

Notes and News

Announcements and other items of crystallographic interest will be published under this heading at the discretion of the Editorial Board. The notes (in duplicate) should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J. N. King, International Union of Crystallography, 13 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ, England).

International Union of Crystallography Forward planning of Inter-Congress meetings

The Executive Committee of the I.U.Cr. is anxious to encourage Inter-Congress meetings to avoid future Triennial Congresses becoming excessively large and cumbersome to handle. A Sub-Committee on the Union Calendar has therefore been set up (see *Acta Cryst.* (1969) **A25**, 719) to implement this policy. Its function is to gather information on proposed or prospective meetings, coordinate the long-term planning of meetings which the Union organizes or co-sponsors, and actively to encourage the initiation of small or intermediate-sized meetings in fields where development is significant.

Since it is the aim of the Sub-Committee to plan at least three, and preferably more, years ahead, it is advisable to have early advice of meetings, being planned or in prospect, that might appropriately come within the category of Union sponsorship or co-sponsorship in terms of their content, location, size and date. It would therefore be appreciated if bodies such as Commissions of the Union, National Committees for crystallography, regional associations and other bodies which are contemplating or have begun the planning of a future international meeting on crystallography or with a major content of crystallography would contact the Sub-Committee Chairman:

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The Sub-Committee would be pleased to receive advice of provisional details of proposed Inter-Congress meetings as soon as possible and it will also consider requests for

Union-sponsorship of these meetings. Nominal financial support could be available in some cases.

Protein Data Bank

The repository system for protein crystallographic data, announced in the scientific press in October 1971, is now operational. The data bank is administered jointly by the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre and the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The atomic coordinates for the following proteins are available for distribution on magnetic tape in machine readable form: 1. Cyanide methaemoglobin V from sea lamprey. 2. Cytochrome b_5 . 3. Basic pancreatic trypsin inhibitor. 4. Subtilisin BPN (Novo). 5. Tosyl α -chymotrypsin. 6. Bovine carboxypeptidase A α . 7. L-Lactate dehydrogenase. 8. Myoglobin. 9. Rubredoxin. They can be obtained on request from Dr Olga Kennard or Dr D. G. Watson at the University Chemical Laboratory, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1EW, England or from Dr T. F. Koetzle at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, U.S.A. Dr E. F. Meyer of the Texas A & M University was primarily responsible for the initial development of the file and input of data for the structures listed above, and was assisted in this work by H. M. Berman of The Institute for Cancer Research, Philadelphia.

The usefulness of the system will depend on the response of protein crystallographers supplying data. Further contributions are invited and details of how to submit data are available. To simplify the organization of the data bank all contributions should be sent directly to Dr T. F. Koetzle, who has assumed responsibility for the primary input.

The total holdings of the file will be announced annually in the organic bibliographic volumes of the reference series *Molecular Structures and Dimensions* published for the Crystallographic Data Centre and the International Union of Crystallography by Oosthoek Publishing Company, Utrecht, starting with Volume 5 to be published early in 1974.