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The comments of Macdonald and Ward emphasize the fact that controversy still rages over almost all aspects of the meteor hypothesis. It is perhaps unfortunate that decisive physical tests of the theory are lacking and that most arguments concern the statistical significance of apparent correlations between various time series. It is a notorious fact that statistics can be made to support almost any proposition in a sufficiently complicated situation, and both the proponents and the opponents of the theory have often erred in drawing unwarrantedly strong conclusions from inadequate sets of data.

The criticism of the data upon which Bowen's world rainfall curve was based appears to have a certain validity. Ideally, some sort of weighting should be introduced to take account of the clustering of sets of stations, but any such doctoring of the raw data brings with it further possibilities of bias. It would, however, be most instructive to see the results of some such independent and impartial treatment of the same data.

It is impossible to comment on the criticism of Brier's conclusions until the paper referred to has been published. The reference to the Russian work was omitted as not being readily available to readers. It is as follows: A. A. Dmitriev and A. V. Chili, *Trudy Inst. Morskogo Gidrofizicheskogo* 12, 181 (1955?).

As my original article was intended to imply, I do not believe that the existence of world-wide rainfall singularities has been either unequivocally demonstrated or finally discounted. The same must be said of the meteor hypothesis itself.

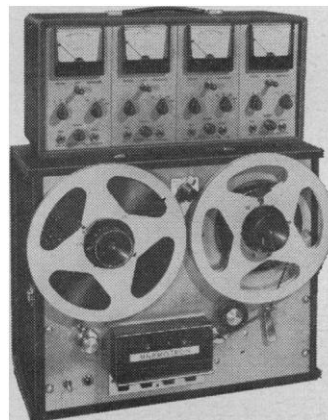
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Complete Disarmament

The editorial "Arms control and self control" [*Science* 134, 249 (28 July 1961)] speaks of "present efforts to show how the Soviets put up obstacles to disarmament." The value of these efforts appears to be questionable as long as we continue to dismiss the Soviet 4-year plan for complete and universal disarmament as unrealistic or as propaganda. Our present attitude toward this Soviet proposal would suggest that it is we who do not wish to disarm, espe-

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cially in view of evidence that the U.S.S.R. intends this proposal seriously and considers complete disarmament to be a realistic policy.

Some of this evidence might be summarized as follows: (i) Public speeches by Soviet leaders indicate that they, like some of our own leaders, are worried about the consequences of a continued arms race—notably the increasing probability of war. The U.S.S.R. experienced widespread devastation and the death of some 25 million people as a result of the German attack in World War II.

Present Soviet leaders apparently wish to avoid a repetition of this experience; the new 20-year program of the Soviet Communist Party is reported to give top priority to "saving mankind from devastating world war." (ii) Under the Soviet system of nationalized industry, continued expenditures on armaments represent a wasteful drain on the national economy, with no particular profit to anyone. (iii) The detailed disarmament plan submitted by the U.S.S.R. to the United Nations in 1960 provides for international control and inspection of

all stages of disarmament as well as an international police force and does not include any veto on control measures. Premier Khrushchev has recently repeated his statement that the U.S.S.R. is prepared to accept any control measures proposed by the Western nations if we in turn agree to the Soviet proposal for general and complete disarmament.

Regardless of our opinions about the U.S.S.R., most of us would agree with the Soviet leaders that a world free from wars and the fear of wars would be desirable. If we do not wish to be condemned by "uncommitted persons and nations," we cannot now afford to dismiss the Soviet disarmament proposal without more serious consideration than that of its propaganda value.

The question of complete disarmament involves the decision whether the products of scientific research are to be used for the destruction or for the enrichment of human life. If this choice is open to us now, scientists themselves bear both individual and collective responsibility for the decision.

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Exporting Universities

Although I do not totally disagree with the ideas of Arthur F. Burns and H. V. Fairbanks [see *Science* **133**, 1557 (1961); **134**, 225 (1961)], I wish to make the following observations as a foreign student under the Fulbright program.

Very often the foreign student finds it difficult to locate an educational institution offering a suitable program of training bearing on the needs of his country. Perhaps for financial reasons he is forced to enter a school which offers him support, no matter what the nature of the training is going to be. This does not depend on whether or not he makes the choice of the institution before he arrives in this country; when he arrives in this country he has a high hope of making his training most profitable to his country. The choice of a wrong institution results in waste of the talent and resourcefulness of the individual concerned. It is probably for this reason that a foreign student gets discouraged and dissatisfied when he returns home, and not because he is unable to "teach what he has learned."

Further, it is not entirely true that a lack of identical scientific and educa-

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