

COMMISSION 16: PHYSICAL STUDY OF PLANETS AND SATELLITES
ETUDE PHYSIQUE DES PLANÈTES ET DES SATELLITES

Report of Meetings, 20, 22, and 25 November 1985

PRESIDENT: V.G. Tejfel.

SECRETARY: R.A. West.

Three regular half-day sessions of the Commission were held with topics as listed below. In addition, on 27 November 1985, the Commission (together with Commission 4) heard a report (given by M. E. Davies) of the IAU/IAG/COSPAR Working Group on Cartographic Coordinates and Rotational Elements of the Planets and Satellites.

20 November 1985

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

During the meeting the following administrative matters were discussed: 13 new members of the commission were approved. V.G. Tejfel read his proposals for resolutions to form a working group on variable phenomena in the solar system and for a reference book on the physical characteristics of planets. These were discussed by the Commission.

22 November 1985

CHAIRPERSON: A. Dollfus. TITLE: Variable Phenomena in the Solar System. I.

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

The following communications were presented during the meeting of the Commission, in order of their presentation:

- M.E. Davies: Voyager Imaging Science and Prospective Uranus Encounter.
D. Morrison: Recent Observations of Volcanic Activity on Io.
D. Bonneau
and R. Foy: First Direct Measurements of the Diameter of the Large Satellites of Uranus and of Neptune.
R.A. West: Vertical Cloud Structure in the Jovian Atmosphere.
V.G. Tejfel: Polarization of Polar Regions on Jupiter (short communication).

25 November 1985

CHAIRPERSON: D. Morrison. TITLE: Variable Phenomena in the Solar System. II.

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS:

The following communications were presented during the meeting of the Commission, in order of their presentation:

- G. Pettengill: Surface Composition of Venus from Radio/Radar Observations.
O.N. Rzhiga: Detailed Radar Mapping of the Venus Surface by the Venera-15 and Venera-16 Spacecraft.
S. Kumar: The Escape of Hydrogen and Deuterium from Venus and Implications on Planetary Evolution.

GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

During the meeting the following administrative matters were discussed: As new officers of the Commission were proposed and unanimously nominated by the Commission for approval by the Executive-Committee of the Union: President, G.E. Hunt; Vice Presidents, A. Brahic and D. Morrison. As members of the Organizing Committee were elected by the Commission: J.L. Bertaux, J. Burns, Chen Daohan, D. Cruikshank, M. Davies, T. Encrenaz, D. Gautier, M. Marov, H. Masursky, A. Morozhenko, T. Owen, V. Shevchenko, B. Smith, and V. Tejfel.

II. RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed and approved by the commission. They were submitted for approval by the XIX General Assembly of the IAU. The first of these was adopted by the General Assembly as Resolution C8:

Commission 16 proposes the formation of a special working group on "Planetary Surveys" to coordinate ground-based and space-based observations of variable phenomena on the surfaces and in the atmospheres of the planets and satellites. These observations must be regular and are meant to serve in planning future space missions and to complement spacecraft encounter data. They also will contribute to the understanding of possible correlations of solar activity and planetary phenomena.

The second resolution was assigned to category D by the executive committee. Commission 16 recommends to continue work on the preparation of the reference book, Physical Properties of Planets and Satellites and to appoint Drs. T. Gehrels, G. Hunt, and V. Tejfel as joint organizers who will propose the chapter titles of this book, chapter editors, and probable authors.