this to the attention of Dr. James R. Killian, Scientific Advisor to the President, Dr. Alan T. Waterman, Director of the National Science Foundation, [and others]. . . .

"The Administration and Congress have declared themselves all out for science and technology and are voting vast sums for research. Yet, the U.S. Geological Survey, one of the oldest and most respected government research organizations, is facing in the next fiscal year beginning July 1 a material decrease in the funds available for its research programs in the mineral resources field.

"Science is not divisible into several exclusive categories because it is a cross-fertilization of many skills. . . . In government, the geological scientists charged with our mineral research efforts are being relegated to the role of 'second rate scientists' along with biologists and other minority groups of scientists who have not benefited from pay increases granted most scientists and engineers. The high morale of geologists in government service is being adversely affected by this discriminatory practice and a general loss of scientific prestige is resulting. . . .

"The American Geological Institute urges that our Nation take positive and immediate steps to correct the current imbalance plaguing the geological scientists and geological research. Our mineral future must be secure if science and technology are to advance."

El Salvador's Tropical Institute

The Tropical Institute of Scientific Research in San Salvador was established by the University of El Salvador in 1950 to encourage research in the seven faculties of the university—law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and chemistry, engineering (civil, architectural, agronomic, and electrical-mechanical), economics, and humanities (philosophy, psychology, literature, and languages)—and to provide facilities for the use of visiting scientists desiring to study the tropical environment.

El Salvador is the most densely populated of the five Central American republics, having compressed within its 8600 square miles more than 2 million inhabitants. The country is principally of volcanic origin, with one volcano still active. The volcanic character of the soil contributes to its high fertility. The principal product of the country is coffee, which provides almost 80 percent of the national income. The country's economy is sound. Its monetary unit, the colon, has for 25 years remained at a fixed value of $0.40 U.S.

The climate of El Salvador ranges from hot in the coastal plains to moderately cool in the highlands. The institute is located in University City on the outskirts of the country's capital, San Salvador. This city, which has a population of more than 200,000 inhabitants, is situated on a plain some 2000 feet above sea level. Its climate is pleasant, with a mean annual temperature of approximately 72°F with extremes of from 46° to 96°F. It is 14° north of the equator and 89° west of the Greenwich meridian.

Almost all of the research conducted by the institute is under the supervision of visiting scientists sent to the country by institutions of learning and research in the United States and Europe. Before a visitor is accepted by the institute, he submits a plan of the type of study he wishes to undertake. If his proposed research is of a nature which will be useful not only to him but to El Salvador, his application is accepted. Board and room are provided without charge at the institute's boarding house, the visitor is given laboratory facilities, transportation, reference materials, and other necessary assistance. Many public and private institutions cooperate with the institute in helping the visitors carry out their research programs. However, if very expensive equipment of limited usefulness is needed, the visitor or his sponsor is asked to provide this as a loan to the institute during the period that the visitor is in residence. When the proposed research requires more than 1 year to complete, the institute pays transportation for the visiting scientist to El Salvador and return and also provides him with $30 per month for personal expenses. Research assistants are usually Salvadorean high-school graduates interested in research who, by working with the visiting scientists, prepare themselves for research careers or for scholarships abroad.

The principal research conducted by the institute since its foundation has been in the fields of zoology, botany, geology, soil sciences, hydrology, meteorology, archeology, anthropology, economics, tropical medicine, and chemistry. In return for the facilities offered by the institute, visiting scientists are asked to submit complete reports of the studies; if specimens have been collected, the institute expects to receive a complete set of the materials collected, properly classified.

Usually from six to eight visitors are in residence at the institute, although at times the entire capacity of the boarding house (14 visitors in eight guest rooms) has been in use.

Among the works published in book form by visitors of the institute are: *Birds of El Salvador,* by Austin L. Rand and Melvin A. Taylor of the Museum of Natural History, Chicago; *Farinosa of El Salvador,* by Otto Rohweder, University of Hamburg; *Amphibia and Reptiles of El Salvador,* by R. Mertens, Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany. The institute publishes a quarterly, *Communicaciones del Instituto Tropical de Investigaciones Científicas de la Universidad de El Salvador, C.A.* Much of the research carried on by the visiting scientists is reported in this journal, especially when the reports are not of book length.

The institute is anxious to receive applications from scientists and scientific institutions who desire to carry on tropical research in any scientific field. More detailed information may be secured by writing to the Director General, Instituto Tropical de Investigaciones Científicas, Apartado 740, San Salvador, El Salvador, Central America.

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Bureau of Standards and National Academy Advisory Program

The National Bureau of Standards and the National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council have announced an expanded plan for coordination of the bureau's technical advisory committee program by the Academy–Research Council in cooperation with a number of the major professional scientific societies of the United States. The NBS advisory committee program grew out of the recommendations of a committee appointed by the Secretary of Commerce in 1953. Since that time, advisory committees appointed by various professional scientific societies have helped to keep the bureau informed of the needs of the nation's scientific and technological community and have evaluated the bureau's work in areas of interest to their professions. At the same time they have provided an effective link whereby the scientists and engineers of the country have gained increased awareness of the scientific contributions and services available from the bureau.

The new plan for coordination of these advisory activities by the Academy–Research Council will strengthen the current program by allowing more complete coverage of the bureau's diversified research activities, and by providing for the coordination of recommendations from the various professional interests which the bureau serves.

Under the new arrangement, the scientific societies will nominate representatives from among their membership to serve as advisers to the bureau. From the base provided by these society delegations, the Academy–Research Council will assemble a number of advisory panels, each of which will have respon-