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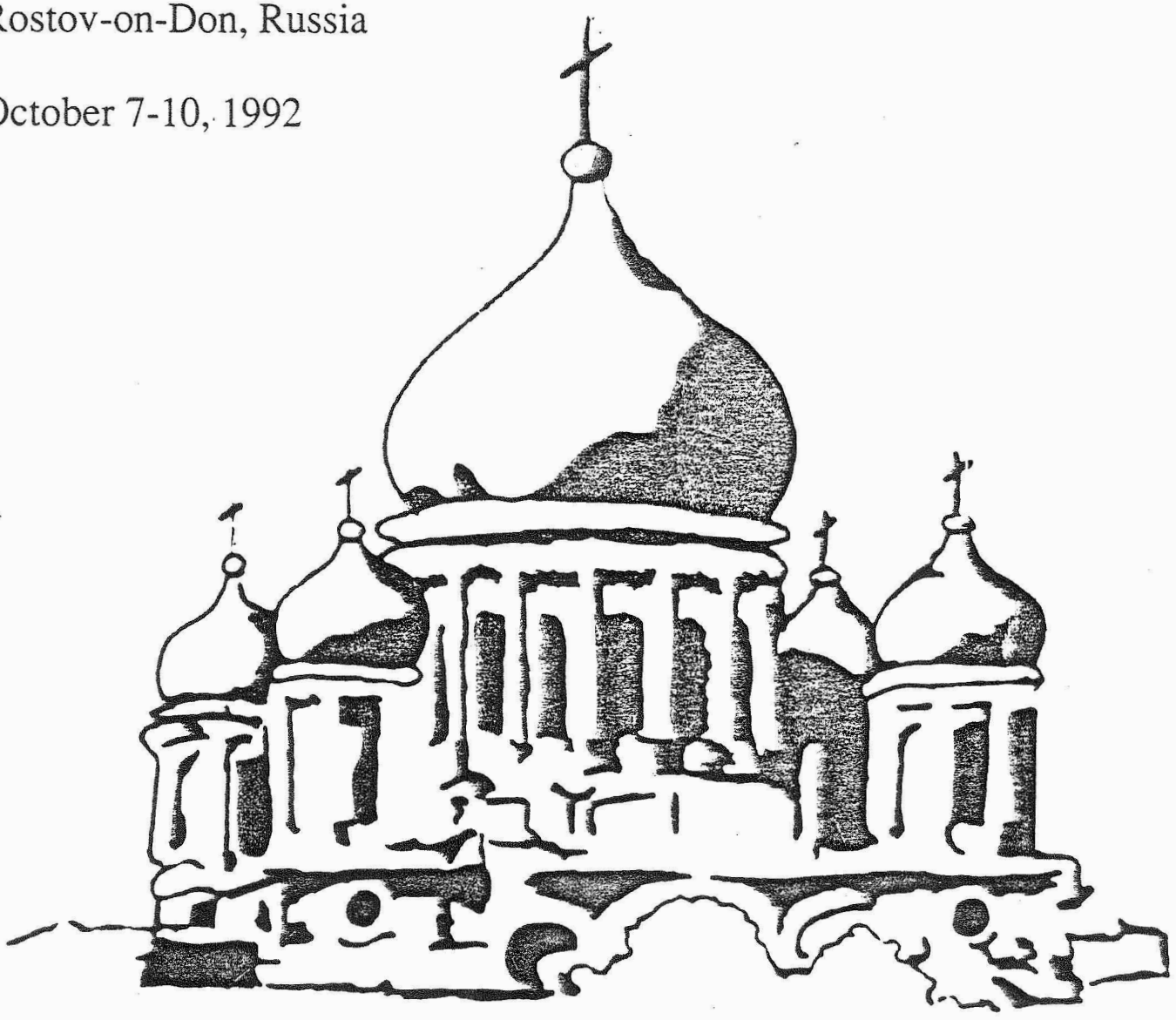

РОСТОВ-на-ДОНУ

THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, INC.

IEEE NEURAL NETWORKS COUNCIL

RNNS
RUSSIAN NEURAL NETWORKS SOCIETY

PREFACE

An idea to hold a joint IEEE/RNNS Symposium arose in the minds of Russian neural network researchers immediately after the first San Diego ICNN in 1987. The necessity for such a meeting emerged for the following three reasons.

The first reason is a traditional Russian interest in nervous systems analysis, ascending to the great works of I. Pavlov, I. Sechenov, and many others.

The second motivation is a high degree of interest which Russians have in those R & D directions which are supported by IEEE institutions. The 1987 San Diego ICNN began a new era in NN systems research, and the IEEE was instrumental in the creation and continuation of this activity.

The third motivation is the fact that NN research in the former USSR was flourishing during those years when there was a recession in the field in Western countries; but the renaissance of NN research began in the era of Perestrojka and the subsequent dramatic events. So at the present (because of economic situations) as well as before (because of political reasons), there exists only very limited possibilities for the Russians to go abroad. So we are urged to "call the mountains to Mohammed" - to attract Western explorers to visit Russia and see our researchers at their home.

The concept of the Symposium was constructively supported by Robert Hecht-Nielson, who worked with Witali L. Dunin-Barkowski and Robert Marks to undertake the first steps toward implementing the Symposium.

The Symposium Committee was established in Seattle, Washington, in July, 1991, and the three of us, Witali L. Dunin-Barkowski, Robert J. Marks, II., and Wesley E. Snyder, began tight cooperation for organizing the present Symposium.

One of the most dramatic phases of the work occurred in August, 1991, when Witali Dunin-Barkowski was a guest of Wesley Snyder's in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. During this visit to plan our symposium, the Moscow coup attempt began and ended.

In spite of multiple obstacles, we are now at the beginning of a new and hopefully fruitful era of IEEE NNC and RNNS joining their efforts in attempts to understand the principles underlying the high performance of natural neural systems, and to make a practical use of this understanding for different kinds of neurocomputers.

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