418 cases were submitted for Pentagon screening; in 250 cases lower authorities were overruled and clearances were granted. This is a 60-percent approval rate, compared with 37 percent during the previous 2 years, when only 622 of 1672 appeals for clearance were granted. In addition, a much larger percentage of cases was settled before the people involved had to be notified and hearings held, with the consequent harm done to those concerned.

In a news conference about the report, Jerome D. Fenton, director of the Defense Department Office of Personnel Security Personnel Policy, stated that of all the cases considered, about half involved loyalty questions and half personal charges such as homosexuality, drunkenness, and criminal records. He said that, although the number of cases has decreased, the percentage of clearances remains about the same.

U.S.-Soviet Cooperation

The U.S. Government has offered to enter into an agreement with the U.S.S.R. under which Soviet and American planes would fly between Nome, Alaska, and Murmansk in the U.S.S.R. for observation of Arctic ice in connection with the International Geophysical Year. The reciprocal agreement would include exchanges of landing rights and the use of equipment, facilities, and personnel related to the flights.

At the Arctic conference of the IGY in Stockholm in May 1956, the U.S. National Committee for the IGY had suggested coordination of the ice observation flights of the two countries. The Soviet representatives then proposed that alternate flights be exchanged "in order to obtain a more comprehensive photographic record of the polar icepack and its changes."

New ARDC Research Branch

The Air Research and Development Command has established a new branch to conduct research, development, evaluation, and integration of flight-control systems displays in all Air Force aircraft. The new design engineering branch of the Flight Control Laboratory at ARDC's Wright Air Development Center, Dayton, Ohio, will carry out plans of the Control-Display Integration Working Group, which is composed of representatives from several laboratories and other units at WADC concerned with aircraft instruments.

The new branch is headed by C. J. Snyder and is composed of three sections: the display engineering section, with Jack Kearns as chief, which conducts research and development on whole panel instrumentation concepts for new weapon systems; the systems integration section, headed by Maj. B. S. Emrick (who is also chairman of the Working Group), which conducts research and development on problems of integration of whole panel instrumentation concepts with other subsystems; and the specifications and standards section, under John Hart, which provides engineering guidance and formulates general requirements for test procedures, acceptance standards, and reliability criteria.

News Briefs

■ The ministers of education of Central America recently took part in a meeting at which all five of the republics represented agreed to coordinate their systems of instruction. The participants have agreed to meet again on 5 Dec. in San Salvador to work out arrangements for a permanent organization to be established in Managua under the auspices of the Organization of Central American States.

■ The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has announced that a hearing on the safety of the reactor being constructed by the Power Reactor Development Company of Detroit, Mich., will be held in Washington, D.C., on 13 Nov. Jay A. Kyle, assistant chief hearing examiner for the Federal Communications Commission, will be the presiding officer.

■ The effective tagging of fleas with radioactive isotopes for the study of the epidemiology of plague has been reported by the University of California Medical Center and the U.S. Public Health Service's communicable disease laboratory in San Francisco. Cerium-144, an isotope of one of the rare earths, has proved a practical and simple tracer for fleas, which heretofore have been especially difficult to tag. With the new technique, fleas can now be released on wild rodents and their life-cycle can be studied with radiation-detecting equipment.

Scientists in the News

THOMAS M. RIVERS of New York City, formerly vice president of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been appointed medical director of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. He succeeds HART E. VAN RIPER, who is leaving the National Foundation on 31 Oct. to become medical director of Geigy Pharmaceuticals of Ardsley, N.Y.

Rivers, who has been closely associated with the development and testing of the Salk vaccine, takes over his new post on 1 Nov., 1 year after joining the National Foundation's professional staff as assistant to the president of the foundation.

The following scientists received awards during the American Chemical Society's 130th National Meeting.

ROBERT B. WOODWARD, professor of chemistry, Harvard University, the ACS award for creative work in synthetic organic chemistry, sponsored by the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association, "for brilliant achievements in the synthesis of alkaloids."

WARREN K. LEWIS, professor emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the ACS award in industrial and engineering chemistry, sponsored by the Esso Research and Engineering Company, "for his major part in developing fluidized bed systems for gas-solid contacting and chemical reactions."

MELVIN CALVIN, professor of chemistry, University of California, the ACS award for nuclear applications in chemistry, sponsored by the Nuclear Instrument and Chemical Corporation, "for skillful and diverse demonstrations of the power of radioisotopes in experimental chemistry."

GILBERT J. STORK, professor, Columbia University, the ACS award in pure chemistry, sponsored by Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity, "for extraordinary work in the structure and stereospecific synthesis of natural products."

Ralph H. MÜLLER, staff member, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, University of California, the Beckman award in chemical instrumentation, sponsored by Beckman Instruments, Inc., "for a long series of 'firsts' in better ways to get chemical information from physical measurements."

STUART PATTON, associate professor, Pennsylvania State University, the Borden award in the chemistry of milk, sponsored by the Borden Company Foundation, Inc., "for ingenious application of organic chemistry techniques to problems of heat-induced deterioration of milk."

HAROLD A. SCHERAGE, associate professor, Cornell University, the Eli Lilly and Company award in biological chemistry, "for valuable additions to the knowledge of protein interactions and protein and macromolecular structure."

JOHN H. YOE, chairman, department of chemistry, University of Virginia, the Fisher award in analytical chemistry, sponsored by the Fisher Scientific Company, "for pioneering work in colorimetric analysis and organic analytical reagents."

D. H. R. BARTON, Regius professor of chemistry, University of Glasgow, the Fritzsche award, sponsored by Fritzsche