

## **President Transfers Elements of Army Rocket Center to Space Agency**

President Eisenhower decided last week to transfer all of the Army's space activities to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The action, if approved by Congress, will put Wernher von Braun's team of scientists and engineers at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency in Huntsville, Ala., under civilian control and will remove the Army from the nation's space exploration program. The move, widely anticipated by observers, came as the result of a meeting last week of the President with officials of the Department of Defense, NASA, the Bureau of the Budget, and his science adviser.

In recent weeks, officials of the Eisenhower administration have issued many public statements on the current position of the government on the issue of space activities and military preparedness; these statements, which were very similar in nature, represent the argument behind the President's decision. The argument, in brief, is this: the United States now has adequate rocketry to meet its military needs; the development of high-thrust rockets, such as the Saturn project of the Army agency, would be superfluous to these needs; therefore, such projects, which are of value only for the exploration of space, should properly be under the agency which has responsibility for this activity, the civilian space agency. As the President put it during a press conference: "... [the] great booster is of no present use to the Defense Department. Its interest is in NASA, and that's the reason that we have decided to take this very competent team of scientists, and this facility, the ABMA and put it into the space department so that it can get the kind of booster that it wants."

Comment on the executive action by the individuals concerned, members of Congress, and the press, was generally favorable. Von Braun said in Huntsville that he looked forward to continuing efforts in a progressive program under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The retiring head of the Army agency, General John B. Medaris, commented that he was "both pleased and relieved" that a definitive decision has been made. The day after the President's decision, General Medaris began con-

ferences with T. Keith Glennan, administrator of NASA, to develop a plan for submission to Congress for the orderly transfer of control of the Army agency which, according to Glennan, will not be moved from the Huntsville site.

Approval of the action also came from Senator Lyndon Johnson (D-Texas), chairman of the Special Senate Committee on Space and Astronautics. It was "gratifying," the Senator said, "that the need for action has been recognized. But further action appears to be necessary." Saying that the nation's space program seems to lack "coordinated authority" and "a driver," he ordered a preliminary Congressional inquiry.

The inquiry might have a significant impact because Congress, by law, has veto power over the transfer of any military space activity to NASA. The view generally expressed in Washington is that, after careful study, the House and Senate will approve the transfer.

Out of the President's press conference following his decision came heartening news for the space agency which has suffered from uncertain financing. In reply to a question, the President said that the administration would ask for more funds for NASA for the next fiscal year. "Something more than we had last year," he said. The Administration's last budget estimate for NASA was \$530 million, but Congress cut this figure by about \$30 million. At the time of the cut Glennan warned that it would have severe effects on this country's showing in space activities.

## **University Participation in International Affairs To Be Studied**

An independent national committee has been formed to study the participation of American universities in international education, research, and technical assistance. The new group, known as the Committee on the University and World Affairs, consists of nine leaders from universities, government, business, and foundations. Its chairman is J. L. Morrill, president of the University of Minnesota.

The committee has the strong interest and encouragement of the Secretary of State. His representative, Robert H. Thayer, Special Assistant to the Secre-

tary for the Coordination of International Educational and Cultural Relations, was instrumental in bringing about establishment of the new group.

### **Report Scheduled for 1960**

The committee, in a report that it expects to issue in 1960, will recommend ways in which the traditional concept of the American university can be adapted, in principle and in practice, to present-day relations of the United States with other nations. In the course of preparing its report, the committee will examine the educational and research work of universities related to international affairs, the role of the universities in assisting foreign countries to develop educational and research institutions and the cooperation of universities in government technical-assistance programs and in programs for the exchange of students and faculty.

The Ford Foundation has appropriated funds for the committee's research, operating, and publication expenses. The group will be independent of the foundation, however, and its recommendations will be entirely its own.

In addition to Morrill, the members of the committee are as follows: Harold Boeschstein, president, Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation; Harvie Branscomb, chancellor, Vanderbilt University; Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; John W. Gardner, president, Carnegie Corporation of New York; Franklin D. Murphy, chancellor, University of Kansas; Philip D. Reed, chairman of the Finance Committee, General Electric Company; and Dean Rusk, president, Rockefeller Foundation. Ralph J. Bunche, under secretary for special political affairs of the United Nations will serve as consultant.

Since World War II, American universities have expanded their international interests. According to statistics compiled by the Institute of International Education, 47,245 students from 131 foreign countries were studying on American campuses in 1958-59. In addition, 1937 foreign professors, lecturers, and research scholars were on the faculties of 288 American institutions. On the other hand, 1842 faculty members from 367 American colleges and universities were in teaching, research, or consultive assignments in 82 foreign countries.

The new committee's primary objective will be to make policy recommendations to both universities and the government for more effective participation by American educational institutions in international affairs.

### **AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writers Contest Draws 166 Entries**

Science writers whose work appears in American newspapers and magazines have submitted 166 articles for the AAAS - Westinghouse Science Writing Awards competition. A prize of \$1000 for the best article appearing in each type of publication will be awarded at the annual AAAS meeting in Chicago this December.

Of the entries submitted, 102 were articles that appeared in magazines between 1 October 1958 and 30 September 1959, the time span for the contest, and 64 were newspaper stories. Some participants submitted multiple entries.

A committee composed of Hillier Kriegbaum, department of journalism, New York University; Sidney Negus, department of biochemistry, Medical College of Virginia; and James Stokley, school of journalism, Michigan State University will screen the entries. Seven judges will choose the two prize-winning articles from those selected by the committee. In addition to the \$1000 prizes, citations will be awarded to the newspaper and magazine in which the articles appeared. At the discretion of the judges, special citations also may be awarded for distinguished service in science journalism.

The judges are: Graham DuShane, editor of *Science*; Earl English, dean of the school of journalism at the University of Missouri; Caryl Haskins, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; James A. Linen, publisher of *Time*; Morris Meister, president of Bronx Community College; Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation; and J. Russell Wiggins, vice president and executive editor, *Washington Post and Times Herald*, and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

### **"Century 21" Postponed until 1962**

The international Century 21 Exposition, originally scheduled to open in Seattle, Wash., in May 1961, will open instead in April 1962. This world fair

will emphasize science and its relationship to the development of man. On 9 September Congress allocated \$9 million for federal participation, the largest amount ever appropriated for an international exposition in the United States. On the following day Century 21 launched a study to examine the exposition's time schedule as it related to building and exhibit design and construction, and to the equally important matter of obtaining significant participation from U.S. industry, foreign governments, and other potential exhibitors.

The 3-week study was completed by 1 October, after correspondence and conferences with representatives of foreign governments, U.S. industry, the National Science Planning Board, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the General Services Administration, and others who have a role in organizing the exposition. On the basis of the report of the study, the exposition officers and steering committee have recommended the later opening date. Concurrence in this action has been obtained from the U.S. Department of Commerce; Frölich Rainey and members of the National Science Planning Board; the General Services Administration; Allen Beach, deputy director of the exposition; and various interested U.S. industries.

The Department of Commerce has appointed an architect to plan the federal science pavilion and is beginning work on the comprehensive exhibit-design program made possible by the Congressional appropriation.

The General Services Administration will direct the design and construction of the federal science pavilion.

Beach met recently in Washington with representatives of foreign embassies. In July these embassies received their first formal invitations from the U.S. State Department. Beach's report showed that most foreign governments that are now expressing interest in becoming exhibitors are convinced they will need additional time to obtain exhibit funds from their legislative bodies.

Various U.S. industries have been awaiting federal action which would determine whether Century 21 is to be an international exposition or merely a regional fair. Representatives of these industries point out that their 1960 budgets are now being completed. If their exhibits are to be of international-exposition caliber, special appropriations from their boards will be necessary.

### **Physician-Population Ratio Declining**

The Public Health Service reports that the ratio of physicians to population in the United States, which has ranged between 131 and 135 per 100,000 persons for 20 years, will drop to 126 per 100,000 by 1975 unless the rate of graduating students increases substantially. The number of dentists per 100,000 persons in the population will decline even more sharply. These predictions are provided by a recent PHS publication, *Health Manpower Source Book, Section 9: Physicians, Dentists, Nurses*, which describes trends in the education, location, and specialization in the professions named.

In the academic year 1958-59, the 85 medical schools in the United States graduated 6895 physicians. To maintain the present physician-population ratio, U.S. medical schools would need to graduate about 10,360 students by 1975 — nearly 3000 above the 7410 graduates currently predicted for that year.

The 47 dental schools in the United States graduated 3083 dentists in the academic year 1957-58. Despite the addition of eight new dental schools since World War II and large increases in the number of graduates, the ratio of dentists to population remains below pre-World War II levels. This decline is expected to continue. To regain the current dentist-population ratio, about 2700 more dental graduates above the number currently predicted will be needed in 1975. This requires a 75-percent increase in the number of dental students who, according to present estimates, will be graduated during that year.

According to the report, the ratio of dentists was 62 per 100,000 people in 1940, 57 in 1958, and is expected to decline to about 50 per 100,000 in 1975.

### **Belvedere Fund Established**

Belvedere Scientific Fund has been established in San Francisco to support activities and provide grants in the fields of natural science. Present interest is centering upon Baja California, Mexico. Scientific director of the fund is Ira L. Wiggins, who is on leave from Stanford University.

The fund, in cooperation with the California Academy of Sciences, began investigations of the natural history of Baja California in the autumn of 1958. Two extended overland expeditions and