

INTRODUCTION

The 19th annual seminar “**Physics of Auroral Phenomena**” was held in Apatity from February 27 to March 1, 1996. The organizer of the seminar was the Polar Geophysical Institute of Russian Academy of Science. The program of the seminar included discussions of the rather wide circle of phenomena, such as geomagnetic disturbances, auroras, wave processes, solar-terrestrial relations, etc. Seventy two reports had been presented at the seminar. The seminar had been financed by the *Russian Foundation for Fundamental Investigations*, grant 96-05-74006. It was the support that made possible participation at the seminar of more than 20 scientists from all the Russia including Siberia with cities of Irkutsk, Yakutsk, Tomsk; Moskow, St.Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod and Byelorussia.

Beginning with the 19th seminar its proceedings have been decided to be published. The program committee did not intend to include into the proceedings all the presented papers. The participants had been notified beforehand that no more than 30 papers would have been published after have been reviewed. Scientists of the Polar Geophysical Institute had been chosen referees to arrange the proceedings.

The aim of publishing the proceedings in English is the provide scientific society with information on current developments in Russian geophysics on Aurora. Authors themselves translated their papers into English, and unfortunately, the editorial board couldn't have the proceedings reviewed by a native English speaker in order to clarify peculiarities of expression. The arranging committee thanks all the referees for their work and the authors for willingness to collaboration.

Apatity, July, 1996

The program committee:

Yuri P. Maltsev (chair)

Boris V. Kozelov (editor)

Alexander G. Yahnin