

Leiden, 28 July 1954

I.A.U. - L 1851

Report on the meeting of the Executive Committee
of the International Astronomical Union
at Liège, July 12-14, 1954

The President opened the meeting on July 12 at 10.30 A.M. in the Salle des Professeurs of the University.

The following took part in the meetings: O. Struve (President), V. A. Ambartsumian (Vice-President), A. Couder (Vice-President), E. Rybka (Vice-President), P. Swings (Vice-President), R. v.d. R. Woolley (Vice-President), B. Lindblad (late President), B. Strömgren (late General Secretary), P. Th. Oosterhoff (General Secretary) and in advisory capacity: A. Danjon, P. G. Kulikovsky, J. H. Oort, G. A. Shajn, Sir Harold Spencer Jones and F. J. M. Stratton.

The Agenda of the meeting were as follows:

1. Report on finances
2. Arrears in subscriptions
3. UNESCO grants
4. Investment
5. Memorandum by Dr. Merton
6. Request for subvention for the "Tables de Constantes"
7. Applications for membership to the I.A.U.
8. Organization of Commissions
9. New Sub-commissions
10. Rules for co-option
11. Symposia
12. Publication of Symposia
13. Distribution of Transactions, Symposia, etc.
14. Delegates to U.R.S.I. and I.U.G.G. general assemblies and to meeting Executive Board of I.C.S.U.
15. Representation on Abstracting Board of I.C.S.U.
16. Admission of new Unions to I.C.S.U.
17. The General Assembly of 1955
18. The General Assembly of 1958
19. Abstracts in astronomical publications
20. Preliminary discussion of new members for E.C.

The discussions and decisions are summarized below, arranged in the order indicated by the agenda, which differs slightly from the order in which the questions were actually discussed.

1. The General Secretary reported on the financial position of the Union. On November 1st, 1953 a sum slightly in excess of \$ 50.000 was available in the different bank-accounts.

Taken into account that a sum of \$ 10.000 had been transferred to a saving-account on June 19th, 1953, the funds of the Union were somewhat higher than on January 1st, 1952. Since November 1953 many arrears in subscription have been paid as well as the UNESCO subvention for 1954, bringing the sum total of the accounts in June 1954 to nearly \$ 90.000. A considerable fraction of these funds, estimated to be \$ 40.000, is committed. Nevertheless the situation seems to be satisfactory and the Executive Committee decided to put on the agenda for the Dublin General Assembly a proposal to make no change in the unit of subscription.

It was agreed that in the 9th Volume of the Transactions the accounts in Gold Francs will be abandoned.

2. In the first months of 1954 nearly all the arrears in subscription have been settled. China must still pay its subscription for the years 1949-1954, but Dr. Chang has now made the necessary arrangements to pay the sum due into a Swiss bank from where it can be transferred to the New York account.

The only serious difficulty was met in the case of Greece, which has not paid since 1938. The Academy of Athens has notified the I.A.U. that it could pay the subscriptions for the years 1951, 1952 and 1953, but that a payment of the earlier arrears cannot be arranged. Considering the special conditions of this country, other international institutes and Unions have accepted this arrangement in final acquittance of all arrears.

The proposal of the Academy of Athens was then unanimously accepted by the Executive Committee.

3. The following synopsis gives some details about the applications for a UNESCO subvention for the years 1954, 1955 and 1956. The grants for 1954 have been allotted as indicated. For 1955 proposals have been made by the Bureau of I.C.S.U., but a final decision has to be taken at the October meeting of the Executive Board of I.C.S.U.

U.N.E.S.C.O. grants 1954

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Allotted</u>
a) Category 2 (Publications)	\$ 7.000	\$ 5.340
b) Category 3 (Meetings of Committees)	\$ 1.000	\$ 750
c) Category 4 (Symposia)	\$ 6.000	\$ 4.950
d) Category 5 (Permanent Services)	\$ 4.000	\$ 2.720
	\$ 18.000	\$ 13.760

U.N.E.S.C.O. grants 1955

		<u>Requested</u>	<u>Proposed</u> by Bureau ICSU
a) <u>Category 2</u> (Publications)			
Transactions Vol. 9 Draft Reports	2.000		
Carte du Ciel	2.500		
Heliographic Charts of Photosphere	300		
Synoptic Charts of Chromosphere	900		
Ephemerides Minor Planets	800		
English version Variable Stars	250		
Bulletin Horaire	900		
Unforeseen items	<u>2.000</u> Nil		
		\$ 9.650	\$ 7.000
b) <u>Category 3</u> (Meetings of Committees)			
General Assembly, Dublin		\$ 4.000	\$ 4.000
c) <u>Category 4</u> (Symposia)			
1. Symposium	1.000		
2. Participation of Young Astronomers at General Assembly, Dublin	<u>2.000</u>		
		\$ 3.000	\$ 3.000
d) <u>Category 5</u> (Permanent Services)			
Bureau International de l'Heure		<u>\$ 4.000</u>	<u>\$ 3.000</u>
	total	\$ 20.650	\$ 17.000

U.N.E.S.C.O. grants 1956

	<u>Requested</u>
a) <u>Category 2</u> (Publications)	
1. Transactions Vol. 9	\$ 3.000
2. Carte du Ciel	2.000
3. Heliographic Charts of Photosphere	300
4. Synoptic Charts of Chromosphere	900
5. Ephemerides Minor Planets	800
6. English version Variable Stars	250
7. Bulletin Horaire	900
8. Unforeseen items	<u>2.000</u>
	\$ 10.150

U.N.E.S.C.O. grants 1956

	<u>Requested</u>
Brought forward	\$ 10.150
b) <u>Category 3</u> (Meetings)	
Meeting Executive Committee	\$ 1.000
c) <u>Category 4</u> (Symposia)	
Two Symposia	\$ 6.000
d) <u>Category 5</u> (Permanent Services)	
Bureau International de l'Heure	<u>\$ 4.000</u>
	\$ 21.150

For the first time the Secretary applied for a grant of \$ 2000 for unforeseen items in category 2. This application was not accepted by the Bureau of I.C.S.U.

As the grant for 1954 of \$ 4950 for symposia will not be used this year, it will be transferred by virement to 1955 and therefore about \$ 6000 will be available for the symposia at the occasion of the ninth General Assembly.

The item of \$ 2000 (1955) for travel expenses of young astronomers in connection with the ninth General Assembly gave rise to a long discussion. At Rome 31 astronomers profited by a similar grant. Then \$ 100 was paid to three astronomers from the U.S.A. and \$ 150 to one from the Argentine. The others came from European countries and obtained travel expenses third class rail fully paid.

Dr. Woolley emphasized the importance for distant countries like Australia to obtain once in a while full reimbursement of travel expenses for one young astronomer.

The Executive Committee decided to follow the same policy as was used for the Rome meeting. Applications should be made by the National Committee's and the General Secretary should investigate with Prof. Stratton, President of Commission 38, whether part of the travel expenses of young astronomers from far away countries could be covered by the funds of this commission.

4. As the balance of the I.A.U. account in New York has never been lower than 35.000 \$ during the last two years the Executive Committee authorized the General Secretary to put part of this money into saving-accounts.

5. The memorandum by Dr. Merton concerning the grants and subventions of the I.A.U. was passed by the Finance Committee in Rome on 12 September 1952 to the Executive Committee.

This committee decided to leave it to the attention of the new Executive Committee. As the I.A.U. has obligations and commitments which cannot be neglected and as the memorandum is rather vague the Executive Committee decided not to take any action. It has studied the memorandum and has acquainted itself with the opinion of the Finance Committee.

6. In Zürich the General Assembly adopted the following resolution: "La Commission 29 recommande qu'une compilation et un atlas des spectres moléculaires obtenus au laboratoire présentant un intérêt astrophysique soient faits et publiés aussitôt que possible"

The work on the atlas is still in progress and the General Assembly allotted in Rome a grant of 5000 gold francs for the production of it. Much of the work is being done by Dr. Rosen and by Dr. Junkes (successor of the late Dr. Gatterer).

The compilation of molecular data, prepared in collaboration with I.U.P.A.C., was published by Hermann et Cie, Paris in 1951 as Tables de Constantes et Données Numériques, Book 4, "Données Spectroscopiques concernant les Molécules Diatomiques". Later a second volume, Book 5 of the Tables de Constantes, was published containing wavelengths of the main bands of all diatomic molecules.

In 1952 Prof. Joliot-Curie and Prof. Wyart put in a request for financial aid to the I.A.U., as the grants from UNESCO and from the Unions of Physics and of Chemistry were not sufficient to pay the printer of these two volumes. As they had no other resources, they emphasized that a grant from the I.A.U. in 1954 would still be greatly welcomed. The I.A.U. could also help by announcing the volumes to its members.

Dr. Rosen was then invited to comment on this matter and in view of the astrophysical importance of the volumes the Executive Committee then authorized the General Secretary to announce them in a circular letter to the members and to pay to the editors a sum not exceeding \$ 1000, according to the needs of the present moment.

7. Israel has applied for membership of the I.A.U. It was proposed that the country should adhere under category 1 by the Research Council of Israel. Its membership and the proposed category were both unanimously approved by the Executive Committee. The Secretary then announced that he has been in negotiation with astronomers from New-Zealand, Lebanon and Turkey about membership. It is to be expected that Lebanon and Turkey will soon apply for membership, but New-Zealand has decided not to do so for financial reasons. Prof. Stratton mentioned that also Pakistan may consider membership of the I.A.U.

8. Prof. Greaves, President of the special committee for nomination, had prepared the following proposals, which if adopted would facilitate matters and shorten the time spent at the General Assembly by the Nominating Committee:

- (1) Twelve months before the General Assembly adhering organizations should be asked to submit proposed changes in membership. A closing date fixed at say nine months before the Assembly should be given and if no reply has been received by the closing date it should be presumed that the organization in question is not proposing any changes as far as its nationals are concerned.
- (2) The General Secretary should then prepare a list of proposed membership incorporating the changes proposed under (1) and it should be circulated to Presidents of Commissions. A closing date should be given and if a President has not replied by the closing date he should be presumed to have no objection to the suggested list. The closing date could be six months before the General Assembly.
- (3) Any suggestions made by Presidents of Commissions should be forwarded to the adhering organizations affected with a closing date for their reply. If no reply is received it is to be presumed that the adhering organization concerned agrees to the changes suggested by the Presidents. The closing date could be three months before the General Assembly.
- (4) At the General Assembly the nominating committee should be concerned only with (a) settling cases of disagreement between Presidents of Commissions and adhering organizations; (b) with considering any individual case expressly remitted to it by the Executive. Late nominations or deletions under (1), (2) or (3) above 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.

As no radical changes in the organization of commissions and in the system of membership of individual astronomers could be achieved at the next General Assembly, the Executive Committee unanimously adopted the four proposals of Prof. Greaves.

The President mentioned then the inefficiency of the large commissions and the unsatisfactory position of the members of category (b) of the by-laws. A thorough discussion followed in which Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Dr. Kulikovskiy, Prof. Lindblad, Prof. Strömgren and others made more or less detailed proposals, some of which would require a change of by-laws.

Some of the suggestions implied the formation of working-committees or executive boards in the large commissions. Others would lead to a general membership, without nomination as member of one or more of the commissions, for which an equally rigorous selection would be required as in the past and from these general members a restricted number could be chosen to partake in the work of the commissions.

The Executive Committee eventually decided to nominate an informal committee, consisting of Oort (chairman), Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Kulikovsky and Strömngren, which should try to make a definite proposal for the Dublin General Assembly. If a change in statutes or by-laws would be required, this could be decided upon at Dublin in order that the new rules could take effect before the General Assembly of 1958. This matter will be placed on the agenda for the next General Assembly.

As Prof. Chandrasekhar wanted to resign as President of Commission 35 the Executive Committee nominated Prof. Cowling in his place, if the latter would be willing to accept this nomination and if he could prepare the draft report for the Dublin meeting. (Prof. Cowling has agreed and will prepare the report.).

Prof. Woolley suggested that a new commission be formed for workers in the southern hemisphere. Members should be the Directors of southern observatories and representatives from several existing commissions.

The Executive Committee asked Prof. Woolley to get support for this proposal from astronomers in South Africa and South America and to report in Dublin.

9. The Secretary announced that the Executive Committee had approved by correspondence the formation of two new sub-commissions, which will continue the work which was started by the Groningen symposium on "Co-ordination of Galactic Research" in 1953. The sub-commissions are:

Sub-commission 33a; members: Baade, Blaauw (secretary), Lindblad, Oort (President), Parenago and van Rhijn.

Sub-commission 27a; members: Baade, Blaauw, Kukarkin and Oosterhoff.

At the Rome General Assembly Commission 13 has passed a recommendation for the formation of a sub-commission to collect and distribute information about future eclipses.

The Commission asked Prof. Redman to act as President. No further measures have been taken since and Prof. Redman does not want to be a one-man commission.

The Executive Committee decided to drop this sub-commission as its task can be done by Commission 13 itself.

10. The special committee for nomination had proposed to restrict co-options to astronomers, who belong to a country which does not adhere to the I.A.U., and to astronomers who are already a member of one or more standing commissions.

As it is customary to provide detailed information on the work and publications of each candidate before the voting by the members of the commission, the Executive Committee did not find any reasons for a further restriction of co-options.

Proposals for co-options are made by the Presidents of commissions. Prof. Woolley suggested that the National Committee in question should be consulted. The majority of the Executive Committee did not want to give any power to the national committees in this matter. It was decided that the national committee shall be informed about the co-option during the time of the voting and that this voting shall be repeated if the National Committee should provide information, which had not yet been brought to the attention of the members of the commission.

11. The Executive Committee decided to organize a symposium on Radio-astronomy on August 25, 26 and 27, 1955 (before the General Assembly in Dublin) at the Jodrell Bank Experimental Station at Manchester at the occasion of the dedication of the large radio-telescope. The organizing committee for this symposium consists of: van de Hulst (chairman), Hagen, Laffineur, Lovell and Pawsey.

According to the Secretary a sum of about \$ 3000 could be guaranteed for travel and subsistence expenses of participants in this symposium

It was also decided that no more than two symposia should be held at the General Assembly in Dublin, for which a time of one day and a half could be reserved. The Executive Committee agreed to a general policy for symposia of a limited number of speakers, who should present papers of a general and summarizing character.

The Executive Committee decided on the following two symposia:

- a) Non-stable stars (suggested by Prof. Ambartsumian)
Organizing committee: Prof. Ambartsumian (President), Prof. Swings and Dr. Herbig. Time: one afternoon and one evening.

In this symposium some time could be reserved for "Eclipsing systems with extended atmospheres", suggested by Dr. Kopal.

- b) A comparison of the large-scale structure of our Galaxy with that of other galaxies.
Organizing committee: Oort (President), Baade, Pawsey and van de Hulst. Time: one afternoon.

For these two symposia a sum of about \$ 3000 would be available. Other scientific meetings at the Dublin General Assembly will be discussed under item 17 of the agenda.

Prof. Oort stated that he intends to propose at a later date another symposium on "Co-ordination of Galactic Research" for 1956 or 1957.

12. As the UNESCO grants for symposia cannot be used for the costs of publication and as the publication of the Transactions sometimes has been delayed by the inclusion of symposia, the Secretary proposed to begin a new series of I.A.U. publications for symposia only. The annual expense is estimated to be about \$ 500. The Executive Committee was unanimously in favour of this proposal. The publication of the 1953 Groningen symposium on "Co-ordination of Galactic Research", on which the Executive Committee already decided by correspondence, will be the first in this series.

The Executive Committee authorized the General Secretary to settle all technical matters regarding this new series with the Cambridge University Press.

The second volume in this series will be the 1953 Cambridge symposium on "Gas-dynamics and Interstellar Clouds", which was organized by I.U.T.A.M. and I.A.U. together. For this publication a sum of \$ 1840 will be required. \$ 1000 has been granted by UNESCO and \$ 280 by I.U.T.A.M. and an application to I.A.U. for a grant of \$ 560 was made. The Executive Committee decided to allot this grant with the condition that the participants in the symposium should obtain a copy free of charge and that 204 more copies should be given free of charge to the I.A.U. for distribution to the observatories and institutes of the I.A.U. mailing list.

13. The Transactions of the I.A.U. are distributed free of charge to all members of the Union and to the observatories and institutes of the mailing list.

The Secretary proposed that the distribution of the symposia publications should be more limited and that these should be sent free of charge to the official participants in the symposia and to the observatories and institutes of the mailing list. Other members of the I.A.U. could obtain copies against a reduced price. Prof. Ambartsumian and Prof. Rybka were in favour of free distribution to all members, as it is difficult for some countries to transfer money to western Europe, which might cause much delay. The Secretary pointed out the financial consequences of a free distribution and the Executive Committee then voted in favour of his proposal.

14. The Executive Committee nominated the following persons as official delegates of the I.A.U. to some international meetings.

General Assembly U.R.S.I. Dr. Pawsey
(The Hague, August 1954)

General Assembly I.U.G.G. Prof. Swings
(Rome, September 1954)

Executive Board I.C.S.U. General Secretary of I.A.U. and
(Napels, October 1954) possibly Sir Harold Spencer Jones.

15. As Dr. Bourgeois is President of the Abstracting Board of I.C.S.U., it was decided not to nominate another representative of the I.A.U. on this board

16. During the last years the admission of other unions to ICSU had been discussed by the Executive Board of ICSU. The Secretary asked for advice as to the policy which should be followed by the representative of I.A.U. The matter was briefly discussed.

17. The dates of the ninth General Assembly in Dublin in 1955 were fixed by the Executive Committee from Monday August 29th to Monday September 5th inclusive.

Prof. Woolley regretted that the meetings of I.A.U. were now out of phase with those of U.R.S.I. and I.U.G.G. Especially for the astronomers from far away countries a better co-ordination of these meetings and of symposia would be very important.

Prof. Stratton pointed out that this would meet with financial difficulties as the strain on the UNESCO funds would be too large if many big Unions would organize General Assemblies in the same year. The Executive Committee asked the Secretary to discuss this problem in the I.C.S.U. meetings.

Besides the two symposia the Executive Committee decided to organize a number of small scientific meetings between some of the commissions during the Dublin General Assembly. The President proposed to refer to these small meetings as Joint Discussions. It was agreed that four joint discussions should be held on the following topics
Turbulence in Stellar Atmospheres (Greenstein)
Fundamental Stars (Zverev, Heckmann and Scott)
Solar Flares (Pawsey, Ohman)
Image Converters (Baum)

In connection with the last subject the Executive Committee would welcome the participation of scientists from industrial research, as had been proposed by Prof. Greaves and Dr. Baum.

The General Secretary was requested with regard to the next General Assembly to schedule the morning sessions for 9 o'clock and to plan as much as possible two-hours sessions for the meetings of commissions.

18. The General Secretary stated that astronomers from South Africa had discussed plans for a meeting of the I.A.U. in their country.

During his visit in Australia astronomers from this country indicated to the President that they would like to have the I.A.U. meet in their country. However no definite proposition was made. At Rome also the Argentine had made an equally vague invitation for a meeting in the future. So far only one formal invitation was received from Belgium for the tenth General Assembly in 1958. The President asked Prof. Swings to speak on behalf of Belgium.

Prof. Swings said that the Belgian National Committee of Astronomy had discussed this matter in a meeting on the thirteenth of May 1954, in which an unanimous decision was taken to invite the I.A.U. to hold the 1958 General Assembly in Belgium. Prof. Swings explained that there will be a world-fair in Brussels in 1958 and that the government had asked for large international meetings at this occasion. This would mean that the National Committee would have no difficulty in obtaining the necessary funds.

Prof. Swings wanted to make this invitation in the spirit of a football game. If Belgium would win the Belgian astronomers would be proud to have the I.A.U. meet in their country. If however the invitation from another country would be accepted and Belgium would loose, he would go to the winner to shake hands and to congratulate him on his victory.

The President then asked Prof. Ambartsumian to make a statement. Prof. Ambartsumian said: " 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 Science 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".

The President then asked Prof. Rybka to speak. Prof. Rybka said: "On behalf of the Polish Academy of Sciences I want to make the following statement on the convocation of the tenth General Assembly in 1958. I am in favour of the invitation communicated by Prof. Ambartsumian that the Assembly in 1958 is to be held in U.S.S.R. and I recognize the priority of this invitation. If however the Assembly is not to be convoked to the U.S.S.R. I renew the invitation on behalf of the Polish Academy of Sciences to hold the General Assembly in 1958 in Poland".

The President then asked Prof. Swings to take the chair, as he wanted to make a statement on behalf of the National Committee of Astronomy of the U.S.A.

It seems that the time had come for the I.A.U. to meet in some of the large countries, which are particularly active in astronomy. Therefore the U.S.A. National Committee had decided to invite the I.A.U. to have the eleventh General Assembly in the United States in 1961. Prof. Struve remarked that the U.S.A. does not want to compete with the U.S.S.R. and that it would not be necessary now to discuss this invitation for 1961. But he wanted to inform the Executive Committee that this decision has been taken and that financial funds will be formed to cover part of the heavy travel expenses, connected with such a meeting. He stated that if no suitable site could be selected for the tenth Assembly in 1958, there would be no objection to making this offer applicable to this Assembly.

Prof. Struve then took the chair again and on behalf of the I.A.U. thanked Belgium, U.S.S.R. and Poland for their generous invitations. He invited the members of the Executive Committee to discuss the invitations fully and openly. The Executive Committee agreed that all members of the I.A.U. should be enabled to obtain the required visa for a General Assembly.

The discussions made it clear that all members of the Executive Committee felt a great sympathy towards the invitation from the U.S.S.R.

Nevertheless several members were somewhat hesitant about the technical efficiency of such a meeting. In this connection Struve mentioned a number of possible difficulties formulated by Dr. Nassau after his recent visit to the Soviet Union and some others were put forward by the General Secretary:

- 1) There may be some lack of experience in tackling language problems in the Soviet Union.
- 2) Can adequate housing be provided for the assembly itself and for the many hundreds of participants.
- 3) With the present rate of exchange of 4 rubels to a dollar the Soviet Union is extremely expensive.
- 4) Many astronomers may want to be accompanied by their ladies or relatives. Could this be arranged.
- 5) Could participation of Soviet astronomers be limited to members of the I.A.U.
- 6) Could General Secretary set up a secretariat of which he would be in full charge.
- 7) Could correspondence concerning such an assembly be dealt with in a shorter time than it takes at present.

The Executive Committee then unanimously decided to put down on record that it is very grateful for the invitations, which it has thoroughly considered; that it looks favourably upon the invitation from the U.S.S.R. and that it requests the General Secretary to study and investigate with the Soviet colleagues the technical difficulties mentioned above. A decision can only be taken by the General Assembly at Dublin.

The Executive Committee also unanimously decided to record that it is grateful for and interested in the invitation from the National Committee of Astronomy of the U.S.A. for a meeting in the U.S.A. in 1961.

19. The General Secretary had invited the editors of the main western periodicals to publish abstracts in russian, whereas the journals of the U.S.S.R. were requested to publish abstracts in english or french.

Many of the editors proved to be in favour of such an arrangement if it were made on a basis of reciprocity. In some countries however difficulties were met with regard to the translation and printing of such abstracts.

Prof. Lindblad remarked that the present effort covered only a part of the actual needs, as it did not solve the problem of publications in italian, spanish and other languages.

Several members of the Executive Committee felt that abstracts should be printed with each article and should not be published on loose sheets or at the end of a volume.

The General Secretary shall try to promote the publication of such abstracts at the earliest possible date.

20. As the General Assembly at Dublin must elect a new President and a new Vice-President, Prof. Struve suggested that an informal committee be set up, consisting of two former Presidents and the General Secretary in order to prepare a proposal for the Dublin meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee however asked the President to follow the same procedure as in the past and to make a proposal himself after having consulted the members of the Executive Committee and any other persons, he feels should be consulted.

The following matters, which were not on the agenda were discussed:

a) Joint Commissions.

Joint Commission on Solar and Terrestrial Relationships:

The Executive Committee decided to ask Dr. Abbot to resign as advisory councillor, to nominate Prof. Abetti in his place and to nominate Dr. Righini as a member of this Joint Commission for the I.A.U.

Joint Commission on the Ionosphere:

As Dr. Woolley wanted to resign as a member of this commission the Executive Committee nominated Dr. Pawsey in his place.

b) Information Circular of Commission 26.

The expenses for the distribution of this circular will be covered by the Bureau of the I.A.U.

c) Publication of definite results of International Latitude Service for the years 1935-1948.

This publication for which a grant of 8000 gold francs has been allotted in 1948 is being prepared by Prof. Carnera. Since then no information could be obtained about the progress made.

It was decided that Prof. Cecchini should be asked to obtain the information required.

d) Grants for the publication of the Quarterly Bulletin.

In 1951 Prof. Waldmeier obtained a grant of \$ 2000 for the publication of this bulletin. This sum has now been spent and he has applied for another grant of about \$ 2000 to cover the expenses up to the end of 1955. According to Prof. Stratton and Prof. Strömberg some difficulties had arisen in connection with the first grant.

However the Executive Committee agreed that the continuation of this bulletin is important. It decided to allot a grant of \$ 1000 to cover the expenses for the next six bulletins. But it should be stressed that publication should be cheaper and possibly quicker.

Prof. Stratton promised to investigate whether a sum of \$ 1000 could be obtained from the UNESCO subvention for 1955.

e) The World Meteorological Organization has adopted a resolution by which non-governmental international organizations can obtain consultative status. These organizations can then be represented by an observer at the sessions of the WMO congress.

The Executive Committee nominated Prof. Chapman as observer for the I.A.U. provided that no expenses are involved.

f) Letters were received from Dr. Menzel, Dr. Bok and Dr. Shapley concerning the Boyden Station at Mazelspoort. Harvard will discontinue its financial support of the station on 1 July 1955. If the station should be turned over to other management, definite proposals to this effect should be made before 1 January 1955.

Prof. Lindblad remarked that the ADH Baker-Schmidt should be kept in operation. Germany, Belgium and Sweden are interested in this problem and if Harvard could find a way not to take off their hands completely, a solution may be found to keep the station going for another couple of years.

As the plans for a co-operative European observatory are not sufficiently far advanced to make definite commitments before the date indicated above, the Executive Committee declared itself in support of Prof. Lindblad's statement.

The Secretary shall write a letter to the Director of the Harvard Observatory in order that the Harvard Corporation be informed about the opinion of the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned on July 14th at half past twelve.

The General Secretary.