

## General discussion: Session II

Chairman: Dr G A Wilkins

The Symposium discussed whether the same reference frames could adequately serve the needs of astronomers, geodesists and geophysicists. The following points were made:-

- It is desirable to 'freeze' the system; that is, to adopt reference models which will not be subject to further change. Adoption of a rigid-body model would admittedly cause difficulties, but some speakers felt that, with the compensating advantage of simplicity, these would be preferable to the succession of changes which would be likely to result from the use of deformable models tailored to current knowledge.

- Although the Earth-rotation models were linked to directions rather than points, they would be fit for use in geodesy if supplemented by distances and an origin.

- It seemed possible that it might be desirable to annul the resolutions adopted the previous year by Symposium 78 at Kiev, although others felt that the second might stand since the system adopted was not strongly model dependent. A working group had been set up to make recommendations on the treatment of nutation and it was not unlikely that these might be incompatible with the Kiev resolutions. Views on the matter should be sent to the Chairman of the group, P.K. Seidelmann at USNO.