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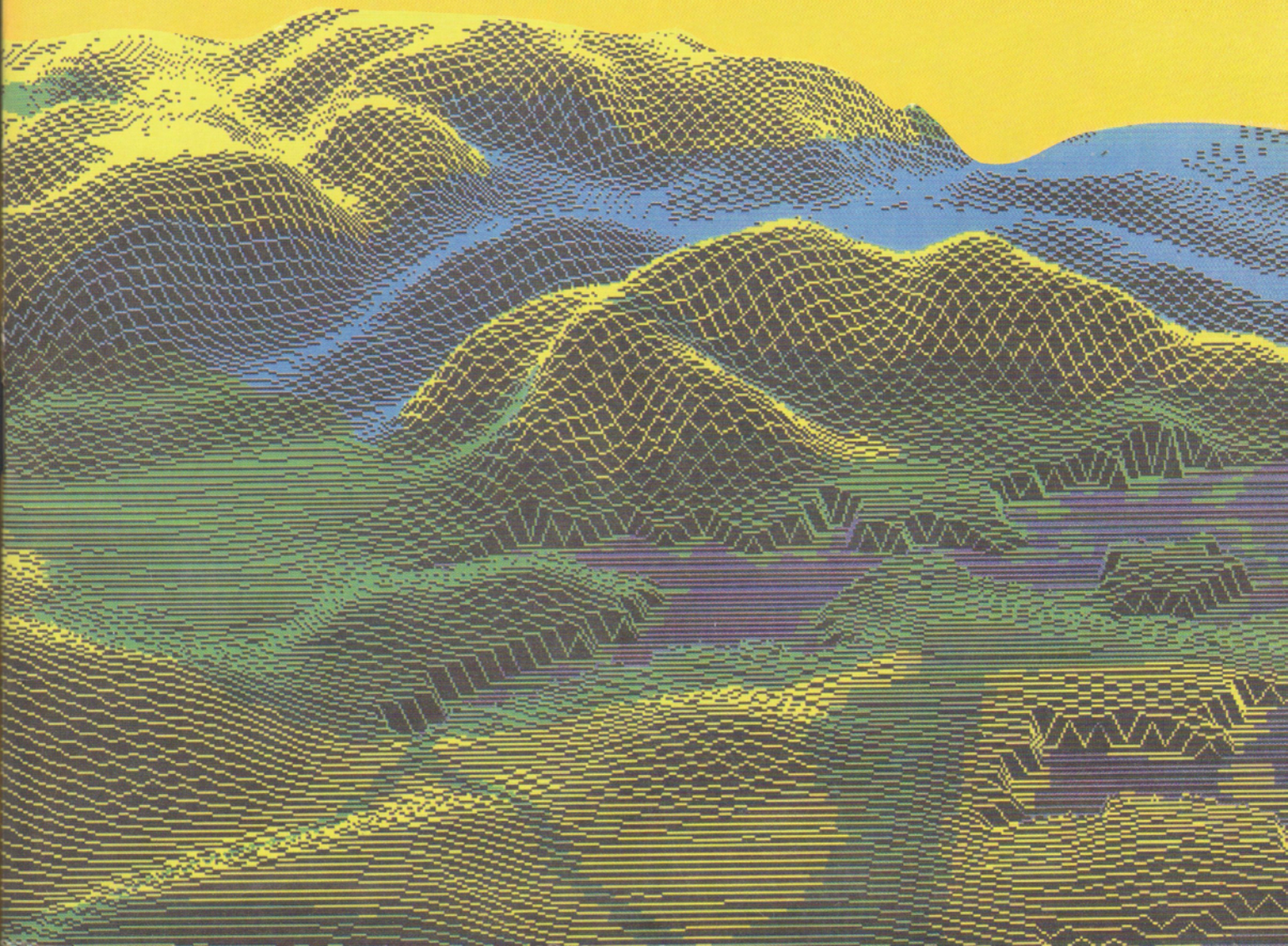

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A MEETING OF IGU COMMISSION ON "HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT"

Antonín VAISHAR

A post-conference session of the commission for health, environment and development was organized by the Brno Branch of the Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Sciences jointly with the Medical Faculty, Masaryk University Brno. The meeting was attended by fifteen speakers from twelve countries of four continents.

The session of nearly chamber character took place on the premises of the Institute of Preventative Medical Care, Masaryk University Brno. Themes of the ten presented papers were rather differentiated not only in terms of their scope but also as to methodological approach and angle of view to the issue. Several contributions presented by authors arriving from exotic countries tackled partial problems such as AGGARWAL and DAVGUN, SINGHANETRA - RENARD, ABU. Other papers attempted at general evaluation of certain regions (MOON), mathematic and statistic methods to study the population health status (DARÓCZI) as well as at their critics (MUNZAR and VAISHAR). Some contributions concerned problems indirectly related to the population health status (BLAŻEJCZYK on temperature balance, ŠEBENIK on deposition of solid wastes). A. AASE informed of cartographical illustration of population health status in the Norwegian National Atlas.

Low number of participants facilitated discussion and exchange of opinions immediately after presentation of the papers. Each of the papers was discussed, the greatest and most controversial discussion having been evoked by contribution of G. SALEM who had opened an issue of definition of medical geography as such. A question was presented of relationship between medical geography and comparison epidemiology. Unfortunately, it was exactly this paper that was presented "ad hoc" with no written documentation and has therefore not been included in the Proceedings.

Eight contributions were published in the Proceedings which had been issued before the meeting, which enabled the speakers to concentrate on the problems rather than on presenting fundamental factography. The Proceedings include also a non-presented paper by L. NESVADBOVÁ, which was a study into the health status of our compatriots who settled in the Czech Republic after breakdown at Chernobyl. The Proceedings can also be obtained from editorials of MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS.

Meeting of the commission, which was held to discuss programmes for both near and farther future, was presided by its Secretary, Prof. Y. VERHASSELT.

There were several excursions made during the session. A walk through the City of Brno could introduce only a part of the centre of the Moravian largest town. A quite interesting comparison of two towns was offered to those foreign participants who arrived to Brno via Prague. One-day excursion was organized to the Moravian Karst where the participants were shown a speleotherapeutical medical centre for children in the Sloup-Šošůvky complex of caves and visited all tourist attractions of the area. The excursion ended with inspection of the Cloister at Staré Brno-former working place of the founder to modern genetics, J.G. MENDEL.