

may be seeking an arrangement whereby advance notice would be given by any country of its plans to launch objects into outer space.

The permanent 24-nation committee was established by the U.N. General Assembly last December after the successful completion of direct negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the question of the membership of the committee. The committee is to have seven members from the Soviet bloc, 12 from the West, and five from neutral countries. The Soviet Union boycotted the temporary United Nations Outer Space Committee, which went out of existence last September, on the ground that it was controlled by a majority from the West.

The United States has also asked that an international scientific conference on problems in space research—a conference that the United Nations is scheduled to sponsor in 1960 or 1961—be held this year. The United States suggests that the conference be held in Geneva the first 2 weeks in September.

Meanwhile, President Eisenhower conceded at his news conference on 13 January that the Soviet Union has the right to use the central Pacific as a target in its projected series of missile experiments. On 7 January, the day of the President's State of the Union address, the Soviet Union announced its plans to test rockets in that region.

### **Societies Sponsor Visiting Foreign Scientist Programs**

A special program to provide for visits of foreign scientists to U.S. research institutions will be conducted by the American Institute of Biological Sciences during 1960–61. A \$50,000 National Science Foundation grant has made it possible to expand the existing AIBS Visiting Biologists Program to include distinguished biologists living outside the United States.

Oswald Tippo of Yale University, chairman of the AIBS Education Committee, said the committee undertook the new activity in the belief that small colleges as well as large centers will be interested in obtaining scientists from overseas for seminars and for speaking or teaching assignments. Initially the program will operate on a small scale, in view of logistic problems.

Requests for speakers will be accepted

from any institution. A detailed itinerary for a speaker's visit must accompany each request.

There will be no geographical limitations in the selection of speakers. Those selected will receive subsistence as well as honoraria to cover the expense of travel (by air) from any country in the world. Institutions will be asked to provide on-campus subsistence as their contribution to the program.

Each official AIBS-sponsored visit will occupy 4 weeks. During this time the speaker must visit at least four institutions, spending 3 to 5 days at each. It is hoped that at the conclusion of his AIBS assignment other groups will utilize his services while he is in this country.

Requests will be received until 1 April 1960. Immediately thereafter a committee will meet to review the requests. Notification of the action taken by the committee will be sent to each institution as soon as possible.

Requests should be addressed to the Foreign Visiting Lecturers Program, American Institute of Biological Sciences, 2000 P St., NW, Washington 6, D.C.

### **Engineers Announce Similar Project**

The Engineers Joint Council has announced that it too will conduct an NSF-supported program for visiting foreign scientists during the next 6 months. However, the visiting scientists will be chosen by the appropriate engineering society in the five specialty areas.

Enoch R. Needles, EJC president, reports that, although the program is planned primarily to aid departments of engineering that have Ph.D. programs and active research activities, "attention will also be given, when possible, to the needs and desires of institutions whose developing programs of teaching and research could be given strong impetus by such visits." The invited foreign scientists will also be given an opportunity to attend appropriate engineering society meetings and visit nonuniversity research organizations. John S. Koss, staff assistant at the Engineers Joint Council, will direct the program from council headquarters in New York.

### **Physicists Report on Their Program**

The American Institute of Physics reports that Denys Wilkinson of the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, England, was the first of the distinguished

physicists from other countries to take part in the Visiting Foreign Scientists Program in Physics, which is being conducted jointly by the institute and the American Association of Physics Teachers under a grant from the National Science Foundation. During November and December, Wilkinson visited Louisiana State University, Stanford University, and the University of Washington, spending approximately a week at each institution. He discussed research problems with physicists at those universities, gave lectures on his work on the structure of light nuclei and the photonuclear interaction, as well as popular lectures, and met undergraduate physics majors.

Itineraries are now being arranged for visits by other physicists, from the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Italy, to physics departments in the United States. The average visit will last a week.

Expressions of interest by physics departments, stating preferred times and fields of physics, should be directed to the Visiting Foreign Scientists Program at AIP (335 E. 45 St., New York 17). The Visiting Foreign Scientists Program supplements the Visiting Scientists Program in Physics, under which visits by U.S. physicists to colleges, universities, and high schools are currently being arranged by AAPT and AIP under NSF grants.

### **International Computer Federation Formed by Eleven Nations**

The International Federation of Information Processing Societies was established this month when 11 nations ratified the statutes for the organization. The new body provides for the first time a common meeting ground for computer experts from all over the world. Until now, many countries, including the United States, have had their own professional computer societies, but these groups have had no permanent, formal means of meeting and exchanging ideas.

The movement to form the federation was a direct result of the first International Conference on Information Processing, sponsored by UNESCO and held in Paris last June. As a result, a provisional bureau for the international federation was established, with Isaac L. Auerbach, president of Auerbach Electronics Corporation, Narberth, Pa., named provisional chairman. Auerbach