officials, makes it appear as though man and nature eons ago entered into a carefully conceived cooperation aimed at nothing less than the creation of the perfect site for a 300-Bev accelerator and its employees. Among the amenities offered to the aristocrats of physical research is "a balloon club—with nine balloons—an opportunity which, to such an extent, could be found hardly anywhere else in the world." More to the point, there are several universities within easy reach, good highways, strong industrial organizations nearby, and a good deal of pleasant countryside. Clearly, CERN would not suffer from locating the machine there, though a possible, but diminishing, consideration is CERN's good relations with its Soviet counterparts. There is some apprehension that the Russian political leaders might not feel too keen about their scientists becoming intimate witth a West German research installation. However, the Soviets and West Germans currently appear to be feeling less unkindly toward each other, and not too much weight is attached to this fear.

Nor is it felt that the other sites present serious competition, if the price of proceeding with the machine is a location in Germany. Austria is offering a site at Göpfritz, about 100 kilometers from Vienna, and Belgium is offering one 55 kilometers south of Namur. France, which ranks just behind Germany in scale of financial contribution, is offering a site in its lovely south, not far from Toulon. But the privilege of playing host comes at a high price, since the country that gets the machine must provide for a great variety of activities and services, including water, power, housing, and schools. When Britain was weighing whether to join, a group of economists looked into the matter and concluded that the machine would be an economic loss for whomever got it. Whether or not that is true, it appears that the French, with their current economic difficulties, are not eager to take up the burden. Germany, on the other hand, is reportedly willing to lay out at least a couple of hundred million dollars to "sweeten" its invitation.

The issue of where to build the machine will be taken up at a six-nation ministerial meeting in Geneva at the end of January, and the final decision will be made by the CERN Council a month or two later.

—D. S. GREENBERG

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE:** Stanford University has agreed to give up control over the Stanford Research Institute, target of student demonstrations for its involvement with war-related contracts, for payments of more than $25 million to the university. Under the terms of the agreement, SRI will keep its name for not more than 5 years; it will continue as a nonprofit research organization; SRI's board of directors (formerly elected by Stanford trustees) will assume complete responsibility for the institute. Payments will begin in 1971 and spread over a period of years. SRI undertakes more than 750 new research projects each year in a wide variety of fields; its revenues last year totaled about $58 million.

● **HEART TRANSPLANTS:** Transplants could be performed on 16 percent of the 200,000 Americans under age 65 who die of heart disease each year if the two main problems were solved: a shortage of donors and the patient's immunological reactions. A report to the National Heart and Lung Institute by an 11-member task force, headed by Dr. James V. Warren of Ohio State University, recommends that researchers concentrate on perfecting human heart transplants and on developing heart assist devices, including wholly artificial hearts. Even with the donor and rejection problems solved, however, most heart disease victims cannot be saved because they have other serious diseases or they die too quickly. Noting this, the report recommends strong federal programs for the prevention and early detection of heart disease. The report, "Cardiac Replacement: Medical, Ethical, Psychological, and Economic Implications," is available for $1 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

● **NERVE GAS TESTS SUSPENDED:** The Army has suspended temporarily its open-air tests of lethal chemicals at the Desert Test Center, Utah (Dugway Proving Ground). According to an Army official, the suspension was ordered because of an amendment to the military procurement bill for 1970. The amendment, named after Senator Thomas McIntyre (D–N.H.), sets new requirements for testing chemical and biological warfare materials. The requirements include a provision that Congress be given a schedule of tests prior to any testing; and that the Secretary of Defense consult the Secreary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Surgeon General, prior to testing to insure adequate safeguards. The Army expects to have complied with these requirements in a few weeks and will resume tests then.

● **STUDENTS AND GOVERNMENT FUNDS:** House-Senate conferees on the Health, Education, and Welfare and related agencies appropiations bill agreed on language punishing students who participate in campus disturbances but not their colleges and universities. The bill, which seems to be headed for a veto by President Nixon, provides that federal funds may not be used for assistance to students, prospective students, teachers, or employees of colleges and universities who have participated in campus disturbances on or after 1 August 1969. Conferees struck from the bill a requirement that institutions must crack down on rioters or lose federal funds.

● **CONSORTIUM TO FIGHT DIRTY AIR:** Three North Carolina universities have joined forces to fight air pollution in the nation's first academic clean air consortium. Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University plan to offer cooperative courses, workshops, seminars, public meetings, and technical conferences.

● **MICROWAVE OVENS:** A government-industry-consumer committee will be formed promptly to set up test procedures and develop a testing program for microwave ovens, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare announced recently. The ovens are suspected of leaking high-frequency radio waves. Such leakage, in excess of the industry's voluntary standards, was detected in nearly one-third of the microwave ovens tested in four states by HEW. About 100,000 microwave ovens are in use in American homes and institutions. HEW officials said there have been no reports of injuries from oven owners, and that any defects found in the ovens will be corrected.