

The Prague Molecular Spectroscopy Conference

What came before PRAHA2008?

	When	Where		When	Where
I.	1970	Prague	XI.	1990	Dobříš
II.	1972	Prague	XII.	1992	Dobříš
III.	1974	Liblice	XIII.	1994	Poznań
IV.	1976	Liblice			
V.	1978	Liblice	XIV.	1996	Prague
VI.	1980	Liblice	XV.	1998	Prague
VII.	1982	Liblice	XVI.	2000	Prague
VIII.	1984	Liblice	XVII.	2002	Prague
IX.	1986	Liblice	XVIII.	2004	Prague
X.	1988	Liblice	XIX.	2006	Prague
			XX.	2008	Prague

Talk mostly about Liblice era

As I remember, the genesis of the “Prague” meeting and the “Dijon” meeting was at a very small conference at NRC Ottawa in July 1968 attended by myself and (among others):

Josef Plíva (Czechoslovakia)

Gilbert Amat (France)

Ian Mills (United Kingdom)

Their idea was to have a high-resolution molecular spectroscopy meeting, alternately in East and West Europe, both modeled on the US Columbus meeting, i.e., with a central focus on many presentations by graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

The three scientists above believed there was a need for meetings in Europe that were not restricted by invitation or by cost to established (i.e., to old) scientists.



Josef Pliva (a few years ago)

Unique aspect of the Liblice Meeting

Prague was “easily” accessible from the East or West
Liblice seemed to be remarkably “surveillance free”

Many East-West scientific collaborations developed
and many visits were arranged.

A few examples from 1970-1990:

USA (OSU) – Prague (Infrared Spectra)

Germany – Prague (Infrared Spectra, Theory)

USA (NIST) – Nizhny Novgorod (Microwave Spectra)

Köln – Nizhny Novgorod (Microwave Spectra)

Canada (NRCC) – Prague, Troitsk (Theory)

France – Tomsk (Atmospheric Infrared Spectra, Theory)



↑
K. Narahari Rao
Czechoslovak and French Participants

Prof. K. Narahari Rao
organized one or two-year visits to the
Physics Department, Ohio State University
for

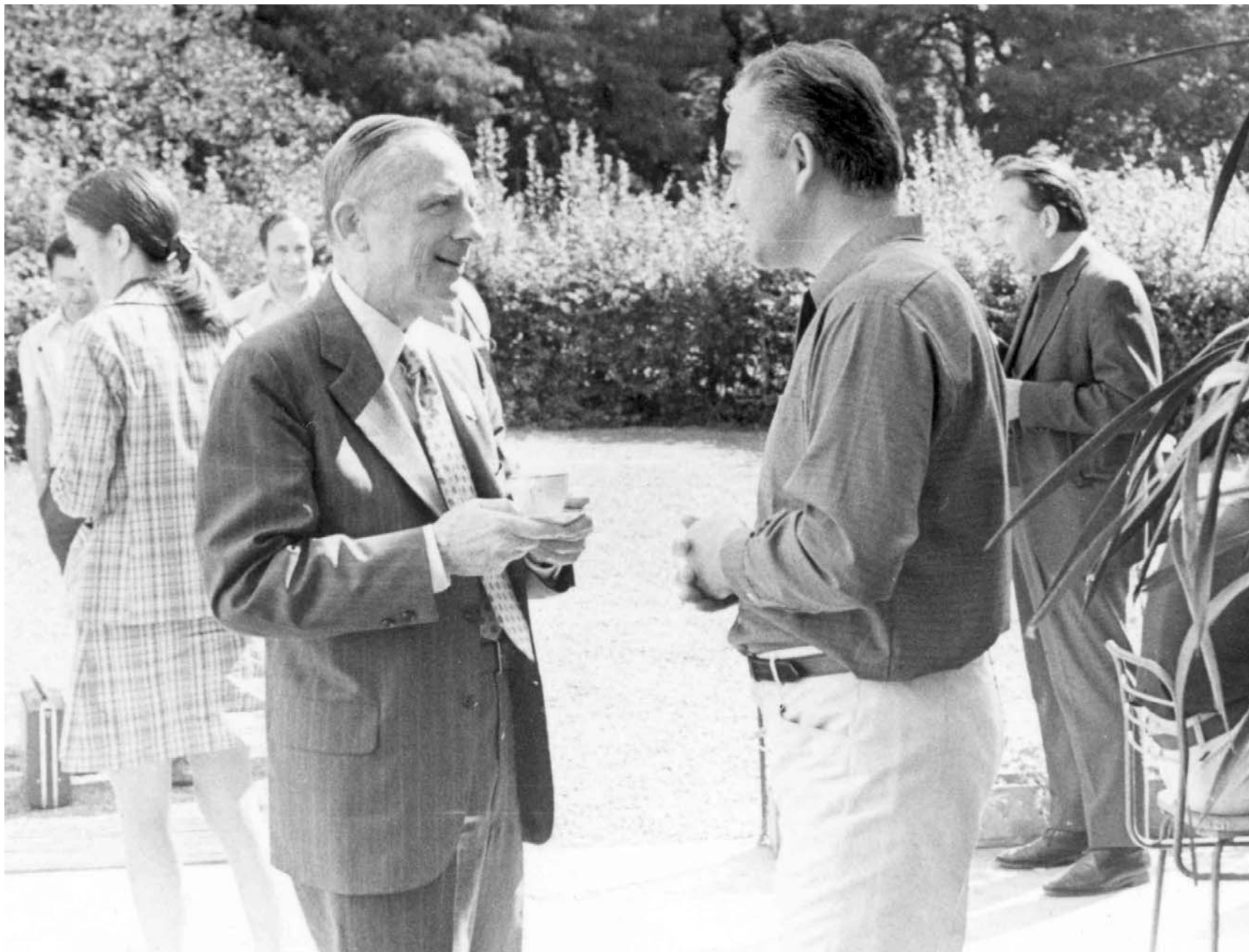
Dušan Papoušek (~1968-69)

Kamil Sarka (~1970-71)

Štěpán Urban (~1983-84)

Other people helped organize trips for

Vladimír Špírko (NRCC, Canada ~1981-82) &
(Max Planck Institute, Garching, BRD ~1980's)



Winnewisser x 2, Gordy,

Sovička, ?



Parker,

Rao,

Henry,

Hougen



??,

Jones,

Di Lonardo,

Mantz



Hougen, Burenin, Creswell, Krupnov, Papoušek

The Second Torsional State of Acetaldehyde

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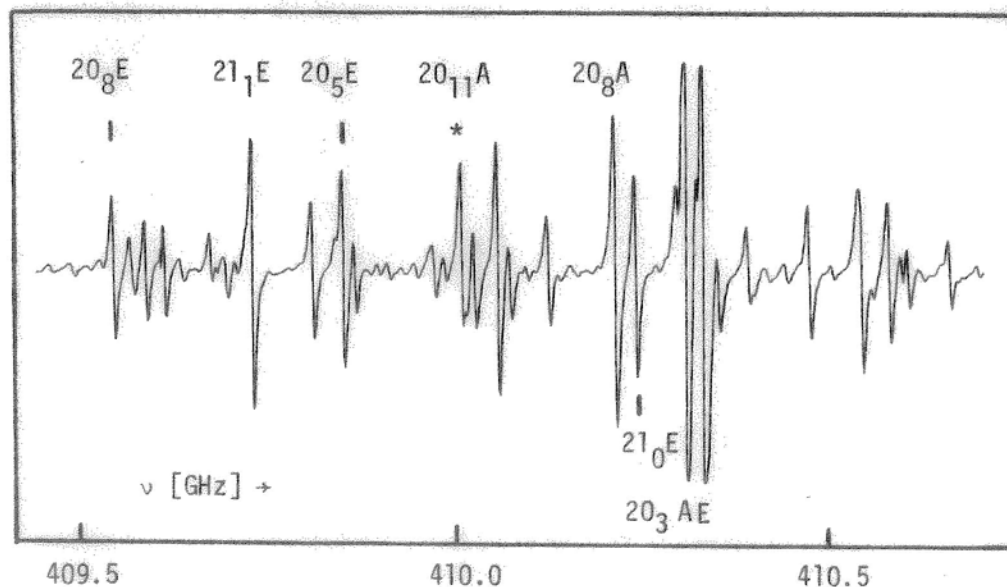
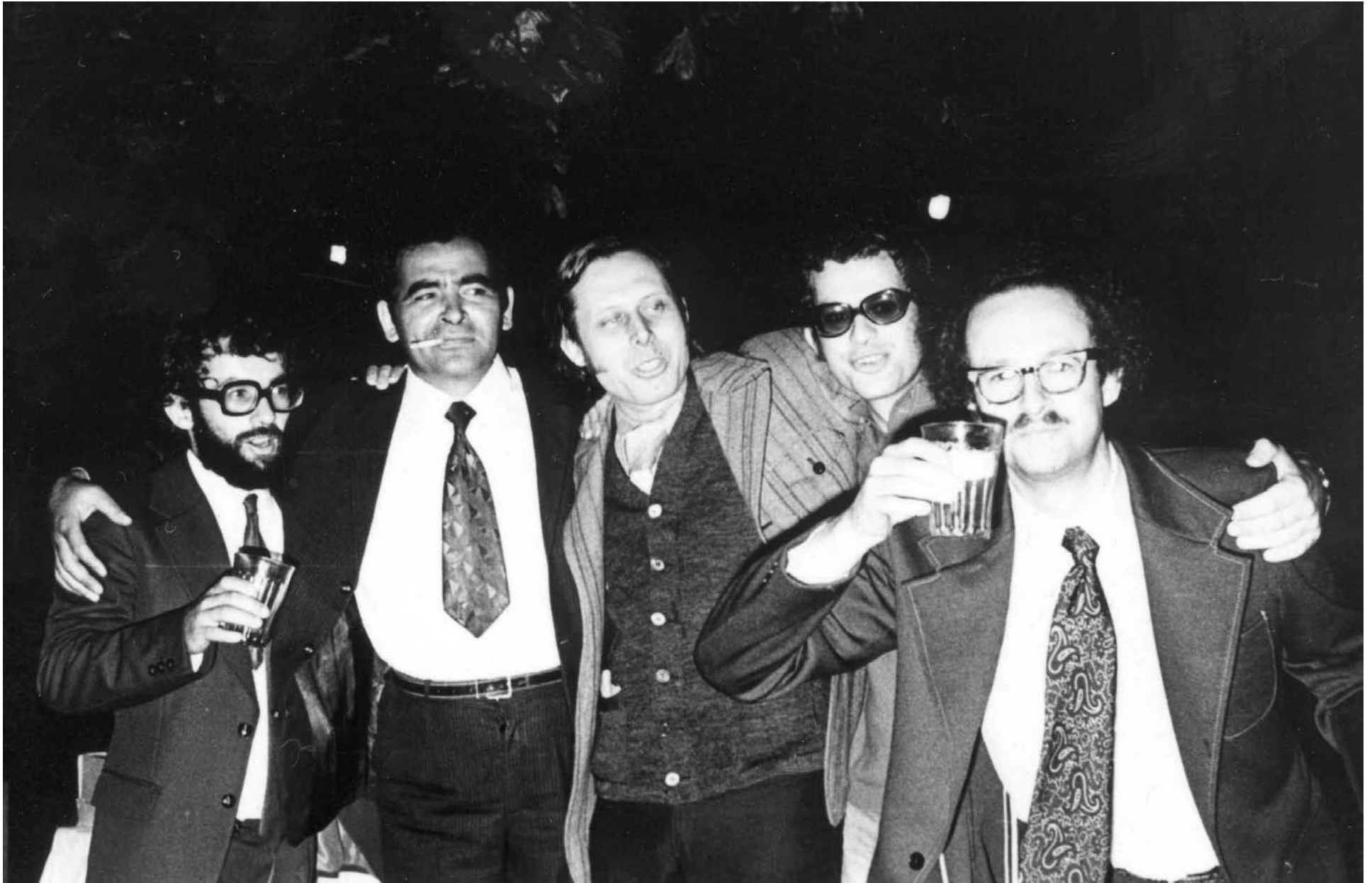


FIG. 1. A portion of the room-temperature submillimeter-wave spectrum of acetaldehyde between 409.5 and 410.5 GHz, recorded with the RAD-3 spectrometer in Nizhny Novgorod. The noise level is much smaller than the pen width. Five *a*-type lines originating in the $v_t = 2$ state are labeled above the spectrum

Atmosphere of meeting was “informal and playful,” like a high-school party that your parents didn’t want you to attend

1. About 120 participants (limited seating).
2. All slept and ate in the Liblice castle.
3. Evening gatherings in castle dining room.
4. Tuesday night picnic (Živáňská)

So it was easy to get to know everybody.



Boháček, Aliev, Hougen, Danielis, Watson



Roasting sausages at the picnic bonfire



Anonymous
Czechoslovak
Soldier
Inspects
Symposium

Linguistic sightseeing

(for older Czechs and Slovaks in the audience)
(and with a certain sense of humor)

Red and yellow slogan banners of that era.
Where can one find a collection of them?

They should be put on the web someplace,
because they are excellent pattern texts
for Czech grammatical instruction

A well-known example

Se Sovětským svazem na věčné časy

Masculine instrumental singular of noun and adj.
Accusative after time expressions with “na”

Other banners taught the full plural declension
of certain popular nouns

naši bratři
našich bratrů
našim bratrům
naše bratry
naši bratři
našimi bratry
našich bratřech

Full plural declension of brother +
Full plural declension of masculine
animate form of our

naši bratři
přátelství našich bratrů
srdečně děkujeme našim bratrům
naše bratry
naši bratři
kupředu s našimi bratry
našich bratřech

Use of genitive, dative, and prepositional
Formation of adverb in ě from -ý adjective

The lost Czech epic poem ≈ Czech Iliad or Odyssey

Who is old enough to remember all of it?
Where is a copy of the complete text?
I couldn't find it anywhere on the web.

I only remember one couplet, because of
its very useful grammatical examples.

s---- podle **norem**

feminine genitive plural after “podle”

r---- h---- **nám** je **vzorem**

dative of interest as in “tramvaj **nám** ujela”

instrumental (masc. sing.) after “je” = is,

where all “normal” languages
would use the nominative

Note the **norem** versus **vzorem** rhyme

English speakers cannot do this because
we don't even have these cases anymore.



The First Liblice Conference - 1974



The last Liblice Conference - 1988