

arms control policy fellowship program for scientists; and a book on the history, politics, and technology of a comprehensive test ban.

For more information on the Committee's activities and products, write to the Committee on Science, Arms Control, and National Security, at AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

RICHARD A. SCRIBNER
*Committee on Science, Arms Control,
and National Security*

AAAS Board Visits China

Several members of the AAAS Board of Directors visited China late last summer, at the invitation of Professor Zhou Peiyuan, chairman of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). This was the first Board visit to China since 1978—shortly before the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China—and the delegation noted many significant changes.

President-elect Lawrence Bogorad headed the delegation which also included William T. Golden, Donald N. Langenberg, Dorothy Nelkin, Sheila E. Widnall, and Linda S. Wilson. J. Thomas Ratchford, associate executive officer and head, Office of International Science, was also in the delegation as was Lisbeth A. Levey, coordinator of the AAAS China Exchange Program. Accompanying the delegation were Rosalyn Bogorad, Patricia Langenberg, and William Widnall. The group visited Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen. In addition to meeting with government officials, researchers, and administrators, delegation members gave lectures in Beijing and Shanghai.

One of the highlights of the trip was a meeting with Premier Zhao Ziyang in Beijing. Premier Zhao received the delegation in the Zhongnanhai Compound, which he explained is sometimes called "the heart of power in China" because the offices of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee are located on one side and those of the State Council are on the other. He said that he believes it is essential to establish the importance of science and technology (S&T) in the minds of the population and to effect a closer integration between S&T and economic development.

The first task, Zhao noted, was in large part accomplished at the 1978 National Science Congress; the second is now being addressed in the current S&T reforms and he delineated three types of S&T development: high technology, es-

pecially the development of information industries, appropriate technology for small and medium-size industries, and the introduction of technology reforms into the agricultural sector.

China's S&T reforms were the subject of a 2-hour meeting with Teng Teng, vice chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission. In outlining different types of programs to promote technology transfer, Teng contrasted "spark" programs, those aimed at developing appropriate technologies especially suited to the needs of small and medium-size firms in counties or townships with "torch" programs, those based on high technology at the national level. Teng also described China's S&T administrative funding processes, methods for supporting basic research, and procedures for employing Chinese students and scholars when they return to China from their studies abroad.

The delegation discussed recent reforms in higher education when they visited Qinghua University in Beijing, Fudan University in Shanghai, and Zhongshan University in Guangzhou (Canton). Many universities, such as Qinghua and Fudan, have opened consulting offices of their own and have begun a contract system for their staff. Qinghua was one of the first universities to institute teaching contracts. In the past, promotions were very difficult to arrange, in part because faculty members were reluctant to resign or retire and also because Ministry of Education approval was necessary at every level. Now Qinghua administrators have the autonomy to give promotions themselves and room to maneuver as well, for between 300 and 400 teachers from Qinghua have retired or moved to other positions since 1984.

Staff at the Shanghai Biochemistry Research Institute, affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), were able to give the delegation an idea of how S&T reforms will affect research institutes. The major change will be in the funding process. Until now, the CAS has supported its institutes entirely. This year, as part of an effort to reduce the number of unproductive institutes, their support dropped overall by 14.6 percent and the institutes were required to apply for grants and contracts to make up the difference.

Even on the basis of such a short visit, it is obvious that China is undergoing extraordinary changes that are transforming the rural and urban sectors and the bureaucracy at every level. One of the most striking differences, Board members observed, is one of attitude.

Egalitarianism and the concept of "everyone eating from one big pot" are being replaced by a policy that rewards productivity and entrepreneurial behavior, whether it be from manual labor or brainpower. Although it is too soon to tell how successful the S&T management reforms will be, members of the delegation noted that it appears as if the country's leadership is moving ahead in a systematic and realistic manner. The sheer variety of these activities is noteworthy; contracts for university personnel, consulting, science foundations, technology transfer at different levels of sophistication, and special economic zones are but a few of the experiments the delegation encountered.

Nevertheless the success of the above-mentioned programs will depend on the government's ability to resolve possible conflicts between basic and applied research priorities, enhance cooperation between research institutes and universities on the one hand and between research units and production enterprises on the other, ensure that funds (especially foreign currency) are not misused, and overcome popular and cadre distrust of scientists and other intellectuals. None of this will be easy, but Board members generally expressed the belief that the Chinese appear to recognize the complexity of the problems that confront them and what must be successfully solved if they are to achieve their goals.

A full trip report is available, free, by writing Lisbeth A. Levey, Executive Office, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

LISBETH A. LEVEY
China Exchange Program

AAAS Participates in Tour of Central American Universities

This past August the Consejo Superior de Universidades Centroamericanas (Executive Council of Central American Universities) (CSUCA), an umbrella academic group based in San Jose, Costa Rica, hosted a tour of Central American public universities for U.S. academics and representatives of scientific and research groups. Among participants were Helen Safa, director, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, and former president, Latin American Studies Association (LASA); and Kathie McCleskey, senior program associate, AAAS Committee of Scientific Freedom

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and Responsibility (CSFR). During the tour, which took place from 7 to 22 August, U.S. participants visited universities in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Tour members met with rectors and deans of various academic faculties and with representatives of student federations. Following these larger meetings, participants met with individual religious and political leaders. In addition, McCleskey met with representatives of human rights organizations in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama; with U.S. embassy officials in El Salvador and Nicaragua; and with individual academics in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama.

The CSUCA-sponsored trip followed an October 1984 meeting sponsored by the AAAS Office of International Science and the CSFR. At that time six Central American rectors, on a 4-week tour of U.S. university campuses, met with representatives of U.S. scientific institutions in Washington, D.C., and conducted a seminar at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

At the September 1985 meeting of the CSFR, members discussed possible future short- and long-term committee-sponsored initiatives in the Central American region. Among the short-term activities suggested were the continuation of documentation and correspondence on behalf of individual scientists, engineers, and physicians in the region who have been subjected to violations of human rights norms as outlined in international covenants; and strengthening of Committee ties with groups such as the Project on Central American Human Rights Organizations of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Committee also considered and approved a recommendation to sponsor an in-depth mission in the areas of science and human rights, to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

A detailed report by Helen Safa, entitled "The Central American Crisis and Its Impact on the University," was published in the fall issue of the LASA Forum. To order a copy, write for volume 16, number 3, to LASA, Sid Richardson Hall, 1.304, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712. The cost is \$2 per copy.

KATHIE McCLESKEY
Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

Dues Change Scheduled for 1986

The AAAS Board of Directors has approved an increase of \$5 in dues for Regular members of 1986. Rising costs associated with publishing and mailing *Science* each week, including a 23 percent postage increase, led to the Board action. Students, Emeritus, and Spouse memberships will remain the same.

Members' dues and voluntary contributions furnish the critical base upon which AAAS activities stand or fall. In addition to weekly publication of *Science*, those activities include other internationally recognized publications; leadership in science and mathematics education, scientific freedom, and human rights; opportunities in science and engineering for minorities, women, and the disabled, and science policy; radio programs that reach a large public; fellowship programs with the Congress and the media; and cooperative projects with other scientific, engineering, and educational organizations.

Regular members whose memberships expire on 4 April 1986 or later will find the new dues rate on their renewal notices. New Regular members joining AAAS as of 1 April 1986 also will be paying the new rate of \$65.

AAAS Offers Members Free Trip to Annual Meeting

The Annual AAAS Membership Nomination Drive is under way, this year with a new addition—members will have the opportunity to win a *free trip* for two to the AAAS Annual Meeting to be held in Philadelphia, 25–30 May 1986.

While the majority of AAAS members have been with the Association for many years, we still must replace regularly those members who leave us for one reason or another. Members are therefore being asked to send in the names of five or more colleagues whom they believe would benefit from AAAS membership. To thank you for helping us, your name will be added to the special sweepstakes drawing for the free trip to the Annual Meeting. Even if you do not submit nominees' names, you may still enter the drawing. Only one entry per member, please.

The winner and one guest will receive free round-trip air transportation (continental United States only), a double

room hotel accommodation for five nights, and registration fees for regular events, all arranged by AAAS. Meals and meal functions, local transportation, tours, and other expenses are not included.

In order to enter the drawing, complete the Member Nomination Form and Official Entry Form you received in the mail and return them to Gwen Huddle, Membership Office, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. If you have not received the forms in the mail, you may request them from the same address. They include the complete rules of the drawing.

We must receive the Official Entry Form by *31 January 1986* in order for you to be eligible for the free trip drawing. The drawing will be held in early February, after which winners will be notified by mail.

New Name for Section X

The AAAS Council, by mail ballot, has voted to change the name of Section X from "General" to "Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering." The change becomes effective immediately. This action followed a poll in which the Section X membership went on record as preferring the new title.

AAAS members who are not now enrolled in an electorate (voting section) and are interested in Section X's new area of concern are invited to enroll. Members of other electorates may, if they wish, transfer to the Section X electorate. Requests for enrollment or transfer should be directed to the Membership Office, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

AAAS Travelers

AAAS has been invited to send a representative to the 73rd session of the Indian Science Congress Association to be held in New Delhi, 3 to 8 January 1986. The focal theme for the meeting will be Science and Technology in Environmental Management.

AAAS members who plan to be in the area at that time and/or who know of colleagues on sabbatical in the region who might be able to attend should contact Sandra M. Burns, Office of International Science, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, *before 15 December 1985*. Please include a curriculum vitae. While no travel funds are available, per diem will be provided.