

Proxy shall have a single vote, though in the event of a tie the presiding officer shall have a deciding vote. Minutes of each Council meeting shall be kept by the Executive Secretary or an appointed Deputy and be sent promptly to all Councillors. The Secretary-General of ISEE, *ex officio*, shall be constituted a non-voting member of WCB, and the same privilege shall be accorded to a single registered delegate of each other collaborating agency.

8. If unable to attend a meeting, a Councillor may brief and send a qualified *Proxy*, if possible armed with a letter to an officer of the Council, which shall then have the power to constitute such Proxy a full member of that meeting only. Non-voting observers or guests may be invited to attend any meeting at the discretion of the Council (as decided by a least two members of its Executive Committee).
9. Although the activities of Councillors on behalf of the Council are strictly voluntary, there shall be established as soon as possible an *Endowment Fund* from

the revenues of which their expenses can be reimbursed and the Executive Secretary be duly recompensed. Until such time as this Fund has been established and the Council can seek recognition as a separate body if so desiring, it shall remain under the aegis of the Foundation for Environmental Conservation and be subject to Swiss laws and governmental surveillance.

10. In the event of *dissolution* of the Council, all assets other than property of the sponsoring Foundation shall be distributed to one or more non-profit organizations of similar purpose.
11. This Constitution of the World Council For The Biosphere may be *amended* by a two-thirds majority vote of all Councillors present and voting at a fully constituted meeting of the Council.

Revised to 17 May 1988

*c/o The Foundation for Environmental Conservation  
7 Chemin Taverney, 1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland.*

### Vernadsky Commemoration 'Round Table Resolutions'

As a final roundup of the 'Jubilee events dedicated to Academician V.I. Vernadsky's 125th birthday anniversary', an impressive 'round table' meeting of about 20 invited participants was held on the evening of the final day of the events described on pp. 187-9 of this issue. It took place in the Culture-Hall of Moscow State University before an audience of some 330 (apart from the platform party), of whom several posed questions or made useful comments during its 3 1/2 hours of constant deliberation.

The Chairman of this propitious occasion was Professor Vadim V. Zagladin, who was assisted by Professor Victor A. Kovda, our Journal's Advisory Editor on matters pertaining to Soils and Erosion, and, after the latter had spoken in detail following the Chairman's brief introduction, your Editor was called on to present the six resolutions which had been prepared for presentation at the Bolshoy Theatre on the preceding evening but were not dealt with owing to lack of time to consider any resolutions at all.

The last circumstance was fortunate to the extent that it enabled some redrafting of Resolutions 3 and 4 following actual establishment of the Vernadsky Foundation only on the day of the final roundup, thus crowning Vernadsky's birthday celebrations: but it was unfortunate in that the outcome cannot be considered as binding the entire body of participants of the commemoration described on pp. 187-9. Nevertheless it is gratifying to record that, although each draft resolution was given out phrase-by-phrase in English followed by Russian, each was passed separately by acclamation. These approved Round Table Resolutions were as follows and thus express the unanimous wishes of a substantial body of independent adherents including some leading Soviet and international figures:

1. Much confusion having resulted in the past from the indiscriminate use of the key term of 'biosphere' in several different senses and contexts, it is resolved henceforth to restrict its meaning to that stemming from Vernadsky, which we interpret as: The integrated living and life-supporting system comprising the peripheral envelope of Planet Earth together with its surrounding atmosphere so far down, and up, as any form of life exists naturally. We recommend [and have long practised] capitalization of the

initial letters of [what we write and print consistently as] 'The Biosphere'.

2. The environmental movement being now well-established globally, it is resolved henceforth to recognize what may be termed the 'Vernadskyan revolution' as an important aspect of it, calling on all involved bodies and interests to pay special attention to [that revolution's] main thrust of the healthful maintenance of The Biosphere.

3. The [International] Vernadsky Foundation having been established with its initial complement of ten Founding Members under the aegis of the USSR Academy of Sciences on this 12th day of March 1988, being the 125th anniversary of the birth of the great thinker and dedicated to the heritage of his work, we believe and hereby request should have special reference to the vast environmental implications of his concept of The Biosphere and its protection for the welfare of Mankind and Nature in perpetuity.

4. We further supplicate that the Vernadsky Foundation consider stressing due reverence for life as a perpetual crusade to be pursued henceforth with maximum aspirations.

5. Be it resolved that this [body] supports in principle the Foundation for Environmental Conservation's endeavours to organize a Fourth International Conference on Environmental Future on the theme of Threats to The Biosphere and Imperative Countermeasures [, and at the same time records its] hearty support for the initiative and thrust of the World Campaign for The Biosphere, the World Council For The Biosphere, and the allied International Society for Environmental Education as a key necessity for our future world.

6. As fortunate guests [in many cases] who have been honoured by invitation by the USSR Academy of Sciences and [for the Round Table] by Moscow State University to participate in this momentous commemoration of the life and work of Academician Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky, we heartily commend the Academy for their timely initiative while thanking them warmly for their hospitality and, above all, reaffirming our fervent reverence for life as the ultimate deity.

[N.P., Moscow, 13 March 1988]