Scientists and Lawyers Explore Weather Modification at AAAS-ABA Conference

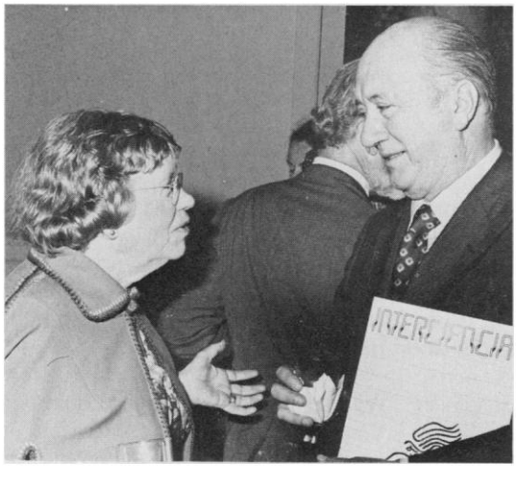
Technology provides the ability to modify weather and with that ability comes a host of questions and problems for lawyers and scientists alike. Because of its increasing importance as a technological and political issue and the complexity of its scientific-legal implications, weather modification was the topic of discussion at a March conference sponsored by AAAS, the American Bar Association, and Duke University, site of the conference (see "AAAS News," *Science*, 6 February 1976, page 458).

The program was an outgrowth of the alliance formed in 1974 by AAAS and the American Bar Association to investigate issues involving science and law and to facilitate communication and cooperation between professionals of both disciplines. The American Bar Foundation and the American Meteorological Society cooperated in planning the conference.

The meeting's objective, as outlined for the 80 invited participants by co-chairman Emilio Q. Daddario and W. Brown Morton, Jr., was to increase the availability of scientifically valid and legally acceptable advice on weather modification for administrators, legislators, and judges. This, in turn, should promote sound decision making and public confidence in how the legal system handles scientific issues.

Scientific and legal uncertainties of this subject were addressed by Lewis O. Grant of the Department of Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University, and Ray J. Davis of the College of Law, University of Arizona. The two speakers reported on such activities as precipitation enhancement, hail reduction, lightning suppression, and redirection of cyclonic storms in the context of unknowns in atmospheric physics and modified meteorological phenomena. In addition, they imposed the legal questions of burden of proof, allocation of atmospheric moisture, and conflicts in laws among jurisdictions. Also speaking on the legal issues raised by this relatively new technology were Howard J. Taubenfeld of the Southern Methodist University School of Law, and John W. Firor of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, who later in the conference also presented a paper written by David Atlas, his colleague at NCAR. Atlas' paper concerned a conceivable hail suppression program that unquestionably would

Interciencia Welcomed at D.C. Reception



Some 200 scientists and diplomats celebrated publication of the first issue of *Interciencia*, a new trilingual journal of science and technology for development, on 17 June at the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Margaret Mead, chairman, AAAS Board of Directors, and Brazilian Ambassador João Baptista Pinheiro (above left) engage in an informal review of the new journal, which focuses on Latin America, during the AAAS-hosted reception.

Also pictured are (above right, from left to right) Marcelo Alonso, director, Office of Scientific Affairs, Organization of American States; Leonard M. Rieser, former chairman of the AAAS Board and vice president, Interciencia Association; Philip H. Abelson, editor of *Science* and United States regional editor of *Interciencia*; Victor Paz Estensorro, former president of Bolivia; and James W. Rowe, project director, Western Hemisphere Cooperation, AAAS Office of International Science, and executive secretary, Interciencia Association.

The Interciencia Association, publisher of the journal, is a federation of associations for the advancement of science in the Americas. It was founded in 1974 by representatives of AAAS and members of scientific associations in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT), and was chartered in Venezuela in 1975.