

affirmative action, or announcements of intention to take affirmative action, that spurs great protests. On the Western side, there have been a number of affirmative actions and statements, but in the face of what the Russians did during September and October, and of their attitude since then, it has been hard for even the most ardent opponents of testing to feel that the Anglo-American response has been entirely unreasonable. Additionally, in this country, the civil defense program has provided a substitute for people who were mainly seeking an outlet for their disgust over the arms race in general.

The change from great public interest up to the point where the U.N. resolutions were adopted to rather general apathy almost immediately thereafter was foreshadowed by the attitude on the resolutions within the U.N. The feeling at the U.N. was reported in some detail here (3 November). It was generally that the U.N. had to ask the nuclear powers to resume the moratorium, but that there was no likelihood that the resolution would have any effect, since, aside from the Russian opposition, if the U.S. and Britain felt their security would be threatened by a new unpoliced moratorium, they could not be expected to abide by the resolution. The resolution was not regarded as a prelude to a resumed moratorium, but as a moral statement which no one expected to have much effect on the countries concerned. It was mainly a formal reflection of despair at the way things were going, and once having formally registered its despair, that is, having done all it could do, the U.N., and it seems nearly everyone else, turned its attention and its despair to other matters. Even at the time the U.N. was debating the question so ardently, there seemed to be not only no expectation that the resolution *would* be obeyed, but not even any great feeling that it *ought* to be obeyed. At the time of the debate, this reporter asked a Canadian, a Russian, a Pole, a Pakistani, and an American not connected with the American delegation whether, in view of the Soviet handling of the test-ban issue, they thought, off the record, that the U.S. and Britain ought to abide by a U.N. resolution calling for a new moratorium. They all gave nearly identical answers. All thought the U.N. had to pass such a resolution; none would say that the U.S. and Britain ought to accept it.—H.M.

## **"Population Explosion": U.N. Postpones Debate**

Debate on a proposal for the U.N. to provide population-control assistance for lesser-developed nations has been put off until the next session.

The proposal is a particularly ticklish one for the Administration, which has openly expressed concern about the effects of rapid population growth on the economic development of these nations. Because of domestic political sensitivities, the Administration would happily see population-control assistance become a U.N. concern, but not at the expense of arousing further antipathy to that troubled organization.

The proposal is contained in a resolution which was offered jointly by Sweden and Denmark. Its most significant part is a section which invites nations seeking "technical assistance with regard to problems of population" to request such assistance from the U.N. Implicit in this invitation is the suggestion that the U.N., which now offers some help in population control through its technical assistance programs, should make available a great deal more.

The resolution was placed on the agenda of the second economic committee last fall, but, without any noticeable disappointment on the part of the United States, was one of a number of remaining items when the session was recessed last month.

In the last days of the session, it was voted to place the resolution on the agenda of the committee's next session. Virtually all the predominantly Catholic nations abstained on this vote. The United States, which generally follows a policy of accepting any proposed subject for debate, voted in favor.

Administration officials say that the resolution in its present form may be a bit too strong for domestic political consumption. Wording of a somewhat more subtle nature, they suggest, would ease the way for the United States to deliver its support.

The resolution in some respects is stronger than the so-called Draper Report of 1959, produced by the President's Committee to Study the United States Military Assistance Program. The report was followed by an angry statement from the Catholic bishops of the United States, who warned that American Catholics will not "support any public assistance, either at home or abroad, to promote artificial birth prevention, abortion, or sterilization,

whether through direct aid or by means of international organizations."

The current Administration has shied away from what might be considered provocative policy statements, while at the same time it has virtually abandoned the Eisenhower policy of indifference to population problems. The Administration's concern over the U.N. resolution boils down to a desire for action unaccompanied by proclamations that may arouse spirited retorts and make population-control assistance a lively political issue. The Catholic Church, which is not unaware of the Administration's active interest in population matters, has had nothing to say publicly on the matter for some time now, and the Administration has no desire to spur it into activity.—D.S.G.

## **Educational TV: Los Angeles Next?**

The Federal Communications Commission, which was instrumental in bringing educational television to the New York metropolitan area, is looking into prospects for an ETV channel in Los Angeles.

The FCC's interest in Los Angeles has been aroused by unconfirmed reports that one of the area's commercial stations may be put up for sale. At present, the very-high-frequency band, which is the standard band for television reception, is fully occupied by commercial stations in the Los Angeles area. The only possibilities for ETV are to acquire a channel by purchase from one of the commercial operators, or broadcast on the virtually empty ultra-high-frequency band. ETV groups have generally been reluctant to undertake UHF operations because relatively few sets are equipped to receive UHF signals.

If the New York case, involving WNTA, channel 13, is any precedent, the FCC is likely to play an aggressive role in behalf of ETV if a Los Angeles station should go on the market. When channel 13 was put up for sale, FCC Chairman Newton Minow made it clear that the FCC was cool to the prospect of continued commercial operation of the station. Armed with its licensing authority, the FCC offered little encouragement to commercial interests, while it showed brotherly concern for the ETV group that was bargaining for the station.

FCC officials said that the Los Angeles situation was uncertain at present, but they indicated that they are ex-

tremely interested in the possibility of a channel's opening on the VHF band.

The New York ETV station, which is to go on the air within a few months, is expected to become the anchor of the budding "fourth network" of approximately 50 ETV stations now in operation in various parts of the country. These stations, linked by exchanges of films and tapes, rather than through electronic ties, are supported by contributions from their home states and localities, foundations, business firms, and individuals. The addition of the wealthy and populous New York area to the network is likely to have a significant effect on the scope of the network's programming. Los Angeles is being viewed with interest by the FCC and others because of the resources it could bring to the ETV network, and because of the vast audience within range of its transmitters.—D.S.G.

### West Ford: A Little More Data

The quest for what went wrong with the controversial Project West Ford has produced a few scraps of additional data, but none of it adds up yet to a definitive answer.

The object of West Ford was to establish in space a band of 350-million copper filaments to serve as an artificial ionosphere in communications experiments. The filaments were sent aloft embedded in naphthalene, which was expected to sublime in space, slowly releasing them as it moved in orbit. Previous radar sightings indicated the presence of the cylindrical naphthalene and wire body, but there has been no evidence that the filaments have been released from the naphthalene.

The latest findings involve radar returns at Millstone Hill, in Westford, Massachusetts, which indicate the presence of several small objects, considerably larger than individual filaments, in the area where the orbiting package was expected to be. This suggests the possibility that the naphthalene package may have broken into several pieces. The data is regarded, however, as offering no insights on how to avoid failure the next time.

A spokesman at the Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, Massachusetts, said that a number of theories for West Ford's failure are under consideration, including some that are regarded as rather unlikely. These include the possibility that ultraviolet light or cosmic rays may have had some effect on the

naphthalene and prevented it from sublimating, or that the naphthalene did sublime but some force is preventing the dispersal of the wires.

The project stirred considerable opposition from radio and optical astronomers, who claimed the orbiting wires would interfere with their observations. The Administration, on the basis of several reviews by scientific panels, rejected these fears as unfounded. There is no sign of eagerness, however, to go ahead with another shot until all efforts have been exhausted to determine what went wrong with the first. As one scientist associated with Project West Ford commented: "Probably the surest way to get needles in the first package to disperse is to send up another package." —D.S.G.

### Exchange Pact: Renewal Delayed

Negotiations for renewal of the Soviet-American exchange agreement remained uncompleted at the agreement's 31 December expiration date. State Department officials, however, discount major differences as the cause, and attribute the delay to a lack of urgency for concluding a new agreement and, possibly, to the impending arrival of a new Soviet ambassador in Washington.

It is tacitly assumed, they point out, that the expired agreement will govern existing exchanges as well as those that remain to be carried out, pending completion of negotiations. The agreement ran for 2 years and governed cultural, educational, scientific, technical exchanges.

The negotiations will be conducted in Washington, thus making the Soviet ambassador at least the nominal head of his nation's delegation. State Department officials speculate that the new ambassador, who is expected to arrive shortly, could extract a measure of good will by starting his tour of duty with the speedy completion of a new agreement.

American proposals for renewing the program were submitted in October following Soviet-American discussions last summer. The Soviet reply has not yet been received. The principal differences involve the American desire to expand our cultural activities in the Soviet Union, principally in the dissemination of American publications, and the Soviet desire to concentrate on scientific and technical exchanges. —D.S.G.

## Announcements

A reference **directory of U.S. science information services** has been published by the National Science Foundation. The 530-page book contains descriptions of 427 scientific and engineering information centers, types of information services provided, and publications issued by each. (Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. \$1.75)

Physicians are requested to refer patients with **chronic myelogenous leukemia** to the National Cancer Institute. Referrals of patients with high white-blood-cell and platelet counts are needed for studies of newer chemotherapeutic agents, and as a source of white cells and platelets for *in vitro* and *in vivo* study. Accepted patients will be hospitalized for approximately 8 to 12 weeks. (Paul P. Carbone, Chemotherapy Service, NCI, Bethesda 14, Md.)

A brochure describing the U.S. Public Health Service's **research training programs in the basic medical and biological sciences** is available from the National Institutes of Health. (Information Office, Division of General Medical Sciences, NIH, Bethesda 14, Md. PHS No. 865)

Researchers who are interested in the potential effects of **ionizing radiation on vegetation** are invited to utilize the facilities of Brookhaven National Laboratory's recently established program in radiation ecology. A limited number of postdoctoral appointments are available. (G. M. Woodwell, Biology Dept., BNL, Upton, N.Y.)

The facilities of the **Biophysical Society's placement service** will be available free of charge during their annual meeting (Washington, D.C., 13-16 Feb. 1962). The service has listings of positions open in the several areas of biophysics, as well as candidates for positions in these fields. (Biophysical Society Placement Service, Box 668, Frederick, Md.)

### Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Recent college graduates are eligible to apply for scholarships in **naval architecture and marine engineering**, available for the 1962 academic year. The scholarships, sponsored by the So-