

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Meeting of 29 August, 15.00, in the Mansion House at Dublin

Prof. OTTO STRUVE, President, in the Chair

The agenda for this meeting, which had been published in the I.A.U. circular of May 1955 and in the official programme for the Dublin meeting, read as follows:

1. Official opening of the Congress.
2. Address by the President of the Union.
3. Appointment of recorders and interpreters for the meeting.
4. Report by the General Secretary.
5. Report by Prof. J. H. OORT for the special committee (Prof. J. H. OORT, Sir HAROLD SPENCER JONES, Dr P. G. KULIKOVSKY and Prof. B. STRÖMGREN) nominated by the Executive Committee to study the problems of the system of standing commissions and of I.A.U. membership and to prepare definite proposals for the ninth General Assembly.
6. Report of the Executive Committee.
7. Appointment of the Finance Committee.
8. Fixation of the budget for the 1956–58 term.
9. Approbation of the proposals made by the Nominating Committee.
10. Election of the new President and of one Vice-President of the Executive Committee.
11. Determination of the place of meeting for the tenth General Assembly.
12. Resolutions submitted by the Executive Committee
 - (a) that no change be made in the unit of subscription for the next term and that it will remain fixed at 500 gold francs;
 - (b) that Article VII of the by-laws be changed, the following new text being proposed:

VII. PUBLICATIONS

22. The *Transactions* of the Union shall be circulated free of cost:
 - (i) to members of the Executive Committee and of Standing Commissions;
 - (ii) to observatories on a list approved by the Executive Committee;
 - (iii) to adhering organizations and National Committees.
23. The Executive Committee decides how the distribution of other publications will be arranged.
24. Members of the Union may purchase the publications at reduced prices;
 - (c) that the last sentence of paragraph 5 of Article II of the by-laws be changed, the following new text being proposed:

Any such motion submitted by an adhering organization, by a National Committee of Astronomy, by a standing committee or by a Joint Commission affiliated to the Union must be put on the agenda;

- (d) that two delegates be nominated to represent the Union on the Executive Board of I.C.S.U. (by-law II, 9);
 - (e) that I.C.S.U.'s plan for a Federation scheme of the International Scientific Unions be discussed.
13. Resolutions submitted by National Committees of Astronomy:
 - (a) The National Committee for Canada proposes an amendment to the by-laws of the Union. The proposed amendment is in the form of an addition to by-law III,

paragraph eleven, and is to be inserted following the words '...the names of candidates proposed having been announced at the preceding session . . .'. The amendment itself is as follows:

The names of candidates for election to the Executive Committee shall be proposed by a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the President and immediate Past President, *ex officio*, one member of the Executive Committee whose term has just expired and two other members not on the Executive Committee, the latter three to be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be formed within one year following each General Assembly.

14. Resolutions submitted by standing committees:

(a) Commission 14:

In the 1938 report of this commission a list of symbols for use in the description of spectra were recommended, including the symbol A for the wave-length unit. It now appears from the resolution made by the Joint Commission on Spectroscopy in 1954 that a change to the symbol Å should be recommended.

(b) Commission 35 (proposal by U.S.S.R.):

That a new standing commission be established on Cosmogony.

(c) Commission 37:

That the name of this commission be changed from 'Star Clusters' into 'Star Clusters and Associations'.

(d) Commission 22:

That Sub-Commission 22a be separated from Commission 22 and established as an independent commission.

(e) Commission 18:

That Commission 18 be discontinued and that its members be nominated as members of Commissions 19 and 31.

The President opened the meeting and invited Col. LACLAVÈRE, Mrs GOSSNER, Mrs MASEVICH and Dr KULIKOVSKY to act as interpreters during the General Assembly and then addressed the meeting as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I declare the ninth General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union to be in session. Before we start with the large amount of business on our agenda I shall ask you to stand for a few moments while the General Secretary, Dr Oosterhoff, reads to us the list of our deceased members.

The General Secretary then read the following names: Dr B. A. Asplind, Prof. T. Banachiewicz, W. Benitez e Inglott, Prof. J. Chazy, Prof. O. A. Colacevich, Prof. E. de Caro, Prof. L. F. Erro, Prof. E. Esclangon, G. Fournier, Dr A. Gatterer, Miss Dr V. F. Gaze, Prof. L. Gialanella, Dr W. Grotrian, Dr E. Hubble, Prof. A. O. Leuschner, S. Lemoine, Dr H. Mineur, Dr F. J. Neubauer, Prof. A. J. Orlov, R. M. Stewart, Dr J. Tinoco, Prof. L. Volta, Dr F. E. Wright.

To all of you who know the English language I say again 'a hearty welcome'! May this meeting be as fruitful and as harmonious as our last meeting, three years ago, in Rome.

Советским астрономам и всем тем кто знает язык Ломоносова я хочу сказать на моем родном русском языке: добро пожаловать! Ваш приезд в Ирландию означает торжество идеи мирного сотрудничества ученых всех народов. Без Вашей помощи международный астрономический союз существовать не может.

C'est avec un vif plaisir que je souhaite, dans leur langue, la bienvenue aux astronomes de France, de Belgique et de Suisse Romande. Mais je le fais avec quelque hésitation étant donné que j'ai lu, il y a quelques semaines, la très vivante description de la réunion de notre Union à Bruxelles, publiée par H. H. Turner dans le fameux *Oxford Note-Book*.

Turner raconte qu'un astronome d'Angleterre, désireux d'être poli avait présenté sa communication en français. A la fin de ce discours, M. Baillaud au premier rang, demanda à haute voix 'Traduction s'il vous plait'! Et c'est ainsi que cet exposé fut traduit en meilleur français. Je termine donc en disant que notre interprète officiel est prêt, sur demande, à traduire ces quelques mots en meilleur français.

Den Deutschen Astronomen sage ich 'Seien Sie herzlich willkommen!' Sie sind jetzt hier zum zweiten Mal als stimmberechtigte Mitglieder der Union. Es freut mich anzuzeigen, dass gestern das 'Executive Committee' beschlossen hat auch Oesterreich als 37-es Mitglied der Union anzuerkennen.

It is appropriate that at the beginning of the first General Assembly the President should render to the membership an accounting of the trust he has held during the interval since his election.

The three years that have passed since our meeting in Rome have been quiet ones and there have been no great disturbances, only peaceful, and therefore fruitful, advances in research, in scientific communication and in friendly international co-operation. The principal results of these efforts are before you in the Draft Reports of our commissions, in the proceedings of our various symposia, and in the Secretary's report for the Executive Committee.

Our Union is stronger today than it has been at any time in the past. Not only is the scientific work of the commissions progressing at a rapid pace, but new and inspiring standards have been set in international co-operation. It may be truly said that this Union has become an important instrument of good will among nations of different ideologies and political backgrounds.

I need not remind you that only a few years ago these same differences of ideology and politics threatened to disrupt our organization. I wish to pay the highest possible compliments to former President Lindblad and former General Secretary Strömgren for the statesmanship which they displayed when they came face to face with those difficulties that have been briefly set forth in the eighth volume of the *Transactions*. If it had not been for their wisdom and forbearance, the Union might well have disappeared. I owe it to them, and to the good sense and sportsmanship of the vast majority of all astronomers, that my tenure as President has not been beset by similar difficulties.

But let us not close our eyes to those differences among us that do exist. I believe the time has come to discuss frankly and in a friendly spirit those ideological differences which have a bearing upon our science. Are the stars the same east and west of Berlin? Is the law of gravitation different in Moscow from what it is in Washington? But are there perhaps some elusive differences in the philosophical interpretation of the laws of nature east of the iron curtain and west of the nylon curtain? Are we not all the same kind of scientific materialists, as Sergei Gaposchkin has recently said in a review of Prof. Kukarkin's book on variable stars? For me, the impartial president of this body, it would be inappropriate to dwell further upon this matter. But I recommend informal exchanges of opinion and information; and let me repeat again: in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

The Executive Committee met in Liège a year ago and made several important decisions. Those items which require your consideration appear on the agenda or will be brought to your attention as we proceed with our business.

The most important general question concerns the organization of the Union. The Liège conference appointed a special committee under the chairmanship of Dr OORT, and with Messrs STRÖMGREN, SPENCER JONES and KULIKOVSKY as the members, to study this question and to report to us in Dublin.

Let me very briefly give you the necessary background. The present organization of the Union was adopted in Brussels in 1919. It was proposed by the national delegation of the United States consisting of W. W. Campbell, Benjamin Boss, Frank Schlesinger, W. S. Adams, S. A. Mitchell, F. H. Seares, Charles E. St John and Joel Stebbins. The latter published a report of the Brussels proceedings in *Popular Astronomy* for 1919.

There is also an account in *The Observatory* by H. H. Turner. The American delegation had met in Washington before sailing for Europe and had reached the conclusion 'that the work of the Union should be carried on by committees, that these committees should report before the General Assembly of the Union, and that there should be no separate sessions or divisions of astronomy'. Special emphasis was placed upon the holding of general meetings 'where all could attend'.

This proposal was thoroughly discussed at Brussels. Referring to it Turner wrote: 'Great discoveries are apt to be at first repellent to those to whom they are presented, and this was no exception . . . we only slowly became convinced, by repeated failures, that we had better leave (the proposals) as they were.'

There has been much criticism of late that some of our commissions are too large, that others are not serving a useful purpose, and that the inevitable tendency has been to organize more and more commissions which in some cases overlap to a considerable extent.

Prof. OORT will report on the deliberations of his committee, and the Executive Committee unanimously recommends for adoption the changes in the by-laws which he will suggest.

Another question of vital importance was raised by the delegation from Canada. Its purpose is to democratize our system of electing the officers of the Union and of making sure that the elected officers do, in fact, represent the best choices of the General Assembly, as is clearly demanded by our constitution. I am personally in favour of changing the procedure leading to the nomination of our officers. But in view of the importance of the Oort proposals, the Executive Committee suggests that a special committee consisting of Sir HAROLD SPENCER JONES, Dr A. MCKELLAR and Dr P. TH. OOSTERHOFF be asked to review this proposal in the light of the changes required by the Oort recommendations, and to resubmit a similar proposal at the 1958 meeting.

The Executive Committee has carefully considered where the next meeting of 1958 shall be held. To give you an opportunity to discuss it within your national delegations, I shall call upon the chief delegate of the Soviet Union, Dr B. V. KUKARKIN, to address this meeting.

The Executive Committee believes that we must no longer avoid embarrassment by choosing to meet in small and politically neutral countries. We have therefore unanimously decided to recommend to you the acceptance of the Soviet invitation.

There is another great power on this earth, and, like the Soviet Union, it has a large number of astronomers and many great observatories. It is no more 'neutral' than is the Soviet Union, and it, too, would like to have this Union meet within its boundaries. I recognize the director of the Harvard Observatory, Dr DONALD H. MENZEL, who will speak on behalf of the American Astronomical Society of which he is the president, and also on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington. Prof. J. J. NASSAU, chairman of the U.S.A. delegation, will speak on behalf of the American government.

We must now decide where we shall meet in 1958. But we need not decide at this meeting about 1961.

We shall be obliged to take several votes at this and the 5 September meetings. May I therefore remind you that our statutes provide for three forms of voting:

- (1) on scientific questions by the straight majority of all members of the Union;
- (2) on questions of organization by countries adhering to the Union with one vote for each country, provided the dues have been paid for 1954; and
- (3) on financial questions, also by countries, the number of votes for each country being its category number plus one.

The various national delegations should be prepared to have one person act as their official voting member. I shall interpret rule (3) to mean that while some countries cast more votes than one, there cannot be a split in the vote of any given delegation. May I also remind you that I shall entertain motions, when appropriate, to instruct the Secretary to cast a ballot in the name of the entire Union. It is customary that such a vote be indicated by the general applause of the delegates.

Section III of the by-laws of the International Astronomical Union states that the President, the Vice-Presidents and the General Secretary shall be elected *by the General Assembly*. The President retires at the end of the ordinary General Assembly following that of his election; the Vice-Presidents and the General Secretary shall hold office until the end of the second ordinary General Assembly following that of their election. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall not be immediately eligible for re-election. The election of their successors shall take place at the last session, and the names of the candidates proposed shall be announced at the preceding session. The retiring President remains a member of the Executive Committee without vote until the end of the next ordinary General Assembly following his retirement.

In accordance with the by-laws, we now have five Vice-Presidents. The term of one of them, Dr AMBARTSUMIAN, expires at the end of the Dublin meeting. We shall, therefore, be required to elect his successor. Another Vice-President, Dr ANDRÉ COUDER, whose term would normally continue until the end of the 1958 meeting, has offered to resign in the event that a French astronomer should be chosen for the presidency. The Executive Committee has unanimously asked Dr Couder to withdraw his resignation and he has consented to do so.

The Union now has thirty-seven adhering countries. This number greatly exceeds the number of member countries—nineteen—when the Constitution of the Union was first adopted. The Executive Committee believes that it would be advisable at the present time to increase the number of Vice-Presidents from five to six. This would give a better representation on the Executive Committee of the opinions of different groups of astronomers. Since this item had not been previously discussed by the Executive Committee and has received unanimous approval only yesterday, the General Secretary has only tentatively placed upon the agenda of today's General Assembly the question of an appropriate revision in the by-laws. However, we are permitted, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Section II, to add to the agenda items that have been approved by one-half of the votes of the countries represented at this General Assembly. I shall, therefore, ask for a motion to submit this question to a vote. The General Secretary will read the list of countries and I shall ask the official spokesman of each delegation to cast his vote by voice, saying 'yes', 'no', or 'abstain'. This procedure will permit us to place upon the agenda the following motion recommended by the Executive Committee: in paragraph 10, section III, the words 'five Vice-Presidents' shall be replaced by the words 'six Vice-Presidents'.

After we have determined the results of this vote we shall vote again by countries on the recommendations of the Executive Committee. For this vote we require the approval of two-thirds of all adhering countries provided they have paid their dues. May I remind the delegates that in the event of an abstention the effect of such a vote would be the same as a vote against the proposal.

The Executive Committee believes that the choice of the President shall be based upon the following considerations: first, the scientific eminence of the candidate; secondly, his administrative skill; third, his interest in the Union and his knowledge of the affairs of the Union and, fourthly, attention should be given to a reasonable amount of rotation among those countries which are primarily active in the Union. Taking account of these considerations, the Executive Committee unanimously recommends the election of Dr ANDRÉ DANJON for the term beginning at the end of the Dublin meeting and extending until the end of the next General Assembly. Dr Danjon is the director of the Paris Observatory and serves as a professor at the University of Paris. He was born in 1890 and, after having completed his scientific studies, served with distinction in the French Army during the First World War. From 1919 until 1945 he was connected with the University of Strasbourg, becoming the director of the observatory in 1930. He is best known among astronomers for his work on the determination of accurate star positions, and he revolutionized the problem of time by his invention of a prismatic astrolabe. The precision attainable with this device greatly exceeds that of the traditional transit circle. By means of the astrolabe time can be determined with a

precision of the order of one-thousandth of a second. This instrument has been recommended for world-wide use during the International Geophysical Year. Three of these instruments are being acquired for use in the United States, and probably many more will be built for use in other countries. Danjon's earlier work was concerned with problems of photometry, double stars, interferometer measurements of the diameters of stars, atmospheric optics and scintillation, and celestial mechanics. He has served as a Vice-President during the last two General Assemblies, and he has taken an active part in many concerns of the Union. We have had two former Presidents from France: Benjamin Baillaud and Ernest Esclangon, whose term expired nearly twenty years ago. It is appropriate that the Union should elect to its highest office another successor to the great tradition of the Cassinis, of Laplace, Lagrange and Leverrier.

To replace Dr Ambartsumian the Executive Committee proposes the name of B. V. KUKARKIN, who was suggested to the committee by the Soviet astronomers. Dr Kukarkin attended the Rome meeting and he is present here in Dublin. He is best known for his work on variable stars and especially for the Russian catalogue of these stars which he has published in co-operation with Dr Parenago. He is the author of a book on the use of variable stars for the investigation of the structure of the Milky Way. During the past three years he has headed our committee on variable stars.

If we decide to elect a sixth Vice-President, the Executive Committee has nominated for this office Dr OTTO HECKMANN, director of the Bergedorf Observatory in western Germany. Dr Heckmann's earlier work was primarily concerned with problems of galactic clusters and then with cosmology. His books and articles on these subjects are well known to all astronomers. As the successor to Professor Richard Schorr he has taken over a heavy responsibility with regard to the important work on star positions. It is largely due to him that the AGK 2 is now being published without further delay. He has contributed a major share to the plans for the AGK 3, which, in the opinion of Prof. Brouwer, is 'one of the important international projects of the immediate future'.

After this address the President gave the floor to the General Secretary, who read the following report:

In the volume of Draft Reports the report of the Executive Committee has been published, which covers the three years elapsed since the Rome General Assembly. All important events concerning our Union have been described in this report in full detail. Consequently, I will not repeat anything mentioned in the report, although we can state that the I.A.U. has again grown in its activities as well as in the number of its members and adhering countries. Therefore it is clear that the I.A.U. plays an extremely important part in present-day astronomy.

In an article about the I.A.U., which is to be published in the volume *Vistas on Astronomy*, I have emphasized two main problems which the I.A.U. faces today. The first one of these difficulties lies in the structure of this organization. This structure has never been changed since the establishment of the I.A.U., and we all have felt that this structure is no longer completely satisfactory. Professor Oort will make proposals to the General Assembly concerning possible changes in the structure of the Union and therefore it is not necessary for me to go into this matter now.

The second difficulty is the important problem of languages. With the co-operation of the members we have worked out a method for the present General Assembly to avoid translations during the meetings as far as possible. The participants in the meetings are urgently requested not to ask for translations unless they will be essential for a good understanding of the proceedings. The problem of languages, however, is much more serious on account of the fact that many astronomical publications are given in languages which cannot be understood by all astronomers. For many years astronomers have studied this problem, and it was felt that at least part of this difficulty could be avoided if every article would be accompanied by an abstract in at least one other main language. This system can only be helpful if these abstracts give sufficient details of the original article. It was clear from the beginning that this system of abstracts in another language

had to be on a basis of reciprocity. At the request of the President and the General Secretary of the I.A.U. the Soviet astronomers have started to give abstracts in English or French in their main journals, whereas some Western journals have followed or are taking the necessary steps to follow this procedure. We fully realize that the difficulties will not be completely solved, even if all astronomical periodicals would do the same, but we are convinced that an important step has been taken. We sincerely hope that not only the editors of astronomical periodicals, but that also directors of observatories and astronomical institutes will join in this effort to make their articles accessible to all astronomers.

May I use this opportunity to thank all the members of the I.A.U. and all the representatives of the adhering organizations for their most efficient co-operation during the last three years.

The President then invited Prof. OORT to report on the work of the Committee consisting of Oort, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Kulikovsky and Strömgren, nominated by the Executive Committee to study the problems of the system of standing commissions and of membership. Prof. Oort addressed the meeting as follows:

It has long been felt by many astronomers that the structure of our Union is unduly complicated, that there are too many commissions and that most of these commissions are too large.

At the outset, the structure of the Union was adequate. However, since the end of the war astronomy has grown rapidly and it has become more and more desirable to include as many young astronomers as possible in the Union. This has gradually led to commissions which are unwieldy.

My proposals are limited to only one facet of these difficulties, namely, the size of the commissions. The question of their large number and overlapping will not be considered at present.

Large commissions are not only difficult from an administrative point of view, but more serious still is the fact that real discussions about co-ordination and planning of research become impossible.

Increase in membership has been caused principally by the fact that up to the present, in order to become a full-fledged member of the Union, a young astronomer had to be nominated to one of the Standing Committees. This was originally not a bad principle, but it has now become impracticable.

The Committee appointed by the Executive Committee therefore proposes a rather radical change in the definition of membership: that the Union shall be composed of general members only.

It is our idea that members of Standing Committees will be chosen from these general members. Every member, whether or not he be a member of a Standing Committee, will have exactly the same rights, will receive *Transactions*, etc.

This change will eliminate the difficulty that membership in the Union requires membership in a commission, and will result in restricting further influx of new members into commissions.

This, in our opinion, will not be enough to reduce the commissions to a practicable size, and some further directives will be proposed to reach this aim, such as: that a member of the Union not be a member of more than three commissions; that one observatory or institute not be represented in a commission by more than one member; and that newly appointed general members not be members of a commission. It is clear that this will not result immediately in really small working committees, but it is hoped that they can gradually be brought back to pre-war size.

After ample discussion, our small Committee and the Executive Committee have come to the conclusion that the more or less conservative measures I have described are more desirable than the drastic and sudden change in the entire composition of the Union which would be required to reduce all commissions to a maximum of, say, fifteen members.

All the details concerning these directives and the way in which the Nominating Committee would operate will be definitely worked out by the Executive Committee during this meeting. Today we wish only to put before you the changes in the by-laws that would be required. These are:

Article I: Members of the Union

1. The Union shall be composed of two classes of members: (a) all the members of the Standing Committees of the Union; (b) members nominated by adhering organizations or by National Committees. The list of members shall be published by the General Secretary after each ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.

New version:

1. The Union shall be composed of members appointed by the Executive Committee on the basis of their achievement in some branch of astronomy. Proposals for membership are submitted by adhering organizations. In addition, Standing Committees may propose co-optation of scientists from countries which do not adhere to the Union. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee to advise in matters concerning changes in membership. This Nominating Committee will consist of one representative of each adhering country, proposed by the adhering organization. The list of members shall be published by the General Secretary after each ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.

Article IV: Standing Committees

15. The President and the members of each Committee are elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Executive Committee of the Union from among scientists of adhering countries. They hold office until the end of the next ordinary General Assembly, and are re-eligible, etc.

New version:

15. The President and the members of each Committee are elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Executive Committee of the Union from among members of the Union. They hold office until the end of the next ordinary General Assembly, and are re-eligible, etc.

Article VII: Publications

22. The publications of the Union shall be circulated free of cost:

- (i) to members of the Executive Committee and of Standing Committees,
- (ii) to observatories on a list approved by the Executive Committee,
- (iii) to adhering organizations and National Committees.

23. Members of the Union may purchase the publications at reduced prices.

New version:

22. The *Transactions* of the Union shall be circulated free of cost:

- (i) to members of the Union,
- (ii) to observatories on a list approved by the Executive Committee,
- (iii) to adhering organizations and National Committees.

23. The Executive Committee decides how the distribution of other publications will be arranged.

24. Members of the Union may purchase the publications at reduced prices.

The official representatives of the adhering countries were then invited to vote on the question of whether the proposed changes in the statutes should be put on the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

Next, the official representatives voted on the changes in the statutes proposed by the Oort Committee. These changes in the statutes were unanimously approved.

The President then informed the Assembly that the Executive Committee would work out the directives during this Assembly and communicate them to the members in the

near future, and he informed the Assembly that the new rules would not be applied until the nominating procedure for the next General Assembly begins.

Then the President invited the official representatives of the adhering countries to vote on the question of whether the changes in by-laws required to increase the number of Vice-Presidents from five to six should be put on the agenda. This motion was also carried unanimously. The representatives of the adhering countries then voted on the new text of Article III, 10 of the by-laws proposed by the Executive Committee. The new version reads: 'The Executive Committee of the Union shall consist of a President, not more than six Vice-Presidents, and a General Secretary, who shall be elected by the General Assembly.' The new version of this by-law was unanimously adopted.

The President then announced that the Executive Committee proposed the following names for the candidacies of President and Vice-Presidents:

President: Prof. A. DANJON.

Vice-President: Prof. B. V. KUKARKIN.

Vice-President: Prof. O. HECKMANN.

In connexion with the determination of the place of meeting for the tenth General Assembly the President invited Prof. KUKARKIN, the official representative of the U.S.S.R., to address the meeting. Prof. KUKARKIN made the following statement:

'The Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. proposes that the tenth General Assembly of the I.A.U. be held in Moscow. We will be extremely glad to welcome all the members of the Union to our country. All details concerning the invitation have already been discussed between the Executive Committee and the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.'

This motion that the next meeting be held in Moscow was seconded by Prof. J. J. NASSAU and the meeting then accepted the invitation from the U.S.S.R. by acclamation.

The meeting authorized the General Secretary to continue his correspondence with the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. concerning the organization of the next General Assembly.

Although at this meeting no decision could be taken concerning the General Assembly of 1961, the President asked that it be put on record that the U.S.A. invites the I.A.U. to hold this meeting there. At his request, Prof. J. J. NASSAU addressed the meeting as follows:

'The American Delegation has been authorized to extend, on behalf of the United States Government, an invitation to the International Astronomical Union to hold its 1961 General Assembly in the United States. It is anticipated that such a meeting will be held in Pasadena, under the auspices of the Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories.'

Then Prof. MENZEL took the floor and said:

'The formal invitation to hold the eleventh General Assembly in the United States of America also comes from the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, and the American Astronomical Society. But, informally, this invitation comes from the American astronomers, who feel that an interval of twenty-nine years between sessions of the I.A.U. in the United States has been far too long.

'Please allow sufficient time for your trip to California so that you can visit not only the scenic points of interest but also a number of observatories *en route*, where, I assure you, you will receive a most hearty welcome.'

The General Secretary then read the names of the acting presidents of standing commissions who had been appointed by the Executive Committee for the time of this Assembly.

The General Assembly then approved the report of the Executive Committee, published in the volume of Draft Reports for the Dublin meeting, with exception of the part involving finance, which had to be submitted to the Finance Committee.

The General Secretary then read the names of those representatives of the adhering countries who had been appointed to the Finance Committee. This Committee consisted of the following members, Prof. STRATTON having been appointed President by the Executive Committee:

<i>Argentina</i>	L. GRATTON	<i>Italy</i>	L. ROSINO
<i>Australia</i>	H. W. WOOD	<i>Japan</i>	M. MIYADI
<i>Belgium</i>	P. BOURGEOIS	<i>Lebanon</i>	G. CONTINO
<i>Canada</i>	A. MCKELLAR	<i>Mexico</i>	G. HARO
<i>Chile</i>	No representative	<i>Netherlands</i>	H. ZANSTRA
<i>China</i>	YU-CHE CHANG	<i>Norway</i>	R. BRAHDE
<i>Czechoslovakia</i>	B. STERNBERK	<i>Poland</i>	S. PIOTROWSKI
<i>Denmark</i>	E. HERTZSPRUNG	<i>Portugal</i>	A. PAES CLEMENTE
<i>Egypt</i>	A. H. M. SAMAHA	<i>Roumania</i>	G. DEMETRESCU
<i>Eire</i>	H. A. BRÜCK	<i>South Africa</i>	W. H. VAN DEN BOS
<i>Finland</i>	G. J. JÄRNEFELT	<i>Spain</i>	R. CARRASCO
<i>France</i>	F. BALDET	<i>Sweden</i>	K. SCHALÉN
<i>Germany</i>	J. LARINK	<i>Switzerland</i>	M. SCHÜRER
<i>Great Britain</i>	F. J. M. STRATTON	<i>U.S.A.</i>	L. GOLDBERG
<i>Greece</i>	C. MACRIS	<i>U.S.S.R.</i>	E. K. KHARADZE
<i>Hungary</i>	L. DETRE	<i>Vatican City State</i>	D. J. K. O'CONNELL
<i>India</i>	A. K. DAS	<i>Venezuela</i>	No representative
<i>Israel</i>	No representative	<i>Yugoslavia</i>	L. RANDIĆ

As proposed by the President, the Assembly decided to send a message by cable to the following astronomers: G. ABETTI, W. S. ADAMS, V. A. AMBARTSUMIAN, J. BAILLAUD, C. A. CHANT, A. COUDER, H. N. RUSSELL, H. SHAPLEY, P. J. VAN RHIJN.

The President then formally declared the meeting closed.

Meeting of 5 September, 2.30, in the Great Hall of University College, in Dublin

The President read a number of telegrams which had been received.

The meeting then proceeded to consider the financial report, which was prepared by Prof. STRATTON, chairman of the Finance Committee. This report reads as follows:

'In accordance with the Statutes (Sect. 4, No. 8) the Finance Committee presents separate reports on the accounts for the years 1952, 1953, 1954 and on the estimates for 1956, 1957, 1958.

'The following report by a sub-commission has been unanimously adopted by the full commission.

'We have examined the account of income and expenditure for the years 1952, 1953 and 1954 in conjunction with the auditor's certificates and with the books and vouchers made available to us. We are satisfied that they represent a true and correct account of the operations of the Union during the period. (We draw attention to certain payments referred to on pp. 2 and 9 of the Draft Reports, which the Executive Committee has made in addition to the subventions authorized by the General Assembly in Rome) The Finance Committee approves of these payments made for reasons of urgency. We approve that the General Secretary has closed down some of the accounts in different currencies and thereby simplified the finances of the Union. We approve the action of the Executive Committee in placing some of the current balances in certain savings accounts, which pay interest. We appreciate the continued support of U.N.E.S.C.O. and especially the greater freedom now given to the Union to change the allocations within the categories of U.N.E.S.C.O. For this we feel especially grateful to Prof. A. V. HILL and Dr R. FRASER.

'The accounts have again been audited professionally and this has greatly simplified our work.