

the General Assembly last December. It has not met because of a Soviet boycott resulting from the complaint that the committee has a pro-Western majority.

It is reported that the committee will elect officers and request Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld to outline activities in the field of outer space that should be undertaken by the United Nations and other international organizations. The committee will probably not begin full-scale operation until the Soviet Union agrees to cooperate. The *Times* article suggests that the disagreement over Soviet participation in the work of the committee can be overcome either at a meeting of foreign ministers, now expected on 11 May, or at a subsequent meeting of heads of government.

The U.S.S.R. will not cooperate unless the committee's membership is changed, and Communist and neutralist members are given the same number of seats as Western members. This change can be made only by the Assembly, which will not begin its 1959 session until September. If the Soviet Union accepted a compromise on the committee's membership, to be submitted to the Assembly next fall, this would improve the chances of inducing neutralist members, in particular India and the United Arab Republic, to participate in the committee's work. For weeks the United States has been trying to persuade Western members of the committee to hold a meeting in March or April, regardless of the Soviet boycott.

News Briefs

The National Science Foundation has announced the establishment of an Office of Social Sciences, with Henry W. Riecken as its head. The foundation's support of basic social-science research began 5 years ago, but the work has previously been associated with the program in the natural sciences. An Advisory Committee for the Social Sciences was announced simultaneously. Members include: Leonard S. Cottrell, social psychologist, Russell Sage Foundation; Fred Eggan, professor of anthropology, University of Chicago; John Gardner, president, Social Science Research Council; Joseph Spengler, professor of economics, Duke University; S. S. Wilks, professor of mathematics, Princeton University; and Dael Wolfe, executive officer, AAAS.

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An exhibition of material relating to Charles Darwin has opened at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. The exhibition, sponsored by the American Philosophical Society Library and the Friends of the University of Pennsylvania Library, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. The ex-

hibit includes the only known complete set in the United States of the first edition of *On the Origin of Species*, as well as subsequent revisions and reprints.

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The American Institute of Physics, which now publishes translations of six Soviet physics journals, is bringing out another important physics journal, *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk*. The new translation project is being supported by the National Science Foundation.

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Two AAAS affiliates, the American Society of Heating and Air-Conditioning Engineers and the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, have merged to form the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers. The consolidated society has a membership of more than 18,000. Cecil Boling of West Hartford, Conn., is president.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Fulbright and Smith-Mundt awards. For American applicants for Fulbright awards, the Committee on International Exchange of Persons conducts two major competitions each year. Between 1 March and 25 April applications are accepted for South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru); for South and Southeast Asia (Burma, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand); and for Australia and New Zealand. Between 1 June and 1 October applications are accepted for Austria, Belgium, and Luxembourg, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Ireland (outside the Fulbright Act; under a special agreement), Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom and Colonial Territories. Spain became a participant in the program by an agreement signed in the autumn of 1958, and the first Fulbright grants will probably become available there in 1960-61. Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington 25, D.C.

The Smith-Mundt program, under which approximately 75 Americans are annually awarded lecturing appointments in countries not included in the Fulbright program, does not operate on the basis of a general competition. Requests for lecturers from participating countries are received very irregularly, and occasionally involve direct invitations. To aid in filling Smith-Mundt lectureships and also certain Fulbright grants not filled through the open competition, the Committee on International

Exchange of Persons is developing a Register of Scholars. The register is a biographical reference file of scholars interested in the possibility of overseas assignments. It contains information on their fields of competence, preference as to countries, probable periods of availability, foreign language competence, and related qualifications. Persons with college or university teaching experience are invited to register with the committee and they should request a special form.

Gravity. The Gravity Research Foundation, New Boston, N.H., has announced the 1959 awards for essays on gravity. Five awards, ranging from a \$1000 prize to a \$100 prize, will be made on 1 June for the best 1500-word essays on the possibilities of discovering: (i) some partial insulator, reflector, or absorber of gravity; (ii) some alloy, or other substance, the atoms of which can be agitated or rearranged by gravity to throw off heat; or (iii) some other reasonable method of harnessing, controlling, or neutralizing gravity. Essays must be received at the foundation's office before 15 April. They will be accepted from anyone who is seriously interested in the application of gravity to practical uses for the benefit of humanity.

Teaching. Approximately 9000 secondary-school teachers of science and mathematics will benefit during the academic year 1959-60 from 182 National Science Foundation In-Service Institutes conducted by United States colleges and universities. The In-Service Institute program started with two institutes in the spring of 1957. During the present school year there are 85 institutes offering part-time study to secondary-school teachers.

Institute meetings are held outside regularly scheduled school hours—that is, evenings, Saturdays, or late afternoons—so that teachers may attend while they are still teaching full time in their schools. A typical institute might meet once a week for 2 hours for the full academic year of about 30 weeks. Teachers participating in these institutes will receive financial support in the form of allowances at the rate of 7 cents per mile for travel from their homes to the institutes. Those teachers granted support will not have to pay tuition and fees. Participants will be chosen by the institutes, not by the National Science Foundation.

Scientists in the News

LOGAN WILSON, sociologist and president of the University of Texas, has been nominated by President Eisenhower to replace T. KEITH GLENNAN on the National Science Board. Glennan is head of the new National Aeronautics and Space Administration.