

boycott of the space committee was, of course, unaccompanied by any explanation and goes into the bulging file of mysterious Soviet policy changes; as usual, however, there is an abundance of plausible speculations. These include the theory that Soviet space scientists feel handicapped by enforced isolation from their Western counterparts and have prevailed upon their political leaders to open the way to some measure of cooperation; that the Soviet Union is now seeking to counteract the revulsion it elicited by breaking the nuclear test moratorium and defying U.N. pleas to call off its test series, especially the preannounced 50-megaton blast; that American reconnaissance satellites are reaching the stage of refinement where they are seriously eroding Soviet secrecy, and therefore the Soviets will soon have nothing to lose in letting the West in on some of their space activities; and finally, that in view of the overwhelming sentiment at the U.N. for reviving the committee, there was nothing to be lost in an appearance of cooperation. Whatever the reason, support of the resolution committed neither the Soviet Union nor the United States to anything they may regard as incompatible with their national interests. The U.N., it should be recalled, has repeatedly gone on record against nuclear testing.

Under U.N. procedure, the resolution goes from the 103-member political committee which adopted it to the General Assembly, where its approval is virtually assured. Once approved, it stands as a U.N. goal to be implemented under the space committee's guidance.

The protracted bargaining that preceded adoption of the resolution centered largely on a number of lesser powers which are still a good way from the space age. In reviving the committee, both the U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed that it should be enlarged from 24 to 28 members to reflect the growth of U.N. membership. Which nations to add then became the hard issue. The Soviets selected Ghana and Outer Mongolia, and the United States selected Sierra Leone and Chad. After the deal had been closed, however, Ghana expressed pleasure at the thoughtfulness of the Soviet Union, but said that it had no interest whatsoever in serving on the committee. The Soviets then named Morocco, which accepted.

South Africa, which has long cooperated with the United States in satellite tracking operations, protested that it was

offended by the failure of the United States to put it up for membership. The United States privately replied it was offended by South Africa's racial policies.—D.S.G.

Is Soviet Society Classless? Classroom Poll Casts Doubt

What role does social class play in the assignment of educational opportunities in the Soviet Union's supposedly classless society?

The stock answer from Soviet officials is that it plays no role. Most Western observers, while not deprecating the Soviet Union's educational achievements, consider this answer to be something less than the whole truth. A bit of support for this doubt is to be found in an incident related by Congressman John Brademas (D.-Ind.), who recently returned from a brief visit to the Soviet Union. Brademas, a 34-year-old Rhodes Scholar, is a member of the House Education and Labor Committee. He made the trip to study several Soviet educational institutions.

In an article he wrote for the South Bend *Tribune*, Brademas described his visit to an experimental language school in Leningrad:

"The pupils in the English school we visited were obviously intelligent and eager to learn and I was curious as to how they were selected for admission. I asked the principal if the parents of most had enjoyed the advantages of higher education.

"'Oh no!' she replied, 'most of the students' parents are workers—construction workers, workers on the subway, all kinds of workers.'

"An hour later, while asking and answering questions in the 10th grade class, I requested the teacher to allow me to poll her pupils. When she said yes, I asked them each to write in English on a piece of paper their names, the occupations of both their parents and what career they hoped to follow.

"Of twenty-two pupils, only one said 'My father is a worker.' The parents of three others appeared to be highly skilled workers or technicians—a dispatcher at an airport, a master in one of the largest plants of Leningrad and a designer.

"The other eighteen children came from families where fathers, and in a majority of cases, mothers, followed professions."—D.S.G.

Announcements

A project for the establishment of a French **National Center for the Study of Space**, coordinating civil and military activities, has been approved by the French Council of Ministers. The objectives of the center, which will succeed the Committee on Space Research set up in January 1959, will be to plan and supervise a space program, and to represent France in international space activities. Among the projects proposed for the next 5 years are a joint British-French program for construction of the Blue Streak missile, and a joint program with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the launching of satellites, particularly those designed to study the ionosphere. The center, like the committee, will report directly to the Prime Minister.

The results of long-term studies on **industrial hearing loss** have been released by the U.S. Public Health Service. The report (PHS publication No. 850) contains information obtained from hearing tests given 2000 employees of the Federal Prison Industries, and correlates these tests with factory noise measurements. (PHS, Washington 25, D.C.)

An **International Conference on Dermatoglyphics** (the study of fingerprints, palms, and soles) has been founded to standardize methods and promote activity and research in the field. The conference, headed by Harold Cummins of Tulane Medical School, invites inquiries from interested workers. (H. Cummins, Tulane Univ., 1430 Tulane Ave., New Orleans 12, La.)

The Department of the Interior has initiated a nationwide training and research program in **sport fishery**, with the establishment of a Cooperative Fishery Unit at Utah State University. Under the new program, state agencies will provide and maintain technical gear and equipment; arrange limited funds for graduate studies; provide assistantships, fellowships, or research grants in fisheries or for graduate theses projects on fishery management techniques, fish-pesticide relationships, aquatic ecology, and fish population dynamics; and, with federal agencies, will give seasonal employment to fishery students wherever possible. (Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI, Washington 25, D.C.)