

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 meeting in Sydney, 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. Appointment of the Finance Committee
8. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee
9. Suspension of the second sentence of Article 11(a) of the Statutes for the year 1973
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) (*France*):
 - (i) To change Article 11 of the Statutes to the effect that Adhering Countries which did not fully pay their annual contributions up to 31 December of the year preceding the General Assembly may participate in the voting on questions involving the budget of the Union with a number of votes by one greater than the number of category that corresponds to the payment actually made.
 - (ii) To extend the interval between two General Assemblies of the IAU from 3 to 4 years.
 - (iii) To organize regional astronomical meetings at intervals of 4 years or, with well defined topics, in years where there is no General Assembly of the IAU.
 - (iv) To reduce, in co-operation with international and national organizations, air pollution by jet propelled aircraft, and the risks of airborne persons of being exposed to laser rays.
 - (b) (*Yugoslavia*):
 - (i) Not to increase the unit of contribution payable by Adhering Countries to the IAU.
 - (ii) To organize young astronomers' competitions under the auspices of the IAU.
 - (iii) To establish a centre for exchange and loan of temporarily unused astronomical instruments and accessories.

The proposals will be submitted to the appropriate Commissions prior to the General Assembly.
11. Considerations of proposals for resolutions submitted by Commissions:
 - (a) (*Commission 6*) To maintain the IAU subvention to the IAU Telegram Bureau at \$1600 U.S. per triennium.
 - (b) (*Commission 7*) Creation of new IAU Commission on 'Astrodynamics'

- (c) (*Commission 8*) To endorse the proposals by *IAU Colloquium* No. 20 on 'Meridian Astronomy' for resolutions on new instrumentation, improvement of the FK4, the meridian catalogue, the SRS catalogue, etc.
- (d) (*Commission 16*) To allocate \$1500 U.S. to the Centre de documentation sur les planètes à Meudon for 1974-1976.
- (e) (*Commission 17*)
 - (i) To approve a list of fundamental lunar craters as basis for the co-ordinate system.
 - (ii) To include smaller topographic features in the Lunar Nomenclature.
- (f) (*Commission 20*) To continue the subvention of \$2000 U.S. to the Minor Planet Center, Cincinnati, for the period 1974-1976.
- (g) (*Commission 30*)
 - (i) Sur l'adoption d'une formule unique pour l'expression de la Vitesse Radiale V_r , en fonction du déplacement spectral relatif $z = \Delta\lambda/\lambda_0$ par tous les observateurs (Spectroscopie optique et Radio-Astronomie).
 - (ii) Sur la convention à adopter pour l'expression de λ_0 (valeur du vide ou de l'air) en vue du calcul de la vitesse radiale des Quasars.
 - (iii) Sur la nécessité de déterminer par priorité les orbites de Binaires Spectroscopiques qui sont aussi Binaires à Eclipse en vue de l'obtention d'un plus grand nombre de Masses.
- (h) (*Commission 31*) To recommend the adoption of the UTC system as the basis for the dissemination of Standard Time (Heure Normale) in all countries, to recommend definitions for TAI, TAI' and UTC, to recommend a 'Modified Julian Date', and to recommend maximum limit of DUT 1 and the introduction of leap seconds.
- (i) (*Commission 35*) To consider the problem of overlapping international and large national symposia and colloquia on same or similar topics, and their possible coordination.
- (j) (*Commission 42*) To change the name of IAU Commission 42 from 'Photometric Double Stars' to 'Close Binary Stars'.

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 1970-1972
 - (b) The revised budget for 1973
 - (c) The budget for the ensuing period
13. The unit of subscription for 1974-1976. The Executive Committee will propose to the Finance Committee that the unit of subscription be increased by 25% from 900 gold francs to 1125 gold francs.
14. Appointment of the Special Nominating Committee
15. Proposals for resolutions presented by the Executive Committee
16. Proposals for resolutions presented by Commissions, subject to the recommendation by the Resolutions Committee (including admission of new Member Countries)
17. Announcement of new individual Members of the Union
18. *Commissions:*
 - (a) Structural changes in Commissions
 - (b) The election of Presidents and Vice-Presidents
 - (c) The membership of Organizing Committees
19. *Place and date of the XVIth General Assembly:*
Consideration of the French invitation to hold the XVIth General Assembly at Grenoble, France, in 1976
20. Election of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, and an Assistant General Secretary

21. Addresses by the retiring and newly elected Officers
22. Closing Ceremonies

At the first session of the General Assembly, to be held on 21 August, items 1 through 11 will be considered. The remaining items, and any that may have been adjourned from the first session, will be considered at the second session, to be held on 30 August.

FIRST SESSION

*Held in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia,
on Tuesday, 21 August 1973 at 10^h30^m*

Professor Bengt Strömgren, President, in the chair

The Government Astronomer, Dr H. W. Wood, Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, welcomed the participants in the XVth General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union as follows:

'It makes us very happy to welcome to Australia so many colleagues who are well known to us through their work and who have become our dear friends when we have been fortunate enough to visit them in their own countries or to meet them at Assemblies of the Union and at meetings such as have been arranged in our part of the world for these few weeks.

On behalf of Australian astronomers I express the hope that you will enjoy your stay with us, that many old friendships will be renewed and new ones made, that our meetings will give momentum to progress of astronomy and, this may be tempting fate, that the weather will smile for us.

Tout ce que j'ai dit c'est: soyez les bienvenus! En avant l'astronomie! Et vive l'amitié!'

The President thanked Dr Wood in these words:

'Dr Harley Wood,

On behalf of the International Astronomical Union I wish to thank you sincerely for your warm words of welcome. I am happy to have the opportunity to tell you that we of the IAU have come here with high expectations. We greatly appreciate what you, as Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, and the other members of that Committee have already done for us. Very many thanks.

The Inaugural Ceremony will take place in the Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday, 22 August, at 8. p.m. This means that today we shall go right on to the Agenda of the First Session of the General Assembly.'

1. *Formal Opening.* The President wished a hearty welcome to the Members of the Union, Invited Participants and their guests, representatives of Adhering Countries and National Committees of Astronomy, representatives of sister Unions and other organizations, and formally declared the first session of the fifteenth General Assembly of the Union open.

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

ICSU	(International Council of Scientific Unions): Prof. C. de Jager
BIPM	(Bureau International des Poids et Mesures): Dr J. Terrien
COSPAR	(Committee on Space Research): Prof. J.W. Carver
FAGS	(Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services): Dr B. Guinot
IUCM	(Inter-Union Commission on Studies of the Moon): Dr A. Dollfus
IUCS	(Inter-Union Commission on Spectroscopy): Dr A. H. Cook
IUCST	(ICSU Committee on the Teaching of Science) Prof. Edith A. Müller
IUGG	(International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics): Prof. P. Melchior
IUPAP	(International Union of Pure and Applied Physics): Dr J. S. Dryden
URSI	(Union Radio Scientifique Internationale): Prof. W. N. Christiansen