

relating the atom to the universe

Concepts establishing a unifying nature between the micro-universe inside the atom and the macro-universe extending to the remotest observations man has yet made in space seem to have been established by recent research at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste.

This was part of the message given by Professor Abdus Salam, Director of the Centre, in a lecture during the Fourteenth Session of the Agency's General Conference in September.

Professor Salam evolved his argument by tracing the history of theoretical physics applied to elementary particles from the 1930's, through the "decade of confusion" (as he termed it) in the 1950's, to the "decade of order and symmetry" in the 1960's up to the most recent research and demonstrations. Some of these, he affirmed, have confirmed absolutely exactly Einstein's theory of gravity — "one of the sublimest creations of the human mind". He believed that by further application of the Einstein theory "we shall obtain another interrelationship between the micro-universe and the macro-universe, which are so disparate from each other although apparently even in detail the design about them is identical".

The achievements of the Trieste Centre since its establishment in 1964, its relevance to the practical needs of advanced, semi-developed and developing countries, and problems of continuation after the assured period until 1974 were also dealt with. A full report of the lecture is to appear in the Agency's "Atomic Energy Review".