

During 1976 I was privileged to attend three highly interdisciplinary Meetings, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, BA, and the Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte, GDNÄ, in Boston, USA, Lancaster, England, and Stuttgart, Germany. I am certain I was the only science writer attending all three conferences and I wrote a long and critical Editorial about these meetings for the December 1976 issue of ISR.

I found all three Associations parochial. They did not realise that science was no longer advanced through their meetings which suffered from the lack of a true aim or a real function. Science was being attacked by politicians and the media; neglected if not ridiculed by youth; and thus science found itself without a real champion, which the three Associations should be. These criticisms were true for all three Associations and I looked in vain for international co-operation to rectify these omissions.

I suggested ten points of remedial actions at the end of my Editorial and later in 1987 [see Title 353] I myself called an International Meeting in Hanover to form an International Association. However, sad to report now (in 2001), that neither my ten points of reform, nor the International Meeting, has produced any change. The scientific establishments in charge of the AAAS, BA and the GDNÄ are all too conservative to recognise the need for reform.

I must mention here the exception, namely the excellent speech by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany Scheel who personally addressed the GDNÄ in Stuttgart in 1976. He urged politicians to take the trouble and learn to understand science, so that they could distinguish between scientifically based predictions and non-scientific divinations inspired by panic, an essential prerequisite for the politicians of tomorrow. Similarly scientists must learn to think in political terms, so that they can evaluate the political consequences of their research work. President Scheel, the Head of State of Federal Germany, supported the Editorial Policy of *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*.

Two other excellent interdisciplinary articles were published in the fourth and last issue of the first volume: Dr Peter Witt of Raleigh, North Carolina, reported on the design and engineering of spider webs, and how these were altered when psychodelic drugs had been administered to spiders, a subject he had specialised in for many years. Secondly, Professor M.R. Bloch of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, recalled the vital role which ordinary salt, NaCl, had played throughout human history and how control over the supply of salt was power over life and death of whole populations in the past.