

serious questions of scientific freedom that revolved around the Sakharov question, attempts to have the 1981 EPS General Conference moved from Istanbul and restrictions on participation at the 1984 General Conference in Prague, all of which he discussed in some detail in an article in the 25th EPS Anniversary issue of *Europhysics News* [EN 24 (1993) 118]. He later became a member of the Hewlett-Packard Europhysics Prize Selection Committee, and the committee's chairman from 1986 to 1990. Allan organized the second EPS Large Facilities Conference under the title *Symposium on International Facilities for Physics Research* (March 1993; Copenhagen and Risø) and was largely responsible for arranging a substantial donation that represented the capital needed to establish the *European Journal of Physics*.

In the 1990's, Allan's extensive international contacts, his flair for international collaboration and a strong emphasis on quality made him a valued consultant to the European Commission and he chaired the Large-Scale Facilities Panel of the European Union's Framework programme for science. He also remained a knowledgeable commentator on Nordic physics, one of his last contributions being in *Europhysics News* one year ago.

Allan took great pleasure in music, squash, travelling,

and a comprehensive collection of malt whisky. He disguised his enjoyment of sport and physical activity behind a facade of feigned mediocrity. On hill-walking holidays he divided his energies between humorous discourses as to the pointlessness of climbing the following hill, and making certain that he was the first at the top. For his ironic sense of humour definitely had a special flavour.

Besides his interest in, and contributions to, modern physics, Allan worked on the history of physics. Here again he was fighting for quality and fairness by pointing out and proving decisive contributions made by little-known scientists to major inventions or discoveries of our century, such as the computer by J.V. Atanasoff and the neutrino by C.D. Ellis.

It is symbolic of his interest in the past as well as the future of physics, that he spent the last day of his life selecting the next experiments to be carried out in 1996 at Risø under the European Union's Framework programme, and then gave an eloquent seminar on the discovery of neutrino. The tragic nature of his sudden death makes the loss all the more acute amongst his worldwide circle of friends and colleagues.

O.K. Andersen (Stuttgart)
K. McEwen (London)
H.B. Møller (Risø)
G. Thomas (Geneva)

Optics, Garching, has accepted an invitation to Chair the Topical Conference Steering Committee made up of QEOD and EUROPTO delegates, and Marcel Ducloy, the QEOD chair, will chair the *EPS Topical Conference on Solid-State Lasers at Laser '97* (16–20 June 1996). Also decided upon so far is the *EUROPTO Topical Conference on Lasers and Environmental Studies*. The QEOD is involved in organizing the *European Quantum Electronics Conference* part of the biannual EQEC/CLEO conference and exhibition series that was launched in 1994 as a back-to-back event to mirror the North Ameri-

Letters to the Editor

Rejection Possible

I read with interest *Europhysics News*, which is published entirely in English. The use of English implies a cultural impoverishment with regard to the languages of countries whose societies belong to EPS. But publishing editions in all these languages would be too complicated and very expensive, and since *Europhysics News* essentially contains technical information, the use of English is acceptable. However, I am shocked that by being translated into English, the names of member societies are not respected. It is as if peoples names are translated. It is certainly true that for presentation in alphabetic order it is practical to use the English name, but the society's name in its country should also be preserved (for example: France: Société Française de Physique). It is also more respectful of cultural and linguistic traditions to write, wherever possible, addresses in a country's language. These addresses are generally entered in a computer file and effort need only be made once to enter a record. Certain addresses are already given in a country's language [see EN 26 (1995) 84–87]; it is that much more disagreeable when this is not the case.

The countries concerned are for the most part relatively poor and weak. Europe's diverse languages and cultures are a source of complication, maybe even misunderstanding, but they represent nonetheless a richness that one must not neglect. If European organizations forget this, a rejection of European cooperation could result.

Jean Peter, LPC/ISMRA, Paris

Ed.: Faced with over many national languages, the Society usually publishes entirely in English. Europhysics News, mindful of the issues raised by the correspondent, sometimes makes the important gesture of adding national society names in their own language if the language is a major one (a practice adopted by many scientific publications for abstracts). Concerning address, international conventions require that national post offices accept letters addressed in English, but in view of the need for reliable addresses, EN publishes, whenever appropriate, society addresses in the major European languages.

Meetings Addresses

On Page 136 of the Meetings Issue of *Europhysics News* you have a listing for the American Institute of Physics (AIP) but none for the American Physical Society (APS) and other US-based physics organizations. The matter is further confused since you have separate entries for societies such as the American Geophysical Union. You are perhaps unaware that the AIP, APS, etc. share the same building. By listing meetings under AIP, anyone seeking to get information would be disappointed as the AIP only has a peripheral role.

Irving Lerch, APS, College Park

Ed.: Although aware that several organizations share the American Center for Physics in College Park, we aimed to present a concise listing of contacts. To avoid confusion, the Europhysics conference listing on the EPS Europhysics-Net service (<http://epswww.epfl.ch/>) has been modified to distinguish events organized by AIP, APS, etc.

People

In seeking to boost the international appeal of Munich's biannual *Laser* exhibition, the organizers have reached agreement with the Board of the EPS Quantum Electronics and Optics Division (QEOD) and with the EUROPTO joint venture of the European Optical Society and the US SPIE association for a series of parallel Topical Conferences that will replace the exhibition's existing technical sessions. **Herbert Walther**, the Director of the Max-Planck Institute for Quantum

canI (international)QE/CLEO event. EQEC/CLEO aims not to be held in the same year as *Laser* (the next EQEC/CLEO is in Hamburg on 9–13 September 1996).

Gerard t'Hooft, professor of theoretical physics at Utrecht University, has been awarded one of the new Spinoza awards by the Dutch funding agency NWO. With a total of 12 million HFL shared among four scientists, the awards represent Holland's most valuable scientific prize. His achievements, notably the demonstration of quantum effects in instantons, and efforts to popularise particle physics have also led to the award of

doctorate honoris causa from the Catholic University of Leuven.

Rudolf Bock, who formerly chaired the EPS Nuclear Physics Division, retired from GSI, Darmstadt, in December, which he helped found and where he served for 20 years as a member of the Directorate. **Peter Braun-Munzinger**, Professor at the State University of New York, succeeds him as Director of Nuclear Physics I.

Catherine Bréchnignac has been appointed as the Scientific Director of the CNRS Physical Sciences and Mathematics Department, replacing **Daniel Thoulouse** who became a regional delegate.