

**CHAPTER III**

**CLOSING CEREMONY 1994 AUGUST 24**

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#### Address by the President 1991-1994, Acad. A.A. Boyarchuk

*Now I am relieved from my duty as President of the IAU. It was an honourable but rather hard service for me. For the past three years I had a lot of discussions with different astronomers. Those discussions proved to be useful for me and I hope for them also. Sometimes we had problems due to bad communication between Moscow and Paris.*

*The majority of participants liked very much the new format of the General Assembly, which gave more possibility for scientific meetings to be held. The restructuring of the commissions took the first step and I believe the process will be in progress during the next triennium.*

*I am very grateful to the General Secretary Jacqueline Bergeron who during three years was putting enormous efforts with great initiative into development of the IAU. I am also thankful to Assistant General Secretary Immo Appenzeller for the great work on arranging scientific meetings. I really appreciate very useful help of the President-Elect and all six Vice-Presidents. Again, I am very thankful to all of them and especially Prof. Ye Shuhua, Prof. V. Radhakrishnan and Dr. M.S. Roberts whose duties are coming to end now. I would like to thank also our advisers, Prof. Y. Kozai and Dr. D. McNally, who were very active in the work of Executive Committee.*

*Our secretaries in Paris IAU Secretariat, Monique Léger-Orine and Julie Saucedo, were working hard and often extra their official time. I like to say a particular word of deep gratitude to them.*

*I do appreciate the intensive full-of-troubles work of all LOC members, especially Dr. E. Raimond and Prof. H. van Woerden who made a great contribution to the success of the General Assembly.*

*I am much obliged to the Scientific Secretary of the National Committee of Russian Astronomers, Mr. Yuri Spirin who was helping me during those years.*

*Now I give the floor to the new IAU President, Prof. L. Woltjer.*

#### Address by the President 1994-1997, Acad. L. Woltjer

Prof. L. Woltjer addressed the General Assembly as follows:

*Prof. Boyarchuk, Colleagues and Friends,*

*First of all I wish to thank you for your confidence in nominating me to preside over our Union.*

*The Union has now existed for 75 years, years during which astronomy has expanded in width and in depth. Optical astronomy has been joined by radio, infrared, UV, X- and gamma-ray, and cosmic ray astronomy, while neutrino and gravitational wave astronomy are just around the corner.*

*When the Union was founded, the problems of stellar and galactic structure and evolution were only dimly perceived, our understanding of the planets rudimentary, and the scale of our Universe mainly a subject for philosophical speculation. Much is to be learned, but*

*how unrecognizably has the astronomical landscape changed. Not surprisingly these changes have had a major impact on the Union. New fields have attempted to find a niche, sometimes inside the Union, sometimes outside. The result has been that the present image of the IAU does not fully reflect this evolution. Structural changes are required to adapt it to the needs of the future. The process of change has been started at this General Assembly, and I expect it will be continued during the next three years. But while change occurs, an equal concern should be to ensure that the positive of the past will be preserved.*

*A proposal for the restructuring of the Union was published in the "Sidereal Times". In essence it introduces a divisional structure with the divisions assuming an increased role in the governance of the Union. This was a proposal to the Commissions on how to deal on an experimental basis with the relations between the Commissions and the Executive Committee. In the meeting of Commission Presidents last Monday this proposal received the agreement of 36 out of 39 Commissions represented. Once it is clear that this scheme works, proposals will be made to adapt the Statutes.*

*It is a proposal to facilitate change. In fact, during the last few days change has already occurred. The division on the Solar System changed its name to Planetary System Science Division and, in addition, Commission 51 has joined to create a division of 860 members. The other unattached commissions also seem to be in the process of joining a division. Moreover, several divisions have already set up their divisional board and elected the divisional presidents.*

*Perhaps the most important aspect of the IAU is that it represents all astronomers of the world, and that the General Assembly provides an opportunity for them to discuss their problems and successes. Even though the Union cannot solve all the problems of our world, it is important that it make its contribution to the strengthening of astronomy where it is weak and to the development of our field in countries where it does not yet exist. Also many threats exist to the observing environment on earth and in space; it is essential that the IAU continue its activities for the protection of that environment. Not every battle is won, but some successes can be and have been achieved.*

*It is frequently said that the present time is particularly difficult for astronomy. There are certainly problems with budgets and jobs that urgently need to be addressed. But it also may be good to gain some perspective. The present membership of our Union is nearly 30 times larger than it was when the General Assembly met the last time in Holland. And the new instrumentation on the ground and in space, both quantitatively and qualitatively, has increased way beyond even the wildest dreams of our spiritual ancestors who gathered here in 1928.*

*I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Kyoto, where we shall be celebrating again a 75th anniversary, this time not of the Union, but of its first General Assembly.*

### **Address by Mrs. Dominique Radhakrishnan on behalf of the Registered Guests.**

*Chers Amis,*

*Je suis heureuse d'avoir le privilège de pouvoir remercier le comité national et le comité local d'organisation pour le merveilleux effort accompli afin d'avoir rendu notre séjour aussi plaisant. Tout se déroula aussi harmonieusement que l'inauguration par votre Reine. Séjour rempli de culture pour certains et certaines, de paysages reposants et d'une atmosphère sécurisante pour d'autres. Tout cela couronné par un concert magnifique que très peu d'entre nous oublieront.*

*Merci à tout le monde, Merci à la Hollande*

## Address by the retiring General Secretary, Dr. J. Bergeron

*Dear Colleagues and Guests,*

*May I first thank all of you for your interest in participating in this IAU General Assembly. In my address to the XXIst General Assembly in Buenos Aires, I had exposed my personal views on a new format for the General Assembly. This new format was also supported by the Dutch organizers and has been implemented at this meeting. The large participation has confirmed the interest of astronomers in Joint Discussions as well as longer scientific events as the associated Symposia. The present format will be re evaluated by the incoming Executive Committee and improvements will be implemented, in particular regarding the total number of scientific events for minimizing overlaps, or the need of more half a day specialized meetings.*

*As has been already mentioned, in addition to a change of format of the General Assembly, a possible restructuring of the Union has been a main working item for the Executive Committee. The numerous exchanges of views between the Presidents, the vice-Presidents of Commissions, the Representatives of Adhering Organizations and Members of the Union have led to several amended proposals. During this General Assembly, an agreement between the Presidents and vice-Presidents of Commissions and the Executive Committee has been reached and the resulting new structure of the Union has been presented to you by the incoming President, Lo Woltjer.*

*During this past triennium, my work as General Secretary has been of great interest and excitement in these times of changes. This excitement was also present in several very lively meetings of the Executive Committee. It has been a great pleasure to work with all the members of the Executive Committee and in particular the officers Alexander Boyarchuk, Lo Woltjer and Immo Appenzeller.*

*I wish to express my sincere thanks to the IAU staff, Monique Léger-Orine and Julie Saucedo, who have been of great help, and as a result I have been able to remain scientifically active.*

*Let me now say special words of deep thanks to the Local Organizing Committee. The exchanges between Ernst Raimond and myself have been extremely frequent and I feel very indebted to him for a smooth and efficient organization of the General Assembly. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Nederlands Comité Astronomie for its invitation to host this meeting and to the National Organizing Committee for their help, in particular Hugo van Woerden and Ed van der Heuvel.*

*Dank U, Merci*

## Address by the incoming General Secretary, Dr. I. Appenzeller

*Mr. President, Members of the Union, Dear Colleagues and Friends,*

*It is a great honour to have been elected to this office and I would like to thank you for your confidence. According to our statutes it is the task of the General Secretary to organise the day-to-day business of this Union and to direct the permanent office of the IAU between two General Assemblies. In other words, the General Secretary is supposed to carry out practical work -and not to give long speeches. Nevertheless, having been invited to address you, I want to use this opportunity to make a few remarks concerning my future duties.*

*In order to carry out my work I will need the cooperation, the help, the advice, and sometimes the criticism of many of you. Communicating with colleagues and friends in all parts of the world is one of the pleasures associated with this office. Naturally, with an*

*individual membership of now almost 8000, I will certainly not be able to interact with all members and many contacts will be indirect through the Divisions, Commissions, and Working Groups. However, if anyone of you, as an individual scientist, does have a message which you regard as important, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

*As the preferred means of such communications I would like to encourage you to use electronic mail. Since the fostering of communication within our community is one of the basic objectives of the IAU and since electronic communication links have a great potential in making communications simpler and more efficient, the increasing use of electronic means of information exchange within our Union will have high priority during my term of office. However, in spite of all modern electronic data links, I have to warn you that you cannot always expect to get a prompt answer from me or our office. As you know, the IAU General Secretary is a part-time honorary post. Hence I shall spend only a certain fraction of my time in Paris, and with our large individual membership the IAU office has become a very busy place. Hence, I would like to apologize in advance to all those of you who will have to be patient to receive an answer from us.*

*Fortunately, I am in the pleasant situation of taking over from my predecessor, Dr. Jacqueline Bergeron, a very well run and efficiently organised office. As those of you who had business with our office during this meeting will have noticed the two full-time members of the IAU office, Ms. Léger-Orine and Ms. Crook, form a highly dedicated, efficient, and friendly team, which during the past ten days began its office work usually long before the start of the first sessions and which was still busily at work when about everybody else had left the building.*

*Knowing this and being aware of the important role for our science which the IAU still plays 75 years after being founded, I am looking forward to interesting, exciting, and productive three years in the service of the International Astronomical Union.*