

Opening remarks: 16th Amaldi Conference

I am pleased to make a few opening remarks at this 16th Amaldi Conference on Problems of Global Security. It is no news to you that, as President of the Academia Nazionale dei Lincei, Amaldi was highly supportive of these meetings until his untimely death in 1989. Until then, the meetings were known by a different name. It will also not come as a surprise to you if I show you how the conference has traveled over time since its inception.

Figure 1 here

I am very pleased that this meeting is being held here in Trieste for the first time. I am equally pleased to welcome you here on behalf of ICTP and to wish you a productive conference.

These conferences have always been concerned about global security. When they started in 1988, the major issue was the possible nuclear confrontation between USA and the USSR, and it is not surprising that the conferences spent considerable time and effort on just that issue. Allow me to show you the agenda for the meeting of 1989---by the way, the last meeting that Amaldi attended. It is clear that most of the attention was nuclear threat to global security.

Figure 2 here

In contrast, the agenda for this year, which is shown in the next figure shows that the concerns are more diverse.

Figure 3 here

Alas, even if they are less dramatic for superficial appearance, they are no less a threat to global security. It is only appropriate that you should pay some attention to them. For the first time (as far as I can tell), issues of Islam and the West have crept up. It is clear that we live in a divided world.

It is in this context that I submit that the work of institutions like ICTP is very important. Let me merely say, without taking much of your time, that, while our Centre's business is essentially science, the fact that we are hosts to scientists from all countries is a step in the right direction of building confidence and mutual trust among nations. Our Centre has only a small number of permanent scientists, about 25 or so, who are themselves very good. But what makes the dynamics of the Centre different is the large number of visitors that we get from all parts of the world. I merely want to show you two figures briefly.

Figures 4/5.

With regard to the issue of Islam and the West, which we at the Centre recognize could be an important issue for some time to come, we have done the following: We have instituted five new prizes, each \$20,000 in value, which would be awarded annually to young scholars who can be

effective bridges between Islamic thought and modern science. We expect to identify leaders in this broad sphere, and cultivate them over time. We believe that the best strategy in such issues is to invest in people---young people---and that is what these Prizes are supposed to do. The Prizes are named after the founder of the Centre, Abdus Salam, after the Centre itself, after TWAS, and after Ahmed Zewail---the Egyptian-born Nobel Laureate from Caltech.

I have now the great pleasure of welcoming you once again to the Centre and of wishing you great success at the meeting.