FOREWORD

The National Symposium on Machine Translation served both to mark the end of the first decade of machine translation and to inaugurate the second. During the last ten years, MT has grown from probing discussions of its possibility to detailed investigations of its concrete realization. These interdisciplinary investigations have required the researches of linguists, mathematicians, and computer scientists. The National Symposium brought together the largest group of machine translation scientists ever assembled in the United States, and these Proceedings represent a current and comprehensive view of MT research and practice currently being conducted in the United States.

These Proceedings contain not only the formal papers presented by the speakers to the National Symposium, but, in addition, informal discussions by the panel members, and questions from the audience. In the formal papers, an author's system for transliterating Cyrillic characters has not been altered, nor has the sense of a passage been changed either by the removal of generally disbelieved statements, or by the addition of statements personally believed—to do so would compound the felony. The informal portions have been edited for stylistic reasons and for the removal of redundancies and superfluities only. I trust, however, that their original flavor has not been impaired.

On behalf of the participants of the Symposium, I wish to express our gratitude to the University of California for its sponsorship and to the Office of Naval Research for its financial support. This recognition of the challenge and importance of machine translation made the Symposium a reality.

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