

Report on the meetings of the Executive Committee on August 28, 1955 at 2.30 p.m. and on September 3, 1955 at 7.30 p.m. during the 9th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union in Dublin.

Present were: O. Struve (President); E. Rybka, P. Swings, R.v.d.R. Woolley (Vice-Presidents); P. Th. Oosterhoff (General Secretary); B. Lindblad (former President); B. Strömgren (former General Secretary); F. Baldet, who had been invited to replace A. Couder; P. G. Kulikovsky, who replaced V. A. Ambartsumian; Sir Harold Spencer Jones, J. H. Oort and A. A. Némiro (guests).

After the opening of the meeting the President announced that the Vice-Presidents Ambartsumian and Couder were unable to attend the meeting on account of illness. The Executive Committee decided that these two vice-presidents would be replaced during this meeting by Dr. Kulikovsky and Prof. Baldet.

Next followed a discussion of the agenda for the General Assembly, which had been published in the circular of May 1955 as well as in the official programme of the meetings.

The E.C. decided to invite Colonel Laclavère, Mrs. Gossner, Mrs. Masevich and Dr. Kulikovsky as interpreters for the General Assembly.

The E.C. then nominated Professor Stratton as President of the Finance Committee and Professor Greaves as President of the Nominating Committee.

Professor Strömgren then discussed his proposal for a change in article III,10 of the By-Laws to the effect that the E.C. will consist of one President, not more than six Vice-Presidents and one General Secretary. As the number of adhering countries increases continually he stressed that it would become exceedingly difficult to make the E.C. representative unless the number of Vice-Presidents be changed from 5 to 6. The E.C. decided to support this proposal in the General Assembly. Sir Harold Spencer Jones suggested that the task of the General Secretary could be made easier by the appointment of a treasurer. In the opinion, however, of the General Secretary himself and of the former General Secretary, it would be difficult to divide the financial from the administrative tasks and they believed that it would be better to appoint an assistant General Secretary about one year before the next General Assembly. Such an appointment would not require a change in the By-Laws and it would give the future General Secretary an opportunity to become acquainted with the administration of the Union before his actual appointment. The E.C. approved this proposal.

The next item on the agenda consisted of the proposals for the election of a new President and of one or more Vice-Presidents. With respect to the presidency Professor Struve explained that his proposal that Professor Oort be elected had found a very general support among astronomers.

**) for agenda see last page.

However for several reasons Professor Oort had decided not to accept a candidacy at this time. Consequently the President had discussed with many leading astronomers, whom to propose for this office in view of the decision by Professor Oort. As a result of his correspondence and discussions the President proposed Professor Danjon and the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to support this proposal.

As Professor Ambartsumian had been in office as Vice-President for two terms, he had to resign according to our statutes. Dr. Kulikovsky proposed that Prof. B. V. Kukarkin be nominated. The E.C. unanimously approved this proposal. The meeting, however, wanted to put on record that none of the adhering countries could claim the right to be represented on the E.C. continuously.

Vice-President A. Couder had indicated that he would offer his resignation if a French astronomer would be made President of the I.A.U. in order to avoid that two nationals of one country would be on the E.C. The E.C. however decided to ask Dr. Couder to remain in office as he had only served one term and as the number of Vice-Presidents would probably be increased from 5 to 6. During a conversation by telephone Dr. Couder withdrew his resignation.

For the office of a sixth Vice-President, two names were suggested, namely Kienle and Heckmann. After some discussion the meeting unanimously agreed to propose Professor Heckmann.

Continuing with the agenda for the General Assembly the E.C. decided at the suggestion of the General Secretary to drop resolution 12e on I.C.S.U.'s plan for the Federation Scheme of the International Scientific Unions, as I.C.S.U. has postponed this plan for an indefinite time.

Next the resolution 13a, proposed by the National Committee of Canada was discussed. Also from other sides it had been indicated that the way in which the members of the E.C. are selected did not seem very satisfactory. Consequently the E.C. decided that this important problem should be studied in more detail and therefore the E.C. nominated a special committee consisting of Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Prof. McKellar and the General Secretary, to discuss this matter and to report to the E.C. at its last meeting before the 10th General Assembly.

The next item on the agenda of the Executive Committee was the place of the 10th General Assembly. At the Liège meeting of the E.C. in 1954, Prof. Ambartsumian made the following statement:

"It is a pleasant duty for me to inform you that the Academy of Sciences of U.S.S.R. considers the invitation of the Academy, directed to the International Astronomical Union to hold its meeting in U.S.S.R., still valid. This means that the invitation also covers the meeting of 1958. The Academy of Sciences now considers Moscow as the most convenient place for this meeting of 1958.

I may state here that the Academy of Sciences would provide the members of the Union, which will take part in the meeting, with all facilities for productive work. All the members of the I.A.U. will be invited".

and the E.C. at that time unanimously decided to put down on record that it was very grateful for the invitations received, which it had thoroughly considered and that it looked favourably upon the invitation from the U.S.S.R. The E.C. also decided to request the General Secretary to study and investigate with some of the Soviet astronomers some difficulties, which in the opinion of several astronomers might be connected with a meeting in the U.S.S.R.

Therefore the General Secretary reported on the correspondence which he had had with the Academy of Sciences in Moscow. From these letters it has become clear that the Soviet Academy has found solutions for most of the difficulties discussed. It has decided that the relatives of the astronomers will be the guests of the Academy of Sciences during their stay in the U.S.S.R. on the condition that they would pay a participation fee of 600 rubels (which is equivalent to about \$ 125) per person. The Academy is also convinced that unnecessary delay in the exchange of letters can be completely eliminated. The E.C. expressed its thanks to the Academy of Moscow for the generous manner in which they have tried to solve some of these problems and decided unanimously to propose Moscow as the next place of meeting to the General Assembly. It authorized the General Secretary to continue his correspondence with the Moscow Academy for the preparation of the next General Assembly.

The E.C. then elected the following new Presidents of standing commissions, taking into account the general rule that a president cannot be in office for more than two terms and the proposals made by the resigning presidents:

Commission	5:	D. Ya. Martynov
„	6:	E. Buchar
„	7:	D. Brouwer
„	9:	G. E. Kron
„	11:	C. W. Allen
„	13:	R. O. Redman
„	19:	E. P. Fedorov
„	20:	S. Arend
„	23:	P. Couderc
„	24:	K. A. Strand
„	25:	R. H. Stoy
„	31:	W. Markowitz
„	33:	A. Blaauw
„	36:	H. Kienle
„	42:	D. J. K. O'Connell

The E.C. also appointed the following acting presidents for the time of the Dublin meeting:

Commission	6:	Miss J. M. Vinter Hansen
„	9:	Ch. Fehrenbach
„	19:	W. Markowitz
„	23:	P. Couderc
„	32:	J. H. Oort
„	39:	F. J. M. Stratton

The E.C. next considered the proposals made for future symposia. Professor Alfvén proposed a symposium on Electromagnetic Phenomena in Cosmical Physics, to be held in Stockholm in the year 1956, probably from August 27 until August 31. Prof. Alfvén submitted to the E.C. a provisional programme and the E.C. decided that this symposium will take place under the auspices of the I.A.U., but Prof. Alfvén will be invited to form an organizing committee together with H. W. Babcock, L. Biermann and T. G. Cowling.

For the year 1957 two proposals were received. The first was made by Prof. Oort for a second symposium on Co-ordination of Galactic Research, probably to be held in Stockholm. The E.C. approved this proposal and asked Prof. Oort to make the necessary preparations together with the Committee mentioned on page 287 of the last volume of Draft Reports, consisting of Baade, Blaauw, Lindblad, Oort, Parenago and van Rhijn.

The second proposal was made by Prof. Burgers and Prof. van de Hulst for a third symposium on Cosmic Gas Dynamics, to be held in the U.S.A., provisionally on June 24-29, 1957. This symposium should be held under the combined auspices of I.U.T.A.M. and I.A.U. The E.C. also approved of this proposal. The organizing committee will consist of Chandrasekhar, Oort, Spitzer, and van de Hulst for the I.A.U., and Burgers, Kantrowitz, Taylor and Uhlenbeck for the I.U.T.A.M. In all likelihood a few more names will be added.

Article 5 of the present statutes states: that these statutes will remain in force until 31 December 1955. As some changes in the statutes will be submitted to the General Assembly, the E.C. decided that the new statutes will come into force as soon as adopted by the General Assembly and that they will remain in force until 31 December 1958. They may then be continued for another period of 12 years unless the adhering countries decided to the contrary.

The E.C. then discussed the application from Austria to become a member of the I.A.U. Austria requested to become a member under category 1 and that the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Vienna would become the Adhering Organization. The E.C. unanimously agreed to the adherence of Austria to the I.A.U.

Professor Oort reported on the work of the special committee, consisting of Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Prof. Oort, Dr. Kulikovskiy and Prof. Strömgren, appointed at the Liège meeting of the E.C. The members of this committee agreed that steps should be taken in order to reduce the number of members of the standing commissions. They proposed that a body of general members of the Union be created and that these general members should have the full rights of the former members of category a). The members of commissions should then be elected from this body of general members. After a long discussion of this important problem the E.C. decided to propose to the General Assembly the necessary changes in the statutes and by-laws, which would make possible the changes in membership proposed by the special committee. The required changes in the statutes and by-laws are the following:

article I,1 should read:

"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-option 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,15 should read:

"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,22and 23 should be replaced by:

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 decided how the distribution of other publications will be arranged.
24. Members of the Union may purchase the publications at reduced prices."

In case the general assembly would agree with these changes in the statutes the Executive Committee decided that certain directives for the interpretation of the statutes and by-laws concerning the present problem should be agreed to. The following directives were then unanimously adopted:

1. The election of members of the Union takes place every three years. Twelve months before the General Assembly adhering organizations will be asked to submit proposed changes in membership. The closing date for such proposals will be 9 months before the Assembly. If no reply has been received by the closing date it will be presumed that the organization in question is not proposing any changes as far as its nationals are concerned. Proposals for new members must be accompanied by a statement of the reasons, a list of works, complete initials and address of the member proposed and all other details concerning the member proposed which may be of use for the Nominating Committee and the General Secretary. Presidents of Standing Committees can also send in proposals concerning persons whom they would like to see appointed as general members. Such proposals should be made within the same time limits as stated, and be accompanied by the same information concerning the persons proposed. These latter proposals will be sent by the General Secretary for advice to the Adhering Organizations from the countries to which the proposed persons belong. If no reply is received before six months before the General Assembly it will be assumed that the National Organizations agree with the proposals.

The criteria for eligibility to membership of the Union will be as rigid as those that were applied previously for the election of members of Standing Committees.

2. Twelve months before the General Assembly the General Secretary will ask the Presidents of Standing Committees for suggestions concerning changes in the membership of their Committees. The closing date for such suggestions will be nine months before the Assembly. Adhering Organizations will not be asked to send proposals for membership of Standing Committees. If they wish to make specific suggestions they should approach the Presidents of Committees concerned, before the closing date. The President will forward such proposals with his comment to the General Secretary. The General Secretary will send all suggestions received to the Nominating Committee, which will have to advise the Executive Committee concerning these proposals (or: concerning those cases in which there is a conflict between the proposals of a President and an Adhering Organization). Standing Committees can co-opt new members between General Assemblies as before. In order not to undo the work of the Nominating Committee and of Adhering Organizations such co-options should, however, be restricted to a minimum.

At the General Assembly the nominating committee should be concerned only with (a) settling cases of disagreement between Presidents of Committees and Adhering Organizations; (b) considering any individual case expressly remitted to it by the Executive. Late nominations or deletions should not be considered and it should be an instruction to the Chairman from the Executive that any such should be ruled out of order.

3. In order to reduce the membership of Committees it is desirable to suggest that in general astronomers should not belong to more than three different Standing Committees. Exception to this general principle should, however, be permitted, and the restriction should not apply to sub-commissions. In general a given institution should not have more than one member of its staff on a given Standing Committee. But here again, exceptions should be made in special cases.

Presidents of Standing Committees should be urged to restrict as much as possible new nominations in their Committees.

As a rule, newly proposed members of the Union should not be nominated directly as members of Committees.

4. Not later than four months before a General Assembly Adhering Organizations may submit to the General Secretary proposals to have astronomers who are not yet members of the Union invited to attend the General Assembly. The reasons for such proposals should be given. The scientists in question may then be invited by the President of the Union to attend the General Assembly.

5. No reference to membership of Standing Committees will be given in the alphabetical list of members prepared by the General Secretary after the General Assembly.

The E.C. also decided that the new rules will come into effect when the nomination procedure for the next General Assembly will be started. Furthermore the E.C. decided that henceforth members of a sub-commission do not have to be members of the mother commission.

With regard to the standing commissions the E.C. decided at the request of the presidents of the commissions and sub-commissions involved:

that a new sub-commission be formed under Commission 9 on Image Tubes;
that the name of Commission 14 will be henceforth "Commission des étalons de longueur d'onde et des tables de spectres";
that the name of Commission 16 will be henceforth "Commission pour les études physiques des Planètes et des Satellites";
that Commission 18 be discontinued;
that the name of Commission 22 will be henceforth "Commission des Météores et des Météorites";
that a new sub-commission be formed under Commission 22 on Météorites;
that Sub-commission 22a will be henceforth an independent commission, named "Commission de la luminescence du Ciel";
that the Sub-commissions 25a and 25b will be combined under the name of "Sous-commission des magnitudes standardes";
that a new sub-commission be formed under Commission 25 on "Seeing";
that a new sub-commission be formed under Commission 27, named "Sous-commission pour les étoiles variables dans les amas globulaires";
that Sub-commission 29a be discontinued;
that Sub-commission 30b be discontinued;
that the name of Commission 33 will be henceforth "Commission de la Structure et du Dynamique du Système Galactique";
that a new sub-commission under Commission 33 be formed for the determination of the galactic pole and the zero of galactic longitude;
that the name of Commission 37 will be henceforth "Commission des Amas stellaires et des Associations";
and that Commission 39 be discontinued.

The E.C. decided to postpone a decision about the proposals for the formation of two new commissions on Cosmogony and on Cosmical Magnetism.

The adhering organization of Spain had asked the E.C. for a reduction in its category of membership and during the meeting Professor Rybka applied for a similar reduction in the category of membership of Poland. The E.C. decided that henceforth the category of membership for Spain as well as for Poland will be fixed at 5.

During the meeting the official representative of China requested that the category of membership of this country be raised from 2 to 8. The E.C. complied with this request.

The subvention from UNESCO, in connection with the last General Assemblies for travel expenses of "Young Astronomers" to these assemblies, had proved so valuable that the I.A.U. had spent an additional sum of \$ 4000 from the budget of Commission 38 for the same purpose in connection with the Dublin meeting. Professor Strömngren had suggested that annually a certain sum would be put aside to be used for travel grants of Young Astronomers at the General Assemblies. At the suggestion of the General Secretary the E.C. decided to suggest to the Finance Committee that for the years 1956, 1957 and 1958 a sum of \$ 1000 annually will be reserved for this purpose.

The E.C. authorized the General Secretary to make some additions to the official mailing list of the I.A.U.

In connection with the plans of I.C.S.U. to form a new federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services, the I.A.U. had been requested to appoint two members on a Committee, consisting of Colonel Laclavère and two representatives of each of the following Unions, I.A.U., I.U.G.G. and U.R.S.I., which should prepare the statutes for this new federation. The E.C. then appointed Prof. Danjon and Prof. Waldmeier as members of this Committee as these two astronomers are connected with two permanent services, the Bureau International de l'Heure and the Quarterly Bulletin on Solar Activity, which will be incorporated in the new federation.

In connection with a letter from the President of the World Calendar Association with the request to give the world calendar renewed consideration and approval by the International Astronomical Union, the E.C. decided not to take any action as this problem is of practically no importance for astronomers.

A report had been submitted to the E.C. by Dr. Sadler, the chairman of a small committee, which had to follow developments in connection with the proposed International Computing Centre. The report stated that it now seems a little doubtful whether the functions of the centre, if brought into being, will be of direct interest to the I.A.U. The E.C. was of the opinion that no further action had to be taken for the time being.

At the request of Dr. d'Azambuja, president of the Joint Commission on Solar and Terrestrial Relationships, the E.C. nominated Dr. M. A. Ellison as a member of this Joint Commission for the I.A.U., as Mr. H. W. Newton wanted to resign. Furthermore the E.C. nominated Dr. J. Rösch as advisory councillor of this Joint Commission.

During the last meeting the General Secretary reported on the work of the Finance Committee and the Nominating Committee. The E.C. decided to support strongly in the General Assembly the proposals made by these two Committees.

On behalf of Sub-commission 29c, Dr. Phillips put in a request that the unexpended balance of the subvention of 5000 gold francs granted in 1952 for the production of an Atlas of Band Spectra, be used to provide as many free copies of this Atlas as possible to interested astronomers and physicists. The E.C. complied with this request.

A letter was received from Dr. R. Wildt stating that wide-spread dissatisfaction existed with the way some Presidents of Commissions has framed their reports and that there has been a conspicuous lack of objectivity in some cases. The E.C. decided not to take any action in view of the fact that the reports of Commissions always had been rather heterogeneous in character and that the way in which the reports are framed should be left to the discretion of each president, but that presidents should be asked to keep to the general directives, which are communicated to them by the General Secretary.

Dr. van de Hulst had asked the E.C. whether arrangements could be made that in certain cases the editors of I.A.U. symposia would receive royalties on the distributed copies. The E.C. proved not to be in favour of a system of royalties, but it decided to ask the General Secretary to investigate this matter and to make proposals to the Executive Committee at future meetings concerning a remuneration of editors of symposia. Instead of royalties the E.C. would prefer payment of a certain sum, the amount of which should depend on the work involved.

The E.C. received a letter from Dr. Randic, in which the latter proposed that the I.A.U. should do more to spread knowledge of astronomy among the ordinary people of the countries, which adhere to the Union. The President was of the opinion that the E.C. should not only approve these proposals, but that the I.A.U. should promote this idea by some very special measures. He suggested that at future General Assemblies one or more prominent astronomers should be invited to give a popular lecture for the population of the city where the meeting will take place. This proposal was approved by the E.C.

At the end of the meeting Professor Swings invited the E.C. to hold its next meeting in Liège.

Leiden, 12 October 1955.

The General Secretary

P. Th. Oosterhoff