

reciprocity clause is that it applies to reciprocity on invitations," a State Department official said, "and since invitations are not too difficult to solicit from American institutions, they get a lot more than our people get."

The Soviets, possibly embarrassed by charges that they were not living up to the previous agreement's stipulation that scientific exchanges "shall take place on a basis of reciprocity," insisted on the addition of "as far as possible" in the new agreement. Ultimately, the U.S. agreed to the insertion of that loophole, but it extracted a number of concessions in the area with which this country has the greatest concern: cultural and informational contacts with the Soviet people.

The first of these was Soviet agreement to expand the circulation of *Amerika*, and *USSR*, the slick, monthly magazines which each country publishes for distribution in the other. The circulation of each at present is 52,000 monthly; it was agreed that within 2 years, in stages, the circulation will be raised to 100,000.

The magazines have themselves been a source of irritation between the two nations, since Soviet citizens apparently snap up *Amerika* while American readers, who find no dearth of slick material on the Soviet Union, have not shown very much interest in *USSR*. The newsstand returns of *USSR* have aroused the Soviets to send back bundles of *Amerika*, with the claim that there is no demand for them, although westerners in Moscow report there is a black market for the magazine.

It must be stressed that the agreement to expand circulation does not mean that the expansion is inevitable, nor is there any certainty about what will happen in regard to what the State Department considers one of the most significant additions to the exchange program: an agreement to permit the use of commercial channels for the distribution of newspapers, magazines, books, and other publications.

The agreement has no significance for the circulation of Soviet printed matter in the United States, since such material is abundantly available in bookstores or through the mails. But American publishers find that the Soviet restrictions on the circulation of U.S. publications make it virtually impossible to get through to any large number of Russian readers. The State Department is somewhat dubious of the likelihood that the Soviet govern-

ment will open its distribution channels to a free flow of American publications, but it regards the new provision to be of the utmost importance, and it is hopeful that U.S. publishers will quickly put the agreement to a test.

Although scientific exchanges are governed by provisions of the exchange agreement—and may also be carried on outside the agreement—a good number of these exchanges are covered in a sub-agreement between the National Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Details of the inter-Academy agreement have not been released, since it is awaiting approval by each academy and is technically subject to revision. It is understood, however, that relatively few changes were made, and the principal ones reflect an American interest in working out lengthier stays for Americans visiting Soviet scientific institutes. The previous agreement provided for stays of 1 month, and in a few cases, of 5 to 6 months. A number of persons who participated in these exchanges have reported that the time was generally inadequate for fruitful work. Under the new agreement, the period has been extended up to 10 months.

The new agreement provides for another exchange of students, instructors, and researchers at Soviet and American universities, a program that received wide attention when it was first announced, but which has not produced altogether satisfactory results, at least from the American point of view.

The exchange last year was supposed to total up to 50 persons, but, according to the State Department, only 38 participated on each side. Many of the Americans involved were discouraged by restrictions on their access to research materials. Their unhappy reports have apparently had an effect on qualified persons who might follow in their footsteps; the State Department has doubts that this part of the program will thrive unless American students can look forward to more agreeable conditions.

The exchange program development of most widespread interest is that the Soviet Union will open its borders and concert halls to the Benny Goodman orchestra. Goodman is already a favorite of Soviet youth, via Voice of America broadcasts and bootleg recordings. The U.S. will also send the Robert Shaw Chorale and the New York City Ballet, and, in return will fare quite nicely: the Bolshoi Theater Ballet, the

Leningrad Philharmonia Symphony Orchestra, and the Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

At Soviet insistence it was also agreed to exchange five- to six-member delegations on the "Clothing Industry: Study of techniques, technology and organization of production in the clothing industry." The United States delegation tried to broaden this study to include clothing fashions, but the Soviets would have none of that and successfully insisted on sticking to the needle and thread part of the subject.—D.S.G.

"Institute of Arts and Letters": Swiss Government Appears Dubious

The Swiss government advises that Americans would do well to react skeptically to invitations to accept "election" to a Swiss organization that calls itself the International Institute of Arts and Letters. A life fellowship in the "Institute" costs \$60 and carries with it the privilege of enscribing "F.I.A.L." after one's name.

According to the "Institute's" literature, "regular Membership of the Institute is limited to seventeen hundred and sixty Fellows and Corresponding Members 'qualified by notable achievements in Arts and Letters or in Sciences and other fields of culture.'" One letter of invitation offers, upon request, a "survey of the 300,000 volumes of publications distributed under the auspices of the Institute which found the best reviews in more than 400 important newspapers of the continent."

The Swiss embassy in Washington reports that about 50 inquiries concerning the "Institute" have been received during the past 6 months, many of them from some of the more eminent names in American science.

One recipient of a request to "allow" the Institute's council to "elect you as a Life Fellow" sent an inquiry to the American embassy in Bern, which forwarded to him the following reply from the Swiss Department of Interior:

"We regret exceedingly that we are not in a position to give you any particulars concerning the Institute . . . although we have been asked repeatedly for information about it. The Department has never had any dealings with this Institute, which, as far as we have been able to ascertain, has no status in the cultural life of our country. Unfortunately, it is also not possible for us to obtain reliable information regarding

the manner and scope of its activity."

In response to inquiries, the Swiss embassy in Washington offers a mimeographed reply, which concludes that prospective members of the Institute might find it "advisable to consult one of the standard works of reference listing international learned societies."

Among the most highly regarded of these are the *World of Learning* and the *Yearbook of International Organizations*, neither of which lists the International Institute of Arts and Letters.—D.S.G.

Overhead Costs: House Bill Would Cut Down the Bookkeeping

A House Government Operations Subcommittee has acted favorably on a bill (H.R. 6984) designed to reduce the bookkeeping now required in computing overhead allowances on federal research contracts with educational institutions.

Under the present arrangement, a provisional overhead allowance is paid under each contract and adjustments are made on the basis of an audit at the end of each fiscal period. Some university officials have argued that their overhead costs—costs not directly associated with a specific project—are relatively stable, and that the periodic audits are costly and unnecessary.

The proposed revision would permit overhead costs to be fixed on the basis of an institution's past experience, eliminating the periodic audits and adjustments.

The bill was introduced by Congresswoman Julie B. Hansen, of Washington, at the request of the National Federation of College and University Business Officers Associations, which was set up to look after the interests of educational institutions involved in government work. The Bureau of the Budget and the General Accounting Office have offered no objections to the bill, and its prospects would seem to be quite good. An identical bill, S. 1586, is awaiting hearings in the Senate before that body's Government Operations Committee.

The bill deals only with bookkeeping procedures and has no bearing on the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's 15 percent overhead limitation, which has long nettled universities doing research for HEW and its principal subsidiary, the National Institutes of Health.—D.S.G.

Announcements

Discovery of one of the last predicted antiparticles of matter—the **anti-xi-minus**, or anticascale hyperon ($\bar{\Xi}^-$)—was announced simultaneously last week by teams of physicists in the United States, Switzerland, and France, thus further confirming the theory that there is an antiparticle for every known elementary particle. The new antiparticle, the heaviest of the 30 predicted elementary particles to be observed thus far, is a positive charge with a lifetime of approximately $1/10$ millimicrosecond (10^{-10} second). As it decays, it disintegrates into a positive pion and a neutral antilambda hyperon, which, in turn, decays into an antiproton and positive meson. This complex decay mode gives rise to the term "cascade."

Secondary particles (or antiprotons)—produced by high-energy acceleration of protons—annihilate in bubble chambers where the tracks they leave are photographed in order to calculate the particles' various energies and masses. Early this year, photographs of the xi antiparticle were found and measured independently at Brookhaven National Laboratory, after 34,000 bubble-chamber photographs had been scanned, and at CERN, the European Nuclear center in Geneva, after 85,000 photographs had been studied. The two laboratories agreed to publish the announcements related to both experiments simultaneously in the 15 March issue of *Physical Review Letters*. Other organizations involved in the experiment include Yale University; Saclay, the French nuclear research center; and the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris.

Although existence of the antiparticle has been proved, information still must be obtained on its mass, spin, and other properties.

The German Federal Ministry for Refugee Affairs reports a total of 1606 **refugee scientists and educators** from East Germany since the beginning of 1958. Of these, 513 had been professors, lecturers, or teaching assistants at East German universities.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Applications are being accepted for the 1962 **Fulbright awards** for university lecturing and advanced research in Latin America, the Pacific Area

(Australia and New Zealand), and South and Southeast Asia. Eligibility requirements are U.S. citizenship, a minimum of 1 year of college teaching experience (for lecturing); or a doctoral degree or recognized professional standing (for research). In certain cases, a knowledge of the language of the host country is necessary. Deadline: *15 April*. (Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D.C.)

Three 1-year internships in **medical librarianship** are available at the University of California (Los Angeles) Biomedical Library. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and graduates of accredited library schools. The program, sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service, has been approved for level II certification by the American Library Association. Deadline: *1 May*. (Louise Darling, Biomedical Library, UCLA, Los Angeles 24)

The University of Michigan's Mental Health Research Institute is offering postdoctoral fellowships in the **mental health sciences**, such as neurochemistry, neurophysiology, and other biological fields. Applicants must have received their Ph.D. degree within the past 3 years, or their M.D. within the past 6 years. (Norman S. Radin, Mental Health Research Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Courses

Senior biologists and medical researchers are eligible to attend a summer laboratory course in **techniques and applications of the electron microscope**, to be offered at Cornell from 12 to 28 June. Deadline for applications: *1 May*. (Benjamin M. Siegel, Rockefeller Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology will offer a 1-week course on **signal detection and identification: theory of human observers** from 30 July to 3 August. The program is intended for those interested in research in psychophysics, design of man-machine systems, and in teaching general and engineering psychology. (Summer Session Director, Room 7-103, MIT, Cambridge 39)