
Reinforcements Reach OSTP

The Reagan Administration has filled the vacuum left by the recent departure of the entire top echelon of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and has revamped the structure of the office in the process. The deputy director and four assistant directors all departed in the space of a few weeks, raising speculation about administrative problems in the science advisory apparatus (*Science*, 16 September, p. 1162). A new deputy has now been appointed, however, and the four assistant directorships have fissioned into six, five of which have now been filled.

The new deputy director is John McTague, who for the past 18 months has headed the department responsible for the National Synchrotron Light Source at Brookhaven National Laboratory. A physical chemist, McTague was for 12 years at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he still holds a professorship. McTague has not had any prior government experience. He replaces Ronald Frankum, who left OSTP on 1 October and is now chairman of the board of Telecom Futures, Inc.

The newly appointed assistant directors are:

- General Science: Ralph M. DeVries, former head of the nuclear physics program at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he was a colleague of OSTP director George Keyworth. DeVries is a nuclear physicist. His job at OSTP was occupied by N. Douglas Pewitt, who recently joined Western Research Corporation.

- Space Science and Technology: Richard G. Johnson, a space scientist who has spent the past 27 years at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, most recently as senior scientific adviser to the director of research. This is a new assistant directorship.

- Institutional Relations: James G. Ling, who has been with OSTP since 1981. Before that, Ling was at the Department of Energy. He replaces Denis Prager, who left in May and is now with the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago. Prager's responsibilities also included policy for the life sciences and agriculture, but these have now been split off into a separate

assistant directorship. Ling will hold the additional title of acting assistant director for life sciences until a permanent replacement is found.

- Energy, Natural Resources and International Affairs: Wallace Kornack, a former Department of Energy official who has been with OSTP since June. Kornack replaces John Marcum, who has been named head of the directorate of science, technology, and industry at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

- Defense Technology and Systems: Maurice A. Roesch III, a Marine Corps colonel who holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Virginia. He replaces Victor Reis, who left in August to join Science Applications, Inc.—**COLIN NORMAN**

French Bishops Defend Nuclear Deterrence

Paris. French Catholic bishops, adopting a stance that directly challenges the position taken by their American counterparts last May, have issued a statement defending the development and deployment of nuclear weapons on the grounds that the state has a moral duty to protect its citizens.

The statement was approved by a vote of 83 to 8 at the plenary assembly of the leaders of the French Catholic Church, meeting in Lourdes. Although Catholic churches in other European countries, notably Holland and West Germany, have made known their unease with the position taken by the American bishops, the French statement is by far the strongest to have emerged from the debate taking place within the Church, and has been a major disappointment to pacifist groups working in France.

The French bishops emphasized the dangers created by the use of force, even when considered legitimate, and by what they described as the "destiny spiral" of the arms race. Furthermore, they defended the rights of individuals to reject nuclear weapons on the ground "personal ethics."

Nevertheless, the bishops said that there were certain conditions under which the use of the nuclear threat was legitimate. These conditions were that weapons were deployed solely for defense, that efforts were made to

prevent overarming, that all necessary precautions were taken to avoid mistakes, and that "the nation which takes the risk of nuclear dissuasion also pursues a positive policy in favor of peace."

The bishops' statement has clearly come as something of a relief to French President François Mitterrand, who has so far avoided the mass demonstrations against the deployment of new American weapons that have been taking place in virtually every other western European nation. During a television address last week, Mitterrand said that the protests should have taken place in 1977, when the Soviet Union first started to place intermediate range missiles in eastern Europe; "to ask western countries now to freeze the situation in a state of disequilibrium is to crystallize a situation which could lead to war," Mitterrand told the French nation.

However, the Catholic bishops' position has been followed by an equally strong statement adopted by an assembly of the Protestant Federation of France, protesting against the strategy of nuclear dissuasion and arguing in favor of a nuclear freeze—"even unilateral"—as a first step toward disarmament.—**DAVID DICKSON**

Congress Kills Weather Satellite Sale

The Reagan Administration's plan to sell its weather satellites to a private operator is virtually dead. Congress, which has taken a dim view of the idea all along (*Science*, 12 August, p. 632), has already passed a resolution against the sale and has now backed it up with legislation that bars the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its parent agency, the Department of Commerce, from spending any of the 1984 money on the weather satellite transfer.

The legislation took the form of an amendment to the fiscal year 1984 appropriations bill for NOAA. The measure also included money for the launch of Landsat D' next spring as a replacement for the failing Landsat 4 (*Science*, 12 August, p. 632). The White House Office of Management and Budget has advised the President to sign the bill.