

AAAS Meeting Site Changed: New York, Not Philadelphia, To Be Host This Year

The location of the 1960 AAAS annual meeting, to be held 26-31 December, has been changed from Philadelphia to New York.

In June 1955, the Board of Directors selected sites for the Association's annual meetings for the years 1959-62 and decided on Philadelphia for 1960. Accordingly, a request to the local convention bureau for adequate accommodations was made, and acknowledged, shortly thereafter. Unfortunately, at a later date, another large convention was booked in Philadelphia for 26-31 December, on the assumption that there would still be adequate facilities to accommodate the AAAS. This other commitment, which made one large and two smaller hotels unavailable for the AAAS meeting, was not brought to the Association's attention until the time of the recent Chicago meeting.

In January a survey of the remaining hotel facilities and other possible meeting rooms throughout Philadel-

phia made it clear that, while a meeting could be held there, it would be an extremely inconvenient one: The exhibits would have to be located either in the Convention Hall, 2 miles from the downtown hotels, or in the lobby and lower-level Garden Terrace Room of the Benjamin Franklin Hotel; the AAAS presidential address and reception would have to be held in the Academy of Music, blocks away; and at least half the concurrent sessions on days when the schedule was heaviest would have to be assigned to medical classrooms, company recreation rooms, courtrooms, and perhaps department-store fashion rooms. Quite possibly there would have been a scarcity of hotel bedrooms.

Though last-minute changes in location are never desirable, the Association decided to look for a more adequate and convenient meeting site. Fortunately, the Grand Central zone of New York City was open, and the AAAS Executive Committee

has voted unanimously to hold the 1960 meeting there.

All the facilities of the Commodore, Biltmore, Roosevelt, and Belmont Plaza hotels, and a large part of the facilities of the Waldorf-Astoria, are available for this year's convention. In the first four, uniform flat rates of accommodation will be as follows: single room, \$8.50; room with double bed, \$14; room with twin beds, \$15.50. The Waldorf has reserved at least 400 rooms at the following flat rates: single room, \$10; room with double bed, \$16; room with twin beds, \$18. Since the five hotels are well equipped and grouped in the area around Grand Central Station, a particularly convenient and comfortable meeting is assured.

Rockefeller Center, the many new buildings of Park Avenue, and the Fifth Avenue shops are all within easy walking distance, and those who attend this year's meeting will find a wide variety of things to see and do before and after the sessions.

the opportunity to provide for it now."

This is one of the more usual opposition arguments. Defenders answer by saying that laws already exist under which it is possible to prosecute a person who advocates overthrow of the government. Nevertheless, Senator Karl E. Mundt (R-S.D.) is expected to offer an amendment under which there would be no inquiry into belief as such—thus meeting the issue of constitutionality—but under which an active Communist party member could be prosecuted.

Opposition to repeal of the disclaimer affidavit is expected to be greater in the House than in the Senate. Although eight repeal bills have been introduced in the House, there has been no action. All of the bills have been referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, whose chairman, Representative Graham A. Barden (D-N.C.), said emphatically a year ago: "I will resist with everything that is within me the removal of that provision." He also commented that the academic community was "interested in the money, then they want to raise a great howl about taking

an oath of allegiance to America."

Another influential member of the House committee, Representative Carl Elliott (D-Ala.), who is chairman of the Special Education Subcommittee, to which the repeal bills have been assigned, stated publicly only a few weeks ago that he "wasn't worried" about the few schools opposed to the affidavit and had no plans to schedule hearings.

In contrast, the administrator of the federal student-loan fund, John F. Morse, said as long ago as mid-November that if more colleges dropped out, this could lead to "destruction of a magnificent program." He expressed sympathy with the reasons given by institutions for withdrawing, but he pointed out that the Education Act was passed for the benefit of needy students, not for the benefit of institutions, and observed: "Wealthy institutions may well provide these benefits from other sources, but there are a number of institutions which, if they were to take the stand Harvard, Yale and others have taken, would literally force students out of college."

The precedent for the Education Act's non-Communist affidavit may be found in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, from which the present controversial provision was copied. The foundation administers its own fellowship funds—and loyalty-oath provisions—whereas educational institutions must process the applications for Education Act funds. To date, more than 12,000 applicants have signed the NSF affidavit to qualify for graduate science fellowships, and there has been no organized protest from the scientific community.

President Explains New United States Test Ban Proposal

The following is the text of a White House statement on the new United States proposal for a ban on nuclear weapons tests. The proposal, which the Soviet Union is reported to have labeled "unacceptable," was formally presented at the Geneva test-ban conference on 11 February.

The United States representative at the Geneva conference on the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests is presenting today a proposal for the ending of nuclear weapons tests in all the environments that can now be effectively controlled.

The new United States proposal would ban all tests above ground up to the greatest heights to which effective controls can now be agreed, all tests in the oceans, and all underground tests above the present limit (or "threshold") of detection and identification.

At the same time the proposal includes provision for a program of joint research and experimentation by the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States to improve the detection of small tests under ground and thus permit the extension of the ban to such tests. Extensive research and experimentation is already under way in the United States to improve detection instruments and techniques.

Would Allay World Concern

The new approach, if agreed to, should allay world-wide concern over possible increases in levels of radioactivity, since it discontinues all tests which can release radioactivity into the atmosphere.

As for underground tests, the proposal represents an effort to find ways around the significant disagreements that remained unresolved in the technical working group which reported to the conference in December. The proposal would ban those tests which cause seismic magnitude readings of 4.75 or more. This is the level that can now be adequately monitored. We propose to express the level in terms of signal strength, since Soviet and Western scientists are in substantial agreement as to the measurement of signals but not on the equivalent kiloton yields of seismic disturbances.

The United States, since the inception of the Geneva conference on the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests, has persistently sought a lasting, safeguarded agreement banning all nuclear weapons tests. We have, at the same time, indicated willingness, as in our proposal of May 5, 1959, to move immediately to consolidate in a first step agreement, the broadest existing area of agreement while remaining difficulties are being worked out.

Major Difficulties Unresolved

With the failure to reach agreement after the technical conference which ended on Dec. 19, 1959, it became clear that a controlled, comprehensive agreement could not, at this time, be achieved without great improvement in instrumentation or a degree of on-site inspection which would be impractical to attempt. Lack of agreement at this conference has left unresolved major technical difficulties in detecting underground explosions as well as the procedures that must be established if on-site inspections are to be satisfactorily initiated and carried out.

In this situation, the United States is determined to make all possible progress toward the ultimate objective of the negotiations. We believe that the proposal placed before the conference today, if entered into in good faith by the parties concerned, will lead toward eventual prohibition of all nuclear weapons tests under the practical and adequate safeguards that we deem as indispensable prerequisites.

If accepted, the proposal will end forthwith, under assured controls:

- (1) All nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere;
- (2) All nuclear weapons tests in the oceans;
- (3) All nuclear weapons tests in those regions in space where effective controls can now be agreed on; and
- (4) All controllable nuclear weapons tests beneath the surface of the earth.

Further Extension Expected

Moreover, it will permit, through a joint program of research and experimentation, the ban to be systematically extended to remaining areas under ground, where adequate control measures are not now possible to incorporate.

These are initial, far-reaching, but readily attainable steps. They are steps which offer an opportunity to consolidate the important progress made in the negotiations thus far. These steps will also allay worldwide concern over possible increases in levels of radioactivity. More importantly, they will greatly enhance the prospects for future international arms limitation and control agreements.

It is our hope that the Soviet Union, in the light of a reasoned and objective appraisal of the facts, will join with us

in this constructive beginning. Such an agreement could be a milestone toward the securing of a just and enduring peace.

Filmed High-School Biology Course Offered by AIBS

A complete modern high-school biology course in color motion pictures has been introduced by the American Institute of Biological Sciences (2000 P St., NW, Washington 6, D.C.). The course will be available for use in American classrooms next September.

Planned and in production for more than 2 years, the film series embodies content recommended and approved by nearly 200 of the leading contemporary biologists and by members of professional organizations representing the great majority of America's biology teachers. These organizations include the AIBS, the National Association of Biology Teachers, and the National Science Teachers Association.

Portions of the course already have been pretested by 200 teachers with classes totalling 7000 pupils in large, small, urban, rural, public, and private high schools in all parts of the country, Hiden T. Cox, executive director of the AIBS, announced. "The overall response of these young people has been tremendous," Cox said. "Some changes were made as a result of the pretesting, but there are overwhelming indications of comprehension and learning through the films."

Use of Course Explained

The course employs modern instructional media and imaginative use of filmed material, including inserts showing prominent biologists and leading biological laboratories and field stations and inserts of portions of outstanding American and foreign research films. The inserts include cinemicrographic film, still photographs, and animated sequences.

A total of 120 films, each of 30 minutes' length, makes up the course. Each film is basically of the lecture-demonstration type. The complete package of 120 provides a full year of high-quality instruction (recommended usage is for not more than three films to be shown in any 1 week). Smaller units of 12 films on major areas of biological knowledge, or individual films