

has proposed that German be the primary language of the organization, and, while many other problems lie ahead, EMBO remains stalled on the language question.

The reports on Eastern Europe were necessarily spotty, since U.S. scientific and technical representation there is fairly limited. In the case of Poland, it was reported that the general iciness

that prevails in relations between the two nations has made itself felt in the area of scientific and technical cooperation. The Poles were said to regard a Vietnam settlement as indispensable to any improvement of relations, though they were reportedly quite happy about a children's hospital constructed near Cracow with U.S. funds. A good deal of dismay was reported over the U.S.

Congress's cutting off of a \$1.5-million program that had enabled Poles to obtain American journals at reduced rates. Also, the Poles were said to be unhappy about the payoff they are getting from their scientific and technical communities. And in most European countries, both East and West, it was reported, student protests of the past year appear to be producing changes in the governance of higher education and research training, though no clear-cut picture was available on the effects that may be expected in the tradition-bound structures that have so long endured.

Since the inscrutable workings of the State Department foil any attempt to assess with precision just who has influence over what, it is difficult to determine the role played by the science attachés, who are now posted at some 20 U.S. embassies around the world. Some convey the impression of being resigned to writing reports that are never heeded, even if read, and also of being somewhat out of things at the embassies in which they serve. Others, however, sound as though they feel themselves to be in the thick of important affairs, with an opportunity to move matters as they believe they should be moved. Whatever the realities, it is plain that the science attaché program has emerged from a long and difficult beginning and is now an established part of the United States government's diplomatic apparatus. Shortly after the program was born, the Eisenhower administration nearly throttled it, in an economy move. It was later restored and slowly began to flourish. Then, in 1964, after the scientist who had headed it for 2 years returned to an academic post, Herman Pollack—personnel administrator at the State Department and not a scientist—was appointed acting administrator. He served in this capacity for nearly 3 years, a circumstance which suggests that the Department did not attach great significance to its science office. Eventually, however, it was recognized that he was performing remarkably well, and last year he was formally appointed to the directorship.

Under his leadership the attaché program has been acquiring some important new friends. Among them is Representative George P. Miller (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Science and Astronautics Committee. Miller, who attended the Belgrade meeting as part of his continuing tour of science-related activities in Europe, said he intends to assist Pollack and the attaché program in every way he can.—D. S. GREENBERG

## Prague: Geologists' Exodus

More than 400 American geologists attending the 23rd International Geological Congress were awakened on 21 August to the disturbing sounds of low-flying jet aircraft, gun fire, and rumbling tanks as the Soviets staged their surprise occupation of Prague. The visiting geologists escaped Czechoslovakia unhurt but the experience was distressing, to say the least, and the very promising Congress was brought to a premature halt.

The American delegates interviewed by *Science* after their return to the United States expressed the highest praise for the Czechoslovak geologists. These participants reported that the Czechs had planned a Congress which was a model of organization.

After the Congress completed its first full day of real business, the Soviet troops brought normal activities in Prague to a halt on the 21st. Many of the delegates arose early that morning to unexpected military noises and went out tank-watching in the streets. Delegates who were staying in the downtown section of Prague found it difficult to get to the Congress meetings (which were held in the Technical University west of the Vltava River) because of the breakdown in the transportation system and because of the presence of the Soviet troops.

On the first day of occupation, the governing body of the Congress decided that the Congress would continue to meet through Saturday, the 24th. However, some of the delegates who had come by automobile began leaving Czechoslovakia on Thursday. These automobile convoys, reportedly, left the country without incident.

On Thursday (the 22nd), a substantial number of the delegates walked to the Technical University; several Soviet tanks were parked a block from the entrance. In front of the building which served as the headquarters for the Congress, reports Ellis L. Yochelson of the U.S. Geological Survey, an International Geological Congress motif was draped with a banner inscribed "Russian killers go home." A black flag flew at the university on Thursday and Friday.

Soviet delegates at the Congress seemed embarrassed by the actions of their government. Many removed the name badges which also listed their national affiliation.

Although the Congress continued to meet into Friday, it was difficult for the delegates to keep their minds on geology. By Thursday noon, the delegates heard that Soviet soldiers had occupied the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague. It was reported that the Academy president had moved his office to the Technical University. By Friday, it was reported that the Soviet troops would occupy the Technical University that day, and so the Congress was brought to an end with denunciations of the Soviet occupiers by the delegations still represented.

Thomas B. Nolan, the former director of the U.S. Geological Survey, who was the head of the delegation from the U.S. government to the Congress, said that the delegates had "a great feeling of admiration for the Czech people" for their united show of resistance to the Soviets. One geologist said that the last thing he heard as his train left the Prague railroad station was a Czech shouting, "Tell everything you have seen here."—B. N.