

been charged with any offense. Carabelli was detained with her young daughter and has been accused of "participation with guerillas." Gallardo is charged with the same offense. There has been no information about Pasquini since he disappeared with his wife, a psychoanalyst, in June last year. Missetich has been held since April 1976 without charge; the Argentinian government first confirmed that he had been arrested, then said there was no information about him, and has sought to explain the contradiction by stating that its first position was incorrect. The NAS committee is petitioning the Argentine government to allow the scientists to be visited so as to ascertain their state of health, and to either bring formal charges against the scientists or else release them.

The committee on human rights seems to enjoy a surprising degree of support from the academy's members. By the end of April more than a quarter of the academy's 1100 members had responded to a letter sent on 1 April. The letter asked them to become correspondents of the committee by helping to identify victims of repression and taking action on their behalf.

The committee's charter calls for it to submit its public statements on the cases of scientists it has adopted to a review panel of the NAS council, chaired by Foreign Secretary George S. Hammond. Having acquired the review panel's approval, the committee will then be speaking on behalf of the academy.

With countries such as the Soviet Union the academy possesses a certain amount of leverage through its scientific exchange programs. Asked if it would be academy policy to establish a linkage between the exchanges and Soviet responsiveness on the human rights issue, Hammond said that "a mild kind of linkage" had been established in the past: "We have told our colleagues in the Soviet Academy that if we are to expand our activities and get the collaboration of American scientists we have to do it at a time when there is an atmosphere of amity."

Why has the academy now decided to go public on human rights? Committee chairman Robert W. Kates of Clark University has referred to the committee's "belief that the [NAS] membership has demonstrated a desire for a more active and visible posture." One factor in ener-

gizing the academy's membership on the issue of human rights may have been the various petitions organized by the Federation of American Scientists. About an eighth of the academy's membership responded affirmatively to an FAS appeal of December 1975 asking members for their future support in defending scientists' professional and human rights. Some 60 physicist members of the academy signed FAS appeals on behalf of Soviet physicist Andrei Tverdokhlebov, and 80 biologists supported FAS actions on behalf of Kovalev.

Besides borrowing the academy's members for its appeals, the FAS also campaigned for the academy itself to take a more public role on behalf of dissident scientists. The academy replied that it was already doing what it could through private channels, which would be rendered ineffective if it went public, and that the best course was for both FAS and NAS to do their own thing in their own ways. To which the FAS suggested that private representations by the NAS would be more effective if combined with public protests.

The classic dilemma of how to deal with tyrants—or with "these Oriental

Briefing

Will Science Adviser Suffer in Shuffle?

The status and probable influence of presidential science adviser Frank Press would be diminished by a reorganization plan under consideration within the Carter Administration. Press currently wears two major hats—he is science and technology adviser to the President and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). In theory, at least, he has direct access to the President whenever he thinks he needs it. (Press hasn't been on the job long enough to determine his ease of access in practice.) But a Carter Administration task force that is masterminding a reorganization of the Executive Office of the President has produced one scheme that would fold OSTP into a new office of planning and analysis. That would appear to make Press subordinate to the head of the new office and to push him one step further away from the President—requiring him, in effect, to report through the head of the new office rather than directly to the President. At this writing, the plans are still fluid, and other

reorganization schemes are also under consideration, including one that would appear to enhance the responsibilities of OSTP by letting it absorb the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy. What the final result will be is anyone's guess. But advocates of OSTP—already alarmed that the OSTP professional staff will be held to numbers far below those envisioned by Congress—are pushing hard to retain the science adviser's direct access to President Carter. Without such access, they fear, the science adviser may be taken lightly by Washington power wielders and his ability to influence major decisions may be severely impaired.—P.M.B.

Congress Rescues Military Med School

The on-again, off-again military medical school appears to be on again. Even Jimmy Carter and Secretary of Defense Harold Brown apparently could not kill it. The school—known as the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sci-

ences—was launched originally over substantial opposition. It has been holding its first classes in temporary quarters while awaiting completion of its permanent buildings on the campus of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Earlier this year the Carter Administration sought to terminate the school by deleting further funds from the budget. The Administration's rationale was that it would be cheaper for the Defense Department to use scholarships to send prospective military doctors through civilian medical schools than it would be to operate a completely new military medical school. But Congress, after hearing testimony that the school would indeed be cost-effective and would produce doctors particularly attuned to the needs of the military, disagreed. Both houses have approved a supplemental appropriation to keep the school going. The action is intended as a signal to the Administration that Congress is determined to preserve the school. At this writing, the supplemental appropriations bill is awaiting the President's signature. The only way he could veto the medical school funds would be by vetoing the entire bill, which provides substantial funding for a variety of other programs.—P.M.B.