

PREFACE

Dear Friends,

It is my honour and my privilege to present, on behalf of ICAS, the Proceedings of the XVIII Congress.

Our Meetings have been always a big event for the world aeronautical community.

The papers selected, collected, and offered to the readers are the best of the scientific production in our field. They cover a complete range of interests from aerodynamics to structures, from aeroelasticity to servosystems.

Broad areas, of course: but a careful reading of the titles will reveal that each of them comprises a variety of subjects each of which is progressively increasing and reaching, from biennium to biennium, features of an independent discipline.

It is very interesting to read and to assess the successive editions of the Proceedings of ICAS. There is no doubt that they represent a true history of the scientific and technological development of the Aeronautical Sciences in the world, as a universal history of the Aeronautical Sciences.

Another feature of our Proceedings and of our Congresses as well lies in its international, or more exactly, worldwide nature. Nearly all of the Nations involved in some way in research and development of Aeronautics gave contributions and I firmly believe that many additional Nations are ready and willing to join us.

We are now approaching an era where "peace" and "peaceful activities" are the common topics. Let me say that Aeronautics and Aeronautical Research does not discover peace today, as many others do. Yes, of course Aeronautics, like many other industries has served for military purposes. But the tremendous development of commercial aviation has brought many distant peoples together, and it is only by knowing each other that we can realize that all men have the same every day problems, and that war is a nonsense. This is not rhetoric, but a common goal which we have to pursue.

Progresses in Aeronautics must serve in the future to enhance this trend by improving technology, safety, comfort, further expansion of the aeronautical activity.

We are now on the eve of events of prime importance, with the introduction of the new supersonic and hypersonic vehicles, which will profoundly modify the worldwide scenario. I think that ICAS will have a first class role in the great advances that we are expecting.

The papers presented are only about one third of those which were offered; the reasons for which such a limitation was necessary are only reasons of space. In most of the cases, papers offered and not included were of a very high scientific level. Please, don't consider them as "non accepted" or "refused", but just in "over-abundance". We would like to encourage all the Authors to repeat their offers for the next Meeting.

Finally, let me say "thank you" to all those who made the present collection possible not only the Authors, but the Members of the International Programme Committee, and "in primis" the Chairman Pete Petersen. Then, all the other Members of the Executive Committee, and our dynamic Secretary Fred Sterk with his assistant Isabel Puts.

But if I don't name all of them is only because it would take three or four pages. It was anyway a superb team and I am proud to be their colleague and friend.

Arrivederci a Pechino.

Paolo Santini
ICAS President