CHAPTER III

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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