

Poland's growing share in the immense task of exploring the Cosmos, in which our Great Compatriot was a pioneer.

We are glad this session of world astronomers will give them an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the achievements of our science, with the gains of post-war Poland, with the presence and inspiring strength of Copernican traditions in our country.

I wish all members of the extraordinary session of the General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union that your debates—thanks to the presentation of the latest research achievements, the exchange of opinions and creative inspirations—make a valuable contribution to the progress of cognitive thought and to the pool of scientific knowledge, to strengthening peace and cooperation among nations, to enriching Copernican traditions which unite us all and make us build human science in a human world.'

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,  
 PROF. W. TRZEBIATOWSKI

'Mr Prime Minister, Mr President of the International Astronomical Union, Distinguished Guests,

The Extraordinary General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union which we are opening today is an occurrence of exceptional importance. In its international aspect, it marks the culminating point of this year's Copernican observances. For the participation in this session of astronomers from all parts of the world we accept, among other things, as a tribute paid to our Great Compatriot, the founder of modern astronomy, the bedrock of the present-day outlook on the world.

The session is at the same time a scientific gathering with an extensive working programme. At the symposia starting tomorrow, all the latest astronomic problems will be discussed. We are glad the symposia will be held in Poland's three academic centres: Warsaw, Toruń and Cracow, and will have active participation of Polish astronomers and physicists. That will provide a particularly important and valuable opportunity to strengthen the existing and establish new personal ties between Polish and foreign scholars.

Characteristically, two of the mentioned symposia, being a part of this Extraordinary General Assembly, will be devoted to subjects related to physics and astrophysics, while the third one will be dealing with exploratory problems of cosmic physics. That programme demonstrates the important role contemporary astronomy plays in the family of natural sciences, its growing correlation with physics and ever stronger feedback with all those branches of science and technology involved in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. Aware of this, the Polish Academy of Sciences accords astronomy a prominent place in its long-range plans for the development of scientific agencies and the research conducted thereby. We wish that Polish astronomy make a contribution to world science that would be proportional to our ambitions, that it continue the valuable Copernican traditions.

On behalf of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and on my own behalf, I would like to most sincerely welcome all members of the Extraordinary General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union. I wish you a successful debate, inspiring scientific impressions, and a pleasant stay in this country.'

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WARSAW CITY COUNCIL, MR. MAJEWSKI

'Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of Warsaw inhabitants and authorities, I have the honour to welcome in the capital of People's Poland members of the Extraordinary General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union. I wish to express my great satisfaction that we can play host to so many outstanding representatives of such a magnificent and universal domain of science as astronomy is and that your presence in our town is a sign of appreciation for the contribution to the history of human thought made by a great Pole, Mikolaj Kopernik.