

and technology), and especially to progress in science, the Board made special efforts to look into this area. What we found was a universal recognition by the Chinese of the predicament confronting them in education. Universities had been shut down, postgraduate study stopped, libraries vandalized, and professors farmed out to hard labor in factories and the countryside. Foreign language teaching had been proscribed, and the flow of foreign literature and especially foreign communication had been effectively shut off. Today, the universities are reopened and students are being tested before admission. The quality of appointees to key university administrative and academic positions is impressive, and many of them are alumni and alumnae of American universities. Emphasis is being given to importing foreign experts for extended lecture tours and to arranging student exchanges. Language training is being speeded up, with emphasis on English. An impressive expansion program is in the works to multiply the number of universities while at the same time decentralizing science education to the factories and communes through what we would call outreach programs. Technical and vocational schools are on the drawing boards, and the plans envisage 2-year community colleges as well. In short, there is an explosive movement toward the creation of the infrastructure for development, limited in practical terms by problems of teacher quality and student quality. To fill these gaps, the Chinese are looking to overseas training to supplement domestic crash programs. Education in China at this point is a very serious business.

6. The Board members went to China expecting to be asked to give lectures. The Chinese had a great appetite for these lectures, and they were given to audiences varying in size from 50 to 500. The lectures traversed the gamut from industrial management and the U.S. science policy system to medical information networks, technology assessment, energy policy choices, scientific journal management, social sciences, the biological sciences, sociology of medicine, and roles of private hospitals in health care delivery. What were expected to be short lectures always took a full half-day as the Chinese pressed questions.

As evidenced by the responses generated by our lectures, throughout China Board members were struck by the keen interest in questions of science. It is obvious the Chinese have a long way to go to recoup the time and talent lost between 1965 and 1975, but the desire and

## Fourth Annual R&D Policy Colloquium

The fourth annual AAAS Research and Development Policy Colloquium will be held 19-20 June 1979 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. In addition to topics related to federal R&D, the FY 1980 budget, and R&D in industry and the economy, the program will include international aspects of R&D policy.

*Research and Development: AAAS Report IV* will be available in book form in time for the June 1979 Colloquium.

For further information, write to R&D Budget Project, Office of Public Sector Programs, at the AAAS address.

determination to reach parity in matters of science and technology are also clear.

Prognosis is risky, considering the modern history of the revolutionary movement in China, but on the evidence of a brief and strenuous visit it appears that the changes under way are widely supported by both policy and public opinion, and that in the decade ahead Chinese science will give a very good account of itself.

The cooperative arrangements agreed to by STAPRC and AAAS represent one step in many that the Chinese will take as normalization proceeds and the People's Republic of China goes about rebuilding its scientific capabilities.

WILLIAM D. CAREY  
Executive Officer

## AAAS Introduces New Life Insurance Program

This year AAAS is introducing a new membership benefit—a program of group term life insurance that has been developed especially for AAAS members and their families. The benefit is being offered in response to the expressed interest on the part of many AAAS members, who over the last several years have inquired about the availability of life insurance at attractive low group rates.

Some 2 years ago, the Board of Directors authorized an investigation into the possibility of making such a program available to members. After determining

at an early stage that the services of a professional independent insurance administrator would prove essential in helping to provide this type of membership service, AAAS carefully examined more than a dozen administrators and interviewed some eight of them. Based on their experience, reputation, and client references, AAAS selected Association Consultants, Inc., of Chicago, to help develop and administer the program. They are operating under the general supervision of the AAAS Board, an insurance committee of the Board, and AAAS staff.

Also, as a part of this process, AAAS conducted a survey of a cross section of members, in which they were asked to indicate their professional interests, preferences about *Science*, comments on the annual meeting, and possible membership benefits that AAAS could offer in the future, including insurance protection. The response provided valuable information that will help in setting future editorial and management policies. In addition, it helped to determine just what type of insurance program would best suit members' interests and needs.

Using the information gained from the survey, AAAS developed specifications for the proposed insurance program and invited several of the major insurance carriers to submit proposals. After reviewing proposals from several insurance carriers, AAAS selected the program underwritten by Northwestern National Life Insurance Company and their subsidiary, the North Atlantic Life Insurance Company of America. Established in 1885, Northwestern National ranks in the top 2 percent by size of the more than 1800 U.S. life insurance companies.

The new Group Term Life Insurance Plan for AAAS members is uncomplicated and designed to accommodate the needs of the majority of the membership. Benefits of the program include:

- During the Open Charter Enrollment Period, all members under age 70 can apply for up to \$100,000 coverage.

- Also, during the Open Charter Enrollment Period, all eligible members under age 50 are guaranteed \$10,000 or \$20,000 coverage.

- Members can elect to insure their spouses for up to the same amount that they select for themselves.

- All dependent children between 14 days and 23 years of age may be insured for \$5000 each.

- At age 70 all insured members qualify for a paid-up benefit.

AAAS has established a special group