

IAU COMMISSION 51

BIOASTRONOMY: SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE
BIOASTRONOMIE: RECHERCHE DE LA VIE DANS L'UNIVERS

XIX GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1985

F. D. Drake, Editor

COMMISSION 51: BIOASTRONOMY: SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

Report of Meeting of November 23, 1985

President: M. D. Papagiannis

BUSINESS MEETING

I. NEW OFFICERS

Frank D. Drake (USA) was elected President and George Marx (Hungary) Vice-President for the period 1986-1988. The members of the Scientific Organizing Committee for this period are: J. Billingham (USA), D. Devincenzi (USA), F. Drake (USA), J. Jugaku (Japan), N. Kardashev (USSR), G. Marx (Hungary), M. Papagiannis (USA), R. Pesek (Czechoslovakia), C. Sagan (USA), and V. Troitsky (USSR).

II. NEW MEMBERS

Approximately 37 new members were added to the Commission, bringing the total membership to about 240. The Commission also has 39 consultants, bringing the total number of scientists active in the Commission to about 277. This represents a remarkable growth of the Commission since its inception at the XVIII General Assembly at Patras.

III. SYMPOSIA

The Commission held its first Symposium, IAU Symposium No. 112, at Boston in June, 1984. This successful symposium was attended by several hundred scientists. The Proceedings of the Symposium, now published, is a comprehensive work of nearly 600 pages with more than 50 contributions.

The Commission received an invitation from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to hold its next Symposium in Hungary. The Commission accepted this invitation, tendered by George Marx, with pleasure. It is proposed that this symposium be held at Lake Balaton, Hungary, during the period June 22-26, 1987. The Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee will be George Marx. It was proposed that the Scientific Organizing Committee for the Symposium include F. D. Drake (USA), P. A. Feldman (Canada), N. S. Kardashev (USSR), A. Martin (UK), R. Pesek (Czechoslovakia), and J. Tarter (USA). The necessary approvals of IAU officials will be sought.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Commission was informed that the Executive Committee of the IAU had chosen to change the name of the Commission to "Bioastronomy: Search for Extraterrestrial Life."

The President of the Commission, M. Papagiannis, presented F.D. Drake with an engraved plaque commemorating the 25th anniversary of the first modern radio search of extraterrestrial life, which Dr. Drake carried out in 1960.

The Commission as a whole expressed its extreme gratitude to Dr. Papagiannis for the very extensive and tireless work he has performed on behalf of the Commission since its inception. It was recognized that he had carried out the preliminary work necessary to bring the Commission into existence, and had then gone to great effort to organize the work of the Commission, as well as Symposium 112. He has gotten this young Commission off to a magnificent start.

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

A brief scientific session was held in New Delhi. The invited speakers were:

- J. Tarter: The Search for Extrasolar Planetary Systems.
- F. Drake: The Beginning and Early Years of SETI.
- B. Zuckerman: Radio vs. Infrared for SETI.
- M. Papagiannis: Recent Progress in SETI and Exciting Plans for the Future.

A panel discussion was then held.