

Editorial

The present special issue of CONTROL AND CYBERNETICS contains a selection of papers devoted to analysis and support of decisions, with special emphasis on negotiations on the one hand and on practical considerations of risk and other issues involved in actual decision and policy making on the other.

The papers which are contained herein were partly written upon the special invitation sent to outstanding scientists working in the domain, and partly were presented at the international conference on "Support Systems for Decision and Negotiations Processes" held in Warsaw in June 1992. The papers by A. Blaquière, R. Vetschera, D.B.G. Meister and N.M. Fraser as well as L. Kruś, P. Bronisz and B. Łopuch belong to the first group, while those written by Y.Y. Haimes, Y.Qiu and J. Wu, M.Fedrizzi, J. Kacprzyk and H. Nurmi, and by C.B. Basnet, D.N. Clark and L.R. Foulds belong to the second group. The paper by R. Kulikowski was submitted for publication in CONTROL AND CYBERNETICS via usual procedure.

Let us note at this point that the output of the meeting in Warsaw, mentioned before, was rich enough to fill several publications, first of all Nahorski and Owsiański (1994) and then also Kersten, Kulikowski and Nahorski (1994). One should also be aware that CONTROL AND CYBERNETICS has quite a penchant for the decision making problematique, as witnessed by a recent special issue of our quarterly, Stefański (1992). We would also like to draw the attention of a potential reader to another volume, recently published by the Association of Polish Operations Research Societies in cooperation with the Systems Research Institute of Polish Academy of Sciences, containing also a number of related papers, namely Owsiański, Stefański and Straszak (1992).

Decision analysis and support has become in the last decade such a broad domain that any publication on the subject has to account for the existing diversity either through appropriate representation or focus. The present special issue forwards a mixed strategy of focussing on negotiations and highlighting some of the essential points in the whole domain. We hope that it will serve well its purpose.

Lech Kruś
Zbigniew Nahorski
Jan W. Owsiański

We would also like to take this opportunity in order to express our regret in connection with the passing of Professor Austin Blaquière. Professor Blaquière was one of the outstanding personalities in the domain considered here, primarily in differential games, but also in other fields pertaining to decision making analysis and support. He was in touch with us as a referee of papers proposed for the June 1992 conference mentioned above, and helped us through his knowledge in preparation of this meeting. We are certain that our regret is shared by all those working in the domain, aware of the importance of contribution made by Austin Blaquière.

References

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- NAHORSKI Z. AND OWSIŃSKI J.W., EDS. (1994) Support for Decision and Negotiation Processes. Special Issue: *Annals of Operations Research* (forthcomming).
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- STEFANŃSKI J., ED. (1992) Bargaining and Arbitration in Conflicts. Special Issue: *Control and Cybernetics*, 21, 1.