8) Both parties agree to inform the World Health Organization of the activities carried out under this section of this agreement. . . .

Section X. Exchange of Publications

1) Both parties, having exchanged their views on the problems of distributing the magazines *Amerika* in the Soviet Union and *U.S.S.R.* in the United States, have agreed on the desirability of facilitating the distribution of these magazines on the basis of reciprocity. Examination of measures taken by both parties to achieve this end will continue, with the aim of increasing the distribution of these magazines to 77,000 copies each.

2) Both parties agree to assist in the exchange of books, magazines, and other publications devoted to scientific, cultural, technical, and educational subjects by encouraging exchanges of books and publications between universities and public libraries of the U.S. and U.S.S.R.

Section XI. Exchange of Exhibitions

1) Both parties will provide for the exchange of exhibitions during 1960–61.

Soviet exhibitions in the U.S.A.: (a) medicine and medical services; (b) children's books and illustrations; (c) children's artistic and technical work (drawings, models, and toys made by children).

United States exhibits in the U.S.S.R.: (a) medicine and medical services; (b) plastics; (c) transport.

2) Other exhibitions, as well as participation in internation exhibitions which take place in each country during 1960–61, will be determined by mutual agreement. The parties will likewise discuss in the near future the possibility of exchanging national exhibitions in subsequent years.

Radioactive Waste Disposal Discussed in Monaco

A week of discussions at the international conference in Monaco on the disposal of radioactive waste ended on 21 November on a note of general agreement that whatever methods of disposal are chosen, they must have the overriding aim of not endangering man either immediately or in the long run. This view was summed up in a closing speech by G. W. C. Tait, director of the Division of Health, Safety, and Waste Disposal of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which had organized the conference jointly with UNESCO and in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization. The conference was attended by 308 specialists from 32 countries and 11 international organizations.

The meeting opened on 16 November with a speech by the IAEA director general, Sterling Cole, who emphasized that the problem of radioactive waste was really one of storage rather than of disposal. Even if there is no ready use for this material now, he said, this does not mean that a use will not be found in the course of time.

In the papers presented at the conference and in the course of the discussions that followed, the problem of waste disposal was discussed from all the major practical and theoretical points of view. Some scientists gave an indication of the amount of the wastes now being produced or likely to be produced in the future. For example, an American scientist stated that in the United States alone, the nuclear power industry would have produced, by the year 2000, wastes amounting to about 3 million curies of activity.

Solutions in Various Countries

One scientist expressed the view that the normal operation of a nuclear reactor raises no great problems; the main danger lies in the operation of fuel reprocessing plants. As for the problem of atmospheric contamination, he said, the solution lies both in good design of nuclear plants, so as to limit the production of wastes, and in improved methods of cleaning the air released by these plants.

An expert from Norway, speaking of the potential suitability of the earth's atmosphere for disposal operations, said that radioactive particles remain in the stratosphere for a period long enough to allow certain substances to become harmless before they return to the earth's surface. A scientist from the Danish Atomic Energy Commission told how the Riso research establishment has constructed a decontamination plant for reducing radioactivity in liquid waste to less than one-tenth of the maximum set for drinking water. A scientist from the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority described disposal methods at Harwell, where extreme care has to be taken because low-level liquid waste is discharged after special treatment into the Thames, the main source of London's drinking water. No solid waste is buried at Harwell, because of the danger of possible seepage into the river. Methods now being tested in France for the disposal of solid wastes were described by two experts from the French Atomic Energy Commission. A Soviet scientist said that the fixation of radioactive material in glass under high temperature is being studied in the Soviet Union; this process is intended to make the material solid and to reduce its solubility before it is buried.

Several papers dealt with the legal, administrative, and other general aspects of waste disposal. Some of the experts stressed the international nature of the problem and said that existing regulations in other, similar fields might serve as models in devising international regulations for the disposal of radioactive waste.

Sea Disposal

A subject which provoked considerable discussion concerned waste disposal in the sea. A Soviet scientist said that experts in his country hold the view that no isolation of deep waters exists in the oceans. An expert on oceanography from the United States said that ten times as much money and as many facilities as are now available are needed for research on this subject; that radioactive waste is bound to get into the seas, whether one wants it or not; and that the more we find out about the circulation of radioactive elements in the oceans, the more economically we will be able to dispose of them. A Soviet scientist suggested that physicists and chemists should collaborate with oceanographers in studying the problem. Another Soviet expert maintained that disposal in the ground is the safest method available today; that the material should be enclosed in solid blocks of concrete or glass and stored at appropriate depths and under the permanent control of human beings.

News Briefs

The History of Science Society will meet in Chicago, 29–30 December, at the Congress Hotel, in cooperation with the American Historical Association. A broad program has been arranged by the officers of the History of Science Society, under the direction of Henry Guerlac, president of the society and professor of the history of medicine at Cornell University. The program will include a business meeting of the society, as well as a business meeting of the George Sarton Memorial Foundation. The latter, a nonprofit institution,