

ported observing directly an isotope of element 102 with a half-life of 10 minutes and emitting alpha particles of 8.5 Mev. They bombarded curium 244 with carbon 13 nuclei in the Stockholm cyclotron. The energy range of the carbon nuclei was from 80 to 100 Mev and averaged 90 Mev. Working under very difficult conditions, the international group said they observed small amounts of element 102 activity in 12 out of 50 bombardments.

Ghiorso said the Berkeley group had attempted to duplicate this reaction, with a curium target of the same composition. Their beam of bombarding carbon nuclei was about 10 times as intense. They made many attempts to produce the reported activity, using beams of particles of 90 Mev and also particles varying over a wide energy range (60 to 100 Mev). All of the efforts were unsuccessful.

Academy Oceanography Committee

The National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council has formed a Committee on Oceanography whose primary purpose is to promote the future development of oceanography in the United States. The committee is sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Harrison Brown of California Institute of Technology is chairman.

The committee has organized six panels to examine particular areas: the Panel on New Research Ships, Columbus Iselin, chairman; the Panel on New Devices for Exploring the Ocean, Allyn Vine, chairman; the Panel on Radioactive Waste Disposal at Sea, Roger Revelle, chairman; the Panel on International Cooperation in the Marine Sciences, Athelstan Spilhaus, chairman; the Panel on Ocean Resources, Robert Snider, chairman; and the Panel on Basic Research in the Marine Sciences, Alfred Redfield, chairman.

The committee is attempting, with the assistance of the panels (i) to formulate recommendations concerning a long-range national policy with respect to oceanography; (ii) to assist in all possible ways in increasing both the quantity and quality of basic research in the marine sciences; and (iii) to advise specific government agencies concerning those problems which involve the marine sciences. It is attempting to produce a preliminary report sometime during the summer.

The committee would welcome comments and critical examination of its activities. Interested persons should write to the chairman; the executive secretary, Richard C. Vetter; or to any one of the

panel chairmen. The committee intends to keep marine scientists informed of its progress.

Pastore-Durham Bill Opposed

The national council of the Federation of American Scientists has released a statement opposing the Pastore-Durham Bill (S 3474 and HR 11926), which was introduced in Congress to facilitate the cooperation of the United States with certain of its allies in the field of atomic weapons. The FAS Council questions whether the proposed bill will contribute to the security of the United States, saying:

"It is generally recognized that an atomic stalemate now exists in the sense that total war would, in all likelihood, result in the destruction of all major powers engaged in such a war. . . . It would appear to be obvious that the greater number of nations coming into possession of atomic weapons, the more precarious becomes the stalemate. . . .

"We believe that the Congress and therefore the people should not delegate their responsibility in such matters to the administration. We feel that the U.S. should negotiate with other nations individual agreements concerning the transfer of nuclear weapons material and the exchange of restricted data; this can be done under the existing regulations of Section 121 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. These regulations require positive action of Congress as well as action of the Administration. We are strongly opposed to the Pastore-Durham bill which would, in effect, permit the Administration to make such arrangements without debate. It seems to use that the passage of this bill would be an irrevocable step which is likely to jeopardize our long-range goal of true security through worldwide, enforced disarmament.

Soviet Education Survey

The U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has announced that a survey of education inside the Soviet Union, the first Government-sponsored study of this kind, is being made by a team of 10 United States educators. The study team, headed by U.S. Commissioner of Education Lawrence G. Derthick, left for the U.S.S.R. on 6 May and will return around 10 June.

The survey has been made possible by the agreement of 27 January 1958 between the governments of the United States and the U.S.S.R. on exchange of missions in cultural, technical, and educational fields. Several technical and cultural missions have been exchanged, but

this is the first time that an official group from America representing a cross-section of education will have visited the Soviet Union to observe various aspects of Soviet education. A group of Soviet educators will make a similar study of education in the United States at a later date.

In addition to Derthick, the team includes: Herold C. Hunt, Eliot professor of education, Harvard University, and former Under Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; Harry C. Kelly, assistant director for scientific personnel and education, National Science Foundation; A. John Holden, Jr., State Commissioner of Education, Vermont; Henry Chauncey, president, Educational Testing Service; George Z. F. Bereday, associate professor of education, Columbia University; and four members of the U.S. Office of Education staff, John R. Ludington of the Secondary Schools Section, Lane C. Ash, of the Division of Vocational Education, John B. Whitelaw of the Teacher Education Section, and Helen K. Mackintosh of the Elementary Schools Section.

BCG Vaccination

After weighing the advantages and disadvantages of BCG (*bacille Calmette-Guérin*) vaccination, an ad hoc committee of the Surgeon General of the United States reported recently that: "It is believed that the advantages of vaccination outweigh the disadvantages for tuberculin negative persons who are exposed to a definite risk of infection, especially if they cannot be retested frequently with tuberculin." The committee recommended BCG vaccination for those groups named by the American Trudeau Society, the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Medical Association, and the Medical Advisory Committee of Research Foundation.

The American Trudeau Society list of groups includes: (i) doctors, medical students, and nurses who are exposed to tuberculosis; (ii) all hospital and laboratory personnel whose work exposes them to contact with the bacillus of tuberculosis; (iii) individuals who are unavoidably exposed to infectious tuberculosis in the home; (iv) patients and employees in mental hospitals, prisons, and other custodial institutions in which the incidence of tuberculosis is known to be high; and (v) children and certain adults considered to have inferior resistance and living in communities in which the tuberculosis mortality rate is unusually high.

The vaccine may be obtained by any licensed physician in the United States and its territories by writing to the Research Foundation, 70 W. Hubbard St.,