



ORGANIZERS of the MRS - Europe conference on laser - solid interactions and others appear before the opening session of the group's recent meeting in Strasbourg. They are (left to right) P. Siffert, CNRS, Strasbourg; P. Pinard, INSA, Lyon; M. Hanus, CNRS, Paris; M. Camus, Director of the CNET, Grenoble; C.W. White, MRS First Vice President, and V.T. Nguyen, CNET, Grenoble.

FIRST MRS - EUROPE MEETING

A successful conference and the birth of a new MRS unit

The first meeting of the Materials Research Society - Europe was held in Strasbourg, France, May 25 - 27. The meeting, entitled *Laser-Solid Interactions and Transient Thermal Processing of Materials*, was organized by European members of the MRS under the Society's sponsorship. The Society was represented by First Vice President C.W. White, and Woody's report follows:

MORE THAN A HUNDRED technical papers were presented by half again as many scientists at the Strasbourg meeting, and it was an outstanding success. My colleagues and I were in the hands of three extremely energetic organizers - P. Siffert of the Centre de Recherches Nucleaires, P. Pinard of Lyon's INSA, and V.T. Nguyen of CNET in Grenoble. If attendance was evidence

of the wide interest in this subject in Europe, the success of the meeting was more attributable to their enthusiasm and diligence.

Throughout the meeting many discussions were held concerning the future of a European affiliate of the MRS. The Council of Europe, to which 21 European nations are affiliated, was represented by D. Massue, the Director of Higher Education and Research, who expressed the Council's interest in encouraging future collaboration among European nations through MRS - Europe. Additionally, a number of the scientists who spoke to me recognized many common benefits that could be shared through such an association.

The upshot is that a steering committee, chaired by Nguyen and

Siffert, has been organized to consider an agenda for a 1984 meeting of MRS - Europe. The committee will include representatives of all the nations the group would embrace, and from most of the technical areas of interest to the membership. The remarkable success of the first meeting suggests that the new organization has a bright future.

Meanwhile our friends in Europe and we on the MRS Council have much to discuss. Interest has been expressed in an Asian association of materials scientists, and a task facing the Society is how to incorporate regional associations within the MRS in a manner that will enhance the total Society and not fragment the cooperative international, as well as interdisciplinary, approach the MRS personifies.