

## Function and Future

M. H. Trytten, director of the academy's Office of Scientific Personnel, has written on the function and future of the program: "Originally the program was deemed to be desirable as a contribution to the European area by acquainting young scientists with American practice in the relationship between academic and industrial research. While the program no doubt contributed to this objective, other worthwhile objectives have been attained which seem of considerable importance in respect to the worldwide program.

"The strengthening of the scientific activities of the free world is important per se. Intimate relationships between American scientists and the leading scientists of the future in these many countries can be of great significance. As before these young scientists contribute much to American science while guests in American laboratories. Finally, the direct cooperation between the organizations of scientists abroad and the Academy-Research Council offers a means of strengthening relationships which could lead to other fruitful cooperative activities. Aside from these benefits, there is the deeper question of the responsibility the nations leading in scientific competence have to assist in the development of indigenous scientific movements in nations less advanced. The burning desire for self-betterment and improved conditions which is so evident in these countries finds its focus in most instances in an urge to improve education and in particular to improve technology. Consequently it would appear to be of major importance to assist in strengthening the educational programs with special emphasis on scientific education. The needs are, of course, great. Not only is assistance needed in the basic sciences, but in the fields of public health, sanitation, natural resources, conservation, and in applied science for industry. The latent human resources in most of these countries are enormous.

"No firm plans for continuation of this program have been made as yet, since continued support by ICA depends on the budget support available. However, there seems to be continued enthusiasm for this type of program, and it would seem probable that a continued effort of this kind would be supported."

## Soviet Research Ship Visits U.S.

The first visit of a Soviet scientific vessel to the continental United States during the International Geophysical Year occurred on 17 December, when the *Vityaz* arrived at San Francisco. Representatives of the National Academy of Sciences greeted the Soviet scientists and

crew, who have been engaged in oceanographic studies in the Pacific as part of the IGY program.

During its IGY voyages, the *Vityaz* sounded a record depth in the Pacific of 35,948 feet, off the Philippines in August 1957; discovered a 20,340-foot depression in the ocean floor north of the New Hebrides Islands; and brought to the surface from depths of 35,000 feet several previously unknown species of sea animals.

Scientists who visited the ship when it docked at Vancouver, B.C., in November report that it is extremely well equipped for a variety of oceanographic work. Approximately 65 scientists and a crew of about the same number are on board, including about 35 women. Chief of its scientific party is Nikolai Sysoev, whom many U.S. scientists met in Moscow last August at the Fifth General Assembly of the World IGY Committee.

The Soviet Government indicated in advance that the *Vityaz* would be open to visit by American scientists and other interested persons while she was in San Francisco, and later in Honolulu, and that arrangements for such visits should be made with the ship's authorities after her arrival. The National Academy of Sciences' IGY Committee asked John Lyman, a member of the US-IGY Committee's panel on oceanography, to make arrangements for these visits and for visits by the Soviet scientists to American scientific research facilities and institutions. Scientists from the University of California at Berkeley, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla, the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and representatives of other interested institutions went on board the vessel.

The *Vityaz* is one of 13 Soviet ships participating in the IGY oceanography program, nine of them being primarily research vessels. Including the U.S.S.R., 25 nations are engaged in IGY oceanographic work, using a total of approximately 70 vessels. Of these, United States institutions account for eight.

## Technical Translations

The Department of Commerce will begin publication this month of a periodical planned to serve as a central source of information in the United States on Russian and other technical translations available to science and industry. The periodical, *Technical Translations*, will be published twice a month by the Office of Technical Services, in cooperation with the Special Libraries Association. It will list and abstract translated material available from U.S. Government sources, SLA, cooperating foreign governments, educational insti-

tutions, and private sources. The Special Libraries Association's *Translation Monthly*, familiar to all who have been working with translations, will be incorporated in *Technical Translations*.

Most of the foreign material that OTS is collecting from government agencies has not been previously available to the public, and the volume from this source alone is expected to run as high as 10,000 complete translations a year. Abstracts of this material will begin appearing in the new journal immediately. *Technical Translations* will be sold by OTS at \$12 a year (\$4 additional for foreign mailing); single copy, 60 cents. Orders should be addressed to OTS, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C.

## Resources for the Future

Resources for the Future, which has headquarters at 1145 19th St., NW, Washington, D.C., has planned a forum, a series of six lectures and discussions that will deal with new developments in the natural sciences and in technology, and with their impact upon society and resources. Each lecture, given by a natural scientist noted in his field, will be followed by a discussion by leaders in the social sciences, business, or politics; these participants will relate scientific developments to their long-term social and economic significance. The forum series will be held in the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History. The program follows:

8 January: Genetics. George Beadle, chairman, Division of Biology, California Institute of Technology, and 1958 Nobel Prize winner; Henry A. Wallace, plant breeder, formerly Vice President of the United States, Secretary of Agriculture, and Secretary of Commerce; O. V. Wells, economist, administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

22 January: Weather Modification. Horace R. Byers, chairman, department of meteorology, University of Chicago; Clinton P. Anderson, U.S. Senator from New Mexico, formerly Secretary of Agriculture; Edward A. Ackerman, geographer, assistant executive officer, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

5 February: Mineral Exploration. John A. S. Adams, associate professor of geochemistry, Rice Institute; Paul W. McGann, chief economist, U.S. Bureau of Mines; another speaker to be announced.

26 February: Chemical Technology. Earl P. Stevenson, industrial chemist, chairman of the board, Arthur D. Little, Inc.; Richard L. Meier, organic chemist, research associate in planning, University of Michigan; Frederick T. Moore,