30 August 1957, Volume 126, Number 3270

SCIENCE

SCIENCE, founded in 1880, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Business Press, Lancaster, Pa. Entered at the Lancaster, Pa., Post Office as second class matter under the Act of 3 March 1879.

SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* and in the *Industrial Arts Index.*

Editorial and personnel-placement correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors. For detailed suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts, book reviews, and illustrations, see *Science* 125, 16 (4 Jan. 1957).

Display-advertising correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, Room 740, 11 West 42 St., New York 36, N.Y.

Change of address notification should be sent to 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C., 4 weeks in advance. If possible, furnish an address stencil label from a recent issue. Be sure to give both old and new addresses, including zone numbers, if any.

Annual subscriptions: $7.50; foreign postage, $1; Canadian postage, 50¢. Single copies, 25¢. Special rates to members of the AAAS. Cable address: Advancesci, Washington.

Rates effective 1 January 1958: $8.50; foreign postage, $1.50; Canadian postage, 75¢. Single copies, 25¢.

To and Fro

The international exchange of people, knowledge, and technical skills has probably never been more extensive than it is now. Americans, under the auspices of the international exchange program of the State Department, have taken part in a wide range of activities abroad. Some of our cultural exports under this program in recent years have been as follows: Dizzy Gillespie, *Porgy and Bess, Oklahoma,* symphony orchestras, weightlifters, trackmen, basketball players, engineers, scientists, agricultural experts, technicians, teachers, and students.

For the most part, exchange has been a two-way street. From abroad, with State Department aid, foreign legislators, legal experts, public administrators, lecturers, teachers, scientists, and engineers have come to this country. In addition, to mention only a single example, American methods of handling the news have been learned by foreigners through on-the-job training at our newspapers and television stations.

The extent of exchange in education may be appreciated by a glance at the figures compiled recently by the Institute of International Education for the year 1956–57. During that year 40,666 foreign students, 1153 foreign teachers and research workers, and 6741 foreign physicians were in the U.S. At the same time 1492 faculty members from U.S. institutions were abroad. The figures for American students abroad during that year are not yet available, but for 1955–56 they numbered 9887.

These are impressive figures, and so are the figures for geographic distribution. The foreign students, for example, came from more than 100 countries; American students went to 54 countries. The countries in which American students were not to be found and from which few or no students came to America were in the Soviet bloc.

Thus, the exchange is not as free as it might be. Despite the statements of high officials in both the Soviet and the U.S. Government about the desirability of promoting cultural exchange, very little has happened. True, there have been some exchanges of agriculturalists, engineers, and scientists. But these people came to the U.S. as Soviet officials and thus were able to sidestep the U.S. requirement that nonimmigrant aliens must be fingerprinted. The fingerprinting requirement has blocked attempts to negotiate an agreement for a more general exchange of people between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Neither students nor ballerinas can pass as government officials.

In an attempt to break the impasse, Senator Javits and Representative Carnahan have introduced identical legislation in the Senate and the House. The bills propose that the State Department negotiate agreements for reciprocal exchange with the Soviet Union and that the Secretary of State and the Attorney General be authorized to waive the fingerprinting requirement. These legislators join the State Department in having no fear that waiving the requirement would jeopardize our security; nor does the President, who said last January that the requirement lacks "any significant contribution to our national security."

If the Soviet objection to fingerprinting is only a pretense, passage of these bills would make it apparent. But it is not the main point of the legislation to test this objection. The main point is to try to find some way to promote a freer exchange in the belief that this would lessen the tensions and thus improve the chances for peace. It is worth a try.—G. DuS.