

President's official family, was optimistic. Reaction to the newly accelerated arms race will provide some positive force toward an agreement, he said. But beyond that he was hopeful because, in his unquotable words, you have to be to get anywhere on the problem. Disarmament will come, he felt certain. The question is whether it will come about before or after World War III.—ROBERT TOTH.

While Howard Margolis is on vacation, his section will be written by guest reporters. Robert Toth, this week's guest, is on the staff of the New York Herald Tribune.

U.N. Specialized Agencies: With Few Exceptions, They Are Unaffected by International Political Storms

The turmoil that currently afflicts the United Nations' political organs has had few repercussions in the U.N.'s numerous scientific and technical agencies.

In contrast to the pessimism and uncertainty that envelop the General Assembly and the Security Council, an atmosphere of business as usual exists in such specialized agencies as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization. While these and many of the other specialized agencies are closely associated with the United Nations, they are organically and to a large extent financially independent.

Membership is on a voluntary basis, open to nations regardless of whether they belong to the U.N. West Germany, for example, is not a U.N. member, but belongs to virtually all U.N.-associated agencies. The Soviet Union and most Eastern Bloc nations have not chosen to join FAO—presumably to shield agricultural deficiencies from Western eyes. However, the U.N. dues of these nations help provide U.N. supplemental funds for the FAO budget, and FAO has been carrying out its work beyond the range of political shock waves.

Of particular significance for the various agencies' immunity from international strife is the fact that their programs rarely touch raw nerves in the East-West conflict. When they do, however, the possibilities for effectiveness become extremely limited.

UNESCO, with a current biennial budget of \$32,514,228 of member

funds, plus over \$23 million in funds provided by the U.N., has given priority to primary education in Latin America, arid land research, and the promotion of cultural understanding between the Orient and the Occident. These programs step on no one's toes and in many respects parallel foreign-aid efforts by both the Soviet Union and the United States. UNESCO sources say they are being carried out free of the turbulence now buffeting the political bodies of the U.N.

The political weather around the International Atomic Energy Agency is in sharp contrast. The agency, founded in 1957 on the basis of President Eisenhower's atoms-for-peace proposal, has experienced slow growth because of delays in reactor development and East-West differences over nuclear inspection. Last week, in the detailed U.S. disarmament plan issued after President Kennedy's U.N. address, it was proposed that the IAEA exercise safeguards over the international transfer of fissionable materials. In addition, as was pointed out in the *New York Times* several days later, the U.S. was close to completing a bilateral agreement with IAEA for inspection of the experimental reactors at Piqua, Ohio, and Argonne National Laboratory, and of the graphite and medical research reactors at the Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The object of the disarmament proposal and the inspection agreement, according to an American spokesman at the U.N., was to elevate IAEA's standing as an agency for implementing nuclear control agreements, and to establish for it a role as an international instrument for inspection. The proposal for an IAEA role in the East-West dispute over implementation of an arms agreement set the agency at once apart from the political placidity common to most of the other U.N. agencies.

Vienna Meeting

At IAEA's general conference in Vienna, Vasily S. Yemelyanov, head of the Soviet Atomic Energy Authority, warned against attempting to extend the scope of the agency. He charged that the United States is attempting to use the agency for political purposes, and opposed any steps designed to turn the agency into an instrument of arms control.

While Yemelyanov apparently was reacting to the prospect of IAEA being thrust into the touchy area of nuclear

inspection, American delegates were optimistically announcing progress in Soviet-American discussions on joint construction of a gigantic nuclear accelerator. The motivation for these discussions was the desire to share knowledge and costs.

As in the cases of UNESCO, FAO, and other agencies, East-West cooperation finds fertile ground outside the boundaries of Cold War interests.—D.S.G.

General Electric, with Prospects Dimmed by FCC, Drops Bid for Communication Satellite

The General Electric Company has formally withdrawn its application for participation in the development of a space satellite communication system. G.E.'s action strengthens the commanding position held in this field by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and is certain to intensify congressional misgivings about the FCC's apparent predilection for an ownership arrangement that the Justice Department has charged would give dominance to A.T.&T.

General Electric's bid for participation in the potentially lucrative business of space communications was never warmly received by the FCC. A.T.&T., which got a head start in development of space communication plans, proposed to the FCC last spring that the system be limited to international carriers, that is, firms licensed for overseas communication activities. The proposal was countered by G.E., which sought to have the system opened to equipment manufacturers as well as carriers. In a ruling endorsing the A.T.&T. position, the FCC stated that inclusion of the equipment manufacturers could "result in encumbering the system with complicated and costly corporate relationships, disrupting operational patterns that have been established in the international common carrier industry, and impeding effective regulation of the rates and services of the industry."

General Electric's position, backed by a number of major manufacturing firms, was supported by the Justice Department. The antitrust division argued that with A.T.&T.'s dominance in domestic and overseas telephone service, exclusion of the manufacturers would give A.T.&T. overwhelming control of any system made up solely of carriers.

The FCC, meanwhile, went ahead and directed nine international carriers, led by A.T.&T., to report by 13 October on joint development and operation of a system. Simultaneously, the FCC rejected G.E.'s petition to include equipment manufacturers. Three days later, A.T.&T. and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration signed an agreement for the launching of two to four satellites next year at an estimated cost to A.T.&T. of \$6 million each.

Testifying before several congressional committees, FCC Chairman Newton Minow indicated that the door had not been shut irrevocably against the manufacturers. He said that they "may well be" permitted to participate eventually, and he declared that the FCC would not tolerate domination by any one firm.

General Electric, however, showed no inclination to tie up substantial assets on the basis of this assurance. With its current prospects snuffed out, it wrote the FCC on 22 September that it was dissolving Communications Satellites, Inc., which it had formed to pursue space communications activities. The unit, according to a company official, had approximately 100 employees, and they have been reassigned to other activities.

Soviet Medical Exhibition

A Soviet medical exhibition, which had been scheduled to begin a 60-day U.S. tour on 23 September [*Science* **134**, 932 (29 Sept. 1961)], and an American transportation exhibition which was to open in Moscow on the same date, have been indefinitely postponed by the Russians.

On 1 September the U.S. State Department asked to review the Russian contract with a Brooklyn construction company handling the medical exhibition, in order to ensure that liaison men assigned to Soviet exchanges in the U.S. will be paid. Soviet representatives stated that there was no formal agreement between the two countries allowing the right of review, and charged the U.S. with "interference."

The Soviet exhibition, still crated, is under the custody of U.S. Customs officials. The American exhibition, partially completed at the time of the postponement, is now being dismantled and crated in the event the show is ordered to continue to Stalingrad.

Announcements

Designs have been completed for an **aluminum research submarine**, which will be used by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution as a part of a research program sponsored by the Office of Naval Research.

The 51-foot, battery-powered *Aluminaut*, equipped with sonar, television cameras, and mechanical devices to retrieve specimens, will have an 80-mile operating range and will be capable of descending to 15,000 feet. It will be used initially to study submarine canyons, the edge of the continental shelf, and the daily vertical migration of marine animals. Designed by Reynolds International, Inc., a subsidiary of Reynolds Metals Company, the three-man craft will be constructed by General Dynamics Corporation's Electric Boat Division. Launching is scheduled for 1963.

Visiting professors in astronomy are currently available for 2-day intervals during the current academic year through a program established by the American Astronomical Society. Educational institutions wishing to utilize this service should write the Visiting Professors Committee at one of the following addresses:

East: Franklyn M. Branley, The American Museum-Hayden Planetarium, 81 St. and Central Park West, New York 24.

Middle West: Victor M. Blanco, Case Observatory, Taylor & Brunswick Roads, East, Cleveland 12, Ohio.

West: Seth B. Nicholson, Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories, 813 Santa Barbara St., Pasadena, Calif.

A pamphlet on **family food stockpile for survival** has been published by the Department of Agriculture. The booklet, available free of charge, includes information on how to store and how often to replace food stockpiles; it also lists equipment needed for emergency cooking and gives sample menus for a reasonably balanced diet. (Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D.C. Order No. HG-77)

Airlie Foundation, a **conference center** in a rural setting about 40 miles from Washington, D.C., has opened for the use of educational, research and governmental organizations. The center is located on a 1200-acre estate and has facilities for 100 overnight

guests. A variety of conference rooms can accommodate small and large meetings. In addition, facilities for recreation are provided. The foundation is incorporated on a nonprofit basis. Among the organizations planning conferences at Airlie are the Brookings Institution and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. (Airlie Foundation, Warrenton, Va.)

Copies of a preliminary directory of the **biomedical library resources** in the Pacific area, presented at the 10th Pacific Science Congress (Honolulu, 22 Aug.-2 Sept.), are available on request. (National Library of Medicine, U.S. Public Health Service, Washington 25, D.C.)

Cytologists and geneticists who may have previously sent reprints of their work to Friedrich Mechelke, a German cytologist formerly with the Institut für Kulturpflanzenforschung in East Germany, are requested to send new copies. In the process of leaving East Germany in the last days before the closing of the barriers, Mechelke lost all of his scientific data, literature, and personal possessions. (Friedrich Mechelke, c/o Dr. J. Straub, Max-Planck-Institut für Züchtungsforschung, Köln-Vogelsang, West Germany)

Courses

A 2-week postgraduate course in **allergy** is being offered from 5 to 16 March 1962 by the University of Pennsylvania. The course consists of a review of the basic principles of immunology and allergy as applied to clinical practice, with emphasis on the methods of diagnosis and management of allergic patients. Enrollment is limited. Tuition: \$175. (George Blumstein, c/o Temple Medical Center, Philadelphia 40, Pa.)

An 8-week course on **science research in contemporary Europe**, sponsored by the State University of New York and the Experiment in International Living, will be held during the summer of 1962. Participants will visit research institutions, oceanographic stations, zoological and botanical gardens, and museums in Rome, Venice, Genoa, Monaco, Marseilles, Paris, Brussels, The Hague, and London. (Walter Lerner, State University of New York, College of Education, Geneseo)