

## Office of International Science

Publication of a trilingual scientific journal has become one of the two immediate objectives of the Coordinating Committee of the Associations for the Advancement of Science in the Americas, created on 10 July 1974 at a meeting in Recife, Brazil [*Science* **185**, 485 (1974)]. Philip H. Abelson has agreed to prepare a mock-up of the first issue while the Office of International Science has been seeking appropriate articles and soliciting contributions for use in its news section. The Committee was established as a result of the AAAS Mexico City Meeting in June-July 1973, and is hoping to organize a second hemisphere conference in 1977.

Maintenance of communications channels with individual scientists and scientific groups abroad is one of the primary functions of the international office. The office is continuing to use annual AAAS meetings as one of several mechanisms for developing formal and informal contacts, and for identifying areas of multinational concern.

Twelve Asian scientists who were especially invited to attend the February 1974 AAAS Meeting in San Francisco are now planning a follow-up meeting in Korea later this year, and may form an informal Asian coordinating committee. A number of African scientists, several of them representing the West African Science Association, will be guests at the January 1975 AAAS Meeting in New York. They will participate in an all-day panel on "Western Standards and Stereotypes as Impediments to Development." Scientists from developed countries will be urged to participate in the AAAS Bicentennial Meeting in Boston in February 1976.

The Office has begun to publicize issues of international interest through *Science*. It is also hoping to develop lists of American scientists with interests and expertise in particular countries and regions. Such lists would be useful in putting visiting foreign scientists in touch with appropriate persons in this country, as well as in answering requests for specific information from

abroad. A special meeting will be held in New York following the Western Stereotypes panel to discuss these and other possible mechanisms for increasing contacts with foreign scientists.

A second major function of the Office is to assist AAAS sections and committees in carrying out special projects. The Committee on Arid Lands has requested that the Office sponsor a workshop under the auspices of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere project that would utilize the expertise of both the committee members and the office staff. A Committee on UNESCO and Science has been suggested to support AAAS's representative on the U.S. Commission for UNESCO, Dr. Arthur Solomon.

A decision by AAAS's Section H (Anthropology) to present a major statement on the cultural impact of population policies at the UN World Population Conference in Bucharest in August led to the preparation by the Office of International Science of *Culture and Population Change*, a report funded by the Agency for International Development (AID). Copies are available at nominal cost. A monograph enlarging on the same topic is in preparation. Since the UN has recognized AAAS as an official nongovernmental organization, Irene Tinker, director of the Office of International Science, attended the Bucharest conference as the Association's representative. The conference passed an amendment to the World Plan of Action stressing the need for research on the relationship between changing roles of women and population reduction. The Office regards such research as one potential focus of future interests for which funding may be available.

Two other subprojects dealing with culture and population change are being administered for AID by the Office. These are being carried out by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for the Study of Man and the New York Research Institute for the Study of Man. The former of these included the organization of two seminars of world anthropologists, one of which was held

in Bucharest in conjunction with the UN Population Conference. Edited versions of the seminar papers will be available soon through the Office.

A number of panels on population sponsored jointly with several AAAS sections and affiliates will be featured at the Annual Meeting in New York. Particular interest will focus on family life and on the changing roles of family members.

## A Note Concerning This Feature

Many AAAS members have been involved in and are informed about the activities of the five AAAS program offices: Science Education, Communications, Science and Society Programs, Opportunities in Science, and International Science. Nevertheless, the linkages between these offices and the membership have remained tenuous. *AAAS News*, which will appear in this space at least once each month, will attempt to improve communications. Normally it will feature summaries of the activities of one or two program offices as well as short notices from the remaining ones.

Members are invited to offer their comments both through the Letters section of *Science* and by means of direct correspondence with particular program offices.

## Notes from Other Offices

*Education*: The fifth edition of *Science for Society: A Bibliography*, published in October, is available for \$2.

The fifth NSF Chautauqua-type short course series is now in progress.

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*Communications*: A regional seminar on Alternate Energy Sources will be held in Portland, Maine, on 22 and 23 November. Seminars in Las Vegas, Nevada, and San Diego, California, are scheduled for December.

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*Science Books*, a quarterly AAAS publication, plans to incorporate a regular science film review section starting with the May 1975 issue. Qualified film reviewers are asked to identify themselves. Additional book reviewers are

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## AAAS NEWS

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also needed, particularly those with expertise in the social sciences and elementary school science.

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**Science and Society Programs:** Applications for the 1975-1976 Congressional Science Fellow Program will be considered starting 1 December.

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The following publications are available from the Office on request: "Community Information Expositions," "Institutions for the Application of Science to Social Needs," and "Changing Science Policy in the 1970's."

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**Opportunities in Science:** The Office is exploring possible research and/or action programs to benefit physically disabled scientists, including the publication of a roster to promote communications. Physically disabled scientists and others interested in this activity are invited to identify themselves.

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Assistance is being offered by the AAAS Communications Office to local groups interested in organizing activities to follow up programs presented by NOVA, the television science series. (See page 344 of the 25 October issue of *Science* for the November schedule.) Notes on current and future program listings will appear in *Science* from time to time.

1 Dec. *Inside the Golden Gate*. A team of U.S. Geological Survey experts are involved in a project to find out how San Francisco Bay works: its physics, its chemistry, and its biology (a WGBH production).

8 Dec. *The Men Who Painted Caves*. French and American archeologists piece together the lifestyle of the hunters of the last great Ice Age, and try to interpret the meaning of their cave art (a BBC production).

15 Dec. *Red Sea Coral and the Crown of Thorns*. Living literally on a platform in the middle of the Red Sea, a group of English biologists has been studying the crown of thorns starfish, notorious for the devastation it has wrought on the coral reefs of Australia and the Pacific (a BBC production).

22 Dec. *Strange Sleep* (repeat). For the men who discovered and pioneered anesthesia—as this dramatized reconstruction vividly shows—the personal payoff was often bitter and tragic (a WGBH production).

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