

Venezuela next spring. At that time, late in the planting season, rice seems to be most susceptible to *hoja blanca*, and the test for disease resistance is therefore likely to be more conclusive.

Atomic Post Filled

President Eisenhower has appointed Robert M. McKinney to represent the United States on the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was organized to carry out the President's Atoms for Peace program of 1953. McKinney, a Santa Fe, N.M., publisher, served as chairman in 1955 and 1956 of a panel on the impact of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. A Democrat, he supported Adlai E. Stevenson in the last Presidential campaign.

The appointment, which was made over Republican protests, is subject to Senate confirmation in January. When the impending appointment became known before Congress adjourned, Senator William F. Knowland (R.-Cal.) and Meade Alcorn, Republican national chairman, announced their displeasure. There may be a tough fight in the Senate over confirmation, but McKinney can expect strong support from Senator Clinton P. Anderson (D.-N.M.), who exercises considerable influence in the joint House-Senate Committee on Atomic Energy.

Chemical Society Building

The American Chemical Society will open this fall a \$3-million drive for funds to build a new eight-story national headquarters on the site of the society's present building at 1155 16 St. N.W., Washington, D.C. The society's headquarters staff, which numbered 29 when the present building was acquired, now totals 204.

Besides offices, the new building will have a library, a meeting room seating 250 persons, accommodations for committee meetings, and a lobby large enough to make possible educational displays of interest to Washington visitors. Faulkner, Kingsbury, and Stenhouse are the architects. Plans have been approved by the Zoning Board of the District of Columbia.

More Nuclear Tests

The Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense plan to begin a new series of nuclear tests in April 1958 at the Eniwetok Proving Ground in the Pacific to advance the development of weapons for defense against aggression, whether air-borne, missile-

borne, or otherwise mounted. Test operations will be governed by the declaration made in the Bermuda communique on 24 March 1957 of the intention of the United States "to conduct nuclear tests only in such manner as will keep world radiation from rising to more than a small fraction of the levels that might be hazardous."

An important objective of the tests will be the further development of nuclear weapons with greatly reduced radioactive fallout so that radiation hazard may be restricted to the military target. A United Nations agency will be invited to designate an international group to observe one of the detonations involving limited fallout, and studies are under way to determine the instrumentation which will facilitate their observation without making disclosures that would compromise restricted weapon information.

Radioisotopes Training for Latin America

The University of Puerto Rico has established a Radioisotope Techniques Training Center following a pattern similar to the Special Training Division of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. This center is financed by the Atomic Energy Commission with the purpose of providing training in radioisotope techniques for Latin American scientists. The dates for the courses that will be offered during the rest of the academic year are as follows: 4 Nov.-29 Nov. 1957; 6 Jan.-31 Jan. 1958; 3 Mar.-28 Mar. 1958; and 5 May-30 May 1958. For further information write to: Director, Centro de Entrenamiento en el Manejo de Radioisótopos, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico.

IGY Data Exchange

There is evidence that both Soviet and Western scientists who are participating in the International Geophysical Year are withholding scientific information, according to Walter Sullivan's report in the *New York Times* on 17 Sept. Much of the success of the work during the IGY depends on the free exchange of information among the participating countries, because in many cases scientific observations from one place on the earth's surface will have little meaning until they have been coordinated with observations from other places.

Most Western scientists agree that the Soviets have been giving information more freely than in the past. In fact, a Soviet scientist recently lent an American scientist some unpublished maps that gave valuable data bearing on studies of

the earth's structure. Nevertheless, in those fields that might be considered to border on the military, little data has been forthcoming from Soviet scientists.

Western scientists also appear to be holding back information. The reason is not because the data must be kept secret, but to provide a bargaining point in efforts to get the Soviet scientists to release comparable information. One instance of withholding data concerns the results of a recent survey that serves to correct present information about the relative positions of Europe and North America.

Reactor School

The Atomic Energy Commission has accepted 62 scientists and engineers, 50 of them from 21 foreign countries, for enrollment in the sixth session of the commission's International School of Nuclear Science and Engineering at Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, Ill. A part of the President's Atoms for Peace program, the training session is shared by the International School, North Carolina State College, and Pennsylvania State University.

The enrollment brings to 355 the number of scientists and engineers pursuing the course in unclassified reactor technology. Of these, 267 have come from 42 foreign countries. The 88 American students have been sponsored largely by United States firms interested in nuclear energy.

News Briefs

Humble Oil and Refining Company's Refining Research and Development Division is occupying a newly completed extension to its main laboratory building at the Baytown, Tex., Research Center. The 27,000-square-foot expansion provides a 70-percent increase in laboratory space and about a 40-percent increase in office space. The extension will house research personnel who formerly occupied space in other buildings and will provide for expansion in the staff. The building provides facilities for research in petroleum refining and petrochemical development.

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Bjorksten Research Laboratories for Industry, Inc., Madison, Wis., has announced the opening of its new Houston, Tex., laboratory for sponsored industrial research. Luther L. Yaeger, vice president, will be in charge.

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Stockholders of Schering Corporation and White Laboratories, Inc., voted on 19 Sept. to merge the two firms into a single pharmaceutical company. The