

Alps, such as Chartreuse, Vercors and Belledonne, and the high mountains, such as Pelvoux or Mont Blanc are easy to reach.

Grenoble is an important road and railway junction, has an airport, and is therefore easily connected with the rest of the world.

Astronomy is not taught at the Grenoble University which is mainly known for physics, electronics, magnetism and nuclear research, but the Observatoire de Haute Provence, only 200 km south, and other observatories can be reached within a few hours.

It is my great pleasure to invite officially, on behalf of the French authorities, the IAU to hold the XVIth General Assembly at Grenoble.'

The motion of the President to hold the XVIth General Assembly of the IAU in Grenoble, France, in August 1976, was carried unanimously. The President thanked Professor Fehrenbach for his words.

20. *Election of the new Executive Committee.* The Chairman formally proposed that Professor Leo Goldberg be elected the new President of the IAU. This was approved by acclamation.

The President then reminded the Assembly of the names put forward for consideration at the First session, and formally proposed that Mr. J. G. Bolton, Prof. Ch. Fehrenbach, and Prof. W. Iwanowska be elected Vice-Presidents in place of Dr M. K. V. Bappu, Prof. L. Gratton and Dr J. Sahade. This was unanimously approved. Next, the President formally proposed that Prof. G. Contopoulos be elected General Secretary in place of Prof. C. de Jager, and Prof. Edith A. Müller Assistant General Secretary in place of Prof. G. Contopoulos. This was also unanimously approved.

The Chairman then invited Professor Goldberg, Mr Bolton, Professor Fehrenbach, Professor Iwanowska and Professor Müller to take seats on the platform.

21. *Addresses by the retiring and newly elected Officers.* The retiring President, Professor B. Strömgen, addressed the Assembly as follows:

'And now I have the opportunity to thank all those within the IAU with whom I have collaborated during three years. I wish to thank all members of the Executive Committee for their cooperation and for their friendship. It has been a privilege to be a member of this group that worked so effectively and harmoniously for our Union. Special thanks go to Vainu Bappu, Livio Gratton and Jorge Sahade who now leave the Executive Committee after six years of dedicated work.

During the three-year period the Executive Committee has profited greatly from having the advice of the former President, Otto Heckmann, and of the former General Secretary, Luboš Perek. I feel most grateful to these two close friends of mine and of the members of the Executive Committee.

Anyone who participates in an IAU General Assembly will realise how very great is the contribution of the IAU General Secretaries toward the organization of the Assembly. And during the three-year period between assemblies they perform a number of tasks of the greatest importance to the Union. Kees de Jager and George Contopoulos have worked with great skill and enormous energy and always in a spirit of dedication to the IAU and its goals. Kees and George, I am particularly grateful to you for your cooperation, and for your friendship.

Kees de Jager is leaving the Executive Committee after six years of splendid work for our Union. Kees, I admire the way you have conducted the Office of the General Secretary, while at the same time you know and follow the research in your Space Institute in every last detail. I am very happy that we shall still have opportunities to discuss IAU matters together for another three years as advisers.

I propose a vote of thanks to Kees de Jager and George Contopoulos for all they have done for the IAU.

In their work, the General Secretaries have been most ably supported by the Executive Secretary, Arnošt Jappel, whose contributions have been greatly appreciated by all of us who have collaborated with him. I wish to add special thanks for the kind and effective help I have received from Arnošt Jappel on many occasions.

In his work, the Executive Secretary has again been most effectively helped by the Administrative Assistant J. Daňková. The IAU is greatly indebted to her for her fine work.

On the occasion of the Inaugural Ceremony there was an opportunity to thank our hosts for all they had done for us in their preparations for the General Assembly, and by making us feel so welcome and at home.

Today, as we are approaching the end of our Assembly, I wish again to express our very best thanks to the host organizations, the Australian Academy of Science, the University of Sydney, and the Local Organizing Committee, in particular its Chairman, Harley Wood, and its Secretary, A. J. Higgs.

The efforts of the host organizations before and during the General Assembly have contributed so very much toward making this a successful Assembly, and the International Astronomical Union is greatly indebted to the host organizations for all they have done for us. Very many thanks.'

Then the new President, Professor L. Goldberg spoke as follows.

'Professor Strömgen, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, in the United Kingdom candidates stand for office, but in the United States they run. I can assure you that when Professor Strömgen asked me whether I would accept nomination as candidate for the Presidency of the IAU, my natural instinct was indeed to run. I am both touched by the honor associated with this lofty position and greatly intimidated by the responsibility it puts upon me. But more than anything I realize how much I owe the Union for the professional activities and personal friendships that I have so much enjoyed, and how fortunate I am to have been given an opportunity to repay at least a small part of the debt during the next three years. I am deeply grateful to the General Assembly for both the honor and the opportunity.

Among the many colleagues who have rewarded me with their friendship none has contributed more to astronomy and been more respected by his colleagues than you Bengt Strömgen, and I feel greatly honored to share this platform with you today, and to express my appreciation. Your classical paper on the chemical composition of the solar atmosphere and on the physical properties of the interstellar medium have provided inspiration for much of my own work, and that of my students, and your contributions to the theory of ionization in stellar interiors and to the observational determination of stellar ages have also been of fundamental importance. Professor Strömgen has practised internationalism as a way of life by dividing his working career almost equally on the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean and by helping astronomy to flourish in different parts of the world. As Director of Yerkes Observatory, he was a member of the committee that planned the establishment of the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona and now, from Copenhagen, he is a leading figure in the development of the European Southern Observatory in Chile. He served the IAU well as General Secretary during the politically precarious and anxious years of 1948–52 when a visit by a President of the United States to either Moscow or Peking would have seemed no more realistic than a journey to the Moon.

And now, as President of the IAU, Bengt Strömgen has had the unprecedented and unenviable task of overseeing the preparations of two General Assemblies in rapid succession in cities of opposite sides of the earth. I cannot tell you how reassuring it is for me to know that both he and his immensely capable General Secretary, Professor de Jager, will continue to serve as advisers to the President and Executive Committee for three more years. In fact, when I think of the combined wisdom and experience that they represent together with George Contopoulos, Edith Müller and Arnošt Jappel, and the Executive Committee, I realize that it will require a major effort on my part merely to create the impression that I am their leader.

Although I cannot foretell the future of astronomy during the next three years, I can safely assert that the opportunities for astronomical research and for international cooperation have never been as exciting and as challenging as they are at present. New technologies have exposed the entire electromagnetic spectrum to the view of highly sophisticated instrumentation and as a result there is almost literally no part of the spectrum in which theory and observation do not confront one another.

The explosion of research activity in astronomy during the past ten years has greatly enlarged the opportunities for international collaboration in ways that could not have been foreseen by the founders of the IAU. As examples, I can mention joint projects for the construction and operation of ground-based telescopes in remote locations, for the instrumenting and launching of rockets and satellites, for observations by very long baseline interferometry, and for the solution of important astronomical problems by coordinated observations of a single object in widely separated regions of the spectrum. It is neither necessary nor useful for the IAU to be formally concerned with every such international program, but I hope that the structure of the Union will continue to be flexible enough to accommodate any that need to make use of its capabilities and services.

Finally, although the Executive Committee faces many important and difficult tasks before the Sixteenth General Assembly meets in Grenoble, none is more urgent than finding some way to effect the return of our colleagues from China to the IAU. On this hopeful note, I will conclude and look forward to seeing many of you in Warsaw in a few days, and all of you in France in 1976.⁷

22. *Closing Ceremonies.* The Chairman called upon Mr H. M. Smith to propose a comprehensive vote of thanks. Mr Smith then spoke as follows:

'It is an honour and a privilege to be called upon to express, on behalf of the participants, our thanks to all who have assisted in the organization and the smooth running of this Fifteenth General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union.

This is the first occasion that a General Assembly has been held in the Southern Hemisphere, and it is a well-deserved tribute to the many valuable contributions made to astronomy by our Australian colleagues that this year we should meet in Sydney.

For some, it has been the first opportunity of seeing the Harbour, described in 1788 by an Englishman, Captain Arthur Phillip as the 'finest harbour in the world'. We have also seen the famous Harbour Bridge, the exciting and controversial Opera House, the well-preserved historic houses with their 'Sydney lace' balustrades and the modern tower blocks of this vibrant, cosmopolitan capital of the State of New South Wales.

The Assembly itself has given us the opportunity of catching-up with the latest developments in our rapidly advancing branch of science; of discussing new instruments, new techniques, new programmes, the results of new theoretical studies, investigations that have led to new discoveries and of formulating new policies to deal with new problems. The invited discourses have again provided the highlights of the Assembly, while the more informal unscheduled talks have aroused lively discussion. The Commission meetings continue to be the essence of the Assembly, and I have the impression that the meetings have been animated, sometimes controversial, and generally constructive. Joint discussions have been arranged for topics that cross the boundaries of the individual Commissions.

Our thanks are due to the General Secretary, Prof. Dr C. de Jager for the immense amount of work that he has done, the Assistant Secretary, Prof. Dr G. Contopoulos – we wish him success in his endeavours to find a satisfactory solution to the difficult problem of the publication of the Reports and Transactions – the long-suffering Executive Secretary, our good friend, Dr A. Jappel and to Mrs J. Daňkova, Mlle. G. Drouin and Miss B. Reijnen for the very efficient organization of the administrative and scientific activities. Locally they have been assisted by Mr F. M. Atkinson and Mr J. Hardy. I am sure that you will agree that our IAU Secretariat have once again achieved the impossible of fitting too many meetings into too short a time, with the overriding limitation that no participant should be required to be in more than two places at the same time.

We tender our sincere thanks to our host organizations: the Australian Academy of Science and the University of Sydney. We are most appreciative of their warm and generous welcome expressed at the Inaugural Ceremony by the Foreign Secretary of the Academy, Dr J. P. Wild, the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor W. M. O'Neil and the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Alderman David Griffin. We also express our thanks to the Minister for Science, the Honourable W. L. Morrison for attending this ceremony and for speaking to us and to the