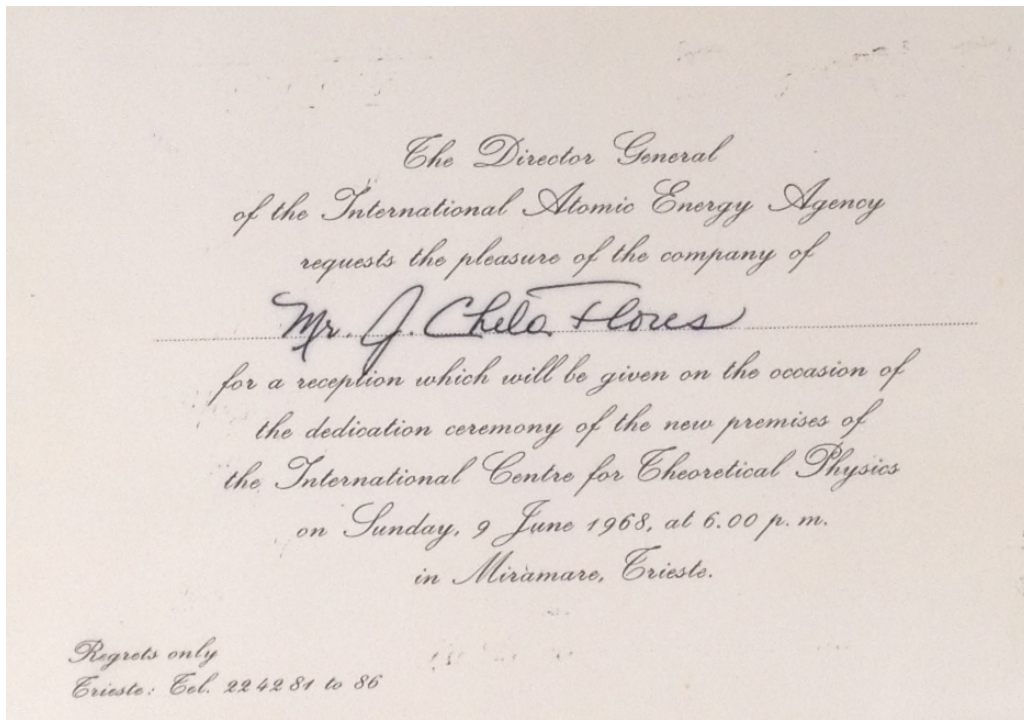


## The Inauguration of the Main Campus of the ICTP (#)

The inauguration of the main campus of the ICTP took place in the vicinity of Miramare Park on Sunday, 9th June, 1968 at 6 PM (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Invitation for the dedication ceremony of the premises of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics.

Up to that time the park was better known for the location of the Castle that Archduke Maximilian of Austria had built in Trieste, before his untimely acceptance of the Crown of Mexico.

I was particularly impressed about the time Salam (Fig. 2) spent with each of his guests in the queue, while we waited to be served coffee, during an interval of the main event of that year: the "Contemporary Physics Symposium".



**Fig. 2.** A scientist and a believer, the 1979 Nobel laureate in Physics, Professor Abdus Salam (1926–1996) was Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste (ICTP) from 1964 till 1996. (Photo by the author, June, 1968.)

I was not surprised for his attention on the people that preceded me. They included such well-established and significant scientists such as Werner Heisenberg and Paul Dirac (Fig. 3).



**Fig 3.** From left to right: Werner Heisenberg accepts the introduction to lecture from the chairman Paul Dirac at the inauguration of the Main (Leonardo) Building, ICTP (June), Trieste. (Photo by the author, June, 1968.)

A large number distinguished physicist of the 20th century have participated in meetings at the Trieste Center, including the 1968 Trieste *Symposium on Contemporary Physics* at the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), now called the Abdus Salam ICTP (Salam, 1969). The meeting was characterized by friendliness and emotion (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 4.** Front row from left to right: Physics Noble laureates Eugene Wigner and Abdus Salam. Second row from left to right: Yuval Ne'eman and Amos de Shalit. Back row from left to right: JCF. (Photo from the author's Archive.)

## Reference

Abdus Salam (ed.) (1969) *Contemporary Physics: Trieste Symposium 1968*. (2 volumes). International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna. STI/PUB/214.

---

(#) Based on Chela-Flores, J. (2019). *Astrobiology and Humanism: Conversations on the frontiers of science, philosophy and theology*. (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom) and Chela-Flores, J. (2001). *The New Science of Astrobiology From Genesis of the Living Cell to Evolution of Intelligent Behavior in the Universe*. Kluwer Academic Publishers: Dordrecht, The Netherlands (279 pp).