

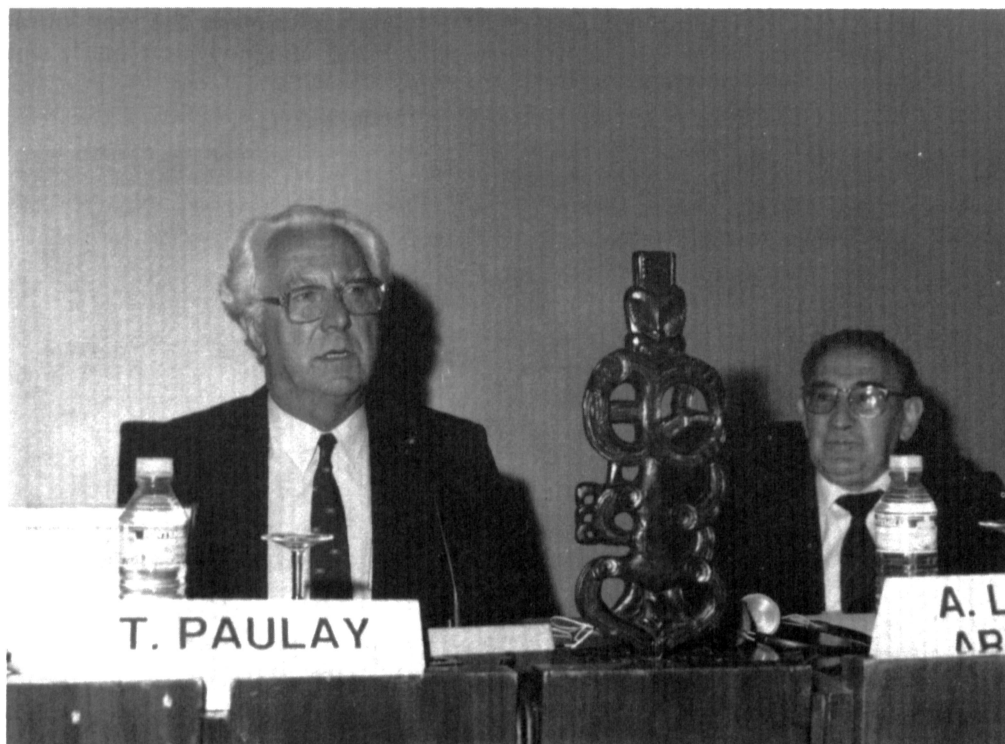
Closing ceremony address

Thomas Paulay, President of IAEE

As the newly elected president of The International Association for Earthquake Engineering I too would like to record our thanks for the enormous work of our Spanish colleagues in organizing this very successful conference. I hope they can commence their well deserved holiday and rest tomorrow.

We are grateful to our friends in Mexico who offered to host the next conference. The IAEE will try to be of assistance, however modes this may be.

I want to express our thanks also for the officers of China and United Kingdom to host the next world conference. they may be a little disappointed about the decision to accept



Closing Ceremony: Prof. Thomas Paulay, President of the IAEE and Dr. Alfonso López Arroyo, 10WCEE Steering Committee Chairman and President of the AEIS

Mexico's offer this time. However, I hope they will not refuse to make a renewed invitation for the year 2000.

The IAEE will continue to foster co-operation between all those who can contribute to the mitigation of earthquake effects, irrespective of the political and other difficulties under which they may have to work. The effectiveness of IAEE depends on the contribution of its members. I hope many of you will accept this challenge.

As the Secretary General mentioned, one of our most ambitious tasks will be to make effective contributions to the realization of a World Seismic Safety Initiative within the aims of the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction pronounced by a resolution of the United Nations. again I appeal to your contributions without which this aim remains only a resolution.

Finally I would like to make an appeal on behalf of our members in developing countries. Some of these countries are in greatest need for the exploitation of developments in modern earthquake engineering. It is extremely important that a larger number of our colleagues from these countries participate in our conferences. To this end I appeal to the more affluent member organizations to generously sponsor for the Mexico event the participation of individuals from less fortunate countries. I will remind you to act when the time comes. We are grateful to those countries that have been generous to sponsor participants in this and previous conferences.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you a safe return to your homes and to this end I enlist the protection and patronage of the symbol of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering RUAUMOKO, the Maori God of Earthquakes, who made the long journey from new Zealand for this very purpose. I hope that you will all enjoy his friendly smile in Acapulco.



Closing Ceremony: Dr. Paul Jennings and Dr. Rafael Blázquez