head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, director of High Frontier, Inc., in Washington, and chairman of the new PAC. Graham's program would start with a ground-based missile defense system around MX silos (thereby contravening the 1972 treaty restricting antiballistic missiles), and then over the next 10 to 15 years evolve toward a global system of 432 killer satellites that would destroy hostile ICBM's with infrared-homing missiles, or perhaps with laser or particle-beam weapons. In addition, Graham's $35-billion plan calls for solar power satellites, a high-capacity space shuttle, and a military space station with provisions for "fly-along" of civilian experiments.

Graham, like Reagan, sees this kind of orbital defense system as an alternative to the current defense strategy of Mutual Assured Destruction. His theme—"A strategy of Hope for Americans and Free People Everywhere"—seems to have struck a chord. President of the new PAC is Robert Dornan, formerly a Republican congressman from California and before that a talk-show host in Los Angeles. The host committee for the PAC's inaugural breakfast meeting on 29 September included such luminaries as former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, science fiction author Robert A. Heinlein, Senator Jesse Helms (R–N.C.), the Reverend Jerry Falwell, Admiral Thomas Moorer, Claire Booth Luce, and Phyllis Schlafly. Already, the new PAC has raised some $100,000 toward its goal of $1 million.

—M. MITCHELL WALDROP

Reagan Gives Blessing to Federal Labs' Reforms

President Reagan has endorsed the recommendations for reform of the federal laboratories made by a White House Science Council panel (*Science*, 29 July, p. 438) and told Executive Office officials that he wants a progress report on the response of the agencies involved by mid-1984.

In a 5 August memorandum to the heads of departments and agencies that operate the federal labs Reagan said that he was directing the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to lead an effort to implement the review panel's recommendations. He said he wanted OSTP and OMB to report back on progress no later than 1 July 1984.

A few days before the memo was issued, review panel chairman David Packard and OSTP director George A. Keyworth, II, discussed the panel's findings with Reagan and members of his Cabinet in a session that lasted about an hour. Such attention to R & D issues from the President and Cabinet members has been rare since the days of the Eisenhower, Kennedy, and early Johnson Administrations when, by comparison with later periods, the President's science adviser and President's Science Advisory Committee were on a hobnobbing basis with the President and Cabinet members.—JOHN WALSH

Airliner Incident Affects Soviet–U.S. Exchanges

Soviet–U.S. bilateral cooperation in science and technology was further jolted as a result of the Soviet attack on the Korean airliner, but the exchanges are still operating at a reduced level.

U.S. actions in response to the incident produced some ironies. The single intergovernmental exchange program in science and technology canceled as a result of the attack was one on transportation research that concentrated on work on air safety. The Administration also announced it would indefinitely suspend negotiations which had recently been resumed with the Soviets on a general agreement on academic, scientific, and cultural exchanges. The official U.S. position prior to the incident was that no such agreement to resume talks had been reached.

The fate of the transportation program appears to have been in part due to timing. The program's 5-year term had officially expired on 19 June, but the two countries had agreed informally to continue to discuss a renewal. After the attack on the airliner, President Reagan ordered the negotiations ended, effectively killing the program. An atomic energy research program had also officially expired in June, but was renegotiated and signed in July, well before the downing incident.

The transportation exchange program which included projects on microwave landing systems, navigation aids, and collision avoidance, was regarded as important to international air safety by U.S. officials and an attempt will apparently be made to continue at least parts of it under trilateral arrangements, including the British as well as the Soviets.

The major disruption to the exchanges caused by the incident occurred in mid-September when the Soviet government ordered 20 Soviet scholars who had just arrived in the United States to begin exchanges at U.S. universities to return to the Soviet Union. A Soviet embassy spokesman in Washington said that the action was prompted by concern that because of the atmosphere of recrimination in this country, the scholars might be subjected to harassment or physical abuse. A State Department official said that the possibility that the Soviet scholars will come here for the spring semester is being left open. A small number of U.S. scientists involved in the exchanges have either remained in the Soviet Union or entered the country since the airliner incident occurred.

The private science and technology exchange program administered by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences is operating under the conditions that prevailed before the attack on the airliner (*Science*, 22 July, p. 346). Activities under both the intergovernmental and private exchange agreements were reduced on U.S. initiative as a result of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and imposition of martial law in Poland.

In the absence of a general agreement on both cultural and scientific exchanges, the two countries will apparently continue making ad hoc decisions as individual exchange programs come up for renewal. U.S. decisions have been based primarily on assessments of the usefulness of particular programs to this country and on the then current state of Soviet–U.S. relations. The next program up for renewal among the seven surviving science and technology programs, dating from the early 1970's, is one in housing technology which will require a decision in December.

—JOHN WALSH