

contain coal, ranging from low-grade to anthracite.

According to Arthur Ford of USGS, a Russian expedition has found iron deposits in another mountain range, the

Prince Charles Mountains, which are on that part of Antarctica south of the Indian Ocean. "From estimates I've heard," Ford said, "it would be as large as any known deposit of similar mate-

rial in the world." Gold has been found in Queen Maud Land, although the quantities and types examined are so far "of only scientific interest," Ford says.

Briefing

Soviets Mysteriously Cancel Jubilee

In a surprise move, the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. has "postponed," perhaps indefinitely, its 250th anniversary celebration which was scheduled to bring distinguished scientists from all over the world to Moscow from 14 to 26 May. The dozen or so American Nobel laureates and National Academy of Sciences (NAS) members who had planned to go received cables abruptly announcing the step only 2 weeks before the jubilee was to start.

The jubilee has been in preparation for months. According to informed Washington sources, the Russians have been renovating the elegant academy building in Moscow and relandscaping its grounds. The first part of the celebration, which was to involve hundreds of scientists, was to be in Moscow; it would then move to Leningrad to honor, among other people, Peter the Great, the 18th century czar who founded the academy.

Officials at the end of last week were reluctant to interpret the move by the Russians as a snub or as an indication of cooling relations. Nonetheless the action raised questions. NAS president Philip Handler said the cable that he received attributed the postponement to forthcoming elections to the Supreme Soviet, Russia's equivalent of the U.S. Congress. But the explanation is admittedly thin, since the elections are not held until mid-June and are about as controversial as electing the local dog-catcher.

Another explanation for the change was that the President of the Soviet Academy, Mstislav V. Keldysh, is widely rumored to have suffered a serious relapse. Keldysh has long had some circulatory disease whose exact identity is not known; it was serious enough last year, however, for famed Houston surgeon Michael DeBakey to have flown to Moscow to operate. Keldysh's infirmity leaves the Soviet academy virtually leaderless; two other prominent

leaders, first vice-president Mikhail D. Millionshchikov and council member Lev A. Artsimovich, both died last year. According to this theory, Soviet authorities did not want a lot of foreign visitors in town to witness what will necessarily be a bloody battle for a successor in the event Keldysh dies or is incapacitated.

A third reason advanced was fear by the authorities that, instead of calling attention to the achievements of Soviet science, the jubilee would result in embarrassing incidents involving Westerners with Russian dissident and Jewish scientists. The Moscow dissidents are planning their nerviest protest yet—an international scientific seminar to be held in the apartment of Jewish physicist Alexander Voronel in Moscow 1 to 5 July. Titled "Collective Phenomena and the Applications of Physics to Other Fields of Science," it will offer at least 50 papers, co-sponsored by Tel Aviv University and the Committee of Concerned Scientists in New York. The committee has been urging the scientists going to the May jubilee to contact Jewish scientists in Moscow. But whether or not the authorities got wind of this planning, and balked at having their official invitations thus used, is not known.—D.S.

Schlesinger's R & D Funding Plan Attacked

One of the most powerful Senate arbiters of military research and development activities, Senator Thomas J. McIntyre (D-N.H.), has delivered a stinging attack on Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger's policies on the proposed 1975 military R & D budget of \$9.3 billion.

McIntyre accused Schlesinger of taking a "smorgasbord" approach to military R & D and indicated that despite an explicit request from the Senate Schlesinger had refused to list priorities within the proposed package. "The assumption that we can afford or re-

strain a whole smorgasbord of strategic initiatives ignores the reality of bureaucratic momentum that makes most R & D efforts virtually tantamount to a decision to acquire a weapon system," McIntyre told the Electronics Industries Association on 1 May. McIntyre is chairman of the ad hoc subcommittee on Research and Development of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which is now reviewing the Pentagon's 1975 budget request.

In a wide-ranging speech that touched on the Administration's new counterforce strategy and that discussed SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) as well, McIntyre called for a policy of "greater selectivity" in military research. Such selectivity is "supremely critical when applied to strategic weapons," he said.

"The arms race has, in fact, become an R & D race—a vast proliferating chess game played in a room with cloudy mirrors with the future of the Planet Earth at stake.

"... Selectivity in R & D is necessary because a program once initiated becomes most difficult to stop or substantially alter. It picks up momentum with each step in the R & D cycle. A service, or elements within a service, develop vested interest in programs deriving from R & D beginnings."

Aside from building up momentum within the services, McIntyre went on, research programs generate counter programs in the Soviet Union. "Each R & D effort triggers a set of counter-ing R & D programs designed as hedges for a variety of contingencies.

"So, while the traditional arms race was linear in its growth, the R & D arms race expands geometrically."

McIntyre's attack could mean that the Schlesinger budget request is in trouble. Last week, the House Armed Services Committee cut his R & D request by \$323.3 million. Since the Senate committee will probably make cuts too, a compromise version worked out between House and Senate may end up being lower than what the Secretary of Defense has been hoping for.—D.S.