# News of Science

## Scientist Exchange Pact Signed by Nesmeyanov and Bronk

During this year and next the academies of science of the United States and the Soviet Union will exchange research scientists for periods of up to 6 months under a new pact signed on 9 July by Detlev Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences, and Alexander Nesmeyanov, president of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. The agreement, which represents the first time that an exchange of scientists has been sponsored by the U.S. and Soviet national academies, calls for lectures, research work, and observation of scientific studies by the scientists involved in the exchange, and for the organization of symposia on current scientific problems by the two academies. Approximately 90 researchers will take part in the 2-year program. The treaty provides for possible continuation of the program after the first 2 years.

The diplomatic basis for the new pact was established in 1958 when the Lacy-Zaroubin agreement, calling for cultural, technical, and educational exchanges between the two countries, was signed. That agreement gave the academies of science of the signatory countries responsibility for effecting certain of these exchanges. Other exchanges have been arranged by various governmental and nongovernmental groups; the U.S. tour of the Bolshoi Ballet, the cultural fairs in Moscow and New York, and exchanges of agricultural experts are examples.

The agreement calls upon each academy to name individuals to participate in exchange visits in the three following categories: (i) approximately 20 noted scientists from each country "to deliver lectures and conduct seminars on various problems of science and technology as well as for the purpose of studying research work in progress" during visits of up to 1 month; (ii) approximately 18 scientists from each country to spend 1 month in laboratories of the opposite country observing current research in 14 designated scientific specialties; (iii) an additional six scientists from each country to spend longer periods in specialized fields of study or in the conduct of research in six designated scientific specialties.

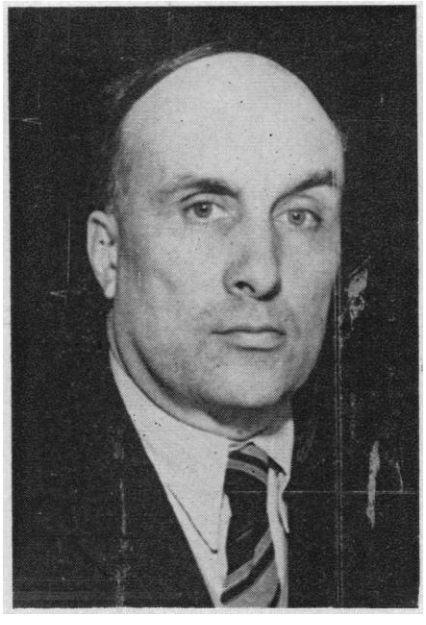
The agreement stipulates that each side is to pay the salaries of its own scientists and their travel expenses between the two countries; the host country will be responsible for the cost of living quarters and medical aid, and for certain local travel expenses. The U.S. Academy has been assured of sufficient funds from the National Science Foundation and other public and private sources to defray all expenses of the U.S. half of the program.

### Publications Exchange Planned

In addition to exchange of personnel, the pact calls for an exchange of scientific publications between the academies. Another article of the treaty provides for the invitation on a reciprocal basis of scientists of one country to the important congresses, conferences, and meetings of the other. Exchanges in these areas have occurred in the past, but, as a result of the treaty, they are now matters of official policy of the two academies.

Prior to the signing of the agreement, both academies submitted lists of the type of research that would be of particular interest to their visiting members. Among the projects in which the Soviet academy expressed interest were studies concerned with spectroscopic apparatus, automatic control and information theory, photosynthesis, radioastronomy, and the biochemistry of cancer. The National Academy of Sciences cited studies in probability processes, cosmic rays, weather prediction, and the physiology and biology of the nervous system as matters of particular interest to its members.

Although the Lacy-Zaroubin agreement allows for visits of up to 1 year, the longest period mentioned in a tentative list of projects released by the National Academy of Sciences is 6 months. This period is given for exchange visits in the third category—those which will allow 6 scientists from each country to work with foreign colleagues in research on specific problems. Fields of study for these longer visits are, for Soviet researchers, radiospectroscopy, stereochemistry, high-molecular compounds, theory of metallurgical processes, information theory, and biochemistry. American researchers plan to work with Soviet colleagues in studies of solar physics, nonlinear mathematical systems and differential equations, conditioned reflexes, the physiology of stress, celestial mechanics, and the physical chemistry of high polymers.



Alexander Nesmeyanov, president of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.

Detlev Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States.