

# REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (WITH RESOLUTIONS INCLUDED)

## AGENDA

### *First Session*

1. Formal opening of the General Assembly, by the President.
2. Appointment of official interpreters.
3. Report of the Executive Committee:
  - (a) Discussion of the printed Report.
  - (b) Report of decisions taken at meetings in Brighton, in particular of admission of new Adhering Countries and new IAU Members.
4. Report by the General Secretary.
5. Report by the President of the proposals for membership of the Executive Committee.
6. Announcement of:
  - (a) The names of representatives of Adhering Countries, empowered to vote on their behalf.
  - (b) The names of representatives to serve on the Nominating Committee.
  - (c) The names of Acting Presidents of Commissions.
7. The appointment of the Finance Committee.
8. The appointment of the Resolutions Committee.
9. Revisions of the Statutes and By-laws. (The French and English texts of the revised version, as proposed by the Executive Committee, have been distributed to Adhering Organizations and National Committees. Moreover, the English text has been published in *IAU Information Bulletin* No. 23, and the French text in *IAU Information Bulletin* No. 24). Reference is made to the proposal of the U.S.S.R. National Committee of Astronomy under point 10, as regards the interval between two General Assemblies.
10. Consideration of proposals for resolutions submitted by Adhering Organizations or National Committees of Astronomy. The proposals formally submitted before the statutory deadline are shortly as follows:
  - (a) (*Australia*) to reconsider the decision to allocate the relative length of the Reports on Astronomy of the various Commissions on the apparently arbitrary basis of the length in the 1967 report.
  - (b) (*Belgium*) to recommend the introduction of a fundamental course in Astronomy and Geodesy in the curricula of Technical Universities.
  - (c) (*Poland*) to hold under the auspices of the IUHPS and IAU a Symposium commemorative of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus in Toruń, Poland, and a Symposium on Cosmology in Warsaw, Poland, in 1973.
  - (d) (*U.A.R.*) to create a special Commission for Exchange of Equipment within the IAU.
  - (e) (*U.S.S.R.*):
    - (i) To proclaim the year 1973 the year of Copernicus and to bring this proposal before the UNESCO.
    - (ii) To hold the XVth General Assembly of the IAU in Warsaw, Poland, in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of this great scientist (see also point 19).
    - (iii) To investigate the possibility of less expensive IAU publications and thus to create conditions for a reduction of the unit of contribution paid by Adhering Countries.

- (iv) To extend the interval between two General Assemblies of the IAU from 3 to 4 years as from 1973 onwards, and to pay more attention to scientific meetings with smaller attendance.
- (v) To create within one of the IAU Commissions a Sub-commission on the Physics of Unstable Stars.

The proposals will be submitted to the relevant Commissions prior to the General Assembly.

11. Consideration of proposals for resolutions submitted by Commissions or by Inter-Union Commissions. Eight such proposals have been submitted by Commissions:
  - (a) (*Commission No. 6*) recommends that the IAU subvention to the IAU Telegram Bureau be maintained at its present value of \$ 1 600 per triennium.
  - (b) (*Commission No. 16*) proposes that \$ 1 500 be allocated to the Centre de documentation sur les planètes à Meudon for 1971–1973.
  - (c) (*Commission No. 17*) propose que l'Assemblée Générale accepte les 500 noms proposés par la Commission n° 17 pour désigner les cratères de la face arrière de la Lune et qu'elle attribue à la Commission n° 17 pour les années 1971–1973 une subvention de \$ 2 000 pour aider le fonctionnement des groupes de travail spécialisés de cette Commission.
  - (d) (*Commission No. 23*) proposes that a resolution be discussed by the General Assembly concerning the future of the Helsingfors Observatory which is threatened to be closed down by the authorities.
  - (e) (*Commissions No. 23 and 24*) propose the merger of Commission No. 23 'Carte du Ciel' and Commission No. 24 on Stellar Parallaxes and Proper Motions.
  - (f) (*Commission No. 33*) proposes that the General Assembly resolve to omit the superscript II from the new galactic coordinates that should be simply 1, b; the old coordinates should retain the superscript I.
  - (g) (*Commission No. 27*) proposes to allocate to Commission No. 27 an annual subvention of \$ 1 000 for the continued publication of the *General Catalogue of Variable Stars*.
  - (h) (*Commission No. 46*) recommends the introduction of a fundamental course in astronomy in University curricula.

Other proposals for resolutions have only been presented in draft form and will first be discussed by the Commissions. No proposals for resolutions have arrived from Inter-Union Commissions.

### *Second Session*

12. Report of the Finance Committee:
  - (a) Accounts for 1967–1969.
  - (b) The additional budget for 1970.
  - (c) The budget for the ensuing period.
13. The unit of subscription for the ensuing period. The Executive Committee will propose to the Finance Committee that the unit of subscription be maintained at 900 gold francs.
14. The appointment of the Special Nominating Committee.
15. Proposals for resolutions submitted by the Executive Committee.
16. Proposals for resolutions submitted by Commissions, subject to the recommendation by the Resolutions Committee.
17. The announcement of new Members of the Union.
18. *Commissions:*
  - (a) Dissolution and creation of Commissions:
    - (i) Merger of Commissions Nos. 23 and 24.
    - (ii) Creation of Commissions Nos. 47 on Cosmology, and 48 on High Energy Astrophysics.
  - (b) The election of Presidents and Vice-Presidents.
  - (c) The membership of Organizing Committees.
19. *The Place and date of the XVth General Assembly:*
  - (a) Consideration of the Australian invitation to hold the XVth General Assembly in Sydney, Australia, in 1973.

- (b) Consideration of the U.S.S.R. proposal to hold the XVth General Assembly in Warsaw, Poland, in 1973.
20. The election of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, and an Assistant General Secretary.
21. Addresses by the retiring and newly-elected Presidents.
22. Closing ceremonies.

At the first session of the General Assembly, to be held on TUESDAY 18 AUGUST, 1970, items 1–11 of the above agenda will be considered. The remaining items, and any which may have been adjourned from the first session, will be considered at the second session, to be held on THURSDAY 27 AUGUST, 1970.

## FIRST SESSION

*Held in The Dome at Brighton, Sussex, England, on Tuesday, 18 August 1970 at 15<sup>h</sup>00<sup>m</sup>*

Professor Dr Otto Heckmann, President, in the chair

1. *Formal Opening.* The President spoke a few words of welcome to the Members of the Union, invited participants and their guests, representatives of Adhering Countries, representatives of sister Unions and other organizations, and formally declared open the first session of the fourteenth General Assembly of the Union.

He welcomed in particular the official representatives of ICSU and other scientific Unions as follows:

ICSU: Professor V. A. Ambartsumian  
 IUGG (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics): Professor P. Tardi  
 IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences): Dr G. Fiedler, Dr P. M. Millman  
 URSI (Union Radio Scientifique Internationale): Professor W. N. Christiansen  
 COSPAR (Committee on Space Research): Professor C. de Jager, Dr. Z. Švestka  
 IAB (ICSU Abstracting Board): Dr J. B. Sykes  
 CST (Committee on Science Teaching): Professor Edith A. Müller  
 IUCSTP (Inter-Union Commission on Solar-Terrestrial Physics): Dr H. Friedman, Dr Z. Švestka  
 IUTAM (International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics): Dr M. J. Lighthill  
 Joint Commission on Spectroscopy: Dr G. Herzberg, Professor B. Edlén  
 BIMP (Bureau International des Poids & Mesures): Dr J. Terrien  
 IUAA (International Union of Amateur Astronomers): Messrs L. Baldinelli, F. M. Flinch, H. Miles, O. Oburka

The official representative of UNESCO could not attend for other serious engagements.

The President then suggested that a message of thanks be sent to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. This proposal was approved by acclamation.

The President continued by asking Members to stand while the General Secretary would read the names of Members who had died since the last meeting, or whose death had not been known at the time of that meeting. The General Secretary then read the following list:

Mrs Z. N. Aksent'eva, H. D. Babcock, A. Birkenmayer, Miss M. Bretz, S. Chapman, L. Cichowicz, L. d'Azambuja, G. Demetrescu, A. J. Deutsch, E. J. Dijksterhuis, J. Dufay, L. Egyed, G. Fayet, J. H. Focas, D. A. Frank-Kamenetskij, C. W. Gartlein, E. Gullón, S. E. Hajkin, K. Heinemann, L. G. Henyey, E. Hertzprung, C. Hoffmeister, J. Ikaunieks, C. C. Kiess, H. Knox-Shaw, A. Kohlschütter, J. J. Kubikowski, N. I. Kucherov, A. I. Lebedinskij, Mrs S. L. McDonald, S. G. Makover, A. V. Markov, O. F. Mathias, R. W. Michie, A. V. Nielsen, Miss R. J. Northcott, Mrs S. V. Romanskaya, L. I. Semenov, E. C. e Silva, E. Vassy, S. C. Venter, M. H. Wrubel.