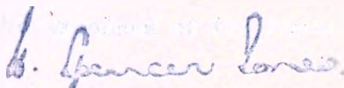


30th March 1925.

Dear Prof. Jolly,

I enclose herewith a statement for incorporation in the Royal Society Minutes with regard to the formation of a National Committee in Astronomy in South Africa.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "H. Spencer Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Professor Jolly,

University,

CAP TOWN.

The International Astronomical Union was constituted in 1919 in order (1) to facilitate the relations between astronomers of different countries where international cooperation is necessary or useful and (2) to promote the study of astronomy in all its departments. The Union has taken over the following international organisations :- The International Solar Union, International Latitude Service, the Bureau de l'Heure, the Carte du Ciel and the service of astronomical Telegrams.

South Africa became an adherent of the Union in 1922, the financial contribution towards the expenses of the Union being defrayed by the Government.

The Statutes of the Union provide that in each of the countries adhering to the Union a National Committee shall be formed for the promotion and coordination of astronomical work in relation to the international requirements and for the nomination of delegates as representatives at the triennial meetings of the Union. Such Committee is to be formed under the responsibility of the principal academy of the country concerned or of its National Research Council, or of some other national institution or association of institutions, or of its Government.

The question of the formation of a National Committee for South Africa has been considered by the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa. As the principal observatory in South Africa is an Imperial institution and as two American observatories are shortly to be erected in the Union, it was not considered advisable that the Committee should be a Government Committee.

The following motion was approved by the Council of the Astronomical Society :-

"That the Council of the Royal Society of South Africa be approached with a view to the formation of a National Committee in astronomy, the composition of which it is suggested might be as follows :-

Ex-officio - Union Astronomer, H.M.Astronomer, Director of the  
Trigonometrical Survey (or representative).

Nominated by the Royal Society - Three persons.

" " " S.A.Assoc<sup>n</sup> for the Advance - Three "

-ment of Science.

" " " S.A.Astronomical Society - Six " "