

within the Department of Defense or through the establishment of an independent agency."

Eisenhower on space control. On 12 January President Eisenhower wrote to Premier Bulganin: "I propose that we agree that outer space would be used only for peaceful purposes. We face a decisive moment in history in relation to this matter. Both the Soviet Union and the U.S. are now using outer space for the testing of missiles designed for military purposes. The time to stop is now. . . . If indeed it be the view of the Soviet Union that we should not go on producing ever newer types of weapons, can we not stop the production of such weapons which would use or, more accurately, misuse, outer space, now for the first time opening up as a field for man's exploration? Should not outer space be dedicated to the peaceful uses of mankind and denied to the purposes of war? That is my proposal. . . ."

National Federation of Abstracting Services

A National Federation of Science Abstracting and Indexing Services was formed last month at a 3-day meeting in Philadelphia (see editorial, "Strength through Union," in 14 February issue). The conference, which was organized by *Biological Abstracts* and supported by the National Science Foundation, was attended by 34 representatives of 14 United States abstracting and indexing services and 11 representatives of the following organizations: the AAAS, the NSF, American Geological Institute, the American Geophysical Union, UNESCO, and the U.S. Joint Publications Research Service.

The new federation will endeavor through cooperative measures, education and research to improve the abstracting, indexing and analysis of scientific information so that such information will be more readily available to all scientists and technologists in this country and throughout the English-speaking world.

The opening session of the conference was addressed by Detlev W. Bronk, president of the Rockefeller Institute and president of the National Academy of Sciences. He commented that the conference provided an example of American institutions working at their best, the participants having come together in an informal way to see how by cooperation they could improve their services and work together toward common goals. He deplored the growing tendency to believe that large and difficult tasks should be relegated to the Federal Government.

In the area of scientific information services, Bronk said that he does not

think it necessary to create a large national scientific information center just because the Soviet Union has such a center.

The objective of the newly formed federation is to improve the documentation (abstracting, indexing, and analyzing) of the scientific and technological literature of the world in such a manner as to make it readily available to all scientists and technologists: (i) by encouraging the development of abstracting and indexing for those specialized subject fields not at present covered by such services, and the further development of existing services; (ii) by seeking greater uniformity in such matters as journal citations and abbreviations, and transliteration of foreign language titles; (iii) by cooperation, education, research, and the pursuit of mutually useful enterprises, to strive for the best possible research information services for science and technology in the United States and abroad.

Each of the abstracting and indexing services represented at the conference will name a representative to a temporary council to serve until the new federation is formally organized, at which time other eligible abstracting and indexing services will be invited to join. An interim executive committee of three will act for the temporary council in taking the necessary steps leading to the formal organization and incorporation of the federation. The members of the executive committee are G. Miles Conrad of *Biological Abstracts*, chairman; Dale B. Baker of *Chemical Abstracts*; and John C. Green of the Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce. Funds for setting up a secretariat of the federation will be contributed on a voluntary basis by services represented at the conference as an expression of their interest in the development of the new organization. It is expected that grants and donations will help to maintain and to expand the activities of the federation.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Cardiology. The American Heart Association has received a special grant from the National Heart Institute to permit a limited number of research scientists in the cardiovascular field to attend the third World Congress of Cardiology in Brussels, Belgium, 14-21 September. The funds will provide for round-trip air travel from New York to Brussels plus a per diem allotment during the Congress. Younger investigators who would otherwise be likely to experience difficulty in obtaining funds for this purpose will be given preference. Requests for application blanks should be sent

immediately to the Assistant Medical Director for Research, American Heart Association, 44 23rd St., New York 10, N.Y.

Secondary School Teaching. The National Science Foundation has announced that it will accept proposals from universities and colleges interested in sponsoring in-service institutes for secondary school teachers of science and mathematics to be held during the academic year 1958-59. These especially designed in-service institutes will be held outside regularly scheduled school hours so that teachers may attend while still teaching full time in their schools. Foundation support to some 25 institutes will cover all tuition and fees, plus any other direct costs to the college or university directly attributable to the program. Though the foundation does not provide stipend support for participants in the in-service program, the NSF grants provide funds to underwrite travel expenses in connection with attendance at the institutes. Deadline for submission of completed proposals to the foundation is 15 March. Directions for preparing proposals may be obtained from the Division of Scientific Personnel and Education, National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D.C.

Scientists in the News

NORMAN F. RAMSEY, professor of physics at Harvard University, has been appointed science adviser to Paul-Henri Spaak, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In the post, established by the NATO heads of government at their meeting in December, Ramsey will advise on all aspects of NATO activity in research, applied science, and the production of scientific manpower. He will act as chairman of the Science Advisory Committee, which is composed of scientific representatives from each of the NATO countries. This group was also established at the December meeting. At that time, the principal argument advanced in favor of closer scientific collaboration among the NATO powers was that the present compartmented national programs resulted in waste and duplication of effort. Ramsey will go to Paris in March to begin his new job.

The appointment of ADEN B. MEINEL as director of the new National Astronomical Observatory has been approved by the National Science Foundation. Meinel's appointment as first director of the observatory was recommended by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., which is under contract to the National Science Foundation for the estab-