

COMMENTARY

THE 1989 ISSOL MEETING

The Society's triennial meeting will be held July 3-8, 1989 in Prague. One of the reasons this site was selected is to facilitate the attendance of Eastern European scientists since there were few participants from that segment of the ISSOL community at the 1986 meeting in Berkeley. This is the one meeting that all of us who are doing research on origins of life and related topics get together to exchange ideas. Like most good conferences the informal scientific exchange of experimental details in the halls can be as valuable as the formal scientific presentations in the auditorium. I recommend attendance.

The format of the meeting will be similar to the one that was used successfully in Berkeley. Panel discussions will be organized to discuss topics of current interest (and controversy) and there will be formal presentations and posters. One deviation from past practice will be the scheduling the half day workshop "Chemical Evolution and Neo-abiogenesis in Marine Hydrothermal Systems". This workshop will be run in parallel with the main meeting because its inclusion was requested after the program for the meeting had been organized. Some lively discussions may ensue in view of the 1988 *Nature* paper (334, 609) by S. Miller and J. Bada which claims the extreme temperatures and aqueous environment present in hydrothermal vents are more conducive to the decomposition of biomolecules rather than their condensation to biopolymers.

All the abstracts from this meeting will be published in this journal and a special issue will be published in 1990 dedicated to the publication of full papers resulting from the presentations at Prague. The full papers will be given the usual review procedure for regular submissions including evaluation by two or more referees.

More details concerning the meeting are given in a notice at the end of this issue. If you would like to attend but are not an ISSOL member you may obtain a membership application form from Dr Donald DeVincenzi, ISSOL Secretary, NASA Ames Research Center, Mail Stop 245-1, Moffett Field, CA 94035, U.S.A.

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