

"Men of Science" Forthcoming

Work is in progress on the 12th edition of *American Men of Science*, the definitive, multivolume "Who's Who" of North American scientists. The present set consists of six volumes on the physical and biological sciences and two on the social and behavioral sciences. The new edition will be published over a 3-year period, with the first volume due to appear in mid-1971. As in earlier editions, a scientist must meet one of three criteria for listing: (i) scientific training or background which is at least the equivalent of a doctoral degree, coupled with present activity in the field; (ii) "high quality" research; or (iii) attainment of a position of responsibility indicating achievement according to the first two criteria. The directory has expanded greatly since the first one-volume edition, which contained 4,000 names, was produced in 1906. The eighth edition, which came out in 1949, contained 50,000 names, and the 11th had a total of 180,700. About 165,000 physical scientists and biologists will be listed in the new edition. Anyone is eligible to submit names for inclusion in the directory. Central and South American scientists are not systematically included, but those qualified scientists whose names are sent to the editors will be listed. The price has not yet been determined but can be expected to exceed the last edition's cost of \$150. Nominations should be sent to The Editors, *American Men of Science*, Jaques Cattell Press, Tempe, Arizona 85281.

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

ning or feasibility study. "You can't make a total separation between designing a study and getting your feet wet in a pilot study," he says—but he is hopeful that an accommodation can be arranged so that the particular data he seeks can be released while other information about the herbicide missions remains classified.

Meselson was so concerned at his inability to obtain the data this summer that he spent long hours making telephone calls from Vietnam to AAAS officials and others in Washington in an effort to pry the information loose. He also raised the matter with Ambassador Bunker and claims to have gotten Bunker's agreement that there is no valid reason for the information to be withheld. But the only tangible expression of Bunker's views seems to be an ambiguous cablegram which Bunker apparently approved but which has no standing as an official communication. The cable was drafted by Meselson in Saigon and it was sent through government channels to an Agriculture Department official in Washington who was instructed to pass it on to H. Bentley Glass, board chairman of the AAAS, for whom the message was intended. The cable said that Ambassador Bunker fully supported Meselson's request for access to all spray mission data and that Bunker would so inform the military authorities in

Vietnam. Ordinarily, such a cable would be handled by relatively low-level Embassy officials, but since this particular cable mentioned Bunker it was sent in for him to approve. "The Ambassador read every word and supports it," Meselson said. "He acted as concurring officer for the cable."

But just what Bunker's action means remains something of a mystery to State Department officials in Washington. One well-placed diplomatic official told *Science*: "We don't know what the hell Bunker was talking about. We can't recognize his initials on the form and we don't know whether he meant to concur in the sending of the message or in the content of the message itself. We're also puzzled as to why Bunker, who is a shrewd man and who has been in the diplomatic service a long time, should try to communicate with Washington by means of a cable sent from one private citizen [Meselson] to another [Glass]. If Bunker felt the data should be declassified, he used a curious vehicle to make that fact known." This official also pointed out that the cablegram is somewhat ambiguous since it merely says Bunker supports Meselson's request for access to the data, which could mean merely that Bunker believes Meselson should be allowed to work with the classified data (a privilege Meselson does not want) rather than that the data should

be declassified. "We're trying to ascertain just what Bunker does feel about this thing," the official said. "Right now we're puzzled."

Still, whatever Bunker thinks, the decision on whether to declassify the material or not will rest with the Defense Department. Meselson intends to have the AAAS make a direct appeal for release of the information. One possibility that Meselson has discussed with government officials would be for Bentley Glass and Athelstan Spilhaus, chairman and president of AAAS, respectively, to seek an audience with David Packard, deputy secretary of defense, in an effort to work out an understanding. "The problems have mainly been due to bad timing and are certainly as much due to us as to the Defense Department," says Meselson. "We have not had a careful attempt at explaining our request that the information be made generally available."

Meselson was accompanied on the trip to Vietnam by three colleagues—Arthur H. Westing, a forestry specialist and chairman of biology at Windham College, Vermont, who had previously studied defoliation in Cambodia; John D. Constable, professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, who had made two previous health surveys in Vietnam; and Robert E. Cook, Jr., a graduate student in ecology at Yale. The team was assisted by several Vietnamese professors from the University of Saigon and by their students. Meselson reports that the Vietnamese scientific community has become "deeply concerned" over the impact herbicides will have on future economic development and on health levels in their country. Until recently, he said, Vietnamese agricultural and forestry experts were "operating in ignorance—they didn't even know what agents were being used—their military authorities said it was none of their business." But that situation, says Meselson, is "now beginning to change." Meselson says there are many competent Vietnamese scientists who could help carry out further surveys.

While in Vietnam, Meselson's team received excellent logistics support and cooperation from the military (after some initial problems), from the Embassy, from the AID mission, and from the government of South Vietnam. They had a helicopter placed at their disposal for about 8 full days and were thus able to fly over the hardwood and mangrove forests, dodging bad weather