A letter from the Presidents of the European Physical Society (EPS) and The American Physical Society (APS) which will be sent to institutions and to government agencies.

On May 25-27 May 1992, the East-West Coordinating Committee of the EPS, the Chairs of the Committee on International Scientific Affairs, the Forum on International Physics, and the Panel on Public Affairs of the APS met in Budapest. The President, President-Elect and Executive Secretary of the APS, the President and Vice-President of EPS, and members of the EPS Secretariat also attended the meeting. Its purpose was discussion of joint actions and coordination of activities to relieve the corrosive conditions threatening basic science in east-central Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Romania were represented at the meeting) and the countries which make up the former Soviet Union.

As a result of the meeting, M. Jacob, President of EPS, and E.M. Henley, President of APS, wish to stress the following proposed joint initiatives.

1. The two societies will make efforts to seek improved communications to, from, and in the region through the development of both electronic and electronic networks.

2. We shall coordinate efforts to provide journal subscriptions and missing research publications to the libraries of the major research institutions.

3. We shall provide assistance, to the possible extent, in the formation of new, and in the strengthening of established, collaborations between eastern and western groups. We are convinced that the "bottom up" approach is one of the most efficient ways to help our colleagues in eastern and western groups.

4. Lists of peer reviewers will be drawn up and made available upon specific requests from appropriate organizations, for the evaluation of manuscripts. EPS and APS will continue to exchange information about current conditions and activities with a view to supporting each other’s activities.

Some of the above steps are in the form of joint professional statements communicated to colleagues, institutions, governments, international agencies, and non-governmental organizations. In addition, we shall seek to develop joint society declarations of principles, program commitments and calls for action.

The health and prosperity of all nations are dependent upon the vitality of international scientific enterprise. We stand united, as physicists, to search for solutions to the current crises and we declare our resolve to join together to preserve the culture of international science.

Maurice Jacob
European Physical Society

Ernest Henley
The American Physical Society