

ICSU
The Royal Society
Burlington House, London W 1

Dear Krishnan,

23 August 1955

I am glad to report to you that the General Assembly of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) meeting recently in Oslo elected you to the Bureau. I enclose the final list, in which you will see that you ^{were} appointed a Vice-president for the period 1955-1958, ie. until after the General Assembly (in Washington) in 1958. We shall be very glad to have your help.

The next meeting of the Bureau will be in London, 11-13 January 1956, when there will be some very important business. The meeting following that will be in conjunction with the Executive Board, probably early in June 1956 at Bagnolles de Bigorre in the South West of France (near the Pic du Midi and its observatory). The next meeting of the Bureau, after that, is not decided, but it has been suggested that it might be somewhere in India, after the General Conference of UNESCO in New Delhi in November 56-early December 1956 might be a suitable time: we should like to consult you about this when the Bureau meetings in January.

At the General Assembly the USSR, through the Soviet Academy of Sciences, was admitted to national membership, and two new Unions were accepted, those for Physiology and Biochemistry.

Mention of the Soviet Academy of Sciences reminds me of one thing I want to mention. Nearly all the major scientific countries adhere to ICSU through their national academies of science or equivalent bodies: exceptions are: Egypt, India, Morocco, Portugal and possibly Peru and Uruguay

whose national adhering organizations are military geographical institutes. ICSU is a non-governmental organization founded by and based upon the academies of sciences. Statute 5a is as follows: "The national organization which represents a country in its capacity as a National Member may be either its principal scientific Academy, or its National Research Council, or any other institution or association of institutes: or failing these, the Government." India's adherence is through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, i.e. through the Government. This, in conjunction with the words 'failing these' in the Statute, suggests that India has no "principal scientific academy...", which of course is not true. This is not an affair for ICSU itself, in all such matters the nations must themselves judge, but you know how friendly a personal interest I have in Indian science, and I should prefer myself to see India ranked with the major scientific countries, not with Egypt, Morocco, Portugal, Peru and Uruguay. After all, you have a perfectly good national academy in the National Institute of Sciences; and it would be an encouragement to the National Institute to be able to take its place with the Royal Society the Academie des Sciences, the National Academy-Research Council of the USA etc as the national adhering organization for India.

With best wishes

yours very sincerely

signed A.V.HILL Secy Genl

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS - BUREAU 1955 - 1958

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