

Persons familiar with the Soviet scientific community point out that while Western scientists no doubt would find many aspects of Soviet life constricting, Soviet scientists appear to be quite content. Outside of the biological sciences, which have been severely affected by the dominance of Lysenko, there is little evidence that ideology has curbed scientific inquiry. The work of Soviet scientists not only is well supported by the government, but scientists also occupy an elevated position in Soviet society and are rewarded with superior pay scales, living conditions, and prestige.

What is perhaps most revealing on the question of scientific discontent is that defections among Soviet scientists are a rarity, though they are among the most widely traveled of their countrymen. Rigorous screening may, of course, be a factor, but it appears that the comfort that the West might derive from discontent in Soviet scientific ranks has led some persons to arrive at the conclusion that such discontent exists.

Area Redevelopment: Officials Defend Cautious Start

The recently established Area Redevelopment Administration finds itself somewhat haunted by the overly enthusiastic claims made by many of its backers in the course of winning Congressional approval.

The redevelopment program, which was one of the Administration's first major victories in Congress, is intended to bring new permanent jobs to economically depressed areas by helping to finance industrial development and public works needed to support industry.

While backers argued that the relatively small sum of \$394 million would go a long way toward stimulating economic development in areas bypassed by prosperity, its opponents contended that the depressed areas could not be revived by spot applications of federal money. A third view was that the program was sound but needed vastly more money, but this was not pushed for fear of arousing antispending opposition.

The program, which has been operating 5 months, has not progressed much beyond the stage of processing applications, and has drawn from Commerce Secretary Hodges the observation that it is moving too slowly.

Redevelopment officials, however, caution that each project they undertake will be regarded as a precedent, and they insist that they prefer to move with care. Their principal problem, they insist, is that localities have been slow to come to them with soundly worked out projects, and under their Congressional mandate, they point out, they cannot go out to the country to drum up business.

What is plaguing them, they say, is that in getting the bill through Congress, backers of area redevelopment attributed to it therapeutic powers that will be a long time in coming, if they come at all.

Fallout Measurement: Soviets Opposed to a Role for the U.N.

The Soviet Union demonstrated again this week that its cooperation with the United Nations' scientific agencies is contingent upon their not undertaking activities which the Soviets regard as conflicting with their Cold War interests. In general, the programs of these agencies have been charted with this sensitivity in mind, and most U.N. scientific activities have flourished amid the problems that afflict the U.N.'s political organs. An exception is the International Atomic Energy Agency, where Cold War issues have arisen, and the Soviets have threatened to walk out.

The Soviet insistence upon what amounts to a scientific veto was emphasized Monday when a spokesman for the Communist bloc denounced a proposal to use the World Meteorological Organization to monitor radioactive fallout. The proposal, made by Canada and supported by 24 other nations, called for employing the existing weather stations in 102 nations and territories to gather and distribute fallout data. It was attacked by the communist spokesman as a propaganda move designed to further the Cold War objectives of the West, and it was made clear that if the WMO adopted the proposal, cooperation from the substantial portion of the world under communist rule would not be forthcoming.

As concern mounts over the radioactive fallout resulting from the Soviet Union's extensive series of atmospheric tests, the Communist bloc is not surprisingly reluctant to contribute data that document the hazard it has been creating.—D.S.G.

Announcements

A regional **counselor program in physics** has been established to promote local cooperation for better physics teaching in high schools. Specific projects of the program, supported by grants from the American Institute of Physics and the American Association of Physics Teachers, will include improving teacher training through cooperation with training institutions; strengthening the state and local syllabus in physics; assisting school systems in the proper selection of apparatus and laboratories; and promoting public awareness of the importance of physics teaching and the conditions under which it is done well.

Forty-one college professors and physicists in industry and government, appointed as counselors in 40 states and Puerto Rico, will interview state superintendents of education and state science supervisors and prepare reports of local developments concerning new curricula, enrollment changes, science projects, and science-teacher recruiting and training programs. (Regional Counselor Office, AIP, 335 E. 45 St., New York 17)

An **electronic information storage and retrieval system** will be developed for the National Library of Medicine by General Electric Company. The computer-based system, to be known as "Medlars," will be designed to process several hundred thousand pieces of bibliographic information annually, thus enabling the library "to broaden and accelerate its services to medical education, research, and practice." It is estimated that the development, installation, and testing of the system will take 2 years.

The National Academy of Sciences is compiling a register of **American scientists interested in overseas assignments**. Specialists in the biological and physical sciences and related fields who wish to be considered for such openings are required to complete and return a special form, available on request. (NAS, Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25, D.C.)

The National Science Foundation has announced closing dates for receipt of the following proposals:

Design and development of **labora-**