

Report on the meetings of the Executive Committee of the International Astronomical Union held in Moscow on August 11th at 2 p.m. and at 8 p.m. and on August 19th at 8 p.m., during the 10th General Assembly of the I.A.U.

18th

1958

Present were: A. Danjon (President), the Vice-Presidents: A. Couder, O. Heckmann, B. V. Kukarkin, E. Rybka, P. Swings and R.v.d.R. Woolley, P. Th. Oosterhoff (General Secretary) and D. H. Sadler (Assistant General Secretary).

L. Goldberg and V. A. Ambartsumian attended the meetings in an advisory capacity; the first to replace O. Struve and the second as President of the Soviet Organizing Committee for the 10th General Assembly.

A. A. Nemiro acted as translator for B. V. Kukarkin and Miss N. Splinter assisted the General Secretary.

The agenda for the meetings were the following:

1. Opening by the President
2. Discussion of the Report of the Executive Committee in Draft Report
3. Discussion of the agenda for the tenth General Assembly
4. Proposals for the election of a new President, four new Vice-Presidents and a new General Secretary
5. Proposal for the place of the 11th General Assembly
6. Invitations for future General Assemblies
7. Request from Taiwan for I.A.U. membership
8. Appointment of a Nominating Committee
9. Discussion of the proposals for general membership and for membership of commissions
10. The actual state of the subscriptions from adhering countries
11. Request of F.A.G.G.S. that the I.A.U. allocate \$ 3000 to the Bureau International de l'Heure in 1958
12. Proposal by General Secretary to grant Dr. B. P. Lehnert \$ 200 for his work as editor of I.A.U. symposium No. 6
13. Request of Dr. Dollfus for 32,400 french francs for preparation of charts for Martian nomenclature
14. The unit of subscription
15. Memorandum of General Secretary to Finance Committee
16. Future symposia
17. Memorandum of Assistant General Secretary on the publication of symposia reports
18. Nomination of acting-Presidents for the Moscow meeting
19. Nomination of Presidents of standing commissions
20. The International Computation Centre
21. The status of the Joint Commission on Solar and Terrestrial Relationships
22. Proposal for a Joint Commission on World Geophysical Days
23. Proposal for a Special Committee on Space Research
24. Agenda of the 8th General Assembly of I.C.S.U.
25. Letter from the General Secretary of U.R.S.I. concerning a symposium on "l'Écoulement fluide"
26. Appointment of Dr. M. A. Ellison as I.A.U. representative in CSAGI for Solar Observations in place of Prof. Y. Öhman

27. Appointment of I.A.U. representative at the third Session of the World Meteorological Congress in Geneva, April 1959
28. Report of the Finance Committee
29. Additions to mailing list
30. Other matters

This report will cover the discussions and decisions by the Executive Committee of the different items in the order of the agenda, although the order in which they were actually considered was different.

1. The President opened the meeting and proposed that the General Assembly should send cables to some astronomers not present at the meeting. After some discussion the following names were proposed: Struve, Cowling, Abetti, Kopff, J. Baillaud, Dziewulski and Kamienski.

2. The Executive Committee approved the report prepared by the General Secretary on behalf of the Executive Committee in the volume of Draft Reports with the exception of the financial report, which had to be submitted to the Finance Committee.

3. Concerning item 6 of the agenda for the General Assembly, the General Secretary reported that a proposal from the Dutch Astronomical Council for a change in the composition of the Special Committee for the nomination of the members of the Executive Committee had been approved by Professor Kukarkin, who did not agree with the original proposal made by Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Dr. McKellar and Prof. Oosterhoff.

According to this proposal the Special Committee would consist of: the President, the immediate past President, a retiring member of the Executive Committee, to be nominated by the Executive Committee, and four other members who are not members of the Executive Committee, to be nominated by the Nominating Committee. This proposal was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

If approved by the General Assembly the new version of the proposal by the committee of three will be published in the Transactions.

The Executive Committee appointed Dr. Ch. Fehrenbach as President of the Finance Committee.

The President proposed that the resolutions 13a, b and c of the agenda for the General Assembly be submitted to Commissions 4, 28 and 9 respectively and the meeting agreed.

4. At the request of the President the following committee had prepared the nomination of the new members of the Executive Committee: A. Danjon, O. Struve, P. Swings, V. A. Ambartsumian and A. McKellar.

The President then submitted the results obtained by this committee to the meeting. The meeting unanimously agreed with the proposal of Prof. J. H. Oort as President and of Mr. D. H. Sadler as General Secretary. Also the candidatures of Prof. L. Goldberg and Dr. R. M. Petrie as Vice-Presidents were approved unanimously.

After some discussion the meeting decided to propose to the General Assembly as third Vice-President Dr. R. H. Stoy. For the fourth candidature of Vice-President several names were mentioned and the final choice had to be made from the four following names: Prof. B. Sternberk, Prof. B. Edlen, Dr. L. Detre and Dr. Tcheng-Mao-Lin. After some discussion and some votes Prof. Sternberk was unanimously accepted as candidate.

5. Prof. Goldberg then read the invitation from the National Academy of Sciences and of the National Research Council of the U.S.A. to hold the 11th General Assembly of the I.A.U. in the U.S.A. in 1961. This letter will be published in the report of the 10th General Assembly.

The place of the meeting has not yet been decided upon. According to the invitation all members of the Union and all persons qualified according to the statutes of the I.A.U. can partake in the meeting.

Prof. Kukarkin asked whether Soviet astronomers could pay a visit to California, if the Assembly would not be held there. Prof. Goldberg did not see any reason why such a visit could not be arranged.

The Executive Committee unanimously accepted the invitation from the U.S.A. and decided to submit it to the General Assembly.

6. Although invitations for future general assemblies could not be decided upon at this meeting, the President mentioned that an invitation had been received from the Astronomische Gesellschaft and from the Senate of the City of Hamburg for the 12th General Assembly in 1964.

So far the Union has also received standing invitations from Belgium and Poland, an official invitation from the Academy of Sciences of Australia for a meeting in 1967 or 1970 and unofficial invitations from the Argentine, Egypt and South Africa.

7. As the request from Taiwan for adherence to the I.A.U. had been received a few months before the General Assembly and as very little information had been given concerning the National Committee of Astronomy in Taiwan and about astronomical activity in this country, the Executive Committee decided to postpone a decision in this matter until the next meeting of the new Executive Committee.

The President of the I.A.U. submitted to the meeting a draft reply to the Academia Sinica in Taiwan. As the President asked for a vote on this letter, all the members were in favour of this reply, with the exception of Prof. Kukarkin who abstained from voting.

8. At its last meeting in Liège the Executive Committee had already appointed Prof. M. G. J. Minnaert as President of the Nominating Committee.

The meeting then agreed with the names proposed by the adhering countries as representatives in the Nominating Committee. Greece, Vatican City State and Venezuela were not officially represented on the Nominating Committee.

9. At its last meeting the Executive Committee discussed and approved the proposals made by the Nominating Committee concerning General Membership and membership of Standing Commissions.

The representative of Australia on the Nominating Committee had proposed that the information concerning the scientific work and publications of the candidates for general membership should not only be read by the General Secretary, but that it be studied with considerable care by the Executive Committee. Dr. Woolley was strongly in favour of this proposal, as in his opinion many astronomers were admitted as members of the Union, who had not achieved any work of importance. The General Secretary felt that this problem could not be easily solved, as it would be rather difficult to apply strictly the same criteria for all adhering countries.

The Committee decided to draw the attention of the new Executive Committee to this problem.

As several members were clearly disappointed in not having been made a member of a commission, the meeting decided to ask Prof. Minnaert to say a few words at the General Assembly concerning the general policy followed by the Nominating Committee.

The President emphasized that an attempt should be made to reduce membership of standing commissions in the future to small working groups or bureaus for each commission, while general membership should be of main importance.

As it is likely that membership of commissions will be reduced still further in the future Professor Bok had suggested in the Nominating Committee that membership of commissions should be drastically changed at every General Assembly, in order that active young astronomers should get a chance to become a member of a standing commission. It was further suggested by the Nominating Committee that the general members of the Union should be informed in one of the I.A.U. circulars that they could communicate with the president or members of the commissions before the Draft Reports had to be prepared concerning any matters which may be of importance for these Draft Reports.

The Executive Committee was in favour of these suggestions.

Concerning the special nominating committee for the election of new members of the Executive Committee, the task of the ordinary Nominating Committee had been to appoint for this new committee four members not belonging to the Executive Committee. As it could not be foreseen which of the two retiring vice-presidents, Prof. Heckmann and Prof. Kukarkin, will be appointed by the future Executive Committee to act on the special nominating committee, the ordinary Nominating Committee had to take into account both possibilities. The Special Committee for the election of members of the Executive Committee will have either of the two following compositions:

a) J. H. Oort
A. Danjon
O. Heckmann
G. M. Clemence
A. A. Mikhailov
A. D. Thackeray
F. Zagar

b) J. H. Oort
A. Danjon
B. V. Kukarkin
G. M. Clemence
Y. Öhman
A. D. Thackeray
F. Zagar

10. The General Secretary informed the meeting that only very few countries had arrears in subscription and that the only country which would not have the right of voting at the assembly was Egypt.

11. A request was received from F.A.G.G.S. (the Federation of Astronomical, Geophysical and Geodetical Permanent Services) that the I.A.U. allocate a sum of \$ 3000 to the Bureau International de l'Heure for the year 1958, as F.A.G.G.S. itself could only allocate a subvention of \$ 15,500 to the Bureau International de l'Heure for the year 1958, while the Bureau had applied for a sum of \$ 18,500.

As the Finance Committee of the I.A.U. had granted an annual grant of \$ 6500 to the Bureau International de l'Heure, including the year 1958, and as according to a statement of Prof. Danjon the Bureau International de l'Heure probably will not need this additional allocation of \$ 3000, the Executive Committee decided to comply with the request of F.A.G.G.S.

12. At a former meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided that an honorarium could be paid to editors of I.A.U. symposia.

The General Secretary asked the meeting to grant such an honorarium to Dr. B. P. Lehnert, who had done very much work in editing symposium No. 6 on "Electromagnetic Phenomena in Cosmical Physics".

The meeting decided to grant an honorarium of \$ 300 to Dr. Lehnert.

13. The meeting agreed to pay a sum of 12,400 francs français to Dr. A. Dollfus, in addition to 20,000 francs already paid for the preparation of charts for martian nomenclature.

14. Although the Finance Committee should decide on the proposal for the unit of subscription for the next term of three years, the Executive Committee was of the opinion that the unit of subscription could be maintained at 500 gold francs for the next three years.

15. The General Secretary then submitted the following memorandum to the meeting:

"An important question has arisen, which has caused me considerable difficulties in preparing the financial report for the years 1955, 1956 and 1957, as given in the Draft Report. In this memorandum I shall try to make a proposal to the Finance Committee, which may reduce the difficulties for the next General Secretary.

In Dublin the Finance Committee proposed and the General Assembly approved a total of \$ 22,014 for annual grants and a sum of \$ 16,100 for special grants. According to these decisions a sum of \$ 82,142 could be spent in the years 1956, 1957 and 1958. However, the income of the Union in these three years will amount to about \$ 60,000 from subscriptions and \$ 72,000 from U.N.E.S.C.O.

In other words the income will exceed the expenses as foreseen by the Finance Committee at the last general assembly by about \$ 50,000. However this does not mean that this sum can be put aside as a saving. Most or nearly all of it is used for travel and subsistence expenses in connection with the general assembly and with symposia and meetings of the Executive Committee and for publications like the Transactions and symposia volumes.

As has been mentioned in the report of the Executive Committee in the Draft Reports application for U.N.E.S.C.O. grants has to be made according to the categories of Publications, Meetings, Symposia, and Permanent Services and in the application the individual activities within each category for which money is needed have to be mentioned. The sum allocated by U.N.E.S.C.O. is usually considerably lower than the sum total for which an application was made and the ratio between the money allocated and the money asked may be very different for the four categories. Once U.N.E.S.C.O. and I.C.S.U. have fixed the sum total of the allocated grant, the Union is free to spend the money on any activity, as long as this activity falls within one of the categories. This last rule, which was adopted some years ago, means a considerable improvement for the Unions as compared with the situation in the past. But it implies that it has become impossible for the general secretary to know which part of the U.N.E.S.C.O. grant is available for a certain activity. Consequently he can only try to arrange the payments for different activities in such a way that the total annual income is not exceeded by the expenses. From an administrative point of view this situation is unsatisfactory. As the budget, prepared by the Finance Committee and approved by the General Assembly, covers only two thirds of the income of the Union, the general secretary is responsible for the spending of the remaining one third of the income.

I do not believe that this difficulty can be completely solved, unless the Union would appoint a small permanent committee of finance which could be consulted by the general secretary whenever financial decisions have to be taken which are not foreseen in the official budget. The members of this small committee (three persons ?) should be thoroughly acquainted with the finances of the Union and it should be easy for the general secretary to consult them. The committee should have full authority to decide with the President and the General Secretary of the Union in all financial matters not foreseen in the budget.

However it may also be desirable to change in some respects the system of budgetary proposals by the ordinary Finance Committee.

The permanent services, le Bureau International de l'Heure and the Quarterly Bulletin on Solar Activity, receive since 1957 their U.N.E.S.C.O. subvention direct from the Federation of Astronomical, Geodetical and Geophysical Services, and it is expected that these two services will not need any financial aid from the I.A.U.

It is further suggested that the financial recommendations, submitted to the Finance Committee in Moscow by the standing commissions, will be discussed by this committee as usual, but that the annual and special grants for the Bureau of the Union will be submitted to the General Assembly in a different way.

The expenses of the Bureau should be divided into two categories, the first being expenses which can be clearly foreseen for a period of three years and which should not depend on the grants from U.N.E.S.C.O. and a second category which should deal with the activities for which financial aid is received from U.N.E.S.C.O.

A budget for the expenses of the second category can hardly be made. The applications for financial aid from U.N.E.S.C.O. are based mainly on expenses for publications and for travel- and subsistence expenses in connection with the general assembly, with symposia and with the meetings of the Executive Committee. It should therefore be the task of the small committee of finance and of the President and the General Secretary to see to it that the U.N.E.S.C.O. grant is used for the travel expenses, mentioned above, for the publication of the I.A.U. symposium series or for other special activities.

This would imply that the ordinary budget of annual and special subventions, prepared by the Finance Committee and approved by the General Assembly, including the budget for the expenses of the Bureau of the first category, should not exceed very much the income of the Union from the subscriptions of the adhering countries over a period of three years. This would mean that this budget should be of the order of \$ 60,000 for a term of three years.

If the U.N.E.S.C.O. grant for the permanent services, which is paid to these services direct through F.A.G.G.S., is not taken into account, the Union may probably count on an annual grant of the order of \$ 15,000 from U.N.E.S.C.O.

If the Executive Committee would support the suggestion to form a special committee of finance, it would have all the rights to appoint such a committee without a change in the statutes or by-laws."

The Executive Committee agreed with this memorandum and asked the General Secretary to submit it to the Finance Committee. The President suggested that the small permanent committee, to be known as the Advisory Finance Committee, be nominated by the Finance Committee.

16. The only definite proposal for a future symposium was made by Prof. Burgers and Dr. Thomas. They proposed that a fourth symposium on Gasdynamical Problems in Astrophysics be organized jointly with I.U.T.A.M. in 1960, probably in the Netherlands. The Executive Committee agreed to this proposal.

A provisional proposal was made by Dr. F. J. Kerr for a symposium in Australia in 1959 or 1960 on the Scale and Dynamics of the Galaxy. The meeting decided to report this matter to the new Executive Committee.

17. The Assistant General Secretary submitted to the meeting his memorandum on the publication of the proceedings of symposia. This memorandum reads as follows:

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A) This memorandum is concerned primarily with the policy of publication.

B) Papers presented at symposia need not be of the same high standard of originality, thoroughness and presentation as those published in the leading astronomical journals and observatory publications. They are intended to introduce, or to provoke, discussion; and they may be merely (many are) summaries of material already published or advance notification of results in course of publication, or to be published in full detail elsewhere. Discussions at the symposia, if reported reasonably fully, will probably be of greater interest. The scientific value of such material diminishes rapidly with time. This suggests that publication, if to be of value in inspiring ideas in others not at the symposium, must be rapid; and it need not be in an elaborate format. Generally, but not necessarily, speed of publication and a high standard of presentation are inconsistent.

C) On the other hand there are good reasons for publication in substantial form:

- (a) prestige of the Union;
- (b) ease of handling, of reference, and greater sales appeal of a "series";
- (c) the natural desire to present any printed material in good typography, on good paper and well-bound;
- (d) this has been done in the past, and is done for symposia organised by other organisations;
- (e) (subject to verification) grants from UNESCO and ICSU are probably determined by the cost of publication, so that the Union may not gain financially by reducing the standard.

D) The Executive Committee is invited to express its views on:
(a) Whether the proceedings of symposia should be published?
(b) If so, whether the present series of I.A.U. Symposia Volumes should be continued, in substantially the same form; or whether a change should be made to a less elaborate series; or whether individual arrangements be made in respect of each symposium.

Detailed contracts with printers and publishers, and other arrangements, will have to be made by the General Secretary. Some of the facts and possibilities to be considered are given below. Judged from the practical organisation point of view, a uniform treatment for all volumes would have much to commend it.

E) Symposia already held. The following gives some particulars of the Symposia Volumes already published, or to be published.

Vols. 1, 3, 4, 5 of the I.A.U. series have been published by the Cambridge University Press (C.U.P.). Vol. 2 (Gas Dynamics of Cosmic Clouds) was published by North-Holland Publishing Co.; this was a joint symposium with I.U.T.A.M. Vol. 6 (Electromagnetic Phenomena in Cosmical Physics: Stockholm, August 1956) and Vol. 7 (Co-ordination of Galactic Research: Stockholm, June 1957) are being published by C.U.P. Vol. 8 (Cosmical Gas Dynamics: Cambridge, Mass., June 1957) is being published by "Reviews of Modern Physics".

C.U.P. has expressed its dislike of volumes in the I.A.U. Series being published by others.

Arrangements have still to be made in respect of the three symposia now being held:

- Vol. 9 Radio Astronomy: Paris, August, 1958
(Joint symposium with U.R.S.I.)
- Vol.10 H.-R.Diagram: Moscow, August 1958
- Vol.11 Rotation of the Earth and Atomic Time Standards:
Moscow, August 1958

No specific proposals have been made in respect of Vols. 10 and 11.

For Vol. 9, which will be published under the joint auspices of I.A.U. and U.R.S.I., offers of publication have been received as follows:

(a) Stanford University Press (through Dr. R. N. Bracewell, editor of the volume): no subsidy from the Unions, free copies to participants, discount to members of the Unions, selling price about 12 dollars (for a volume of about 400 pages). Copies for distribution by the Unions presumably to be purchased. This would be a volume of high standard.

(b) On behalf of "Annales d'Astrophysique" from M. J-C Pecker, Rédacteur en Chef: as a special number of Annales d'Astrophysique at a cost to the Unions of Fr. 600.000 (1500 dollars) based on a volume of 200 pages (the cost would be less for an ordinary number, for which Annales d'Astrophysique would pay for the cost of composition); free copies to participants and probably for distribution, in so far as this would be necessary; publication within six months of receiving typescripts.

U.R.S.I. (with a different problem) definitely prefer (a); but (b) is well worthy of consideration by the I.A.U., even if it cannot be accepted for Vol. 9.

F) I.A.U. requirements. For Symposia Volumes, I.A.U. requires:

- (a) free copies to participants;
- (b) free copies to a total distribution list of about 200;
- (c) copies at 33 per cent discount to members of the Union.

The above requirements are not attractive to commercial publishers, since the above requirements cover the majority of potential sales, especially for subjects of limited appeal.

G) Arrangements for future publication. The following appear to be possible:

(a) Continuation with the present system of publication by C.U.P., but with a revised contract; C.U.P. is willing to continue, with some minor modifications, but would prefer the series of volumes published by C.U.P. to be numbered consecutively.

(b) Publication of at least some Symposia in Annales d'Astrophysique (or other astronomical journals). This might be very suitable for the smaller symposia which otherwise make very thin volumes.

(c) The Pergamon Press Ltd. of London has offered to publish the proceedings of I.A.U. symposia on the following basis:

"The Pergamon Press to publish at its own expense and risk, subject to a subsidy being paid by the Union in respect of each individual volume, the amount of the subsidy (which will not exceed the cost of printing) being negotiated in respect of each volume according to its size, content and estimated sales appeal; the Union will receive 250-300 copies free of charge; the Pergamon Press will inform the Union if sales exceed an agreed figure and will repay the Union a proportion of receipts from such sales."

The Pergamon Press Ltd. is a rapidly growing organisation that publishes many scientific journals and symposia, including Annals of the I.G.Y., and also for I.C.S.U. and I.U.G.G. It also undertakes the technical organisation of symposia and, what is more important, will do the sub-editorial work and distribution.

The disadvantages are that: it is possible that C.U.P. will wish to discontinue to print the Transactions, if such an arrangement is entered into; the standard of printing and presentation is high, and so will be the cost to the Union (even if some is returned) and to the purchaser.

H) Speed of publication. Although this tends to be slower for a high standard presentation (binding takes a long time), the major delays are almost entirely editorial, and in the reading of proofs. C.U.P. state that they would normally expect to publish within a year provided the agreed time-table for typescripts and return of proofs is maintained. Publication in about six months will probably only be possible in a journal (not as a separate bound volume) for which standards of printing, proof-reading (author only sees one proof) and binding are much lower."

The Assistant General Secretary emphasized that he would need some freedom in making a final choice from the different possibilities.

It was, however, agreed that Symposium Vol. 9, containing the proceedings of the Symposium on Radio-Astronomy held in Paris 1958, will be published by the Stanford University Press.

The Assistant General Secretary was also requested to explore the possibilities of various astronomical journals being willing to undertake publication of the proceedings of symposia.

The Committee expressed its general support on the ideas developed in the memorandum, but felt that the new Executive Committee should study the question more thoroughly and should decide on a policy for the future.

18. The Committee nominated the following as Acting Presidents of standing commissions for the duration of the Moscow meeting:

Commission 17: A. A. Nefediev
Commission 28: N. U. Mayall
Commission 30: R. M. Petrie
Commission 32: A. Blaauw
Commission 35: M. Schwarzschild
Commission 42: V. P. Tsesevich
Commission 36a: M. Wrubel.

19. For several commissions new presidents had to be elected, the president having been in office for two terms of three years. The retiring presidents had been invited to propose names for their successors. The committee finally decided on the following list of candidates to be submitted to the General Assembly:

Commission 3: M. F. Subbotin
Commission 4: W. Fricke
Commission 8: F. P. Scott
Commission 10: A. B. Severny
Commission 12: L. Goldberg
Commission 14: G. Herzberg
Commission 15: K. Wurm
Commission 16: A. Dollfus
Commission 17: K. Koziel
Commission 22: V. V. Fedynsky
Commission 26: P. van de Kamp
Commission 27: P. Th. Oosterhoff
Commission 28: N. U. Mayall
Commission 29: O. Struve
Commission 30: Ch. Fehrenbach
Commission 34: L. Spitzer
Commission 35: M. Schwarzschild
Commission 37: H. Haffner
Commission 40: J. F. Denisse
Commission 41: P. G. Kulikovsky
Commission 43: H. Alfvén

Commissions 10 and 29 differ from those of the same number as given in the last volume of the Transactions, as Commissions 11 and 36 have been dissolved and their activities transferred to the new commissions 10 and 29 respectively.

20. The Assistant General Secretary informed the meeting that a provisional computation centre has been set up in Rome for a period of two years. This fact will be announced to the members of the Union in the next circular.

21. The request by I.C.S.U. that the Joint Commission on Solar and Terrestrial Relationships be made a commission of the I.A.U. was then discussed. At its meeting in Moscow Dr. d'Azambuja retired as President and the Joint Commission nominated Dr. C. W. Allen as his successor. Although not all the members of the Executive Committee were convinced that a continuation was really necessary for the production of a tri-annual report, the general opinion of the meeting was that the joint commission should remain the responsibility of I.C.S.U.

Several members felt that there exists a tendency for I.C.S.U. to develop too many scientific activities of its own. As a result Joint Commissions such as that on Solar and Terrestrial Relationships are discontinued.

The committee agreed that at the next meeting of the Executive Board of I.C.S.U. the representatives of the I.A.U. should put forward this point of view.

If I.C.S.U. should no longer be responsible for the Joint Commission on Solar and Terrestrial Relationships, the I.A.U. could still make it a sub-commission to one of the standing commissions of the Union.

22. Although the formation of a new Joint Commission on World Geophysical Days would be in itself acceptable, it again is a result of the tendency mentioned under item No. 21. The committee did not take a definite decision either for or against.

23. I.C.S.U.'s proposal for the formation of a new Special Committee on Space Research was then discussed. The few lines written by the General Secretary of I.C.S.U. did not state what I.C.S.U. really wants to do; the meeting decided that it could not form an opinion in the matter on the very little information received from I.C.S.U.

24. The meeting did not find any items on the agenda of the eighth General Assembly of I.C.S.U., which needed decisions by the Executive Committee of the I.A.U.

25. Concerning the request from the General Secretary of U.R.S.I. whether the I.A.U. would be interested in a symposium on "l'Écoulement fluide" to be held in Edinburgh, 1959, the Executive Committee decided that the Union should not partake officially in the organization of such a symposium, although individual members of the Union may be interested in the topic. The General Secretary was requested to make an announcement about this symposium in the next I.A.U. circular.

26. As Professor Öhman had decided to resign as the official representative of the I.A.U. in the Special Committee for the International Geophysical Year for the solar observations, the Executive Committee appointed Dr. M. A. Ellison as his successor.

27. Concerning the third Session of the World Meteorological Congress in Geneva in April 1959, the Committee decided that this organization be asked whether members of the I.A.U. were planning to attend the meeting. In that case one of them could be appointed as official representative for the I.A.U.

28. The Executive Committee discussed the decisions taken by the Finance Committee. It was announced that the Finance Committee had appointed the following four persons to serve on the Advisory Finance Committee: V. A. Ambartsumian, B. Lindblad, P. Th. Oosterhoff and F. J. M. Stratton. This committee will assist the General Secretary and the Executive Committee between General Assemblies to prepare the budget for the U.N.E.S.C.O. subvention; the Finance Committee itself had only prepared a budget for the fixed income of the Union from subscriptions of the adhering countries.

The Finance Committee submitted to the Executive Committee three requests for financial aid, on which the Finance Committee did not feel itself competent to decide, as these requests touched matters of general policy.

(a) Commission 27 asked for an annual subvention of \$ 450,- in order to enable Dr. W. Strohmeier at the Bamberg Observatory to carry out a systematic search for bright variable stars.

At the suggestion of Professor Heckmann the meeting decided that a letter should be written to Dr. Strohmeier in which the Executive Committee would support his plans for this work. This letter would probably enable Dr. Strohmeier to raise the necessary money in his own country.

(b) Commission 5 asked for a special subvention of \$ 3000 for the first volume of the Astronomical Bibliography for the period 1881-1898. The complete bibliography will comprise about 10 volumes.

The Executive Committee agreed that the I.A.U. could not spend so large a sum on the first volume of this publication. Many members asked whether it would not be possible to make this material available in a cheaper form.

The meeting decided to submit this matter to the Advisory Finance Committee mentioned above, which as its first task would have to obtain much more detailed information concerning this publication.

(c) Commission 37 asked for a special grant of \$ 3000 for a meeting in 1960 in Europe of experts in cluster research.

As such a meeting would have more or less the character of a restricted symposium, the Executive Committee decided that this request be submitted to the new Executive Committee and that it be considered as a symposium which could be financed from the U.N.E.S.C.O. subvention.

29. The meeting decided to leave it to the discretion of the General Secretary to add certain astronomical institutes to the mailing list of the I.A.U. when applications are received.

30. The Assistant General Secretary remarked that the official representative for Mexico had asked him to organize occasionally a symposium in one of the small countries outside Europe, as it is rather difficult for the I.A.U. members in such countries to come to Europe often or for such countries to invite the I.A.U. for a General Assembly in their country.

Such a symposium would greatly help in bringing these astronomers into contact with astronomers from Europe and other distant countries.

The Assistant General Secretary referred to the invaluable work being done for the Union by Miss N. Splinter, and informed the Committee that he was most gratified that she had consented to continue her duties at Herstmonceux. He proposed that her commend of the affairs of the Union should be recognized by her formal appointment as Assistant Secretary; and this was approved.

Professor Swings invited the Executive Committee to hold its next meeting in Liège.

Later the Assistant General Secretary mentioned that the Royal Greenwich Observatory would be happy if the next or a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee could be held at Herstmonceux.

The meeting decided to leave the decision to the new Executive Committee.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Leiden Observatory
6 October 1958.

The former General Secretary
P. Th. Oosterhoff.