

COPY.

8 Branksome Road, Norwich
1924 July 29

W.E. Houghton Esq.,
Astron. Soc. of S. Africa,
Cape Town.

Dear Mr Houghton,

I cannot thank you sufficiently for all the kindness and consideration I received at your hands when I gave my Address at the end of last month. Let me only say they were appreciated by me.

I have also to thank you for your letter of the 28th June and feel grateful to the Committee for their action over the cost of the wasted room.

Mr Long was good enough to accept my suggestion that he should propose a resolution and asked me to draft one for his consideration and guidance. I have accordingly done so and enclose it. If I send it to you do so partly because I am not sure of his address. Will you please be so good as to let him have it at your convenience. I feel rather strongly on this subject as you may infer. My idea is that the National Committee should be controlled by the Astr. Soc., outside members should be accepted thus the Minister for the Interior might be one or he should nominate one to serve for one or three years - the President of the R.S. and the President of the S.A.A.A.S. should each also appoint a member which member might be themselves. The Union Astronomer and perhaps the Director of the Photographic Survey should also hold office ex-officio - and the number might be brought up to 9 by selection from and by your Committee. These are my suggestions.

The main thing is to form a real live National Committee which shall have the true interest of Astronomy at heart and be sufficiently influential to carry weight with the Government if necessity should arise.

It would be well to try and fix the dates upon which the Committee should meet, perhaps one date a year obligatorily and others if necessary and it should be an understood thing that the Union Astr. should present a report or even be charged with drawing up the report of the Committee annually.

I have in my mind a sort of Board of Visitors - modified to fall in with the notions of the Union.

I would also like to see H.M. Astronomer on the S.A. Nat. Ast. Com. and a courtesy member, entitled (and invited) to take part in our deliberations but not entitled to vote - this for obvious reasons.

I am afraid that I am asking rather a lot from Mr Long and yourself and also the Committee of the S.A. Astr. Soc. - but as I have already said I feel somewhat strongly on the subject and do wish to avoid astronomical regression in S. Africa. So please excuse if possible my verbosity and pain thanking you and with every good wish

I remain, etc.

(Sd) R.T.A. Imnes.

Enclosure

Notes: (1) That in the opinion of this Committee, a South African

to serve for one or three years - the President of the A.S.S. should be the President of the S.A.A.A.S. should each also appoint a member which member might be themselves. The Union Astronomer and perhaps the Director of the Geodetic Survey should also hold office ex-officio - and the number might be brought up to 9 by selection from and by your Committee. These are my suggestions.

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(Sd) R.T.A.Innes.

Enclosure

Long moves: (1) That in the opinion of this Committee, a South African National Astronomical Committee should be formed as an integral part of the International Astronomical Union, and recommends the formation of such a Committee to the Honble. the Minister for the Interior.

(2) It further suggests that the personnel of this Committee should be constituted as follows :-

(i) The Minister for the Interior or a person appointed by him.

(ii) The President of the Royal Soc. of S.A. and of the S.Afr.

Assoc. for the Adv. of Science or persons appointed by him.
(iii) The Union Astronomer and the Director of the Geodetic Survey ex-officio.

(iv) Four persons to be appointed by the Committee of the Astr. Soc. of S.A.

(3) This Committee notes with satisfaction that the Un. Govt. is already an adherent to the Int.Astr.Union.