

PREFACE

This special issue of *Journal of Low Temperature Physics* contains part of invited and contributed papers presented at the international Weak Superconductivity Symposium (WSS) held on August 4-7, 1996 in Smolenice Castle (60 km from Bratislava), Slovak Republic. This was eighth WSS in series starting in 1977. During this period there have been great advances in the study of weak superconductivity and wide range of possible applications. In addition, discovery of high- T_c superconductors, ten years ago, opened new horizons of theoretical and experimental activities. The papers deals with key aspects related to weak superconductivity: Physics of weak link, weak link properties, arrays, rf properties, SQUIDS, thin films characterization and modification, and application of weak links and weak link structures.

Approximately 90 scientists (limited by Smolenice Castle) participated in the symposium. The scientific program enclosed about 70 oral and poster presentations, from which 59 are published in this issue of *Journal of Low Temperature Physics*. We would like to acknowledge all participants for their presentation and for the informal discussions which made the Symposium a great success.

For the second time the Institute of Electrical Engineering of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava organized this symposium in cooperation with the Institute of Solid State Physics of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena. Next Weak Superconductivity Symposium in Smolenice Castle is planed on June 1998.

Bratislava and Jena, September 1996

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