

course, have serious consequences for the future of our astronomical research. Some Algerian students are still being educated abroad, but the present situation is such that they do not intend to return. The funding for astronomy is totally inadequate. The budget for all scientific research (being only a small fraction of the *Projet Interieur Brut*) is far from sufficient, and the budget for astronomical research is again a small fraction of that. Thus, in effect, we are prevented from undertaking any experimental project or a theoretical one that needs elaborate computer equipment.

Another great problem is that of communication. The rapid evolution of basic space science and technology has created the need for far freer and more efficient exchange of information, and this need is all the greater in countries, such as ours, that suffer from isolation. Because of the present situation in our country, the support of international organizations is urgently needed. Perhaps this could be provided within the framework of programmes to promote astronomy and basic space sciences in developing countries, such as that currently run by UN/ESA. There are special needs for computers, instruments and spare parts. The linking of Algeria to INTERNET or BITNET would help to solve many of our problems.

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An impromptu contribution on astronomy in Morocco was made by K. Chamcham (Universities of Casablanca and Sussex). No text is available for this talk, which outlined a situation very similar to that in Algeria. There is some Spanish-Moroccan cooperation. Recently, budget difficulties led to the purchase of a personal computer extending over three years. Ansari inquired about the value of publicizing the contributions of Moslems (Arab and Iranian) to astronomy during the period of high Islamic culture when western civilization was relatively poor.. This might interest politicians in astronomy. Chamcham replied that this was indeed necessary, but he felt it illogical to support religious arguments while teaching the Big Bang. Abeti commented that politicians in Italy did not respond to much to direct requests from astronomers, but would act if there was sufficient pressure from schools or public opinion. Perhaps also in Africa one might begin by disseminating astronomical information to the public, through exhibitions, lecture, and competitions, and by training schoolteachers. She expressed willingness to help.