

Obituary

PAUL NAOR

I WAS DEEPLY shocked when I heard of the untimely death of Professor Paul Naor in an air accident in Rumania last December when he was on his way to attend a meeting of the Programme Committee of the 1972 IFORS Conference in Dublin. Professor Naor was the leading authority in Operational Research at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel, where he was for several years the Chairman of the Department of Industrial and Management Engineering and at one time became Academic Vice-President of the Technion.

I have known Paul Naor for many years. In fact we spent our undergraduate years at the Technion at about the same time, though in different departments, but it was in 1957–9 when I got to know him well. Together with Professor Cahen and Professor Littauer, who was acting then as Vice-President, we were engaged in the setting up of the new Department of Industrial and Management Engineering, with a curriculum heavily based on Operational Research. Throughout that period, and after I left in 1959, Naor was actively involved in building up a thriving centre, of which the Technion has every reason to be proud. The growth of the department in the past decade and the reputation of its varied and stimulating research remain a living memorial to the many excellent contributions and endless energy of Paul Naor.

He liked to travel and over the years has taken part in numerous international conferences and spent a few spells at several universities in the U.S., where he has made many friends. It was mainly due to his efforts that in 1967 a British–Israeli Colloquium on O.R. was held in Haifa and in which several members of the O.R. Society participated.

He will long be remembered, not only as a formidable research worker who has enriched the literature with his insight into some difficult problems, but also for the warmth of his personality and sense of humour. We have lost a champion of Operational Research and a good friend.

SAMUEL EILON