

make brief visits to other nations to discuss uranium geology and exploration techniques and make brief preliminary investigations of known uranium deposits and favorable areas.

These activities may develop into cooperative foreign exploration projects similar to those approved by the commission over the past several years. Since 1951, projects varying from a month to several years in duration have been or are being carried out with Australia, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, the Philippines, and Turkey, with brief preliminary appraisals made in a number of other countries.

National Seed Storage Laboratory

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College, Ft. Collins, has been selected as the site of a new National Seed Storage Laboratory—a facility to store valuable germ plasm for future use in developing better crops. Funds totaling \$450,000 for construction of the laboratory were included in an appropriation bill passed by Congress this year. The laboratory site, donated by the college, will be deeded to USDA.

Lack of an adequate national seed-storage facility has in the past resulted in partial or complete loss of potentially valuable breeding stock. Existing state and federal laboratories and experiment stations can handle plant material needed in current breeding programs, but they are not equipped to provide adequate storage of the thousands of different plants introduced from abroad or developed in this country that might have value in future plant-breeding research, even though not required for immediate use.

U.N. Exhibit to Commemorate Geneva Nuclear Conference

A permanent exhibit that is to serve as a reminder of the historic significance of the atomic energy conference held at Geneva last summer has gone on display at United Nations Headquarters in time for the conference that has convened there to establish a new world atomic energy agency. The exhibit is intended to commemorate the first International Scientific Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, which brought together 1428 delegates and scientists from 73 nations, as well as 1334 observers.

Invitations were sent by the Secretary-General last November to the seven governments that had exhibited models of atomic reactors or power plants at the Geneva conference. The governments

concerned accepted the Secretary-General's suggestion that they send displays to form the principal parts of the new exhibit at U.N. headquarters. The seven governments are Canada, France, Norway, Sweden, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Archeology in Alabama

The National Geographic Society has announced that a record of human life in North America reaching back 8000 years has been unearthed in a limestone cave near Bridgeport, Ala. The society and the Smithsonian Institution have jointly excavated the cave.

Layer by layer, a cross section of bones, tools, and weapons has been peeled from the floor of the cave (Russell Cave). It shows human occupancy from 6200 B.C., or earlier, to A.D. 1650. Instead of sweeping out their litter, the cave dwellers buried it under fresh layers of earth, leaving a record that is easy to read.

Led by Smithsonian archeologist Carl F. Miller, the expedition has dug down 14 feet. Remains of a man-made fire at that point have been dated by radioactive carbon tests as being 8160 years old, plus or minus 300 years. At the 6-foot level the group found a skeleton of a cave Indian who died about 4000 years ago.

The topmost Indian deposits, under a layer of debris left by modern picnickers, show no trace of white man's objects, dating them to about 1650, before the first white traders appeared in northern Alabama. Below, the small stone arrowheads of the Woodland period, roughly A.D. 1100 to 1000 B.C., give way to earlier spearheads and knives that represent a time before the bow and arrow were known. Changes in the quality of pottery fragments, and their disappearance beneath the 5-foot level, mark the line between the Woodland culture and the older Archaic Age, when only baskets and skin vessels were in use. The Geographic Society has reported that no other site in North America has yielded such a detailed record covering so long a period of occupancy.

Organized Labor and the New Michigan Reactor

Two international labor unions have filed petitions with the Atomic Energy Commission aimed at blocking construction of the neutron-breeder reactor that is to be built at Lagoona Beach, Monroe County, Mich., for which the AEC has granted a "conditional" permit [*Science* 124, 358 (24 Aug. 1956)]. The International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (AFL-CIO) says that the reactor would be a "catastrophic

threat to the . . . citizens of Detroit and . . . of Toledo, Ohio, both 30 miles from Lagoona Beach. [The danger] lies in the possibility of the reactor exploding or otherwise going out of control." The United Automobile Workers of America (AFL-CIO) maintain that the AEC has violated the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 in issuing the conditional construction permit without holding formal hearings. The UAW petition states that the plant as planned raised questions as to "reasonable assurances" of the safety of the project.

Borneo Zoological Expedition

Robert F. Inger, curator of amphibians and reptiles at Chicago Natural History Museum, has returned to this country after having led a zoological expedition to Borneo that has been in the field since March. On two occasions he was the house guest of Iban families in their apartments in the tribal longhouses—huge wooden structures on stilts that are as much as 1000 feet long. These buildings house a whole village of 300 or more people.

Inger collected about 1000 frogs, 5000 fishes, and several hundred snakes, lizards, mammals, and other specimens for the museum. He traveled for hundreds of miles on the Rejang, Kinabatangan, and Kalabakan rivers in dugouts equipped with outboard motors. The tribesmen acquire the motors by going off for several months and working for wages in British-owned oil fields and timber camps. When they have enough money saved to buy an outboard, they quit their jobs and return to a motorized version of their old way of life.

TB in the United States

Approximately 80,000 new cases of active tuberculosis are being reported in this country each year, despite the great advances that have been made in the effort to combat tuberculosis, according to the Annual Report of the National Tuberculosis Association. Outstanding among the advances cited by the report is the revolution in treatment that began 10 years ago with the introduction of effective new drugs. But the report points out that, at best, the victory over the disease is only a partial one:

"According to latest estimates, there are more than 1,200,000 people with active or inactive tuberculosis in the United States. They need either treatment or medical supervision. About 800,000 have active cases of infectious tuberculosis. Perhaps 250,000 of these are not under treatment and are exposing others in their communities. About 55 million