

**Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams
INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION**

Mailstop 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)
BMARSDEN@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or DGREEN@CFA.HARVARD.EDU (science)
URL <http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/cfa/ps/cbat.html>
Phone 617-495-7244/7440/7444 (for emergency use only)

GRB 960720

J. Greiner, Astrophysical Institute, Potsdam; and J. Heise, Space Research Organization of the Netherlands, communicate: “The brightest of the nine x-ray sources detected with the ROSAT HRI on 1996 Aug. 31 (*IAUC* 6487), RX J1730.7+4906, is located within the revised error circle of GRB 960720 (*IAUC* 6569). It coincides with QSO 1729+491 (= 4C 49.29), which is a strong radio source at $z = 1.038$ (Walsh *et al.* 1984, *MNRAS* **211**, 105). Its HRI countrate of 0.0041 ± 0.0009 count/s corresponds to an unabsorbed x-ray luminosity of 5×10^{44} erg/s in the range 0.1–2.4 keV (assuming a power-law spectrum of photon index 1.9, corrected for galactic absorption). The likelihood for the positional coincidence of a radio-loud AGN of that x-ray and radio brightness with the 3' GRB error box is $\sim 2 \times 10^{-4}$ (Brinkmann *et al.* 1995, *A.Ap. Suppl.* **109**, 147).”

L. Piro, E. Costa, M. Feroci, and M. Cinti, Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Frascati; F. Frontera, D. Dal Fiume, L. Nicastro, M. Orlandini, and G. Pizzichini, Istituto Tecnologie e Studio Radiazioni Extraterrestri, CNR, Bologna; J. Heise and R. Jager, Space Research Organization of the Netherlands, Utrecht; F. Fiore, P. Giommi, A. Antonelli, and J. M. Muller, BeppoSAX Science Data Center, Rome; A. Parmar, Space Science Department, ESTEC, The Netherlands; M. C. Maccarone, Istituto Fisica Cosmica e Applicazioni Informatica, CNR, Palermo; L. Chiappetti, Istituto di Fisica Cosmica e Tecnologie Relative, CNR, Milan; and R. C. Butler, Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, Rome, report: “We analyzed data from the BeppoSAX follow-up observation of the Wide-Field-Camera field of GRB 960720 (*IAUC* 6467, 6480) made on Sept. 3.715–4.708 UT. Within the updated error region of this GRB (*IAUC* 6569), we detect one source with a probability of chance occurrence of $\sim 1 \times 10^{-4}$. The estimated x-ray flux (2–10 keV) is $(1.0 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-13}$ erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$, and the source is located at $\alpha = 17^{\text{h}}30^{\text{m}}45^{\text{s}}$, $\delta = +49^{\circ}06'1$ (equinox J2000.0; conservative error radius of 50''); this position is coincident with that of a bright radio-loud QSO, 4C 49.29, which we identify as the counterpart of the x-ray source. The probability that such a (radio) bright QSO is found by chance within the WFC error box is $< 2 \times 10^{-4}$. However, we note that this is the only case so far reported of an object of this type being associated to a small (a few arcmin 2) GRB error box.”