

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

life insurance trust for this program, which is designed solely as a benefit for members and their families. The Association will not profit from this program. Any experience refunds which might accrue will be passed along to participating members in the form of benefit increases, premium reductions, and other program improvements.

A mailing has been made to the entire membership announcing this new benefit and providing specific details. For further information, call or write to AAAS Group Life Insurance Trust Administrators, Suite 3220, 180 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Call toll free (800) 621-9903; Illinois residents call (312) 726-9122.

## AAAS Membership List

As you are probably aware, AAAS receives requests from time to time from outside organizations for rental of its membership list. Under very strict guidelines, we have been renting the list to such organizations, usually our affiliated societies, when we are convinced that the mailing is in keeping with our objectives and announces a publication, meeting, or membership offering that would be of particular interest to AAAS members. Since these requests appear to be increasing in frequency, we wanted to remind you that you have the option of having your name removed from the list when it is rented to another organization. This in no way affects your AAAS membership status or mailings you receive from the Association. If you would like to have your name deleted when the list is rented, please notify the Office of Membership Recruitment at the AAAS address.

## Climate Project Organizing Workshop

A workshop on "Environmental and Societal Consequences of a Possible CO<sub>2</sub> Induced Climate Change," is being organized by the AAAS Climate Project Office with funding from the Division of Carbon Dioxide and Climate Research of the U.S. Department of Energy. The workshop will be held 2-6 April 1979 at the Annapolis Hilton Inn, and will include about 80 participants, many from the biological and social sciences. The workshop will be led by Roger Revelle, with the assistance of a distinguished group of panel chairmen.

The workshop will be the first step

toward the development of Part II of DOE's comprehensive research plan on carbon dioxide effects. (Part I dealt with the global carbon cycle and climate effects.) For further information write David M. Burns, director, Climate Project, at the AAAS address. Phone (202) 467-5436.

## Edison Centennial Symposium Planned

The AAAS will be a participating organization in the Edison Centennial Symposium on Science, Technology, and the Human Prospect.

The symposium will be held in San Francisco, 1-4 April 1979. Chauncey Starr, former AAAS Board member, and vice chairman of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) is chairman of the symposium, which is sponsored by EPRI and the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation.

For further details, write to Government Institutes, Inc., 4733 Bethesda Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20014.

## Chautauqua Short Course Program

Nearly 60 academic deans, or their representatives, from 36 colleges and universities recently attended a series of three regional conferences to discuss the NSF Chautauqua-Type Short Courses for College Teachers. The conferences, held in September and October 1978, were sponsored by the AAAS Office of Science Education and hosted by Montana State University, the University of New Mexico, and Cayey University College of the University of Puerto Rico.

The dialogues were frank and enthusiastic. Participants asked about all aspects of the short course program and suggested ways it might better serve the needs of science faculty in their areas. A Chautauqua course director provided details of what actually happens in a short course—fall session, interim, spring session—and what can happen professionally thereafter; a Chautauqua field center coordinator added the perspective of a host. Several college teachers who had participated in a variety of short courses related their experiences via a videotaped panel discussion. Staff from the AAAS and the National Science Foundation discussed the overall development and organization of the program.

At the Montana meeting the deans

were generally pleased with the array of short courses offered, but very concerned with the enormous distances their faculty must travel to attend. An alternative suggestion was that Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming might use a centrally located site as a "satellite" to an already existing center.

At the New Mexico meeting there was concern that the topics of the short courses were not sufficiently oriented to the needs of minorities. Six of the nine institutions represented have Hispanic student enrollments of 10 to 40 percent. Various ideas for short courses emerged, including the transfer of technology to rural areas and minority populations (even nations) in the Southwest.

Deans at the Puerto Rican meeting felt that it would be considerably more cost-effective to have a director conduct a short course there rather than send faculty members to the States. Ismael Almodovar, president of the University of Puerto Rico, emphasized the high priority which Puerto Rico has placed on the improvement of undergraduate teaching in the sciences. The deans identified several types of short courses which would particularly appeal to Puerto Rican faculty.

## For the Library

The Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division of the AAAS has prepared 17 symposium volumes on topics of concern in arid lands. They are: climate and man, 1957; bioecology, 1958; agricultural problems, 1959; water yield, 1960; ecology of ground water, 1961; water improvement, 1962; Indian and Spanish adjustments, 1967; international water law (Mexican border), 1968; future environments, 1969; saline water 1970; health and related problems, 1971; the high plains, 1972; quality versus economics development, 1973; and reclamation of disturbed lands, 1978.

To order copies (\$2 each for AAAS members, \$3 for nonmembers), write to Lora M. Shields, executive officer, Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division, AAAS, Navajo Community College, P.O. Box 580, Shiprock, New Mexico 87420.

**For more information about the activities and publications described in AAAS News, write to the appropriate office, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, unless otherwise indicated.**