23.2	39 8.8	2 14.4	25934	5.5	52.0	36 54.5	8	26150	6.7	18 59.3	42 10.9	39 6.0	3 4.8	26338	5.1	19 5.5	36 1.2	Mean according to group					39 8.0	0.00																																									
6	25137	5.0	18 22.6	39 28.7	39 8.2	0 20.5																																																																																	
	25352	6.9	31.2	38 47.7			7	25732	5.9	18 44.6	41 23.2	39 8.8	2 14.4	25934	5.5	52.0	36 54.5	8	26150	6.7	18 59.3	42 10.9	39 6.0	3 4.8	26338	5.1	19 5.5	36 1.2	Mean according to group					39 8.0	0.00																																																				
7	25732	5.9	18 44.6	41 23.2	39 8.8	2 14.4																																																																																	
	25934	5.5	52.0	36 54.5			8	26150	6.7	18 59.3	42 10.9	39 6.0	3 4.8	26338	5.1	19 5.5	36 1.2	Mean according to group					39 8.0	0.00																																																															
8	26150	6.7	18 59.3	42 10.9	39 6.0	3 4.8																																																																																	
	26338	5.1	19 5.5	36 1.2			Mean according to group					39 8.0	0.00																																																																										
Mean according to group					39 8.0	0.00																																																																																	

Comptes-rendus des séances

PRÉSIDENT: M. P. SOLLENBERGER.

SECRÉTAIRE: M. A. MARUSSI.

Le séance. 5 septembre 1952

Le Président ouvre la séance de la Commission, et souligne que d'importants progrès ont été réalisés dans l'étude du problème de la variation des latitudes, soit au point de vue théorique, soit dans le domaine instrumental. Le Prof. Gino Cecchini, qui est actuellement le Directeur du Service International des Latitudes, va donner à la Commission un rapport sur l'activité du Service, et sur les résultats qui ont été réalisés; mais il faut d'abord remarquer avec satisfaction que d'autres observatoires, ne faisant pas partie du réseau du Service, mais dont les observations seraient du plus grand intérêt pour le problème qui occupe la Commission, se sont ajoutés tout récemment. Deux de ces nouveaux observatoires sont dans l'hémisphère sud: l'un à La Plata, l'autre à Canberra. D'autres observatoires, tels que ceux d'Ottawa au Canada, de Richmond en Floride (Etats Unis) et certains au Japon ont été pourvus de Tubes Zénithaux Photographiques. Un instrument semblable se trouve actuellement en construction à l'Observatoire de Greenwich, et d'autres seront construits par la maison allemande 'Askania'

Au sujet de l'organisation du Service des latitudes, il y aura lieu de discuter les questions suivantes, dont les deux premières ont été soulevées par le Prof. Cecchini, et la dernière par M. Walter D. Lambert:

1. Les instruments du réseau international étant assez vieux, la question se pose de décider s'il convient de changer leurs niveaux et micromètres, ou s'il vaut mieux envisager leur remplacement par des instruments tout à fait nouveaux, en modifiant en conséquence aussi les méthodes d'observation.

2. Façon d'utiliser les observations des stations qui ne font pas partie du réseau fondamental.

3. Il y a à présent deux théories pour expliquer la variation séculaire des latitudes: l'une admet un déplacement lent du pôle moyen en direction de l'Amérique du Nord, l'autre des mouvements de la croûte terrestre. Les résultats du Prof. Cecchini semblent confirmer en particulier des mouvements très marqués pour les stations de Mizusawa et de Kitab; mais l'évidence de ces mouvements n'est pas complètement hors de discussion. On souhaite par conséquent une réorganisation du Service en vue aussi de ce problème, les géodésiens et les géologues devraient y apporter leur contribution aussi bien que les astronomes qui devraient reprendre les observations des latitudes effectuées dans le passé lointain. La campagne mondiale des longitudes devrait pareillement donner d'importants résultats (voir en annexe no. 1 la lettre que le Dr W. D. Lambert a adressée au Président et à plusieurs membres de la Commission).

Au sujet de l'organisation du Service des latitudes, M. Pierre Tardi, Secrétaire Général de l'Association Internationale de Géodésie, rappelle que ce Service est subventionné spécialement par l'U.N.E.S.C.O. Jusqu'à 1952 cette subvention était reçue en partie par l'Union Astronomique Intern., et en partie par l'Union Géodésique et Géophysique Intern. Depuis 1952, seule l'U.G.G.I. reçoit la partie destinée au Service des Latitudes, et inversement l'U.A.I. reçoit la totalité de la subvention pour le Bureau International de l'Heure. Cette façon de faire simplifie bien la comptabilité de l'U.N.E.S.C.O., mais présente l'inconvénient que dorénavant l'U.A.I. n'aura plus d'intérêt financier dans le Service des Latitudes, pas plus que l'U.G.G.I. n'en aura dans le Bureau International de l'Heure. Pour éviter cet inconvénient, l'Association Internationale de Géodésie (qui fait partie de l'U.G.G.I.) a décidé de donner sur ses propres ressources une petite subvention (de \$400) au Bureau International de l'Heure; et il est demandé que l'U.A.I. fasse la même chose pour le Service des Latitudes. Une proposition en ce sens a été transmise au Secrétariat Général.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones demande si les fonds dont il est question sont destinés aussi à la publication des résultats.

M. Laclavère, Secrétaire Général de l'Union Géodésique et Géophysique Internationale explique que les contributions de l'U.N.E.S.C.O. dont on a parlé proviennent de la catégorie 'services scientifiques permanents'; pour les publications il y aura lieu de demander autres crédits à l'U.N.E.S.C.O., lorsque le rapport sera prêt. La période prévue par le Service étant de 7 ans, on en reparlera en 1955.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones demande encore l'état d'avancement du rapport pour la période se terminant fin 1948, pendant laquelle le Service se trouvait sous la direction du Prof. Luigi Carnera; le Prof. Carnera n'étant pas présent à la séance, M. Tardi se réserve de lui demander des nouvelles à ce sujet.

M. Cecchini lit ensuite son rapport pour la période 1949-Juin 1952. Ce rapport se trouve publié 'in extenso' (voir annexe no. 2) à la suite du présent compte-rendu.

Ile séance. 10 septembre 1952

M. Cecchini informe que le Prof. Luigi Carnera a fait parvenir il y a quelques jours un rapport sur l'activité du Service international des latitudes pendant la période de sa direction, c'est-à-dire de 1935 à 1938. Le rapport du Prof. Carnera, qui se trouve publié en annexe no. 3, est lu par M. Cecchini.

M. Sollenberger souligne l'importance de la connaissance du mouvement du pôle pour la détermination précise du temps; c'est ainsi que semaine par semaine les observations de latitude faites par le Naval Observatory de Washington, sont envoyées à Greenwich. Serait-il possible de demander au Service des latitudes d'envoyer immédiatement les résultats provisoires des observations au Naval Observatory, et aux autres services du temps qui le désireraient?

Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Directeur de l'Observatoire de Greenwich, est parfaitement d'accord avec M. Sollenberger, et apprécie vivement les données qu'il reçoit de Washington qui sont exploitées semaine par semaine pour la prédiction du mouvement du pôle; mais il serait nécessaire que le Service des latitudes fasse la même chose.

M. Cecchini demande si les observatoires de Washington et de Greenwich sont les seuls qui désirent ces données, et assure qu'il est prêt à envoyer les résultats provisoires à tous ceux qui lui en feront la demande. M. Cecchini remarque encore qu'il ne sera possible d'envoyer immédiatement que les résultats provisoires de Carloforte et Mizusawa; seules ces stations lui font parvenir sans délai les observations; les autres transmettent leurs valeurs avec des retards très forts, atteignant une année pour Kitab par exemple.

M. Sollenberger souligne son grand intérêt pour les données de Carloforte, qui se trouve à peu près à 90° de longitude de Washington.

Passant à un autre sujet, M. Sollenberger appelle l'attention de la Commission sur le fait que récemment plusieurs observatoires munis d'instruments très précis, tels que le PZT, autres que ceux du réseau international, ont effectué des observations systématiques de latitude; ce sont par exemple les observatoires de Washington, de Richmond, de Greenwich, de Canberra, etc. Il faut étudier la façon de tirer parti de ces observations pour améliorer notre connaissance du mouvement du pôle. On doit remarquer à ce sujet que tous ces observatoires peuvent fournir des valeurs déjà réduites.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones pense que l'introduction de nouveaux instruments, tel que le PZT, pose le problème d'une révision générale du Service actuel. M. Cecchini a attiré à maintes reprises l'attention de la Commission sur la nécessité de remplacer les vieux micromètres, et sur les difficultés de tenir exactement compte du coefficient de température. Le PZT résoud ces difficultés, dans la mesure où l'échelle des plaques peut être déterminée pour chaque observation séparément. Sir Harold Spencer Jones reconnaît qu'au contraire le PZT introduit des difficultés au programme d'observation, mais ce sont des difficultés qui peuvent être surmontées.

M. Nemiro désire que les données provisoires des latitudes soient envoyées aussi en Russie; de leur côté les astronomes russes sont prêts à envoyer au Prof. Cecchini les résultats de leurs observations de latitude faites à Pulkovo et Kazan au Tube Zénithal. Au sujet de ces observations, M. Nemiro souligne la rapidité par laquelle les calculs

peuvent être accomplis. Comme il est dit dans le rapport présenté par la délégation soviétique, le temps de calcul se réduit à un quart à peu près. Suivant l'avis de M. Nemiro, la méthode d'observation et de calcul envisagée par les astronomes russes pourrait être adoptée par le Service International.

M. Tardi rappelle que le Service International des latitudes avait été créé en 1880 suivant une ligne exactement marquée: stations sur le même parallèle, mêmes étoiles, observations homogènes et équilibrées entre elles. On propose maintenant de modifier ce programme unifié par l'introduction d'observations individuellement sans doute plus précises, mais qui ne font pas partie du programme initial. M. Tardi craint que le Service des latitudes n'ait pas la possibilité matérielle de s'intéresser à autre chose qu'à son programme fondamental.

M. Sollenberger pense qu'il y a un malentendu. Il est bien entendu que le Service des latitudes ne doit pas se laisser distraire de sa tâche; il s'agirait pour le moment de faire tout simplement des confrontations de ces résultats avec ceux que l'on obtient par d'autres méthodes et d'autres programmes.

M. Cecchini déclare d'ailleurs être prêt à étudier les résultats obtenus par le PZT, qu'il sera heureux de recevoir.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones à son tour remarque qu'il y a à l'heure actuelle d'autres observatoires de latitude, tels que La Plata et Adelaide dans l'hémisphère sud, dont les observations sont d'une très grande importance pour le perfectionnement de notre connaissance de la polodie; ces observations sont d'ailleurs aussi très intéressantes du point de vue saisonnier. Mais Spencer Jones est lui aussi d'avis que les résultats obtenus par ces observatoires doivent être utilisés sans interférer avec le travail du Service des latitudes.

Néanmoins, la proposition soviétique doit être sérieusement considérée; si le PZT donne des résultats meilleurs, on doit étudier une modification éventuelle du Service actuel. En particulier, le programme d'observation devrait être étendu sur un intervalle de temps plus long, comprenant une grande partie de la nuit, et ne pas se borner à une courte période autour de minuit comme actuellement.

Le Président propose qu'à la suite des discussions on adopte la résolution suivante: (1) Le Bureau Central du Service International des Latitudes sera invité à communiquer le plus tôt possible aux observatoires intéressés à la détermination du temps les résultats des observations réduites d'une façon provisoire. (2) Les observatoires du Service seront invités à transmettre au plus vite les observations déjà réduites provisoirement au Bureau Central. (3) Le Bureau Central sera invité à effectuer des comparaisons avec les mouvements du pôle déterminés par d'autres observatoires que ceux du Service.

A M. Tardi qui demande si ces nouvelles tâches seront compatibles avec l'activité du Bureau, M. Cecchini répond qu'il espère qu'il en sera ainsi; et qu'en tout cas il est vivement intéressé à la question.

Le vœu a été adopté par la Commission et ensuite par l'Assemblée de l'Union (voir liste des vœux).

M. Zverev remarque que la question de la substitution du PZT aux anciens instruments dans les stations du Service International n'a pas été discutée. On a dit à plusieurs reprises que les anciens instruments du Service, ainsi que le programme d'observation, doivent être améliorés. Il faut donc prendre une décision à ce sujet. M. Zverev souligne encore les avantages que l'on aurait en précision et en économie, en adoptant la méthode Pulkowo. Cette méthode consisterait à déterminer aussi avec beaucoup de précision le mouvement séculaire du pôle moyen. Le Bureau Central serait très avantage par l'adoption de cette méthode, étant donné que les valeurs réduites pourraient lui être envoyées dans un délai très court.

M. Cecchini affirme que le programme actuel ne peut en tout cas être modifié avant la fin de 1954, puisque la période qui s'étend jusque là est occupée par la détermination de la constante de nutation, dont le cycle est de 19–20 années; en 1954 va se fermer en outre le cycle de six ans commencé en 1949. Il y a donc le temps pour étudier des modifications.

M. Silva remarque que dans le programme international les déclinaisons des étoiles

n'ont pas d'importance pour la connaissance de la forme et des dimensions de la polodie; et pourtant le programme du Service ne devrait pas être modifié radicalement.

M. Tardi remarque à son tour que pour une modification du programme, le délai d'une année n'est pas trop long. Il fait à ce sujet la proposition d'inviter le Comité Exécutif de l'Union à nommer une Commission restreinte d'experts.

M. Markowitz remarque qu'il est peut-être aussi trop tôt pour parler d'une modification radicale des programmes; l'emploi du PZT en est à ses débuts; et il y a d'ailleurs à considérer de nouvelles techniques telles que celles proposées par M. Danjon et par les astronomes russes.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones se déclare d'accord avec la proposition de M. Tardi. La décision à prendre est très grave, et elle ne peut être étudiée que par un comité d'experts.

IIIe séance. 12 septembre 1952

La Commission 19 a tenu une dernière réunion le vendredi 12 septembre à 11 h. 30 sous la présidence de M. Sollenberger.

Les fonctions de secrétaire étaient tenues par M. P. Tardi, M. A. Marussi faisant fonction d'interprète.

Le Président propose le texte de la résolution ci-après, qui pourrait être transmis au Comité Exécutif de l'Union Astronomique Internationale:

Recommandation pour le Comité Exécutif

La Commission de la Variation des Latitudes, réunie le 12 septembre 1952, ayant été saisie par plusieurs propositions qui entraîneraient des changements essentiels dans l'organisation du Service des Latitudes, de la technique instrumentale, et des méthodes de calcul et d'exploitation des résultats, constate l'impossibilité de résoudre ces problèmes au cours de l'Assemblée Générale, et demande au Comité Exécutif de l'Union de désigner un groupe d'experts qui devrait se réunir avant la fin de 1953, pour discuter en détail les différents problèmes posés, et présenter ses conclusions à l'Union.

Une discussion a lieu à ce sujet et M. Tardi fait remarquer que l'Association Internationale de Géodésie se réunira à Rome en 1954, c'est à cette occasion qu'il paraîtrait le plus opportun de discuter des modifications à apporter à l'Organisation du Service. Cette proposition est acceptée et la Commission décide de transmettre de préférence au Comité Exécutif la résolution ci-après (qui effectivement a été adoptée par l'U.A.I. dans son Assemblée plénière du 13 septembre)

It is recommended that a special meeting of persons interested be held in Rome at the time of the Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in 1954, for the purpose of considering questions concerned with the determination of the variation of latitude. The subjects considered should include proposed changes in methods of observing and reductions, as well as means for making the preliminary results of the Central Bureau more readily available for the use of observatories which determine time.

La Commission discute la proposition présentée par le Comité National japonais demandant de ne pas changer le programme d'observation pendant une période de 18 années. Cette proposition sera discutée plus en détail à la réunion qui sera tenue à Rome en 1954.

La Commission prend connaissance d'une lettre adressée par le Prof. Tsuboi et le Prof. Nishimura au Dr Rice, lettre dont on trouvera le texte ci-après. Cette lettre répond à une lettre du 21 août du Dr W. D. Lambert dont il a été question au cours des réunions précédentes.

La Commission prend également connaissance d'une communication adressée à M. Walter D. Lambert par M. Cecchini.

Dr D. A. RICE,
Hotel Mediterraneo,
Via Cavour 17,
Rome, Italy

1 September 1952

Dear Dr Rice,

We have received a letter of August 21 from Doctor Walter D. Lambert inquiring about the problem of secular variation of latitude. Briefly speaking, our opinion, judged from various geophysical observations, is as follows:

1. Several metres' displacement of the observation station relative to the surrounding points within one or two hundred kilometres is never observed in Japan.

2. It cannot be ascertained in the present state that there exists or not a continental drift of large scale. And it must be determined by co-operative observations of latitude and longitude at many more stations, especially in the southern hemisphere.

3. Our opinion is that the observed secular variation of latitude is generally a world-wide phenomenon. But if there is any local change peculiar to a station, it is reasonably interpreted by local timely change of direction of plumb-line at the station instead of local crustal displacement of the station. Really a change of several seconds in angle of plumb-line is occasionally observed in the epicentral region after the occurrence of a great earthquake in Japan.

Please read and criticize the enclosed reprint of Hosoyama entitled *On Secular Change of Latitude*.

With best wishes

Kyoto University, Japan

Sincerely yours,
EIICHI NISHIMURA
and CH. TSUBOI

Le Dr Rice fait une communication sur la façon dont fonctionnent, aux U.S.A., les 2 stations Gaithersburg et Ukiah. On en trouvera le texte ci-après:

Condition of Zenith Telescopes at Gaithersburg and Ukiah

The zenith telescopes at Gaithersburg, Maryland, and Ukiah, California, have been in continuous operation for more than twenty years, with no opportunity for inspection and repairs of certain vital parts of the instruments. It is believed that the performance of these instruments has deteriorated substantially, and that the condition should be remedied as soon as possible.

The subject of reconditioning was taken up with Prof. Cecchini in 1951, with a view to making the repairs at such time as to have the least effect on the International Latitude programme. At that time a special micrometer comparator was under construction in the U.S.-Coast and Geodetic Survey instrument shop. This comparator was designed to be mounted on the telescope tube, and thus provide an analysis of the micrometer screw characteristics without changing the instrumental focus and scale value applying to previous observations. When the comparator was tried out on the Gaithersburg telescope, certain difficulties were encountered which only now have been brought under reasonable control.

During July and August 1952, Mr Williams at Gaithersburg obtained a series of results which, while only preliminary, lead us to believe that satisfactory determinations of progressive and periodic micrometer errors have been made.

After verification of the results by some further tests, it is planned to do the following:

(a) Dismantle the Gaithersburg instrument for inspection and reconditioning, the first step being an independent determination of the micrometer screw characteristics on a bench comparator. This will permit an evaluation of the performance of the telescope comparator, and also provide necessary information for the reductions of the Central Bureau.

(b) After the Gaithersburg reconditioning is completed and observations there are resumed, a similar operation would be carried out at the Ukiah Observatory.

It is believed that the interruption of observations will not exceed four to six weeks at either observatory. We regret an interruption of our observations, even for a short period. However, since it appears that the zenith telescopes will be kept in operation for some years in the future, we feel that the results of the International Latitude Service would be appreciably improved by a reconditioning of the mechanics and optics of our instruments. Every recommendation of the Central Bureau or this Commission as to when or how these operations will be carried out, will of course be welcomed and followed as far as possible.

DONALD A. RICE

Une discussion a lieu sur cette communication et sur les inconvénients que présentera l'interruption des observations qui sera certainement inférieure à 4 ou 6 semaines. M. Cecchini reconnaît que cette interruption, pour regrettable qu'elle soit, est absolument nécessaire. Il recommande que la période choisie pour l'interruption soit 'à cheval' sur 2 groupes d'observations.

M. Cecchini sera aussi très vivement intéressé par une révision portant sur les niveaux, dont les indications ne sont pas toujours aussi cohérentes qu'il serait souhaitable.

Il est donné lecture de la lettre ci-après, adressée par M. Cecchini à M. Rice, au sujet des perfectionnements d'ensemble à apporter au zénith télescope pour l'amélioration générale des observations.

Dr DONALD A. RICE,
*Chief Section of Gravity and Astronomy,
U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey*

Mr Williams' suggestions for improving the Zenith Telescope

J'ai beaucoup apprécié les propositions de M. Williams, pour apporter des améliorations au Télescope Zénithal en vue d'augmenter la précision des observations de latitude, et je m'excuse du retard avec lequel je répons pour exprimer mon opinion à ce regard.

1. *Micromètre à fils multiples.* Il y aurait des avantages: mais il y a de même quelques complications, présentées éventuellement par la substitution de fils rompus, par la nécessité de déterminer exactement leurs distances angulaires, qui dépendent non seulement de la température mais aussi de la distance focale, qui est variable et, surtout, pour le défaut d'un parfait parallélisme qui, dans le cas d'un seul fil n'a, au contraire, aucune importance au regard de son orientation.

2. *Emploi de la photographie aux lectures des niveaux et du micromètre.* Les avantages seraient évidents, surtout pour éviter des erreurs, plus que pour augmenter la précision, qui dépend principalement du bon comportement des niveaux et de la perfection des pointées micrométriques. La méthode photographique exige, cependant, l'emploi de beaucoup de temps pour développement, lectures etc. Pour la même raison, il me semble une complication l'accroissement des divisions du niveau.

3. *Lumière monochromatique.* En réalité, dans la formation du programme, l'on devrait chercher l'emploi d'étoiles de la même classe spectrale et de la même grandeur à peu près. L'usage de filtres en astronomie de position, je pense qu'il soit dangereux. Pour la même raison, au regard d'inégales déformations, je pense qu'il ne soit pas à conseiller l'usage d'une lentille cylindrique, pour la bisection.

4. Il me semble juste ce qui concerne une modification au système d'illumination et une plus grande commodité de l'observateur pendant les mesures.

5. *Substitution des niveaux.* Il serait désirable un perfectionnement, parce que les niveaux sont peu précis et capricieux, spécialement à Gaithersburg. Le système proposé, dont je n'ai pas vu les détails devrait être pourtant le plus simple possible.

Dans cette occasion, Monsieur, je vous prie de recommander à l'Observateur de Gaithersburg d'envoyer le plus tôt possible les résultats des observations, des corrections, des erreurs progressives et périodiques de son micromètre, que je ne connais pas encore.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, les sentiments de ma haute considération.

GINO CECCHINI

Reprenant le problème dans son ensemble le Prof. Cecchini désire, avant que la Commission ne se sépare, insister sur quelques points particulièrement susceptibles de conduire à une sensible amélioration du Service International des Latitudes. Il insiste notamment sur les trois points suivants:

(1) Il fait un appel pressant aux Observatoires désirant collaborer à la détermination des déclinaisons des étoiles qui sont utilisées dans les catalogues d'observations.

(2) Il désire que soient précisées les conditions dans lesquelles le Service International des Latitudes doit fournir des renseignements aussi rapidement que possible aux différents services chargés de la détermination de l'Heure (nature et précision de ces renseignements, délais, etc.).

(3) On a dit que le Service International des Latitudes n'était pas susceptible de fournir des renseignements valables pour l'étude des variations séculaires du pôle. M. Cecchini souligne au contraire que seules ces observations d'ensemble discutées au point de vue général sont susceptibles de conduire à une étude des variations séculaires.

Le Dr Woolley fait en fin de séance la Communication ci-après: 'Des observations des variations de latitudes ont été faites de 1930 à 1940 en Australie du Sud.' Elles ont été interrompues depuis. Elles vont être reprises à l'Observatoire de Canberra pour lequel un 'photographic zenith tube' a été commandé et doit être livré en 1954. Il est prévu que les observations commenceront en 1955.

ANNEXE I

To Prof. CHUJI TSUBOI,
Geophysical Institute,
Tokyo University,
Tokyo, Japan

Prof. EIICHI NISHIMURA,
Geophysical Institute,
Kyoto University
Kyoto City, Japan

Gentlemen,

You are probably aware that there are two rival theories to account for the mean latitudes determined by the International Latitude Service:

1. A progressive or quasi-secular shift of the mean North Pole in the general direction of North America.
2. Crustal displacement of the latitude observatories themselves, notably Mizusawa and Kitab.

Recent papers by Prof. Cecchini, Director of the Central Office of the Latitude Service, and by your fellow-countryman, Dr Hattori, have advocated the second theory, that of crustal displacement.

It seems to me that a real test of this theory calls for the co-operation of three scientific groups:

1. Those astronomers who are doing fundamental work in the astronomy of position. There are now very few observatories doing work of this sort. The task of this group would be to determine whether the assumed crustal displacements apply to a whole island, such as Japan or Great Britain, or to a whole continent, such as North America or Europe or whether on the other hand, such displacements are local.

Present and future world-wide longitude campaigns will, we hope, tell us something.

My impression (I cannot at the moment give precise references) is that there is little or no astronomical evidence of island-wide or continent-wide crustal movements.

2. Geodesists could contribute to a solution of the problem. There must be many geodetic points at which latitude and/or longitude has been, or could be, redetermined after a considerable interval of time. Local crustal movements would also be brought to light by repetition of the triangulation of an extensive area.

The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey has repeated its geodetic triangulation in the earthquake region of California and has made and is making other studies there. All this has brought to light crustal displacements but only, as far as I am aware, in the immediate neighbourhood of recognized geological faults.

The crustal displacement postulated by Prof. Cecchini for Mizusawa, some 20 feet, seems to me rather excessive for a point not very close to some such geological fault. My first question is then: Is Mizusawa so close to a fault that a displacement of 20 feet is plausible?

Years ago I had a casual conversation with a junior observer at Mizusawa, whose name I have unfortunately forgotten. He said that Mizusawa does not lie in a strongly seismic region. But my casual recollection has, of course, no weight against your knowledge of your own country.

And what of Kitab? Prof. Cecchini postulates a crustal displacement there of the same order of magnitude as at Mizusawa, some 12 feet, if my memory serves me. I have no idea whether the region around Kitab is subject to earthquakes or not, or whether there is any known fault in the neighbourhood.

3. The geologists can contribute their knowledge also. Their contribution would be especially valuable if we are ever able to reorganize the International Latitude Service, equip it with better instruments, add to the number of observatories or relocate existing ones.

Problems of this sort will come up for discussion at the Rome meeting of the International Astronomical Union and I would be greatly obliged if you would express your opinions on the subjects mentioned above, or on some of them, and send copies of what you may write to key persons among the participants in the Rome meeting. Perhaps one of you will attend. If so, all the better.

Among the key participants I suggest the following:

- (1) Prof. G. CECCHINI, Director of the International Latitude Service, Observatory of Pino Torinese, near Torino, Italy.
- (2) Mr PAUL SOLLENBERGER, Chairman of Commission 19 (Variation of Latitude), in care of the Organizing Committee of the Rome Assembly.
- (3) Mr D. A. RICE, Hotel Mediterraneo, Via Cavour 17, Rome, Italy.

I mention Mr Rice because, as a member of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, he has immediate supervision of two of the special latitude observatories, Gaithersburg and Ukiah.

I am sending a copy (by air mail) to the above-named persons, also to

Prof. P. TARDI, Director, Central Office of the International Association of Geodesy, 19 rue Auber, Paris (9), France.

Professor Tardi will attend the Rome meeting.

Trusting that I am not asking too much of you, and with my kindest regards to you both, I am

Very sincerely yours,
WALTER D. LAMBERT

ANNEXE 2

BUREAU CENTRAL DU SERVICE INTERNATIONAL DES LATITUDES

Rapport du Directeur Prof. GINO CECCHINI

L'organisation du Bureau Central des Latitudes à Turin, depuis 1949, et la discussion, aussi complète que possible, des observations faites aux Stations internationales pendant les années 1949 et 1950, ont été resumées dans deux Mémoires publiés dans le *Bulletin Géodésique*, et qu'on a envoyés à tous ceux qui s'intéressent au problème de la Variation des Latitudes.

J'ai distribué tout à l'heure un Rapport qui contient une discussion encore plus complète de tout le travail accompli par le Bureau Central jusqu'au mois de juin de cette année: il s'agit de 31602 observations de latitude, qu'on a calculées et discutées jusqu'à présent de façon uniforme et qui confirment les déductions publiées depuis l'année 1949 et la bonne qualité du système adopté.

Je ferai un petit résumé d'ensemble de tout cela.

En premier lieu, je dois signaler que les coefficients de température des micromètres de toutes les stations boréales ne sont plus ceux qu'on a considérés comme presque constants

de 1900 jusqu'à 1940, et à peu près égaux à $-0^{\circ}00120$ par degré; mais ils ont tous augmenté, jusqu'à zéro, et pour Carloforte, jusqu'à $+0^{\circ}00100$!

En second lieu, j'ai trouvé, soit par réduction directe, soit par discussion des observations de latitudes mêmes (avec deux procédés distincts), de notables variations des valeurs angulaires des micromètres. A présent, puisque le programme d'observation est encore le même, depuis 18 années, *la connaissance exacte de ces valeurs angulaires est très importante.*

Il suffit de rappeler que dans certains cas, les corrections adoptées *ont fait changer les moyennes mêmes des Groupes de 16 centièmes de seconde!* Il faut donc absolument prier toutes les stations d'envoyer au Bureau Central le nombre le plus grand possible d'observations pour la détermination exacte des valeurs angulaires des micromètres.

Pour les trois années considérées, les *erreurs de fermeture* sont en moyenne $-0^{\circ}178$ pour les stations boréales et $+0^{\circ}145$ pour La Plata, ce qui est normal. Cependant, il y a beaucoup de différences entre les diverses stations:

Mizusawa	Kitab	Carloforte	Gaithersburg	Ukiah
$-0^{\circ}234$	$+0^{\circ}151$	$-0^{\circ}030$	$-0^{\circ}414$	$-0^{\circ}365$

et il est bien connu que ces différences sont en relation avec les conditions d'observation, qui sont bien différentes. Il faut *souligner* la valeur *positive* pour Kitab et qu'en même temps, pour cette station, on a obtenu: $+0^{\circ}314$ en 1949; $+0^{\circ}123$ en 1950 et $-0^{\circ}008$ en 1951. Carloforte est l'unique station qui a une erreur de fermeture tout près de zéro et qui se trouve, par conséquent, dans les meilleures conditions d'observation.

L'on voit, aisément, que l'impossibilité pratique de raccorder les Groupes du soir et du matin—qui sont systématiquement faussés par des 'variations non polaires' de la latitude, bien différentes pour les diverses stations—a pour conséquence soit l'impossibilité de corriger la constante d'aberration, soit la formation d'un système exact de déclinaisons.

Cependant, les calculs même montrent que les perturbations provoquées sur les moyennes de Groupes par les 'variations non polaires' sont en général moins importantes que les erreurs des déclinaisons des Groupes. Par conséquent, j'ai reconnu convenable de poser, comme l'on fait depuis plusieurs années, pour chaque station et à chaque instant, la relation suivante

$$\phi - \phi_0 = x \cos \lambda + y \sin \lambda + z \tag{1}$$

où ϕ représente la latitude donnée par un Group quelconque; ϕ_0 la latitude moyenne; x et y les coordonnées du pôle instantané; λ la longitude de la station et z un terme qui groupe la 'variation non polaire' et la correction de la déclinaison du Groupe considéré, changée de signe. Avec ce procédé, la 'variation non polaire' est supposée égale pour toutes les stations; il y aura certainement des erreurs systématiques dans les coordonnées du pôle; mais les calculs vont démontrer que ces erreurs ne sont pas graves, parce que les valeurs obtenues pour les coordonnées mêmes, déduites de cinq, quatre ou bien trois stations, *surpassent très rarement deux centièmes de seconde!*

Une question très importante est celle des *latitudes moyennes* des stations. Elles sont nécessaires à l'emploi de la formule (1) pour la détermination des coordonnées du pôle et du terme 'z', représentant principalement—comme je l'ai dit—l'erreur de la déclinaison du Groupe correspondant. A cet égard, j'ai considéré toutes les observations faites dans les stations internationales pendant la période 1900–5 et réduites à un même système, puis j'ai choisi ce système comme fondamental. Une analyse de la question m'a montré que ce système est plus homogène que le système de Wanach fondé sur les observations de 1900 à 1911, et quelque peu troublé par le comportement irrégulier de la station russe de Tschardjui.

Cependant, il n'y a pas de graves incertitudes à se référer à ce système: il suffit, avec une bonne approximation, de faire les corrections suivantes:

x	y
$+0^{\circ}004$	$-0^{\circ}022$

la différence des deux systèmes de déclinaisons étant simplement, en moyenne, $-0^{\circ}009$.

J'ai choisi donc comme origine des coordonnées x et y , le centre de la polodie 1900–05. Cependant, l'usage pour la détermination de la polodie des latitudes moyennes de Mizusawa, Carloforte, Gaithersburg et Ukiah—telles que je les ai obtenues par les observations de 1900–05—m'a conduit à relever des résidus systématiques qui disparaissent complètement lorsque l'on suppose que la station de Mizusawa—ou bien sa verticale—s'est déplacée de 0"120 vers le Sud.

L'analyse est trop longue, pour être indiquée en peu de mots: cependant, elle a été publiée dans le *Bulletin Géodésique* no. 17. Ce qui est important, c'est que le susdit déplacement de Mizusawa ait été découvert par Kimura par un procédé tout à fait différent dans sa discussion des observations internationales entre la période 1923–34. Il semblerait donc qu'il s'agisse simplement d'une confirmation de ce déplacement bien connu! Mais il n'en est pas ainsi.

Avant tout, s'il est vrai que Kimura a indiqué un déplacement de Mizusawa de la même précise quantité que j'ai obtenue, par comparaison des observations de 1900–05 avec les observations actuelles et avec une méthode différente, il est aussi vrai que Kimura a donné—en même temps—les corrections, pour réduire sa polodie de 1923–34 au système de Wanach, +0"048 pour x et +0"072 pour y , lesquelles supposent préalablement que Mizusawa ne s'est pas déplacée!

En tout cela, il y a donc une contradiction: si l'on croit au déplacement de Mizusawa, les corrections de Kimura sont fausses et puisque j'ai retrouvé le déplacement de Mizusawa cela veut dire que la polodie de Kimura est exactement dans le système de Wanach, c'est-à-dire qu'elle a la même origine.

Le déplacement de Mizusawa s'est vérifié sans doute entre 1912 et 1925: il en résulte que la dernière partie de la polodie de 1912 à 1923 est faussé par ce déplacement et qu'on pourra la corriger seulement si nous pouvons établir qu'il s'agit d'un déplacement brusque et si l'on peut déterminer avec exactitude la date qu'à présent je crois proche de 1919. Mais cette question doit être encore précisée. En outre, le fait de retrouver à présent la même valeur de ce déplacement, indique que la station de Mizusawa, depuis 30 années à peu près, est fixe.

La comparaison des observations actuelles de Mizusawa, Carloforte, Gaithersburg et Ukiah, avec celles de Kitab, m'a permis encore d'établir un déplacement de Kitab (ou de sa verticale), vers le Sud, d'environ 0"070. Ce déplacement doit s'être vérifié entre 1934 et 1949.

J'ai donc fixé les latitudes moyennes des stations boréales rapportées au pôle moyen de 1900–05, et calculé la polodie de 1949.0 à 1952.5. Il y a un accord très satisfaisant soit qu'on considère toutes les stations, soit quatre, soit même trois stations seulement. En moyenne, le système établi en 1949, a donné un brillant résultat jusqu'à présent. Par exemple, les représentations des latitudes annuelles des stations boréales, donnent des résidus moyens qui ne surpassent pas 1/100 de seconde!

La correction pour réduire le système des déclinaisons actuel au système de 1900–05 atteint seulement +0"015 et celle pour le réduire au système de Wanach atteint +0"024.

Quant aux observations faites à la station de La Plata, l'on voit, d'après la discussion résumée dans le Rapport que j'ai distribué (fig. 2) que les variations de latitude observées s'accordent bien, en 1951, avec les variations calculées par la polodie. La représentation n'est pas si bonne pour les années 1949 et 1950; mais l'explication des différences systématiques ne pourra être satisfaisante qu'au moment où l'on connaîtra le coefficient thermique du micromètre (coefficient encore inconnu) et où l'on aura éliminé quelques observations défectueuses, assez fréquentes en 1949. J'ai calculé de façon tout à fait provisoire les corrections des déclinaisons des Groupes (qui sont dans le système de La Plata) et défini la latitude moyenne avec une approximation satisfaisante.

La polodie, comme l'on voit de la fig. 1 du Rapport distribué, est assez régulière et a une grande amplitude. Son centre, pour la période 1949–52.0, a les coordonnées $x = +0"075$, $y = 0"072$; c'est-à-dire que le pôle moyen se trouve maintenant à moins de 0"10, en direction Sud-Ouest, du pôle moyen 1900–05.

La question du déplacement du pôle moyen a été abordée avec la conclusion provisoire—exposée dans le Rapport publié dans le *Bulletin Géodésique*, no. 17—de son immobilité pratique pendant la période 1900–1935 et de la tendance à se déplacer ensuite vers l'Ouest. A présent, il me semble qu'il n'y a pas de raisons pour modifier cette conclusion. Je pense que la plus

grande partie des déplacements attribués au pôle moyen, dans plusieurs recherches, est sans doute *apparente*, et que, principalement, *ce sont les stations*—ou bien quelques stations, ou leurs verticales—*qui bougent!*

Cependant, l'étude au Bureau Central de toutes les observations internationales de latitude depuis 1900 est en progrès; mais il faut donner une grande importance à la *réobservation des déclinaisons des étoiles de latitude* qu'on a établie à Uccle et, peut-être en d'autres Observatoires et le travail devra en partie modifier son développement. Outre cela, il est nécessaire de pouvoir disposer des résultats définitifs d'observation, pour toute la période 1935–48, pas encore publiés.

L'actuel programme d'observation des stations internationales, doit rester sans changements jusqu'à toute l'année 1953.

ANNEXE 3

Rapport sur l'état des travaux du Bureau Central de Naples

Prof. LUIGI CARNERA

Dans l'impossibilité de prendre part aux travaux de l'U.A.I. et particulièrement à ceux de la Commission 19, je me permet d'envoyer mes sincères salutations aux Collègues réunis à Rome, avec mes meilleurs vœux pour les initiatives les plus fécondes en vue du progrès des études et des recherches astronomiques dans toutes les Nations.

De mon côté, j'ai le devoir de faire un rapport de ce que j'ai fait en ces dernières années, après l'Assemblée de Zürich.

Avant tout, comme je l'avais promis, j'ai continué de la manière habituelle mon travail, en réduisant sous forme provisoire toutes les observations communiquées par les diverses stations entre la période 6. i. 1948–5. i. 1949: les résultats ont été publiés dans les *Comptes Rendus de l'Académie de Naples*, comme pour les années précédentes. Le retard de la publication est principalement dû au retard avec lequel, habituellement, sont communiquées les observations de Kitab. Pendant la période suivante, le Bureau Central a été dirigé par le Prof. Cecchini, qui a pleinement répondu à la confiance qu'on avait placée en lui, en lui confiant cette direction.

J'ai continué, en outre, les calculs nécessaires pour obtenir les valeurs définitives ou presque définitives pour la période 1935–48. Pour l'intervalle de temps 1935–40, les valeurs du soir et du matin de tous les couples pour toutes les stations sont désormais calculées, et il n'y a qu'à calculer la polodie. Il m'est semblé désirable, avant de conclure cette polodie, de continuer les réductions relatives aux années 1940–48, en vue d'assurer un parfait accord avec les résultats précédents et la meilleure homogénéité possible.

Pour exécuter ces réductions, j'ai avant tout commencé l'étude des micromètres; les résultats seront certainement imprimés, avant la réunion de notre Commission à l'occasion du Congrès de l'Association Internationale de Géodésie, qui aura lieu dans l'année prochaine. Je dois dire que ce travail a été particulièrement pénible à cause de l'insuffisance des données d'observation de la station de Kitab, en particulier, qui—à part la petite précision des observations—a montré peu de soin soit pour maintenir réglées les différentes parties de l'instrument, soit pour donner les indications nécessaires aux opérations de rectification effectuées; à cause aussi des erreurs trop fréquentes de lecture et de transcription.

Cependant, je voudrais prier la Commission de recommander aux observateurs de toutes les stations de suivre avec le soin le plus scrupuleux, les instructions bien connues du Prof. Albrecht sur l'usage du Télescope Zénithal pour les observations de latitude. Peut-être serait-il désirable de faire une nouvelle édition en deux langues (anglaise et française) de ce précieux petit livre, dicté par un inoubliable grand Maître.

Je termine en donnant l'assurance de la continuation de mon travail, même s'il avance un peu lentement pour des causes diverses.

Mes meilleurs souhaits pour tous les membres de la Commission.