

and research utility of the specific accelerator recently proposed by Midwestern Universities Research Association (MURA) have not been established, many of the important new accelerator concepts of recent years have come from the ideas and work of the MURA group. Continued progress in these developments is strongly dependent on the continuation and intensification of the MURA program. The group should be supported on a continuing basis with the funds and facilities necessary for its participating intensively in the development, construction and operation of high energy accelerators.

The research need for a high energy accelerator at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory should be further explored with the Laboratory and the southern universities concerned. The Oak Ridge group should be supported in continuing design and development activities. The technical feasibility of the accelerator proposed by Oak Ridge has not been established.

Panel Members

Jesse W. Beams, chairman, department of physics, University of Virginia

Hans A. Bethe, professor of physics, Cornell University

Leland J. Haworth, director, Brookhaven National Laboratory

Edwin M. McMillan, director, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, University of California

Emanuel R. Piore, *chairman*, director of research, International Business Machines Corporation

Training Center for U.N. Fellows

A new type of regional training center for United Nations fellows, with headquarters at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., will enable trainees from underdeveloped countries to study activities in fields such as hydroelectric power, water development, geology, mining, forestry, land management, cooperatives, credit unions, social welfare, and public administration. In contrast to training centers that provide formal lectures and group field trips, the Vancouver center will draw up individual training plans designed to fill the specific needs of each fellow.

The rivers, forests, cities, and industries of western Canada and northwestern United States will serve as a laboratory. A trainee selected under the U.N. technical assistance program may enroll for classroom instruction, if appropriate, or he may carry out guided studies under faculty supervision. In addition, he will be given opportunity for first-hand observation in his specialty in a field agency or governmental lab-

oratory. Western Canada and the northwestern United States were chosen because in the past 50 years these areas have experienced unusual expansion in population and unusually rapid economic development.

Under a three-way agreement, the United Nations will supply fellowships for the trainees and will provide a director and an administrative officer. The University of British Columbia will provide instruction and guidance for the fellows, as well as office space for the center. The Canadian Government, subject to parliamentary approval, has offered a special annual grant of \$10,000 to the U.N. for operation of the center, to be made in each of three consecutive fiscal years, beginning in 1959-60. In addition, the United States Government has made the facilities of its agencies in the northwestern states available to the trainees.

The director of the center will be Albert Lepawsky of the department of political science, University of California, Berkeley, who was a member of the U.N. technical assistance survey mission to Bolivia in 1950. Fellowships for the center will be provided under the present technical assistance program of the United Nations and related agencies.

Federal Court Asked to Halt Atomic Tests

The Federal Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C., was asked in an action filed last month to order the United States to halt nuclear tests. The appeal was made by a group of 39 people, including scientists, churchmen, Japanese fishermen, and residents of the Marshall Islands. Among the plaintiffs were Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and professor at California Institute of Technology, and Bertrand Russell, British mathematician and philosopher.

The group asked the Court of Appeals to reverse a ruling that was handed down by District Judge Richmond B. Keech last July. At that time he dismissed two similar suits, saying the complaints had failed to show a controversy within the court's jurisdiction. He also held that none of the 39 plaintiffs had standing to sue. The appeal will probably be heard by the court next fall.

Edison Awards

The Thomas Alva Edison Foundation awarded special citations to the following at a luncheon in New York on 20 May as a part of the foundation's continuing program to improve the presentation of science to youth.

The Scientific American, Girard Piel,

publisher, in recognition of distinguished educational service to the nation by advancing the understanding of science through accurate, informative, and vivid reporting of the latest scientific developments.

Union County Regional High School District No. 1, Springfield, N.Y., in recognition of distinguished educational service to the nation for special excellence in developing more effective teaching of science.

A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading, by Nancy Larrick (Doubleday and Pocket Books), in recognition of distinguished educational service . . . in the development of wholesome reading by young people.

Gilberton Company, Inc., for publishing *The Illustrated Story of Space*, one of the series "The World Around Us," as "the best science comic book."

AEC Power Program Approved by Joint Congressional Committee

The legislative subcommittee of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee of the Congress has approved, almost without change, the atomic power program put forth early this year by John A. McCone, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. This action confirms the growing belief that a new harmony has developed between the committee and the commission. In past years, when Lewis L. Strauss was chairman, this relationship had been very stormy.

The commission had requested \$49.5 million for the construction of five prototype atomic power plants, either by the Government or by industry with government aid. Only three new projects were added to the total program, which, when it was first submitted, was characterized as "wholly inadequate." These new projects are a reactor of advanced design, to be built in Puerto Rico; a prototype plant of 30,000- to 75,000-kilowatt capacity; and another plant to be built for a rural cooperative or public power company by the commission.

Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission to Hold First Meeting

The Organization of American States, Pan American Union, Washington, D.C., is establishing an Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission to plan for the peaceful application of nuclear energy in the Western Hemisphere. The statutes for the commission were approved by the council of the OAS on 22 April. The new organization will hold its first meeting at the Pan American Union, probably in October.