

The experiment, carried out by physicists from IHEP and from Gatchina, Leningrad, indicates new methods for producing narrow beams and for ejecting beams from internal targets.

BALKANS Building bridges

At a time when upheaval and political unrest in some Balkan countries gives cause for concern, it is good to know that physics, once again, is building bridges between nations.

The new international mobility in the region was marked by a major activity of the Balkan Physical Union – the first Balkan School of Physics, held on the banks of the Bosphorus during the first two weeks of September.

The idea of a scientific union including Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia was first suggested at a European Physical Society meeting in Helsinki in 1978 in an after-dinner conversation between the late Yugoslav physicist Alexander Milojevic, and Andrei Dorabantu from Romania.

In 1985, when totalitarian regimes were still in power, Milojevic, a man of great humanity and foresight, invited representatives from Balkan countries, including Albania, to a conference in Pristina, Yugoslavia, to promote his idea of a Balkan Physical Union.

The outcome was a protocol for the establishment of the union. Erdal Inonu, then President of the Turkish Physical Society (and now leader of the country's opposition party) telexed 'Even if we Turks cannot be there – our hearts are with you'. The final formal agree-

ment came at a subsequent meeting in Bucharest in 1987.

The programme of this first school in Turkey included introductions to experimental and theoretical high energy physics, nuclear physics, and accelerators and their applications. The full team of lecturers and speakers included Laboratory Directors W. Hoogland (CERN) and A. Wagner (DESY), while W.O.Lock played a well-practiced role of international counselor.

During the School a round-table discussion reviewed the status of accelerator and particle physics in the Balkan countries and looked at ways of encouraging further collaboration in these and related fields, including the establishment of regional centres of excellence.

The outcome was a recommendation to the BPU Executive Committee to set up a study group including a representative from each country, from CERN and from DESY to:

- survey existing facilities and collaborative efforts, including present relations with international organizations;
- identify specific areas in which enhanced collaboration and joint

efforts would be of common benefit;

- make detailed recommendations for action; and
- report back to the BPU Executive Committee.

Meanwhile the first BPU General Conference on Physics was held in Thessaloniki in September. BPU President Gediz Akdeniz and his collaborators look forward to further meetings to reinforce this newly awakened awareness of scientific partnership in the region.

Participants in the First Balkan School of Physics, held in Istanbul in September. The event was the first major activity of the Balkan Physical Union, covering Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

