

ous Cristopol prison, the main Soviet institution for political prisoners, where he remains.

According to Peter Reddaway, a British political scientist who has been monitoring Koryagin's condition, he has been on a hunger strike for more than 4 months. He wants to end the strike, but is said to be physically incapable of taking food. He has apparently been force-fed, but the feedings have been inefficiently administered, and he is now said to be incapable of swallowing food.

Britain's Royal College of Physicians and the American Association for the Advancement of Science are among those that have sent telegrams asking that he be given proper medical treatment.—COLIN NORMAN

Carnegie-Mellon Lands Federal Software Center

A high technology prize that inspired universities to strenuous competitive efforts has gone to Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. The Pentagon on 14 November announced the selection of Carnegie-Mellon to operate a Software Engineering Institute (SEI) with the mission of making state-of-the-art software available to the Department of Defense.

The DOD award will bring a contract worth \$103 million over 5 years and is expected to provide a strong stimulus to computer software activities in the area. DOD and Carnegie-Mellon must conclude negotiations on details, but agreement is expected by the end of the year and a start-up of operations shortly afterward.

SEI will function as a nonprofit, federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) managed by the university. Carnegie-Mellon officials say the facility will be located near the campus and will have close links with the university's computer science department.

DOD sponsorship was prompted by concern in the military about a lag in translation of new developments in software technology into DOD systems. SEI will be expected to identify such new developments and assist in their adoption by industry.

The Pentagon request for propos-

als earlier this year created a rush among research universities to bid for the award (*Science*, 5 October, p. 26). The competing universities viewed the institute as a major asset in attracting faculty and establishing a leading position in an important field. State and local officials and industry interests saw SEI as offering a high technology boost to local economies. The Carnegie-Mellon bid was depicted as a potential boon for the Pittsburgh area which has been hard hit by the decline in so-called smokestack industries. Press accounts of the contest for the contract have featured accounts of well-orchestrated efforts by Senator John Heinz (R-Pa.), other Pennsylvania officials, and industry lobbyists in behalf of Carnegie-Mellon. Other bidders also mobilized their congressional delegations and state officials in their causes.

The unsuccessful bidders, though disappointed, appear to accept the decision as having been determined by the merits of the proposals. Usually mentioned is that Carnegie-Mellon, along with MIT and Stanford, ranks at the top in academic computer science and engineering.

The Carnegie-Mellon view as expressed by university provost Angel G. Jordan, who headed the campaign for the contract, is that "the competition was formidable," and DOD made the decision on the basis of the technical content of the proposals.

Jordan says that Carnegie-Mellon is appreciative of the efforts of Pennsylvania legislators and others but thinks that "too much was made of the political war." He points out that factors in Carnegie-Mellon's favor were that the university was the first to establish a separate computer science department and "has been working on software engineering for years." Carnegie-Mellon also has an extended history of research support in computer science from DOD.

In respect to SEI's implications for the economic fortunes of the Pittsburgh area, Jordan is sanguine but cautious. He notes that a number of software engineering companies have located in the area and he predicts the trend will accelerate. Jordan says the institute can't be regarded as the only solution to the problems of the Pittsburgh area, but will be an "important ingredient in the transition" to a stronger local economy.—JOHN WALSH

Britain Cuts Student Grants to Boost Research

Britain's Secretary of State for Education and Science, Sir Keith Joseph, has responded to recent complaints from the scientific community about their current acute shortage of funds by adding \$30 million to the science budget for 1985 to 1986. The money will come from a reduction in the government's direct support for university students.

Of the total figure being made available, \$10 million will be allocated to the joint budget of Britain's five research councils for the support of fundamental research, \$7.5 million will be spent on restructuring two of the councils—the Agricultural and Food Research Council and the Natural Environment Research Council—and the remaining \$12.5 million will go to the University Grants Committee for upgrading scientific equipment in the universities.

Research council heads have recently warned that the types of costs they face—such as increased subscriptions to international agencies caused by the falling value of the pound—mean that the amount of research they are able to support has been shrinking significantly. A spokesman for the Science and Engineering Research Council says that the extra money should now make it possible to fund a substantial proportion of those "alpha quality" grant requests which the council is currently having to reject because of a lack of resources.

The extra money for science is being raised by abolishing the "minimum grant" previously paid by the government to all university students and increasing the student contribution to university tuition fees. In future, any student whose parents' income is greater than \$25,000 a year will no longer be eligible for the \$260 annual grant which he or she currently receives from the government, and will in addition be expected to pay \$650 a year toward university tuition fees. Higher education students from 64,000 families in Britain are expected to be affected by the measure, and grants will also be reduced for students from lower income brackets.

—DAVID DICKSON