Transition

This is the last issue of *Episodes* that will be produced by staff at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). As we reported in the last issue (December 1992), *Episodes* is moving to the British Geological Survey (BGS) beginning with the next issue. The new editor is Dr. Rodney D. Walshaw, a BGS scientist who has broad international interests and experience, chiefly in Africa and the South Pacific.

Regrettably, this issue represents a transition in another sense as well. Because of funding limitations (bear in mind that the cost of publishing *Episodes* is not balanced by subscription income), the IUGS will not be able to publish four standard issues in 1993 and possibly not in 1994. Returning to quarterly distribution will depend on the availability of funding outside of normal IUGS channels. The BGS has been working for several months to develop sources of external support.

For the USGS and, especially, the *Episodes* staff, publishing *Episodes* has been an enormously satisfying experience. *Episodes* represents a daunting challenge to an editorial staff because the endeavor requires serving a broad, diverse readership that transcends national boundaries, global politics, and cultural and linguistic barriers. For that reason among many others, we will warmly treasure the friendships, encouragement, cooperation, and collaboration of scientists around the world who share the ideals and goals of the IUGS and who work assiduously on its behalf through their support of *Episodes*.

I extend my sincere thanks to USGS Director Dallas L. Peck and Chief Geologist Benjamin A. Morgan, who welcomed *Episodes* into the USGS and gave the editor their strong support for the past 5

years. I also thank the many USGS scientists whom we asked to referee papers, give advice, or contribute reports. Finally and most importantly, I want to use this public forum to express my deepest gratitude to the *Episodes* staff, the individuals listed inside the front cover, for working effectively as a team and for giving so freely of their time and talents, for their unflagging dedication to helping *Episodes* succeed as an instrument of international scientific communication, and for the consummate pride and professionalism with which they approached every task and every issue. No journal editor was ever better served.

We wish Rodney Walshaw and the BGS similar success and good fortune as they undertake their new responsibilities. □

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IUGS Executive Committee meets in Pretoria

Hosted by the Geological Survey of South Africa, the 38th meeting of the IUGS Executive Committee was held in Pretoria, South Africa, January 25 to 28. The meeting was called to order by the new IUGS President, Professor William S. Fyfe. The principal actions arising from the meeting were as follows:

- Accepted an offer from the British Geological Survey to undertake responsibility for publishing *Episodes*,
- Accepted Azerbaijan as a new member,
- Agreed that the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic have joint membership until their individual membership applications are accepted,

- Agreed to prepare for a midterm Council meeting if a suitable agenda and venue can be arranged,
- Accepted from the Subcommission on Devonian Stratigraphy a proposed new Global Stratotype Section and Point for the base of the Famennian, and
- Agreed to hold the next meeting in London in January 1994 on invitation of the Royal Society of the United Kingdom.

The meeting was preceded by an absolutely outstanding 1-week field trip through the Bushveld Complex and related geology of the central and northeastern Transvaal. This was led by Dr. Nok Frick, Director of the Geological Survey of South Africa, and staff. □