Statement of policy

You are starting to read the first issue of a new cybernetic periodical.

What is Cybernetics? The question is reasonable for, relating to a new branch of Science which touches philosophical problems as well, different persons or teams would answer it differently. Wiener's answer is contained in the subtitle of his pioneering work[1] thus: Control and Communication in the Animal and the Machine; however, since its publication, the object of cybernetic research has been considerably extended, due not in last line to Wiener's and his collaborators' work.

We use the term *Cybernetics* in the sense of a (developing) science dealing with such general laws of control, including informatic processes connected with it, which are valid in the case of different forms of motion[2] characteristic for the controlled material system, not excluding of course, in the case of some particular form of motion, a joint effect with the specific laws of motion of that particular form.

Besides papers revealing new cybernetic laws in this sense, the Editors welcome such papers of adequate scientific standard, dealing with control or informatic processes connected with control from the point of view of material systems existing in some concrete form of motion (e.g. technical devices, living organisms or human society), which presumably might serve as a basis for establishing new cybernetic laws in the future.

We consider as an important task of our periodical the publication of papers dealing with application of already known cybernetic laws to material systems of some concrete forms of motion. In our decision about publication of such "applied" papers, we consider in the first line the novelity and practical or scientific utility of the application in question, independently of whether that application leads or does not lead to new recognitions in respect of the general cybernetic law which has been applied.

Besides clear and precise presentation, we expect, the authors will formulate results of their research-work in an explicit, reproducible manner. This implies that programs, designs, experimental setting up and methods etc. have to be presented, though in a concise way, however, so as to give all details needed by an expert in order to do the calculations using any universal computer which is at this disposal, to

[1] N. WIENER, *Cybernetics,* Cambridge, Paris, New York, 1949.

[2] The term 'motion' is used here in a philosophical (rather than mechanical) sense, including every material change. Particular kinds of change, like that of spatial position, physical parameters, chemical composition, biological condition, social system etc., are to be considered as forms of motion. Also rest is regarded as a particular, degenerate case of motion, which is thus actually the general form of existence of matter.

construct the device, to repeat the experiment etc. and thus, to check the validity of the scientific results of the paper.

Accordingly, we reject papers for which essential details of the underlying research-work have to be regarded, by patent reasons or others, secret.

We definitively refrain from publishing works of science fiction.

We publish papers written in the Congress languages, i.e. English, French, German or Russian, possibly with short abstracts in another Congress language or Hungarian.

Our periodical will appear in single issues, four of which forming a volume. We try to achieve each volume to contain 200 pages at least; however, this depends on our financial possibilities.

Address of the Editor's office: *Acta Cybernetica, Academy Centre, Somogyi Béla u. 7, Szeged, Hungary.* We ask authors to send manuscripts as well as corrected proof-sheets to this address. Also, we invite Editors of cybernetic periodicals who wish to enter in exchange relationship with the *Acta Cybernetica*, to apply to the above address.