Preface

The idea behind CRYOCRYSTALS'95 was to convene a scientific meeting not so broad in scope as typical multi-session congresses like LT's but broader than the standard narrowly specialized conferences like, for example, workshops on quantum solids and fluids. Strictly speaking, this idea was not entirely new; in the former Soviet Union a national bi-annual symposium of approximately the same scope has proven to be viable. The all in all nine meetings with a wide attendance from 11 of the 15 Soviet Republics provided a good opportunity for every participant to exchange opinions and discuss all the new ideas on the agenda. Those meetings were also a good school for postgraduates and younger postdocs.

As expected, the Cryocrystals'95 Workshop in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, was an event that could be treated as complete success if not for a somewhat restricted attendance (the organizers planned to attract twice as many participants), which was a consequence of a failure to procure substantial international support. The crucial role in supporting the Workshop belongs to the authorities of Kazakhstan. Special thanks are due to the Ministry of Science and New Technologies and, especially, to the Minister, Prof. V. S. Shkolnik, and his Deputy, Dr. Almaz Tulebaev, for financial and organizational support, which kept this conference afloat. Dr. A. S. Drobyshev, Head of the Local Committee, and his team did everything to make the Cryocrystals'95 Workshop a success. Many will remember things outside the scientific agenda of the Workshop, including the impromptu excursion to a mountain lake on a cold and rainy day.

The term CRYOCRYSTALS has been put into circulation by Antonina F. Prikhotko, who was lucky to start her career at the Kharkov Physico-Technical Institute in the thirties in the times of L. D. Landau and L. V. Shubnikov. She was one of the first to begin investigations on solid oxygen. No serious publication in this field can do without mentioning her rich scientific heritage (see, for example, in this issue the papers on solid O_2 by F. Dunstetter et al. and by Yu. Freiman et al.). Three weeks after the CRYOCRYSTALS'95 Workshop, Academician A. F. Prikhotko has died in Kiev. This issue is a tribute in her memory.

The papers are published in the order as they appeared on the program.

M. A. Strzhemechny