Atomic Agency Agrees on Leadership, Israel

After months of bargaining in Vienna, the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reached a consensus on 26 September and elected a new director-general: Hans Blix of Sweden. He will replace Sigvard Eklund, also from Sweden, who will retire from office in December.

Blix was once the foreign minister of Sweden and now serves as deputy foreign minister in charge of development affairs. Although his nomination had been opposed for many weeks by a coalition of less developed nations (known as the Group of 77 or G-77), Blix won over enough of these opponents to defeat the Third-World nominee, Domingo Siazon of the Philippines.

According to a U.S. State Department official, the stalemate ended only because Mexican and African members of the G-77 defected to vote for Blix, the compromise candidate backed by the big powers. The official said that no substantive concessions were made to win the G-77 votes. However, he did say that a number of proposals were adopted which the G-77 members might consider victories. Among these were a commitment to increase IAEA technical assistance to nations wishing to develop nuclear power, a pledge to include more Third-World representatives on the board of governors and in the high-level offices of the IAEA, and a vague promise to consider electing a G-77 representative to be director-general at some time in the future. Because the United States objected, the agency did not adopt quotas for the hiring of Third-World officials.

Meanwhile, the United States won a small victory in the general conference of the IAEA, which met at the same time in Vienna. It voted to reject Iraq's request that the IAEA suspend Israel's rights of membership. Iraq maintained that Israel should be excluded from the IAEA because it had violated international law when it bombed Iraq's research reactor on 7 June (*Science*, 25 September, p. 1482). By a vote of 51 to 8, with 27 abstentions, the conference adopted a substitute proposal that meted out a lesser punishment. For an indefinite period, Israel will be denied the technical assistance ($150,000 annually) normally provided to IAEA members.

In addition, the conference agreed to reexamine Israel's behavior a year from now. If the Israelis have not signed the Nonproliferation Treaty and if they persist in rejecting IAEA inspections of their reactors, they will again be subject to a vote of expulsion. But the State Department official said, it is a "vain hope" to expect Israel to allow inspections.

The United States deplored the vote, but officials are clearly relieved that Israel was not expelled. The Europeans and Japanese abstained. The U.S. official said, with a touch of sarcasm, that the United States and Israel were joined by a "sterling group" in voting against the censure. The group included Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Although U.S. officials anticipated a move to expel South Africa from the IAEA, no such proposal came to a vote. The South Africans did not attend the general conference, but they were thrown out of a meeting they did attend—held by the Committee on the Assurance of [uranium fuel] Supply. The vote to throw South Africa out puzzled one American diplomat. He said that South Africa, as a major uranium exporter, is one of the few members of that committee that actually can contribute to the assurance of supply.—***Eliot Marshall***

Bills Would Enlarge Special Patent Umbrella

Changes in patent policy designed to further encourage commercialization of inventions developed with federal funds appear to have firm backing in both Congress and the White House. Administration spokesmen at a joint House-Senate hearing on 30 September voiced general approval of the changes embodied in new House and Senate bills.

Both bills would expand present law to permit large companies to retain rights to inventions that are developed with federal research support. A law enacted last year, which established a uniform federal patent policy on federal research, granted such patent rights to universities and small businesses.

The main sponsor of the Senate bill (S. 1657) is Harrison Schmitt (R–N.M.). Representative Allen Ertel (D–Pa.) is author of the House bill (H.R. 4564). Both bills were introduced on 23 September. They are similar in their main features but differ in some details.

Sponsors of the revision argue that the changes in patent law are an important part of a package of measures—including tax reform and boosts in federal support of research—that are needed to stimulate lagging innovation and productivity.

Among Administration witnesses who expressed approval of the bills were the President's science adviser George Keyworth and officials of the Department of Commerce. Keyworth said that the main provisions of the bills are consonant with Reagan Administration policy.

Opposition to the changes in patent policy were voiced at the hearing by Senator Russell Long (D–La.) and Admiral Hyman Rickover, longtime head of the Navy's nuclear propulsion program. The main argument of opponents has been that taxpayers should not be denied the benefits of the federal investment in research. Rickover also charged that universities have done poorly in taking advantage of patent rights under the law.

Some concern has been expressed that replacement of recently enacted legislation with a new law would cause further confusion about implementing regulations. And there have been suggestions that the proposed measure might better be enacted as part of pending comprehensive patent law revision.

Staff sources say, however, that favorable action on the bills is likely fairly soon in the Senate Commerce, Transportation and Science and the House Science and Technology committees, which held the joint hearing.

Prospects for the bills appear more uncertain in the House than in the Senate. The House Science and Technology Committee shares jurisdiction on the matter with the House Judiciary Committee, and sentiment

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on the issue in the House at large is hard to gauge at this point.

The Administration blessing and bipartisan support for the bill are expected to count substantially, however, and those familiar with the matter say it is likely that Congress will act on the measure before winding up next year.—***John Walsh***

Budget Cuts May Cost U.S. One Accelerator

President Reagan's plan to make 12 percent across-the-board cuts in federal spending is going to cost 1000 jobs in high energy physics research. The $47-million reduction in high energy funding will also force physicists to recommend the closing of one of the Department of Energy's (DOE) three elementary particle accelerator laboratories if future budgets stay at the same low level. This is what DOE's High Energy Physics Advisory Panel (HEPAP) told the President's science adviser George Keyworth at its 28 September meeting in Washington.

Shutting down one of the accelerators would be a shattering event, in HEPAP's view, because the quite different types of machines at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center have enabled U.S. physicists to remain at the forefront in all areas of the field. With only two laboratories, the United States would have to concede certain types of research to the Europeans, said HEPAP chairman Sidney Drell of Stanford.

Keyworth countered with the assertion that an across-the-board cut was the only way to get the budget reductions the President wanted, that high energy physicists should not expect any big increases in the next couple of years, and that the question of three or two accelerator centers was one physicists would have to sort out among themselves. As for ceding territory to the Europeans, Keyworth said that science is not a nationalistic thing and that there is nothing wrong with cooperating with Western Europe and Japan.

Later in the meeting, William Wallenmeyer, DOE's high energy physics director, laid out the likely effect of a 12 percent reduction in fiscal 1982. At Brookhaven, the troubled ISABELLE accelerator project would lose $11 million above cuts already made earlier in the year. The laboratory would also lose almost $7 million in R & D funds. More than $8 million would come from Stanford's operating budget, which would end all experiments with the linear accelerator there this year, but not with the colliding beam storage rings. And just under $7 million would come from the operating budget at Fermilab, where director Leon Lederman had already hinted at canceling his 1982 experimental program for lack of money.

Additional reductions would come at Argonne National Laboratory, which lost its accelerator some years ago and may now see the end of all its high energy research. Finally, from 10 to 15 university experimental projects would go.—***Arthur L. Robinson***

Kendrew to Retire from European Laboratory

Sir John Kendrew, the first director-general of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, will retire from that positon on 31 March 1982. Kendrew, who shared the 1962 Nobel Prize for Chemistry with Max Perutz for their contributions to the analysis of protein structure, played a major role in establishing EMBL.

In the early 1960's he helped to found the European Molecular Biology Organization, comprising 15 members* and having as one of its goals the formation of an international laboratory for fundamental research in molecular biology. In 1974 ten of the members (the current members of EMBL: Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom) ratified the convention establishing the laboratory, which is legally separate from EMBO.

*Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Kendrew, who is 64 years old, became director-general of EMBL in 1975. During his tenure the main laboratory building, which opened in 1978, was constructed on one of the rolling hills above Heidelberg. There are also outstations at the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron in Hamburg and the Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble. EMBL now has a staff of about 300 people and a budget for 1982 of DM 40 million (approximately $18 million).

After leaving EMBL, Kendrew will become president of St. John's College in Oxford. His successor at the laboratory will be Lennart Philipson, who is currently director of the Institute for Microbiology at the University of Uppsala.—***Jean L. Marx***

Armand Hammer Named to Head Cancer Panel

Armand Hammer, the 83-year-old chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corporation, has been named head of the President's three-member Cancer Advisory Panel, the White House announced on 2 October. The panel advises the President on National Cancer Institute policies.

Hammer was trained as a physician, but practiced for only a short time after he received his medical degree from Columbia University in 1921. As the new cancer panel chairman, Hammer succeeds Joshua Lederberg, president of Rockefeller University, whose term expired last February. The other members of the panel are Harold Amos, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at Harvard University, and Bernard Fisher, professor of surgery at the University of Pittsburgh.

Hammer serves on the boards of several health foundations and associations and has kept a lifelong membership in the American Medical Association. He is chairman of the board of trustees of the Salk Institute, to which he gave $5 million in 1969 to establish a center for cancer biology research. In 1977, he created a $5-million endowment at Columbia University for a health science center there.—***Marjorie Sun***