

CHAPTER III

CLOSING CEREMONY

The President warmly thanked the Local Organising Committee and all those who had assisted them in their task, especially to all those who had worked so very hard the previous day assisting the General Secretary retrieve a residual scientific programme following the fire in the San Martin Cultural Centre.

Address by the President 1988-1991

"Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Now it is the time for the new President, Dr. Alexander Boyarchuk, to make a speech. However, before that I would like to ask your permission to spend a few minutes to talk.

Now I am relieved from my heavy duty as the President of the International Astronomical Union. It was indeed a heavy and difficult job for me while serving as the Director of the National Astronomical Observatory, Japan, which was founded three years ago and is composed from three institutes including Tokyo Astronomical Observatory and has tried to obtain funds to build an 8 meter infrared-optical telescope as well as other new instruments. Still I feel that I have spent an exciting time in the past three years, and that I could not have completed my job without the strong support and assistance provided by Drs. Derek McNally and Jacqueline Bergeron. Indeed the jobs of the General Secretary and the Assistant General Secretary are very heavy, much heavier than mine. Still they have completed their jobs for the Union with helps by their own secretaries who came here to work with them and for the participants.

Also the President-Elect and the six Vice-Presidents have been wonderful and friendly members of the Executive Committee and gave me much fruitful advice. I would like to express my hearty thanks to all of them, particularly the three Vice-Presidents, Professors A.H. Batten, R. Kippenhahn and P.O. Lindblad who will complete their terms today. Our advisors, Professor Sahade and Dr. J.-P. Swings, have contributed very much to the activities of the Executive Committee.

Of course, our secretaries in Paris secretariat, Monique Léger-Orine and Julie Crook, have worked very hard and handled many administrative jobs for us. I believe that you also appreciated their efforts during this General Assembly. I should like to mention, particularly, the name of Monique Léger-Orine who worked here day and night, even after mid-night and on Saturday and Sunday for us as the Administrative Assistant of the Union. We are grateful to the efforts made by the Local Organising Committee, particularly, Dr. Roberto Mendez, to make the General Assembly successful: we will all not forget how quickly the General Assembly resumed to its usual condition after the fire yesterday prevented us to use the pre-assigned meetings rooms. At my home institute, National Astronomical Observatory, I was assisted by Mrs. Hatsue Toya Suzuki who has handled IAU jobs as her unpaid extra works, which I have also appreciated very much.

As I told you three years ago, I was educated and trained as an astronomer in a remote country in the far east in the period when no major facilities existed and we could find very few chances to attend international meetings like the General Assembly. Then I always dreamed that in future we can do much better work and always hoped and still hope that tomorrow will be better than today and next year will be better than this year in not only astronomical research but also everyday's life. And it has been realised in some sense for us. Still I worry that the speed of development is very slow and sometimes we meet very difficult time. I am afraid that now is not an easy time for the IAU and many astronomers, particularly for financial reason. Still I believe that important astronomical researches have been achieved as you have seen during the General Assembly and will further evolve, both in developed and developing countries, as astronomy is supported by many people and can give them dreams to imagine how the universe looks and was created. I believe that IAU must play an important role promoting astronomical research activities. Therefore, at the end of my speech I would like to ask all the members, particularly, Presidents of the Commissions to play a positive role in activities of IAU in all the aspects so that we can expect to see a better IAU at the next General Assembly in the Netherlands, where I desire to see many more members of the IAU and their guests.

I would like now to ask the new President, Dr. Alexander Boyarchuk, to come here to speak."

Address by the President 1991-1994

"Dear Professor Kozai, Members of the Union, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a great honour for me to be nominated and to serve as the President of the International Astronomical Union. I regard this nomination as the recognition of the contribution made by astronomers of my country to the development of astronomy. And though for some economic and political reasons this contribution has somewhat decreased last years, I believe that the situation will improve in the future.

At the moment astronomy is at a very interesting phase of its development. Due to the progresses made in science and technology, observational astronomy has reached a qualitatively new level. The results of observations with Hipparcos will allow the improvement of the stellar coordinates accuracy by almost a 100 times. The Hubble telescope observations have improved space resolution as many as five times. Much progress has been made in this field with ground-based telescope observations using adaptive optics.

The 10-meter Keck-telescope now opens a new era of supergiant ground-based telescopes. I believe that in the year 2000 we shall see 10 telescopes of 8 and more meters in diameter. In the coming five years ground-based radio interferometers with antennas of 25-32 meters in diameter, ten of thousands kilometers apart, will come into operation in the USSR and the USA. Many remarkable space experiments are planned to be made in the future. Astronomy becomes more and more an international science. Owing to the

Our meetings have run smoothly thanks to the efforts of our ever present Secretary General, Dr. Derek McNally, his staff, and an impressive cadre of projectionists and assistants. We all witnessed that operation in action as they and the LOC reorganized most of yesterday's activities following the fire in the San Martin Cultural Center. Some of you may have heard the rumor that the fire was just one more attempt to sabotage the Hubble Space Telescope Project. I understand that the HST Project is considering hiring an Exorcist to help improve their luck in the future!

We have many positive memories of Buenos Aires and Argentina to carry home with us. We were privileged to hear addresses by the President of Argentina and the Minister of Education demonstrating their support for our Science. We were able to attend a concert at the magnificent Colon Theater; take part in a classic Asado Criollo; witness the intricacies of the footwork in the Tango; and participate in the Closing Dinner, where we were treated to a wide variety of delicacies.

Finally, a General Assembly is an expensive operation and it is impossible to run one without the help of the local government. In this context, we would like to express our gratitude to the Secretary of Science and Technology for financial assistance through the CONICET. In addition, we are grateful to the Director of the La Plaza Complex for providing us, without cost, rooms to continue our meetings following the fire in the San Martin Cultural Center.

We leave Buenos Aires and Argentina with many fond memories and enthusiastically thank our local hosts for their many efforts on our behalf.

Quisiera ahora repetir mi agradecimiento, en mi limitado español, para todos aquellos, que han hecho posible, que esta Asamblea General, se realice en Argentina. Muchas Gracias."

The President then invited Miss A. Kozai to address the General Assembly on behalf of the registered guests.

Address by Miss A. Kozai

"On behalf of the Registered Guests I would like to express our appreciation to everyone from the National and Local Organising Committees for making our stay in Buenos Aires unforgettable. You were always friendly and helpful.

Visits to museums, the National Congress and many places of cultural interest helped us to satisfy our curiosity about this charming city. At the Colón Theater we listened to concertos composed and played by Argentinian musicians. On Sunday, finally, we could meet famous Gauchos. We enjoyed every single moment so much that I couldn't believe we had to say good-bye to old and new friends at the Closing Banquet last night. What fun it is to be families and friends of astronomers!

Our time here has also been greatly enriched by the hospitality, patience and efforts of the staff and volunteers, as well as the editorial staff of Cruz del Sur, which contains very useful information for us all.

Les agradezco su hospitalidad. Me gustaría volver a verlos de nuevo. Muchísimas gracias por todo.

Adios".

Address by the retiring General Secretary, Dr. D. McNally

"Monsieur le Président, Membres du Comité Executif, Membres de l'Union, Mesdames, Mesdemoiselles et Messieurs,

Je retombe maintenant dans le rang des astronomes de base.

Avant que je n'exprime mes remerciements à tous ceux qui ont oeuvré au succès de cette Assemblée Générale, je tiens à remercier tout particulièrement la communauté astronomique française pour l'aide que le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique a apportée à notre Union en accueillant dans ses locaux de l'INSU de Paris le Secrétariat permanent de l'Union et en autorisant la mise à disposition de notre Union de l'un de ses personnels.

J'ai, durant ces trois années, pu apprécier mes séjours à Paris et, plus particulièrement, son atmosphère. Bien que je n'aie pu pleinement profiter de Paris en tant que touriste autant que je l'aurais souhaité, j'ai été amené à expérimenter certains de ses aspects, probablement ignorés de la plupart des touristes...

Enfin, j'ai pu constater l'intérêt suscité et l'aide accordée à l'enseignement et à la recherche scientifique par les autorités de tutelle de ce pays. Je ne peux que formuler le souhait qu'il en soit rapidement de même outre Manche.

J'adresse, à toutes et à tous, mes plus vifs remerciements pour l'hospitalité que vous avez bien voulu me manifester durant ces trois dernières années.

Mr. President, Members of the Executive Committee, Members of the Union, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I think it can be said, without fear of contradiction, that this has been an exciting General Assembly. I am not just referring to the events of yesterday! There has been a great deal of exiting science in your meetings.

Following today's election, I am now free to do Astronomy and to teach. It is now my very pleasant task to thank all those very many people whose efforts have so materially contributed to the organisation of this General Assembly.

I would like at the outset to pay a special tribute to Monique Léger-Orine. On her falls the responsibility for the smooth operation of the Secretariat. Every month I made a week long visit to Paris, created chaos in the Secretariat and by my next visit all was ordered once again. You have all noticed her work load here which involved a certain burning of the midnight oil. Even after yesterday morning's fire, she had reorganised the Secretariat so that by the afternoon, work was calmly proceeding. Monique, we all owe you a great deal.

Monique is ably assisted in Paris by Julie Crook. I can only guess at what Julie must now be thinking of the ordered progress of a General Assembly. Monique and Julie were assisted here in Buenos Aires by my secretary -Valerie Peerless and by Jacqueline Bergeron's secretary -Valerie Demailly. I think you will agree that Julie and the two Valeries have done a fine job.

It has been my very great pleasure to serve two successive but effective Executive Committees. They had different approaches to science -both were very concerned to ensure that the IAU selected the best science for their Symposia, Colloquia and Regional Meetings. Both were noteworthy for their companionable good fellowship.

I received an effective training in General Secretaryship from Jean-Pierre Swings. He is a believer in that philosophy of teaching swimming expeditiously which involves pushing the pupil in at the deep end and shouting encouragement to keep one's head above water. He was always ready to answer questions and draw on his experience when I sought advice -your telephone will be quieter from now on Jean-Pierre.

It was a pleasure to work with Jacqueline Bergeron who undertook, with vigour, the administration of the Union's Scientific Meetings. As you may have noticed, it is likely she will display the same vigour in administering the affairs of the Union. However, I hope her final day as General Secretary will be a good deal less fraught than yesterday. Jacqueline, every success in the exacting task of General Secretary.

It has been a great pleasure to work with our past President, Jorge Sahade. He told me, I should think adventurously when he proposed holding a General Assembly in Argentina. Were it not for his adventurous thinking, I would not have fulfilled a childhood dream of seeing the Andes. I have also been able to visit the Argentinian observatories of Cordoba, La Plata, the Argentinian Institute of Radio Astronomy in Villa Elisa and the magnificently sited Leoncito. Thank you, Jorge.

It has been a pleasure to have worked with Yoshihide Kozai. He has carefully steered the Executive Committee through those long agendas that they must adjudicate. It was always a matter of some surprise that after long, intense debate we were usually at that place in the agenda at the time he and I had thought would be about right. Yet he never seemed to urge us on or hold us back -just skilful steering.

Now I must turn to the Local Organising Committee. Roberto Mendez and his team worked extremely hard. If a visiting General Secretary reinvented the wheel, they were too polite to say so. They worked hard to arrange the facilities for a good scientific meeting. They had to work during a period of high inflationary pressure. It is hard to realise that the current stability of exchange rate was only achieved from April 01 this year -it is hard for those of us visiting Argentina now to realise what it is like to have to live with 100% inflation in a week as was the case during one of my visits to Buenos Aires. Roberto quietly steered me from CONICET to Science and Technology and now that it has all happened, he must have got me to say the right things or perhaps diplomatically translated into Spanish what he thought I should have said. I would like to express my thanks to all of the Local

Organising Committee, to the National Organising Committee who supported them and to the Argentinian Astronomical Society who are our hosts on this occasion.

I would also like to say once again a special thank you to Juan O'Farrell who did so much to help us find meeting rooms after the Conference Centre fire yesterday. He performed miracles.

Let me not forget to express my appreciation to Patrick Moore and John Mason for their sterling work on Cruz del Sur. Despite the fire, you got a full 10 issues. The editing of the General Assembly newspaper is hard work and involves the keeping of "astronomical" hours. Well done.

I must also express my sincere thanks to Professor H.S. Ghilmetti, Director of the Instituto di Astronomia y Fisical del Espacio. He kindly extended the facilities of IAFE to the IAU, making his conference room available for my meetings with the LOC and accommodating the Secretariat before the General Assembly. His hospitality and his philosophy were much appreciated.

Finally may I say a special thank you to less visible people who have also done much to help me over the last six years. To Professors Sir Robert Wilson and Franz Heymann -the Heads of Department who agreed I could have time to undertake IAU duties, to Sir James Lighthill, Provost of University College London, for agreeing enthusiastically that I should become half time on full pay. To my secretary, Valerie Peerless, for undertaking a great deal of extra load and travel arranging with great cheerfulness -she can look forward to less frenetic times.

Hanbury Brown got me into this game. He said it would be fun and rewarding. It was.

I owe a great deal to my wife, more than perhaps I now realise, who has put up with many long absences from home. I hope she still recognises me. The IAU would not be the IAU without you, the Members. Thank you for coming and thank you for participating".

Address by the incoming General Secretary, Dr. J. Bergeron

"Dear Colleagues,

Being the last one to speak today, most of what I wanted to say has already been said, and I will thus not hold you very long.

It is a great honor and pleasure to have been chosen as the new General Secretary by the Special Nominating Committee and by you.

First, I wish to thank again the Local Organising Committee in particular for the speed at which they have reacted yesterday, after the fire broke out in the San Martin Cultural Center, and have been able to find another large amphitheatre to hold the General Assembly. I also wish to acknowledge the solidarity of the people of the Plaza and San Martin Cultural Centers and of Buenos Aires who have helped the Local Organising Committee and us so kindly.

During the last three years, I have greatly appreciated and relied upon the experience and advice of my predecessors Derek McNally, Jean-Pierre Swings, Richard West and Jean-Claude Pecker. Je compte

beaucoup sur leur aide et leurs conseils dans les trois années à venir et j'espère qu'ils continueront à m'accorder leur soutien.

Let me now come to the future. I wish to briefly expose to you my personal ideas concerning the format of the next General Assembly that I will propose to the Executive Committee for consideration. I would like that longer scientific sessions be held and this could be done in three to four day symposia which could run in parallel with Commission Meetings. In 1994, about half of the symposia and colloquia could be part of the General Assembly in the Hague, with two to three symposia in parallel at a given time. This does not at all imply dropping out Joint Commission Meetings. Indeed one day meetings are important and should complement the symposia. I would greatly value to have your comments on this suggestion.

Finally, I hope that during the forthcoming triennium additional countries will seek to adhere to the Union.

Thank you again for your confidence and your patience."