

NEWS IN BRIEF

● NUCLEAR POTS AND KETTLES:

"The French Nuclear Tests in the Pacific," a 12-page brochure recently issued by the French embassy, offers some interesting statistics on the nuclear club. Just prior to the current French test series, the brochure reports, the national distribution of atmospheric tests was: United States, 195; U.S.S.R., 141; Great Britain, 21; France, 4; and China, 3. The United States, the report continues, has conducted 91 atmospheric tests at the Nevada test site; the population within a 620-mile radius of the firing point, it states, is 7.1 million. The Soviets have conducted most of their atmospheric tests at the Semipalatinsk site, which has 4.1 million people within a radius of 620 miles. France's Sahara test site, it notes, has only 385,000 people within a 620-mile radius. It adds that there are only 485 inhabitants within a radius of 265 miles of the French Pacific test site. The report apparently is a reaction to a U.S. State Department statement protesting French nuclear tests. W. Marshall Wright, a State Department press officer, released a statement to the press on 2 July saying that "As a party to the Limited Test Ban Treaty, the U.S. Government is opposed to any testing of nuclear weapons in the environments prohibited by the Treaty, namely, in the atmosphere, under water, and in outer space." Specifically, he said that the United States "regrets that France has resumed nuclear testing in the atmosphere." He notes that France is not a party to the Treaty "to which the overwhelming majority of nations has adhered."

● INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

In a letter to the *Times* of London, an international group of scientists who helped organize the International Geophysical Year and the International Years of the Quiet Sun appealed to scientific academies and governments to make such cooperation permanent. They wrote: "These worldwide cooperative scientific projects have shown conclusively that, however many and serious are the political problems that trouble the human race, it is possible for all the nations of the world to work closely together in great enterprises for the common good." The letter was signed by V. Belousov, So-

viet Geophysical Committee, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.; Lloyd V. Berkner, Director, Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, Dallas, Texas; W. J. G. Beynon, Department of Physics, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; Sydney Chapman, High Altitude Observatory, Boulder, Colo.; J. Coulomb, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, Paris; G. Laclavère, Director, Institut Géographique National, Paris; Homer E. Newell, NASA, Washington, D.C.; M. Nicolet, Institute Royal Météorologique, Brussels; Martin A. Pomerantz, Bartol Research Foundation, Swarthmore, Penna.; N. V. Pushkov, Director, Institute Terrestrial Magnetism and Radio Wave Propagation, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.; and G. Righini, Director, Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri, Florence.

● SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH:

While the Senate considers the pros and cons of social science research conducted outside of this country (*Science*, 8 July), a House committee is investigating the progress and aims of programs at home. Representative Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.), chairman of the Research and Technical Programs Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee, has announced plans for a preliminary investigation—to be followed eventually by hearings—on uses now being made of social science research in government as well as possibilities of such research for the nation. Reuss said that the subcommittee intends to deal with such questions as: (i) What use is being made of social science research in government programs dealing with domestic problems such as crime, poverty, and civil rights? (ii) Can the social sciences serve to improve the efficiency of government, and the general well-being of the Nation? Hearing are not yet scheduled.

● **BUILDING BOOM:** More than 400 new science laboratories are planned by The City University of New York, which operates 11 campuses for approximately 130,000 students in the five boroughs. A bill passed by the New York State legislature on 1 July established the City University Construction Fund and provided about half a billion dollars in building funds and increased state aid to the annual operating budgets of the four older senior

colleges of the University—City, Hunter, Brooklyn, and Queens. As part of the University's 1966 Master Plan, approximately 435 new science laboratories will be provided. The construction plans include major science buildings on the campuses of City College and Queens College, a large addition to the present science building at Brooklyn College and new graduate science facilities to be provided by Hunter College in a new building on an adjacent site.

● **WATER MANAGEMENT:** Separate reports from the National Academy of Sciences and the Office of Science and Technology call for far-reaching research programs to manage the Nation's waters. The OST report ("Federal Water Resources Research Program for Fiscal 1967," available from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, 15¢) calls for expenditures of \$107 million during fiscal 1967 by the 18 bureaus and offices engaged in water resources research. This represents a 16-percent increase over the 1966 estimated expenditure of \$92 million. Of the 44 categories of research summarized by the report, the largest percentage increases are recommended for research on engineering works, management of water quality, and augmentation and conservation of water supplies, including water desalting. The 1967 budget reflects recommendations outlined in the President's plan "A Ten-Year Program of Federal Water Resources Research." The Academy report (*Alternatives in Water Management*, available from Printing and Publishing Office, NAS-NRC, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20418, \$2) urges that decisions on water development be based upon a wide range of program choices, rather than a single "quick fix," technological proposal which the public can only accept or reject. The committee emphasized that there is no nationwide shortage of water, nor an immediate danger of one. Instead, there are serious regional shortages of usable water, many of which are becoming critical. The scientists place the blame on pollution and short-sighted planning and note that the question of water quality has become as important as the question of water shortage.