FOCUS

ICME 5—A Preliminary Report

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" **A** mature consideration of the problems in mathematics education"—this is what Shirley Hill and F. Joe Crosswhite say was provided by the recently completed Fifth International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME 5). Hill, of the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and Crosswhite, of The Ohio State University and current President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), were both participants in the Congress which was held in Adelaide, South Australia, August 24-30.

The Congress attracted 1,984 people (a coincidence much-noted at the Congress), representing 68 nations. It was held jointly with a national meeting of teachers from Australia and New Zealand, ensuring participation by a large number of classroom teachers. Over 250 delegates to the Congress came from the United States, including 30 persons partially supported by a National Science Foundation grant to the MAA and NCTM.

According to Henry Pollak of Bell Communications Research, the International Committee on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI), the organizing body for the ICME's, made a concerted effort to have every participant involved in some discussion group. (Pollak is a member of the Executive Committee of ICMI).

During the proceedings, seven Action Groups, seven Theme Groups, and ten Area Topics Groups met in daily sessions. Topics for the Action Groups were organized along age-level lines from early childhood to adult. The Theme Groups addressed common concerns crossing over these age-level boundaries, such as Mathematics for All; Professional Life of Teachers; The Role of Technology; Theory, Research and Practice; Mathematics Curriculum; Applications of Mathematics; and Problem Solving. Additional special areas of interest were addressed through organized study groups.

Some of the 251 Americans attending the Fifth International Congress on Mathematical Education. At the left and right, respectively, in the front row are the two American members of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction—Henry Pollak (ICMI Executive Committee) and Don Hill (U.S. National Representative to ICMI).

Meeting Program Inside

The center section of this issue contains the program, housing and preregistration forms, and Employment Register forms for the January 1984 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Anaheim, California. **Note: These are the only forms for this meeting which will be mailed to MAA members.**

The meetings include the *68th Annual Meeting of the MAA*, *91st Annual Meeting of the American Mathematical Society*, and the annual meetings of the *Association for Symbolic Logic*, *Association for Women in Mathematics*, and *National Association for Mathematicians*. MAA sessions will be held on January 11-13.

The MAA meeting will feature eight fifty-minute invited addresses, ten minicourses, five contributed paper sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and various other events of interest to MAA members and anyone else who enjoys collegiate mathematics. Tickets for Disneyland will be available at a special discount rate.

The deadlines for preregistration, contributed papers, and the Employment Register are all *November 15*. Participants who preregister *before October 26* will be eligible for drawing for a complimentary hotel room. See the program for details.