

system. Gore said, however, that he first wanted to give the new president an opportunity to show where he stood on such issues.

Although the United States signed the Geneva Protocol of 1925, it was never ratified by the Senate. At present, there is some discussion in the Senate and the Administration to the effect that it might be useful to resubmit this Protocol for Senate ratification. Judging from his past record, there is reason to believe that Foreign Relations Committee chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), in whose committee international agreements are initially considered, is sympathetic to the idea of CBW control. In October, an amendment requiring Administration reporting on CBW programs to relevant Congressional committees was passed by the Senate, but was later deleted from the defense appropriations bill in conference with the House.

#### Anti-Detrick Meeting

While there is some stirring among governmental figures on CBW, in both the United States and other nations, there also seems to be some increase in activity among private citizens. An example of such interest occurred on 19 November when the Mid-Atlantic committee on Fort Detrick, together with a student group, held a meeting on CBW at Hood College for Women in Frederick, Maryland, the city in which Fort Detrick is located. A surprisingly large crowd of about 350 attended the meeting, which featured two speakers, E. James Lieberman, a Washington psychiatrist, and Theodor Rosebury, a Chicago bacteriologist who worked at Detrick during World War II.

The crowd was composed of students, Frederick residents, travelers from the Washington area, and some Detrick scientists. Except for a couple of critical questions from the latter group, the audience seemed largely to approve of the remarks of the anti-CBW speakers. Both advocated transforming Detrick from a biological warfare center to a world center for infectious disease research. "Detrick is the biggest single aggregation of microbiological talent anywhere in the world," Rosebury asserted, "but nobody would try to justify Detrick's work on the things which its scientists published."

The Mid-Atlantic committee on Fort Detrick is a relatively small citizens group which was organized earlier this year. Most of its active members are women from the Washington, D.C.,

area. One of its members, Helen Alexander, worked as a telephone operator at Detrick for almost 10 years until, as she explained in an interview, her revulsion over Vietnam and the use of CBW caused her to resign. Judy Sugar, a Maryland housewife who is chairman of the committee, said in an interview that although the committee was not composed of scientists it welcomed scientific members and also planned further anti-Detrick activities.

One example of the growing interest in CBW was that a national NBC television crew filmed the meeting at Detrick for a program on CBW to be screened early next year. CBS tele-

vision has already shown programs on CBW this year.

Two well-publicized books—*The Silent Weapons* by Robin Clarke, editor of the British monthly *Science Journal*, and *Chemical and Biological Warfare* by Seymour M. Hersh—have been published recently. Events in the United States, as well as those in Vietnam and Yemen, have also focused attention on CBW in recent months. These have included the death of some 6000 sheep in Utah after the testing of nerve gas at the nearby Dugway proving grounds (*Science*, 29 March and 26 April) and the allegation that earthquakes in the Denver area have been caused by the

## Proposed ABM Sites Protested

Five physicists from Argonne National Laboratory are protesting the Defense Department's plans to build an antiballistic missile (ABM) site in the Chicago suburbs. These Argonne physicists urge that the Army build its missile bases in sparsely populated areas; they claim that an accidental explosion of an ABM missile would contaminate the entire Chicago area and kill a large fraction of its population within 24 hours. The Army, in turn, says that the danger of an accidental explosion at a Sentinel site is small.

The Argonne physicists—Stan Ruby, John Erskine, David Inglis, Richard Preston, and John Schiffer—began their protest on 15 November when they discovered that the Army, as part of the projected \$5 billion Sentinel ABM system, had already started test drilling at five proposed sites in the Chicago suburbs. "Our primary concern," Ruby told *Science*, "is that [ABM] megaton weapons should not be located in cities. We have no evidence to indicate the risk of attack is so great that we have to take chances here." Besides fearing the effects of an accidental explosion, the Argonne physicists worry that the site would automatically make the city a military target for Soviet ICBM's. David R. Inglis says, "One Spartan missile site located in South Dakota could protect the whole Middle West. It is not necessary to locate the missiles near big cities." (Inglis says that the Spartan missile can operate at ranges up to 1000 miles, and the Sprint—which would protect ABM sites—has a range of about 40 miles.)

Argonne scientists are asking the Army, before investigating or acquiring any more land for the missile sites, to hold hearings, which would give civilian scientists the opportunity to state their reservations to proposed site locations. The Chicago physicists are joined by the Federation of American Scientists, which plans to take national action to alert congressmen, other scientists, and the public of Army drilling near urban areas. In a letter to Representative L. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.), who is chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Sidney Yates (D-Ill.) said the opposition to such a site close to Chicago is "great." Yates has called for a thorough congressional investigation of sites proposed near urban areas, and has urged the Army to hold open public hearings in Chicago, which dissident civilian scientists could attend.

Chicago is just one of many large cities designated for ABM sites; others include Boston, Dallas, Detroit, New York City, Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Protests were raised earlier by University of Washington physicists in Seattle and by a group of conservationists in Boston over proposed missile sites near those cities.—MARTI MUELLER