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## Reinforcements Reach OSTP

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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**

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## French Bishops Defend Nuclear Deterrence

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*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**

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## Congress Kills Weather Satellite Sale

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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.

The issue of commercializing Landsat remains unsettled. Sometime in December the Commerce Department plans to start soliciting bids for private companies to operate and/or purchase the Landsat system. But Congress, which generally supports the commercialization of Landsat, has its own ideas about how the transfer ought to proceed. The tug-of-war is far from over.—**M. MITCHELL WALDROP**

## Anthropologist-Official Arrested in Mexico

The arrest of the director of Mexico's institute of Indian affairs, who is a well-known anthropologist, has prompted charges by his supporters that the action was politically inspired.

Salamon Nahmad, head of the National Institute of Indianistics, was arrested on 21 October under provisions of a new law designed to curb corruption by government officials. Nahmad was charged with abuse of power for his alleged involvement in an incident in which the institute purchased cloth for distribution to Mexican Indians from a company in which Nahmad's brother has an interest.

His defenders claim that his accusers, who are members of the staff of the institute, concocted the case against Nahmad because they disagree with his policies and may themselves have been involved in corrupt activities.

Nahmad has initiated changes at the institute which mark a break from its traditional paternalistic policies. He has moved to involve the Indians themselves more extensively in management of their affairs and to include more Indians in the bureaucracy that administers those affairs.

Nahmad was appointed to the director's post a year ago by Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid shortly after he took office. Nahmad had been a member of the staff of the institute for a number of years and is the author of well-known scholarly work on the country's Indians. Social science professional organizations here and in Mexico have protested the arrest and several hundred Indians at one point occupied the institute offices to demonstrate support. Nahmad has been arraigned and is still being held in jail.—**JOHN WALSH**

## Parapsychology Update

At least one member of Congress, Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), has publicly expressed an interest in parapsychology, but apparently there are quite a few others sufficiently curious to ask the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to report on the status of such research.\* (CRS does not reveal names of requesters.)

The report, completed last summer, carries on at some length about the potential educational, military, anti-crime, and health applications if psychic phenomena are ever understood well enough to be replicable.

Currently, says the report, a paltry \$500,000 a year is going into psi research in the United States, almost all from private sources. In contrast, research is more or less thriving in the Soviet Union where speculation puts the funding at tens of millions of dollars. However, the only recognized application is dowsing, which is taught to mineralogists and geologists at the Omsk Polytechnical Institute. The People's Republic of China is said to have developed a fairly recent interest in parapsychology, including psychic healing.

In the United States, the field has been chiefly explored by psychologists, but physicists have become increasingly involved and are employing the latest technologies in an effort to detect the slightest effects of mind on matter. Most research is devoted either to extrasensory perception (ESP) or telekinesis—the ability to move objects. Currently, extensive efforts are being made to correlate psychic ability with personality variables or with particular altered states of consciousness, according to the report. The prime location for this, says the report's author Christopher Dodge, is the Maimonides Medical Center in New York.

Another major thrust has been the use of random number generators to seek statistically significant psi-induced deviations. Robert Jahn, dean of Engineering at Princeton University, has been doing this for some years, and claims weak but persistent positive results. Jahn and several other engineers are increasingly interested in possible psi interactions with

\*"Research into 'psi' Phenomena: Current Status and Trends of Congressional Concern."

computers, examining, for example, the possible disturbance of the memory functions of single microelectronic chips.

So far, the most striking results appear to be coming from remote viewing experiments. At Stanford Research Institute physicist Harold Puthoff is conducting double-blind experiments where a person is sent out to engage in an activity and the subject is asked to visualize where the person is. The investigators are claiming a 70 percent success rate.

The report notes that there is "no conclusive physical theory of psi" phenomena, but that is not for lack of trying. Theoreticians have found explanations based on electromagnetic or sound waves inadequate and are looking for more "holistic" paradigms. An extension of quantum mechanics to cover the laws of consciousness is one idea; another extends the concept of hyperspace to postulate an added dimension in human experience.

The report concludes with a glowing catalog of all the fields of human endeavor that could be enhanced by the harnessing of psi abilities. It makes no mention of the appalling social disruption such powers could also bring.

—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

## Pork Barrel Funds Decried

The National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges has joined the chorus of academic organizations decrying the practice of providing funds for higher education facilities through pork barrel politics. The association adopted a statement at its annual meeting on 14 November noting that "wholly inadequate resources for facilities has led some institutions to seek direct assistance from Congress." The outcome of such a process, the statement said, "could be an irrational system of distribution based solely on political influence," and the association urged "Members of Congress and leaders of colleges and universities to refrain from this practice." The resolution also called on Congress to provide some general funding for higher education facilities.

The National Academy of Sciences and the Association of American Universities recently adopted similar resolutions.—**COLIN NORMAN**