WELCOMIG ADDRESS

Dear colleagues and guest,

I have the honour to bid welcome to all participants and guests on behalf of the Organizing Committee.

Yugoslav Geometrical Seminar started its activities fifteen, sixteen years ago. That commencement was very modest. Geometers of the former Yugoslavia gathered in Belgrade in a meeting organized by the Mathematical Institute to get acquainted with each other, i.e., colleagues working in one university center wanted to discover which problems are investigated by colleagues from other universities and which methods are being used. It was an unofficial meeting, nowhere registered, without a participation fee, and every participant covered all traveling and living expenses by himself. Very soon, after few months we had a meeting of the same type in Zagreb. During that second meeting we decided to formalize our meetings and then we agreed to accept the "Yugoslav Geometrical Seminar" as a title. Thereupon, the meetings were held either every year or every other year, organized by various universities from the former Yugoslavia. After some time, these meetings outgrew its modest title — Seminar and they became real scientific conferences, including foreign participants too. When the Yugoslav crisis started, this tradition was on the verge of being discontinued. With great effort of colleagues from Kragujevac, the Seminar was also organized in 1992. In 1994, with the excellent organization of Seminar by colleagues from Niš, it has shown that the middle-age generation of our geometers — a generation of mature scientists, is competent to wrestle with the most complicated contemporary scientific problems. During that meeting in Niš it was shown also that the young generation possesses broad and well grounded education, with a great enthusiasm and with a real promise of becoming successful scientists. Hawing in mind these facts the Organizing Committee have concluded that we should pay the attention especially to the education and the evolution of the young. Consequently, it was decided to organize Fall School of Differential Geometry in the framework of the Seminar.

The professional work with graduate students and doctorands is a final part of their education. The work with students of high schools and undergraduate studies proceeds it. Although the teaching of mathematics in the secondary school is a hard, delicate and responsible work, we have not paid sufficient attention to it during the previous Seminars. The history of Geometry was ignored too, it is very interesting and didactical although. Considering this as a notable negligence we have made efforts to rectify it. Therefore, we include the section Didactics and History of Geometry in the Programme of the Seminar. We have no short communications in this section, but we organized two round tables on "Problems in the teaching of Geometry in secondary schools".

The Organizing Committee is very grateful to all invited lecturers, to all guests from abroad and to all participants as they will, through their work, knowledge and experience help, to realize successfully the programme of this Seminar.

Without financial support of many institutions and establishments it would be impossible to organize this Seminar as well as Fall School of Differential Geometry. Therefore, we express, our gratitude to the Ministry for Science and Technology of Republic Serbia, Ministry of Education of Republic Serbia, Ministry of Education and Science of Republic Montenegro; Economical School, Valjevo, Big Enex tours, Valjevo, Association "Lajkovac", Lajkovac; Putnik, Beograd; Yu topex, Beograd and Unipromet, Beograd.

Hoping that our Seminar will be successful, with the adequate organization, I would like to express our greetings once more to all guests and participants.

Mileva Prvanović