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Richard H. Reuning, Ohio State University

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Rosemary A. Chalk, AAAS

Thomas F. Jones, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Chauncey Starr, Electric Power Research Institute

Carroll Louis Wilson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## Board Adopts Annual Meeting Conduct Statement

At its 14-15 April 1978 meeting in Washington, the Board of Directors adopted the following statement regarding standards of conduct at AAAS meetings:

The Board takes it for granted that all who attend the Annual Meetings of the Association will conduct themselves with consideration for others and with particular consideration for those who generously give their time and thought to the sessions. Differing opinions will continue to be heard and respected.

We recognize that there are areas of science that are both controversial and troubling. The Annual Meeting can serve as an effective forum to consider such issues, so long

as procedures of orderly debate and fairness are followed. But discourtesy and abusive behavior have no place in the Annual Meeting. When excesses occur they do great injury both to the Association and to the process of discussion. They cannot be condoned.

## Seventh Interciencia Symposium to Focus on Arid Lands

"Arid Lands and Desertification in the Americas" will be the theme of the seventh Interciencia symposium, to be held in Mexico during the week of 5 November 1978 in conjunction with the fourth annual meeting of the Interciencia Association (IA). The conference, which is being cosponsored and hosted by the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), also is

supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and is viewed as a regional follow-up to the 1977 United Nations Conference on Desertification. For more information about the Interciencia symposium, watch "AAAS News" or write the Office of International Science at the AAAS address.

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*And speaking of arid lands. . .* The work begun at the Science Associations' Nairobi Seminar on Desertification, sponsored by AAAS and science groups of five other countries preceding the UN conference, is being carried out in India. Reports from the International Symposium on Arid Zone Research and Development, held earlier this year at Jodhpur, on the edge of the Rajasthan Desert, indicate that the Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) there will work at refining and monitoring the desertification indicators developed in Nairobi. Scientists at CAZRI will be testing social indicators, including type and intensity of