

OPENING SPEECH

(M. Tendler, Chairman)

FIRST OF ALL, WELCOME TO THE BEAUTIFUL PRAGUE, OFTEN CALLED THE HEART OF EUROPE.

SECOND, THREE BIG THANKS ON BEHALF OF ICPP, IPC AND IAC.

I THANK YOU FOR COMING TO PRAGUE EN MASS.

I WAS TOLD THIS MORNING THAT THIS BEAUTIFUL ZOFIN PALACE HAS NEVER SEEN SO LARGE PUBLIC. EVEN, TO THE POLITICAL RALLY WITH MARGARET THATCHER IN ATTENDANCE HELD HERE SOME TIME AGO FEWER PEOPLE CAME TO LISTEN...

WE EXPECT MORE THAN 1000 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS. THE UNPRECEDENT NUMBER FOR SUCH A MEETING, NEVER EXCEEDED BEFORE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE MANIFESTED IN 1200 SUBMISSIONS OF ABSTRACTS FOR OUR CONSIDERATION.

THANK YOU ALSO FOR YOUR LOVE AND AFFECTION TO THE PLASMA PHYSICS. WE HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN 1200 CONTRIBUTIONS OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY 850 HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR PRESENTATION

WE HAVE ALSO REVIEWED 240 NOMINATIONS FOR INVITED TALKS OF WHICH ABOUT 70 WERE ACCEPTED FOR PRESENTATION.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHO ACTIVELY WORKED IN ORGANIZING 8 SATELLITE MEETINGS FOR ICPP THIS YEAR.

AGAIN THE UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER.

IT IS VERY APPROPRIATE THAT THIS INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON PLASMA PHYSICS, ON THE EVE OF THE 21st CENTURY AND THE LAST ONE THIS CENTURY IS TAKING PLACE IN PRAGUE.

EVEN, IF IT WOULD BE NO OTHER CITY ON EARTH, BUT PRAGUE

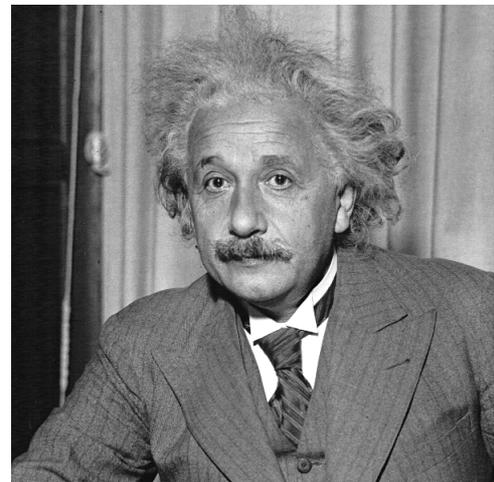
THERE WILL BE ENOUGH MUSIC TO PLAY EVERY EVENING DUE TO DVORAK, SMETANA, JANACEK ET AL

ENOUGH BOOKS TO READ DUE TO KAFKA, HASEK, RILKE AND OTHERS AND ENOUGH PHYSICS TO STUDY AND TO FILL TEXT BOOKS WITH

DUE TO KEPLER, TYCHO DE BRAHE, MACH, DOEPLER AND EINSTEIN. ALL OF WHOM HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING OF PHYSICS. THIS IS THE CITY WHERE EINSTEIN HAS CONCEIVED AND ACCOMPLISHED THE GENERAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY, THE CROWN JEWEL OF MODERN PHYSICS AND THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENT OF HUMAN CULTURE IN GENERAL.

WE HOPE OUR DISTINGUISHED INVITED SPEAKERS WILL BEAR THIS IN MIND AND TRY TO LIVE UP TO THIS LEGACY, AND MEET THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN PRAGUE IN THEIR PRESENTATIONS.

REMEMBER, EINSTEIN WILL BE WATCHING!



AND LAST, SINCE EVERY MAJOR CULTURAL EVENT NEEDS A KEYNOTE, I SUGGEST TO USE THE FOLLOWING CITATION OF THE FAMOUS SON OF THIS CITY, FRANZ KAFKA FROM HIS MAJOR WORK THE “CASTLE” AS OUR MOTTO:

“ THERE IS A GOAL, BUT THERE IS NO WAY.
WHAT WE CALL THE WAY IS ONLY WAVERING. ”