Plain, which is otherwise renowned for Stonehenge and military maneuvers. The full names of Porton's two separate research installations are the Chemical Defense Experimental Establishment and the Microbiological Research Establishment. The CDEE has operated on its present site since 1916; MRE came out of World War II as a regular research station. The CDEE performs basic research in such predictable fields as the physics of aerosols, but is probably better known for applied research, such as the development of gas masks, air filtration units, and protective clothing, an efficient atropine injector as a countermeasure for nerve gas, and of course, CS.

The MRE's reputation is based on its fundamental research. About 80 percent of research results are published in unrestricted literature and access to the laboratory is relatively open to visiting scientists and the press. MRE claims a front-rank position in such activities as the continuous cultivation of bacteria.

The official response to critics is that offensive weapons are neither developed nor manufactured at Porton. (The exception is the production of CS gas. The United States makes its own CS but substantial quantities of British CS are supplied to security forces in many countries reportedly at a price of about $4.20 a pound. The lethal Porton-developed V-type nerve gas is said to be manufactured in the United States but not in Britain.)

The government argues that it has the duty to provide its citizens with a reasonable defense against CBW agents. To do this it must determine what a potential enemy could do and how. The point that critics make is that there is no clear line between defense and offense in CBW. Porton, for example, was able to produce large quantities of flu vaccine in an emergency and could have done the same thing if the need for vaccine had arisen during the recent epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease. Recently, and with considerable publicity, Porton scientists prepared for Soviet scientists' use samples of the virulent organism which caused the so-called "green monkey disease." This disease had been fatal to a number of German and Yugoslav laboratory workers and to the medical staff which administered treatment. It was pointed out that the equipment used had been developed at Porton to perform the difficult job of detecting agents produced by an enemy for use

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION FUNDS SLASHED**: The House Appropriations Committee has cut-back Atomic Energy Commission funds for construction of the Weston 200-BEV accelerator. The committee has approved $7.1 million out of an original request of $25 million, which will provide for continuation of the engineering and design work only during fiscal 1969. The committee said it did not wish to provide funds which would initiate construction at this time of a project with a total estimated cost of $250 million. The committee has also slashed 41 million from AEC's proposed $72-million nuclear rocket engine development program to match earlier cuts in a similar NASA program (NERVA). The committee has allowed $31 million for the advanced rocket reactor technology program and the nuclear rocket development station operations. The Senate has not yet acted on the appropriation.

● **SWEDEN AND DOD RESEARCH**: After months of protests against the war in Vietnam and charges that U.S. Defense Department (DOD)-sponsored research in Sweden was contributing to the war effort, the Swedish Riksdag (Parliament) has decided not to change the policy of noninterference by the Swedish government in relation to DOD research. In March, some Riksdag members had proposed that the government oversee DOD projects, which total about $300,000 in Sweden and are, predominantly, for basic research studies. According to a spokesman for the Swedish government, these funds—given to individual scientists—will continue to be taxed individually.

● **ROMANIAN SCIENTISTS TO VISIT**: Dr. Donald F. Hornig, special assistant to the President for Science and Technology, has invited Alexandru Birladeanu, president of the Romanian National Council for Scientific Research, to visit the United States 19 June to 8 July. Birladeanu and his party of seven Romanian scientists will visit Washington and other U.S. cities to study scientific policies in representative laboratories of universities, industry, and government. The scientific team will also study the possibilities for broad cooperation in a science and technology exchange program between the United States and Romania.

● **NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BOARD**: The National Academy of Sciences has announced the establishment of a Computer Science and Engineering Board, which will include academic and industrial experts in computer and information science. In making the announcement, Academy President Frederick Seitz said, "The Board's assignment will be to assess the implications of the enormous and somewhat heterogeneous growth of information-processing technology as it affects the public and private sector of our nation." Seitz has appointed Anthony G. Oettinger, professor of linguistics and applied mathematics at Harvard University's Aiken Computation Laboratory, as chairman of the 12-member board.

● **AIRCRAFT NOISE LEGISLATION**: A measure aimed at reducing aircraft noise passed the House on 10 June. The bill (H.R. 3400) was introduced in the House by Representative Harley O. Staggers (D.–W.Va.). A similar bill (S. 707), has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D.–Wash.). If it passes the Senate, the bill will grant the Federal Aviation Administration the authority to set standards for aircraft noise, including sonic boom, and to regulate control and abatement. The bill is aimed at promoting: (i) new airframe and engine designs to achieve quieter aircraft, (ii) controlled land use planning in the construction of airports, and (iii) the adoption of new flight techniques.

● **"NOBEL" ECONOMICS PRIZE**: At its tercentenary last month, the Bank of Sweden announced formation of a new international prize in economics. The prize—which formally will not be a Nobel Prize—will nevertheless be given at the same time and for the same amount as the Nobel Prizes. In addition, the body that judges and selects the Nobel Prize winners, the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, will also act as prize adjuror for the new award. According to a spokesman, the Academy will follow "the same principles governing the Nobel Prize decisions." The first prize will be given in 1969. The money for the award will come from a donation to the Nobel Foundation from the Bank of Sweden.