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Preface

The construction of large structures (bridges, viaducts, concrete dams, tall buildings, tunnels, offshore platforms, etc.) has greatly increased in recent years, due to development of new design and analysis methods, the aid of mathematical and physical models and the application of new construction methods and improved materials. Moreover, many existing ancient structures (old bridges and dams, churches, monuments, etc.) require accurate investigation of their actual condition.

The Colloquium is related to the 1983 IABSE Symposium on «Strengthening of Building Structures: Diagnosis and Therapy» held in Venice and organized by the Italian Group of IABSE. Session 2 «Inspection and Monitoring» of that Symposium was devoted to a systematic treatment of methods used to ascertain the presence of structural inadequacy and its causes.

The Colloquium is also related to the IABSE Symposium on «Maintenance, Repair and Rehabilitation of Bridges», held in Washington, D.C. in 1982 and to some aspects of the recent Symposium on «Safety and Quality Assurance of Civil Engineering Structures», held in Tokyo on Sept. 1-2, 1986.

But the Bergamo Colloquium is especially intended to focus on monitoring and safety assessment problems, advanced related philosophy and equipment. In fact, the following themes have been proposed for its Sessions:

- Criteria for development and operation of monitoring systems;
- Monitoring instrumentation and systems;
- Interpretative models and decision making.

We hope that the present Report volume will be useful to specialists and to all structural engineers in the future development of «structural safety engineering».

We express sincere thanks to all Authors and Participants, to ISMES (host of the Colloquium and local organizer), to the Italian National Group of IABSE (co-organizer), to all Members of the Colloquium Scientific and Organizing Committees for their fruitful work and to the Members of IABSE Executive and Technical Committees for their helpful cooperation with the Organizers and the Secretariat.

Bergamo, September 1987

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