



UNIVERSITY HOUSE,
CAPE TOWN.

29th March 1925

Dear Spencer Innes

I find some of the early correspondence about the International Astronomical Union is in my hands: a copy of the proposals for the convention for an International Astronomical Union (approved by the Council of the Royal Society) was sent to the Royal Society here in 1919 and was considered by the Society here and the Board of the Faculty of Science at the University. Nothing very much could be done till we knew the position of the Government. I wrote in April 1920 to an old student who was in the Mines & Industries Division and he informed me (16th April 1920) that the Advisory Board of Industry and Science had recommended that the Government should join the International Astronomical Union through the Royal Society of South Africa. No message came from the Government and I wrote again to the Advisory Board in September; the Secretary told me the question of joining the International Union was again under consideration and he would write to the Department of Mines & Industries, sending a copy of my letter. The Secretary for Mines & Industries wrote on 22nd October 1920 to me and said the joining was still under consideration.

There as far as I know, the matter stopped and if the Government did join in 1922 it has never informed the University through the Board of the Faculty of Science nor the Royal Society.

UNIVERSITY HOUSE.
CAPE TOWN.

Notice than in the first letter it was reported that the Advisory Board of Industry recommended also that the Government should join the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics through the Royal Society of South Africa. Do you know if it has joined that Union.

I am sending on the correspondence such as I have to Jolly; I didn't know it was this matter was coming up or I would have got out this correspondence for the meeting.

Yours sincerely
Lawrence Crawford