

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

represents the National Joint Computer Committee of the U.S. and was U.S. consultant to UNESCO for the Paris conference. Also named to the provisional committee were A. A. Dorodnitsyn of the U.S.S.R. and A. van Wijngaarden of the Netherlands, vice chairmen, and J. A. Mussard of UNESCO, secretary.

The countries whose national computer societies have ratified the statutes include Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In addition, Belgium, Israel, and Japan are forming national computer societies to qualify for membership.

The National Joint Computer Committee, the U.S. member of the federation, is made up of representatives of the Institute of Radio Engineers, the Association for Computing Machinery, and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

It is expected that the first meeting of the IFIPS council, later this year, will result in plans for a second International Conference on Information Processing and for a technical exhibit, in 1963.

### **Implications of the Use of Space To Be Studied by Brookings**

An exploratory study on the social, economic, and political implications of the use of space for peaceful and scientific purposes will be undertaken by the Brookings Institution for the National Aeronautics and Space Agency. The project, which will take a year to complete, will attempt to identify areas worthy of research, to recommend specific studies and methods of conducting them, to suggest priorities in carrying out the research, and to indicate the potential utility of the findings.

The assistance of distinguished natural scientists and social scientists will be enlisted in assessing the important social implications of space activities. The study is a step toward one of the objectives set forth in NASA's enabling legislation: "The establishment of long-term studies of the potential benefits to be gained from, the opportunities for, and the problems involved in, the utilization of aeronautical and space activities for peaceful and scientific purposes."

The project will be conducted under the general guidance of James M. Mitchell, director of the Brookings Conference Program on Public Affairs and

former associate director of the National Science Foundation. Donald N. Michael, who has had broad experience in government and industry—most recently as senior research associate with Dunlap and Associates, Inc., and previously as a scientific warfare adviser for the Weapons Systems Evaluation Group, Joint Chiefs of Staff—has joined the Brookings staff to direct the study.

### **Decline in Undergraduate Enrollment in Engineering Colleges**

Undergraduate enrollment in the nation's 234 engineering colleges and universities declined 5.4 percent last fall in the face of an all-time high in general college enrollment, according to a report prepared in the office of U.S. Commissioner of Education Lawrence G. Derthick. The number of full-time and part-time undergraduates in engineering schools last fall was 243,000 as compared with 257,000 in the fall of 1958. General college enrollment rose from 3,259,000 in the fall of 1958 to 3,402,000 in 1959—an increase of over 4 percent.

The most significant feature of the decline in undergraduate enrollment in the engineering schools is that freshmen enrollments declined for the second consecutive year. The total number of freshmen in engineering courses in the fall of 1959 was 68,000, as compared with 70,000 in the fall of 1958. This is a reduction of 3 percent. The 1958 11-percent decline in full-time freshmen engineering enrollments is largely reflected, according to the report, in a 10-percent drop in sophomore enrollments last fall. The reduction in the number of full-time engineering sophomores is from about 53,000 to about 48,000.

Full-time junior enrollments in engineering classes last fall declined 7 percent (from about 47,000 to less than 44,000), and senior full-time enrollments, about 2 percent (from over 48,000 to approximately 47,000). The 36,000 part-time engineering students are included in the total undergraduate figure cited, but not in the figures for each undergraduate level. Part-time students are not ordinarily identifiable by class level.

The number of graduate students in engineering schools in the fall of 1959 was something over 35,000 as compared with a little less than 33,000 in the fall of 1958.

### **Science Teachers To Meet**

School science programs—from kindergarten through the 12th grade—will be the main concern of approximately 2000 teachers when they meet in Kansas City, 29 March–2 April, for the eighth annual convention of the National Science Teachers Association. The program includes two Nobel Prize winners, Linus C. Pauling and Walter H. Brattain. Association president Donald G. Decker, who is dean of Colorado State College at Greeley, will set the stage for discussions throughout the convention at the opening general session, when he will outline the problems and issues involved in teaching science today.

Current science topics will be explored in an extensive "Frontiers of Science" series of discussion sessions. Addresses by college and research scientists will focus attention on recent developments in the major fields of science. Included in the "Frontiers" program, in addition to Pauling and Brattain, will be such outstanding speakers as George B. Kistiakowsky, science adviser to President Eisenhower, and John R. Heller, director of the U.S. National Cancer Institute.

For the first time, conferences for science supervisors, consultants, and coordinators will be given NSTA sectional status when they are convened on the mornings of 29 and 30 March. The evening general session on 31 March will feature the announcement of winners in the STAR '60 awards program for science teachers. Winners are selected on the basis of entries demonstrating effective science-teaching methods. An award of \$1000 and 55 others totalling \$12,500 will be presented. Approximately 100 commercial exhibits of science-teaching materials, the largest number at any NSTA convention, will be displayed in the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium, where all the general convention sessions will be held. Banquet and luncheon sessions and other related meetings will be held in the two convention headquarters hotels, the Muehlebach and the Phillips.

### **Grants, Fellowships, and Awards**

**Laboratory constructions.** The National Science Foundation has announced that the next closing date for the receipt of proposals for support of renovation or construction of labora-