After Dinner Speech
by
Dr. Josef Rembser

CERN, Geneva 14 September 2009

Celebration in honour of
Professor Herwig Schopper's
85th Birthday

I.

Dear Friends, honourable, dear Professor Schopper!

On 28 February of this year, you celebrated your 85th Birthday. This evening we are looking back on this memorable date, wishing you many happy returns of the day.

You have been blessed with a life full of harmony and accomplishments, always keeping young physically and intellectually. This is a special blessing granted to a person: Love and family, friendships and encounters, giving and receiving, working and achieving acknowledgements and honours in a fulfilling profession and in challenging missions.

Tomorrow, a scientific Colloquium will honour you as **researcher** and **scientific teacher**.

Today, on the eve of the colloquium, I would like to speak about Herwig Schopper as a **research politician** and a **research manager**. My personal remarks and remembrances will focus, dear Herwig Schopper, on the guiding contributions you made in shaping, promoting and advancing science and research and their relevant policies in Germany and in Europe.

Professor Heuer, I am grateful for your invitation. It is a pleasure for me to give today's After-Dinner speech in honour of our jubilee. For many years during my service in the German Ministry of Research and Technology (BMFT) in Bonn I had close personal and professional connections with you, dear Professor Schopper, regarding German science and research policy including CERN.

II.

In 1945, with the end of the 2nd World War, Germany as guilty party and loser plunged the world and its own country into destruction and suffering, thus experiencing a historical catastrophe. Efforts, burdens and success of rebuilding the country started slowly, followed by the first steps of reparation.

In 1955, 10 years after the end of the 2nd World War, the three zones of Germany which were under the responsible administration of the victorious Western powers, the USA, the UK and France, received full political sovereignty as the Federal Republic of Germany.

Impressed and triggered by the 1st World Conference for Peaceful Research and Use of Atomic Energy of the United Nations, which took place in 1955 in Geneva, the German Federal Government, under Chancellor Dr. Konrad Adenauer, created in the same year a ***Federal Ministry for Atomic Affairs*** under Minister Dr. Franz Josef Strauss (***Picture No. 1)***.

Bundespräsident Theodor Heuss ernannte Franz-Josef Strauß
am 21. Oktober 1955 zum Bundesminister für Atomfragen.
Vgl. dazu 99. Sitzung am 6. Okt. 1955 TOP 2.
(*Quelle: Bundesbildstelle*).

The Ministry was to promote and advance research and utilisation of nuclear energy by establishing research centres outside universities and by financing projects in industry and universities. In addition, it was to take over the responsibility for all protection, safety and security matters related to nuclear energy in Germany.

The new ministry based its decisions upon the ***German Atomic Commission*** as its competent advisory body. Members of the Commission and its specific committees were the most experienced and well known scientists and industrialists of the country, such as Werner Heisenberg and Otto Hahn as well as Ernst Winnacker from the former IG Farben Industry.
Looking back on this Atomic Commission several years later, it has proven to be an extremely successful advisory body for the Federal German Government.

Already 1 year before the founding of the Federal Atomic Ministry, the Federal Parliament (Bundestag and Bundesrat) in 1954 decided that Germany should join the International Convention (from 1953) for the establishment of CERN. For Germany and its scientific community the membership in CERN was a pioneering first step for the integration of the country into the international community of states. Inside the

Federal government the Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) had at that time full responsibility for CERN.

III.

After having briefly outlined the relevant political structure and environment of Post-War Germany, let me now switch to the role of Herwig Schopper in the research policy of our country.

For advising the German Atomic Commission the Committee for Physics was responsible for the promotion of basic science in physics (Atomic Physics, Particle and High-Energy Physics). The recommendations of the Commission and its committees were carried out with respect and great enthusiasm by the young staff of the Atomic Ministry.

Since 1961 Herwig Schopper has been a member of the **Committee for Physics**. His appointment to the Committee was preceded by his reputation as an excellent young Nuclear Physicist at the universities of Erlangen, Mainz, Stockholm, Cambridge, UK and Cornell, USA. ***Picture No. 2*** shows Herwig as the youngest member of the Physics Committee of the German Atomic Commission among experienced colleagues of the war- and first postwar-generation, Wolfgang Paul, Bonn, Arnulf Schlüter, München, Arnold Schoch, Würzburg and Martin Teucher, Hanburg.

Among the most important proposals of the Committee were the establishment of the German Electron-Synchrotron-Centre DESY in Hamburg and the Institute for Experimental Nuclear Physics (IEKP) in the Nuclear Research Centre in Karlsruhe (KFK). For both institutes Herwig Schopper was among the important founding advisors. From 1961 – 1970 he took responsibility as the Founding Director for the Karlsruhe IEKP, from 1973 – 1980 he was the Chairman of the Directorate for DESY. In both institutes he inspired his staff and set the course for the future. To add a basic science institute for elementary particle research to a centre devoted fully to nuclear energy technology was not evident. But the scientific excellence of the institute's Founding Director was finally the decisive argument for the new institute.

At the time, dear Professor Schopper, when I had been working in the Bonn Ministry for Research and Technology and had been responsible for KFK Karlsruhe, I became acquainted with you and came to fully appreciate your personality.

IV.

In 1970 - 1973 an honourable appointment brought you for the first time into a responsible management position at CERN as Division Leader and Director.

In 1981, the CERN Council elected you as **Director General of CERN**. During the eight years, from 1981 to 1988, you guided the Laboratory with great efficiency and foresight into its future. These were the years of the decision for the **Large Electron Positron Collider LEP** and its construction. Without any bitterness, with understanding and humour you describe this time as follows: "My first personal experience with LEP was a rigorous examination in the Committee of Council. One delegation was against my nomination as Director General suspecting that I would favour the German DESY site for LEP instead of CERN. After I had explained my intentions the delegate concerned received new instructions by telephone during a

coffee break. I was elected unanimously, and the approval procedure for LEP could start".

During the years 1981 - 1991, I represented the German Federal Government in the CERN Council as Director General for Basic Research, Research Coordination and International Cooperation of the BMFT. For 1988 - 1990 I was elected as President of the Council.

The 1980's were unforgettable years, a time of cooperation with Herwig Schopper on the basis of mutual understanding, esteem, confidence and growing friendship. With great pleasure I look back to the hospitality you and your beloved wife Ingeborg (Inge) granted me in your house at Corsier. Here I could stay as invited guest during my official duties in Geneva. The music heard at your home with you, Herwig, at the piano delighted the guests. Professor Kummer from Vienna, my predecessor as President of the CERN Council, was a brilliant tenor, accompanied by you.

In Germany, dear Professor Schopper, you were held in high esteem as DG of CERN and a scientific personality in politics, society, science and industry of the country. Numerous chairmanships and memberships in scientific societies and institutes are proof of this, for example your presidency of the German as well as of the European Physical Society (DPG 1992 - 1994, and EPS 1994 - 1996).

The high esteem CERN received as a world wide leading research centre of particle physics was underlined by the visit in 1986 of Richard von Weizsäcker, President of the Federal Republic of Germany (**Picture No. 3**)

and the one in 1987 of Professor Dr. Heinz Riesenhuber Federal Minister of Research and Technology (**Picture No. 4**).

In 1989, an outstanding event was the award of the "Großes Bundesverdienstkreuz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland" to you for your outstanding merits in science and research in Germany and in international scientific cooperation. Dr. Hans Arnold, German Ambassador to the UNITED NATIONS in Geneva, decorated you on behalf

of President Richard von Weizsäcker at his residence in Corsier during a festive banquet in the presence of your family, friends and colleagues.

An unforgettable detail for me was the large round dining room table. The Ambassador mentioned to his guests that they were sitting at the largest round table existing at that time in the inventory of the Federal Government. It was even larger than the historical round table used in 1938 in Bonn-Bad Godesberg when Hitler, Chamberlain, Mussolini and Daladier were preparing the "Münchener Abkommen" (Munich Agreement) in which details of the annexation to the German Reich of German settlements in Czechoslovakia (Bohemia and Moravia / Sudetenland areas) were elaborated.

Mentioning the comparison of the two "historical" tables is for you, dear Professor Schopper, perhaps a rather terrible and unfortunate comparison, touching painful reminiscences of your youth. As a result of the Second World War your family lost for ever their home (Heimat) in Landskron/Bohemia / Sudetenland, occupied in 1938 by Germany.

You never abandoned the connections with the people of your "Heimat". In 1994, you were awarded the Sudetendeutsche Kulturpreis. There were no negative or critical reactions on the Czech side. In 1994, the Czech Academy of Sciences awarded you the J.E Puryne – Memorial Medal of the Czech Republic.

V.

The scientific contacts between science in Western Europe with science in Middle and Eastern Europe, the communistic East block, later in the Russian Federation and the GUS States, were for you, dear Professor Schopper, a heartfelt concern. This is witnessed by the great number of distinctions, awards and honorary memberships you received from countries in Eastern Europe: Dr. Honoris Causa from the State

University Moscow, from the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research, Dubna (Russia), and from the Institute for High Energy Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Order of Friendship of the Russian Federation, handed out personally by President Boris Jelzin, and Honorary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

We cannot appraise enough your contributions to scientific cooperation between the countries in Middle and Eastern Europe during the Cold War made in manifold forms – from the exchange of personnel up to joint projects and experiments at large facilities. They were important reasons for the disintegration and collapse of the communist system. Scientists beyond the "Iron Curtain" who were allowed to work and to live in the West, became witnesses and ambassadors of ways of living and democratic structures in their host countries.

In 1988, Finland joined CERN as the first Middle Eastern Country. On August 28, about 20 years ago, the Director General and the Council President of CERN visited Helsinki to settle the conditions of Finnish membership. This was a rather easy task after the preparatory negotiations in Geneva and the successful consultations of the diplomats. I will not forget the sealing of our result in Helsinki. It occurred in a Finnish sauna and the concluding plunge of the participants into the sauna lake was a symbol of the "plunge into cold water" which both partners, Finish government and scientists and CERN were expected to exercise after the agreement came into force.

VI.

The "globalization" of High Energy Physics as well as of CERN started already early. In 1982/83, an initiative of the French government put the worldwide coordination and cooperation of particle research on the agenda of the World Economic Summit. of the G7 countries. Plans and preparatory efforts for expensive new facilities were at that time under discussion, in the United States (SSRC), in Europe (CERN LEP), in

Germany (HERA), and in Canada. At the summit meetings at Versailles and Williamsburg the G7 countries (the USA, the UK, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada) asked a High Level Group of Experts from governments and science "To contribute to international cooperation in High Energy Physics, particularly to exchange information about present developments and plans, to study possibilities for further cooperation in existing activities and to discuss scenarios on the very long-term prospects and challenges important for a future generation of physicists, who have just started their studies or who are even still at school and who may have many years ahead of them before they will enter university" (Contribution by Josef Rembser for the High Level Group Versailles Summit Follow-Up Meeting for High Energy Physics, Washington, October 3 and 4, 1983).

Following the results of the special Working Group, the World Economic Summit recommended pursuing a strategy of a world wide utilisation of the accelerator facilities under construction: LEP at CERN and HERA at DESY, as well as intensifying international cooperation for the development of new machine concepts and technology reducing the investment costs for a new generation of facilities.

October 3 and 4, 1983 Versailles Summit Follow-on Meeting on High Energy Physics in Washington

First Row (left to right):

J. Rembser, Federal Republic of Germany
A. Trivelpiece, U.S.A.
H. Atkinson, United Kingdom
T. Nishikawa, Japan

Second Row (left to right):

J. Horowitz, France
V. Soergel, Federal Republic of Germany
N. Cabibbo, Italy
P. Fasella, European Communities
H. Schopper, European Communities

Third Row (left to right):

J. Leiss, U.S.A.
D. Colley, United Kingdom
D. Stairs, Canada

Picture No. 5 shows a group picture of the Versailles Summit Follow-up Meeting on High Energy Physics during a working meeting in Washington on October 3 and 4, 1983. Both, you, dear Herwig, and Prof. Paolo Fasella, at that time Director General for Research in the Commission of the European Community, were present as delegates of the European Community.

VI.

For the globalization of high energy physics you absolutely did not need, dear Professor Schopper, the impelling force of politics, although an encouragement and support from governments at time were helpful and necessary, at least where funding was involved.

Last but not least, the suggestions and recommendations you presented to UNESCO for its attention to Basic Science and to the role of large facilities led to enrichment of physics research and education in the countries of the Near East. Israel and Turkey enjoyed already an observer status in CERN.

The International Centre for Synchrotron Radiation SESAME in Jordan initiated and supported by you is the newest example of your indefatigable efforts for the importance of physics and technology research in the world.

Besides all of your capabilities and performances we admire, dear Herwig, your great modesty.

Dear Professor Schopper, dear Herwig, may you be granted good health for many more years, and continue to inspire and convince people with new ideas, foresighted strategies, optimism and enthusiasm.

AD MULTOS ANNOS !

Picture No. 6