NEWS IN BRIEF

● **EUROPE'S CERN II OK'D**: After 8 years of planning and arguing, CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, has voted, amid much jubilation, to start construction of a 300-Gev accelerator. The new machine, known as CERN II, will straddle the Swiss-French border adjacent to the existing CERN laboratory in Geneva. It is more than ten times as large as the present CERN 20- to 30-Gev accelerator and will be built over an 8-year period, starting this summer, at a cost of about $256 million. Ten of the 12 member states of CERN are paying for the program, with West Germany, the United Kingdom, and France picking up more than 65 percent of the cost. The director-general of CERN II is John B. Adams, long associated with the European organization and with Culham Laboratory in England.

● **GERMAN TALENT DRAIN EASING**: The alarming exodus of scientists from West Germany to the United States and other countries is slowing down, and many are returning home, the West German government notes. Figures reflect a sharp reduction in the number of scientists emigrating to the United States—from 770 in 1968 to 320 in 1969. Officials note that the cutback in U.S. research spending, as well as new opportunities in rapidly growing German universities and technical schools, is encouraging Germans to stay at home. A German diplomat in Washington says there has also been a discernible, but not yet quantifiable, trend of American scientists seeking employment in the Bundesrepublik.

● **NEW PUBLICATIONS**: The Assembly on University Goals and Governance of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has issued a report containing 85 suggestions for the revitalization and reorientation of colleges and universities. The report may be obtained from *Dædalus*, 7 Linden Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. *Legislation, Achievements and Problems in Education*, a survey made in 1970 of public school problems throughout the country, may be had from the Education Commission of the States, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80203.

M.I.T. in the 1950's. His association with the company, which became part of Itek, ended before the decade was out.

During the 1950's Wiesner was active as a consultant to government, particularly on air defense problems. He moved up through the advisory hierarchy to service on the Gaither Committee, which made an influential report on the national defense posture, and on the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC).

Wiesner knew John F. Kennedy as a Massachusetts senator and was a Kennedy adviser during the 1960 presidential campaign. When Kennedy was elected, Wiesner was appointed special assistant for science and technology. His friendship with the president and Kennedy's expansionary attitude toward science and technology gave Wiesner a closer relationship to the president than any science adviser before or after.

During Wiesner's tour in Washington the scope of the White House science office enlarged considerably. The Office of Science and Technology was established, and PSAC was asked for advice on a broader range of issues. From its beginnings, PSAC had been consulted on scientific manpower and education issues and on some civilian technical problems, but the committee had dealt primarily with technical and technological aspects of national security issues. In the Kennedy years, PSAC's agenda broadened to include public policy issues which anticipated concerns later in the decade—such as energy problems, water use, pesticides, and pollution.

Wiesner, a Pugwash regular, was deeply concerned with nuclear arms control matters and, as science adviser, involved himself deeply in the effort that led to the nuclear test ban treaty. Wiesner was not, however, a Merlin of the Kennedy Camelot who invariably called the turn on scientific-technical issues. He was strongly identified with the losing side, for example, in the bitterly argued decision that the Apollo program should adopt a lunar-orbit mode rather than an earth-orbit alternative for the astronauts' trip to the moon.

Wiesner's predecessors in the science adviser's job had acted primarily as personal consultants to the president, operating mostly behind the screen of executive privilege. Wiesner was not particularly accessible to the press or a frequent attraction on the speech-making circuit, but he did appear more frequently before congressional committees as an advocate of Administration proposals, particularly as his own interests developed in such issues as education legislation.

After Kennedy's assassination, Wiesner remained in Washington for a few months but in 1964 returned to M.I.T. as dean of the School of Science. He was regarded as one of the leading prospects in the ensuing search for a successor to M.I.T. president Julius Stratton. Johnson was chosen and took office in 1966, and Wiesner was named provost. The M.I.T. provost is the school's chief academic officer but, as one faculty member put it, "the job is defined by the man," and Wiesner tackled a broad range of financial and administrative problems.

M.I.T.'s campus was comparatively quiet until the fall of 1968 when an AWOL serviceman took sanctuary in the M.I.T. chapel and created a rallying point for militants. This began a period of protest, which produced the 1969 "March 4" research halt at M.I.T. and elsewhere and was to focus primarily on military research done through M.I.T.'s extensive and complex relationship with the federal government. The key issue for protesters became the two "special laboratories," the Instrumentation Laboratory and Lincoln Laboratories with an aggregate budget of $120 million a year, which the institute operated under contract to the federal government. A study by a group that was representative of several segments of the M.I.T. community led to a decision for ultimate transfer of the Instrumentation Lab outside the institute's management structure; the contract relationship of Lincoln Laboratories was to be retained but the lab's involvement in military R & D is not to extend to development of specific weapons systems.

Faculty observers say that Johnson and Wiesner worked well as a team during periods of confrontation, with Johnson operating more as "strategist" and Wiesner, who worked hard at being visible and available to students, providing direct contact between administration and protesters.

The search for a new M.I.T. president began last September when Johnson announced he intended to step down at the end of the current academic year. Dr. James B. Fisk, president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories