

and research utility of the specific accelerator recently proposed by Midwestern Universities Research Association (MURA) have not been established, many of the important new accelerator concepts of recent years have come from the ideas and work of the MURA group. Continued progress in these developments is strongly dependent on the continuation and intensification of the MURA program. The group should be supported on a continuing basis with the funds and facilities necessary for its participating intensively in the development, construction and operation of high energy accelerators.

The research need for a high energy accelerator at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory should be further explored with the Laboratory and the southern universities concerned. The Oak Ridge group should be supported in continuing design and development activities. The technical feasibility of the accelerator proposed by Oak Ridge has not been established.

Panel Members

Jesse W. Beams, chairman, department of physics, University of Virginia

Hans A. Bethe, professor of physics, Cornell University

Leland J. Haworth, director, Brookhaven National Laboratory

Edwin M. McMillan, director, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, University of California

Emanuel R. Piore, *chairman*, director of research, International Business Machines Corporation

Training Center for U.N. Fellows

A new type of regional training center for United Nations fellows, with headquarters at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., will enable trainees from underdeveloped countries to study activities in fields such as hydroelectric power, water development, geology, mining, forestry, land management, cooperatives, credit unions, social welfare, and public administration. In contrast to training centers that provide formal lectures and group field trips, the Vancouver center will draw up individual training plans designed to fill the specific needs of each fellow.

The rivers, forests, cities, and industries of western Canada and northwestern United States will serve as a laboratory. A trainee selected under the U.N. technical assistance program may enroll for classroom instruction, if appropriate, or he may carry out guided studies under faculty supervision. In addition, he will be given opportunity for first-hand observation in his specialty in a field agency or governmental lab-

oratory. Western Canada and the northwestern United States were chosen because in the past 50 years these areas have experienced unusual expansion in population and unusually rapid economic development.

Under a three-way agreement, the United Nations will supply fellowships for the trainees and will provide a director and an administrative officer. The University of British Columbia will provide instruction and guidance for the fellows, as well as office space for the center. The Canadian Government, subject to parliamentary approval, has offered a special annual grant of \$10,000 to the U.N. for operation of the center, to be made in each of three consecutive fiscal years, beginning in 1959-60. In addition, the United States Government has made the facilities of its agencies in the northwestern states available to the trainees.

The director of the center will be Albert Lepawsky of the department of political science, University of California, Berkeley, who was a member of the U.N. technical assistance survey mission to Bolivia in 1950. Fellowships for the center will be provided under the present technical assistance program of the United Nations and related agencies.

Federal Court Asked to Halt Atomic Tests

The Federal Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C., was asked in an action filed last month to order the United States to halt nuclear tests. The appeal was made by a group of 39 people, including scientists, churchmen, Japanese fishermen, and residents of the Marshall Islands. Among the plaintiffs were Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and professor at California Institute of Technology, and Bertrand Russell, British mathematician and philosopher.

The group asked the Court of Appeals to reverse a ruling that was handed down by District Judge Richmond B. Keech last July. At that time he dismissed two similar suits, saying the complaints had failed to show a controversy within the court's jurisdiction. He also held that none of the 39 plaintiffs had standing to sue. The appeal will probably be heard by the court next fall.

Edison Awards

The Thomas Alva Edison Foundation awarded special citations to the following at a luncheon in New York on 20 May as a part of the foundation's continuing program to improve the presentation of science to youth.

The Scientific American, Girard Piel,

publisher, in recognition of distinguished educational service to the nation by advancing the understanding of science through accurate, informative, and vivid reporting of the latest scientific developments.

Union County Regional High School District No. 1, Springfield, N.Y., in recognition of distinguished educational service to the nation for special excellence in developing more effective teaching of science.

A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading, by Nancy Larrick (Doubleday and Pocket Books), in recognition of distinguished educational service . . . in the development of wholesome reading by young people.

Gilberton Company, Inc., for publishing *The Illustrated Story of Space*, one of the series "The World Around Us," as "the best science comic book."

AEC Power Program Approved by Joint Congressional Committee

The legislative subcommittee of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee of the Congress has approved, almost without change, the atomic power program put forth early this year by John A. McCone, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. This action confirms the growing belief that a new harmony has developed between the committee and the commission. In past years, when Lewis L. Strauss was chairman, this relationship had been very stormy.

The commission had requested \$49.5 million for the construction of five prototype atomic power plants, either by the Government or by industry with government aid. Only three new projects were added to the total program, which, when it was first submitted, was characterized as "wholly inadequate." These new projects are a reactor of advanced design, to be built in Puerto Rico; a prototype plant of 30,000- to 75,000-kilowatt capacity; and another plant to be built for a rural cooperative or public power company by the commission.

Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission to Hold First Meeting

The Organization of American States, Pan American Union, Washington, D.C., is establishing an Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission to plan for the peaceful application of nuclear energy in the Western Hemisphere. The statutes for the commission were approved by the council of the OAS on 22 April. The new organization will hold its first meeting at the Pan American Union, probably in October.

The commission is being formed to:

1) Act as a consultative body in technical, economic, and administrative problems in nuclear science and technology.

2) Assist the member states in developing a coordinated plan for research and training in the nuclear sciences.

3) Upon request from the member states, assist in solving specific problems of nuclear energy programs.

4) Provide a channel for scientific communication. The commission plans to publish a bulletin that will report activities in the nuclear sciences in the Americas. Conferences will be organized and sponsored by the commission to exchange knowledge about the peaceful application of nuclear energy.

The commission will be made up of one representative, "familiar with the nuclear energy programs of his country," from each of the 21 OAS member nations and will be headed by a chairman and vice-chairman elected for 1-year terms. Its secretariat will form part of the staff of the Pan American Union. Jesse D. Perkinson, Jr., chief of the Division of Science Development of the Union, has been appointed executive secretary of the commission. Creation of the new body is a result of the recommendations of the Inter-American Committee of Presidential Representatives, which was led by Milton Eisenhower, president, Johns Hopkins University.

Chinese Scientific Literature

The Lending Library Unit of Britain's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has started to collect Chinese scientific literature. About 150 Chinese periodicals are now on regular order, and the first batch has arrived at the library's London premises (5-11 Regent St., London, SW 1).

Already the Lending Library Unit is noted for its large collection of Russian scientific literature, which is available to research, industrial, and other organizations. The library has also organized a scheme for translating Russian scientific literature in collaboration with the U.S. National Science Foundation. This project may possibly be extended in the future to include scientific literature from China. Meanwhile, the contents of these Chinese publications must be assessed, and a scientist with a knowledge of Chinese is being recruited by LLU to select and promote use of Chinese scientific and technological literature.

The Lending Library Unit in London is the nucleus of the new National Lending Library for Science and Technology, which will be set up at Thorp Arch, near Boston Spa, Yorks, in 1961.

News Briefs

The first medical research contract to be placed by the International Atomic Energy Agency was awarded in May to the department of clinical therapeutics of the University of Athens. Investigations with radioisotopes are expected to help in the treatment of certain types of anemia and of echinococcosis, a parasitic disease which forms cysts in the lungs and liver. These disorders are common in Greece as well as in several other subtropical regions of the world.

The Smithsonian Optical Tracking Station at Woomera, Australia, has successfully photographed the Vanguard I earth satellite at the apogee of its orbit, nearly 2500 miles from the earth. No other object as small as this 6-inch sphere has been photographed from such a distance. The Woomera station is operated for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a part of its world-wide network of tracking stations.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has formed a Committee on Long-Range Studies to deal with such nontechnical issues as the international, social, economic, and legal effects of space research and exploration. The committee's responsibilities center around that portion of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 which calls for "studies of the . . . problems involved in the utilization of aeronautical and space activities for peaceful and scientific purposes." Chairman of the committee is John A. Johnson, NASA's general counsel, and the executive secretary is Jack C. Oppenheimer, formerly attorney adviser in the Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior.

More than 2000 research-minded undergraduates will be given an opportunity, beginning this summer, to participate in biological, physical, and engineering research directed by college and university faculty members under a grant program announced in May by the National Science Foundation. The foundation has allocated \$1,700,000 for the program to about 200 colleges and universities widely distributed throughout the nation. A list by states of the institutions to which grants have been made, and of the names of the directors, may be obtained from NSF, Washington 25, D.C.

The Soviet magazine *Ogonyok* has published a public apology to Norbert Wiener, the American mathematician, for the denunciation of him and his work in cybernetics by the Soviet press during the period of Stalin's rule. Cybernetics, a field which Wiener is gen-

erally regarded to have founded, was heavily ridiculed in Russia during the early postwar years, and Wiener was denounced as an "obscurantist." The author of the apology, essayist Marietta Shaginyan, said that public recognition of the error in regard to Wiener's work was necessary to assure that those responsible do not repeat their errors in the future.

The first mossy-throated bellbird ever seen alive in any zoo has gone on exhibition in the Bronx Zoo's bird house. The specimen is one of the greatest rarities in the bird world; the name comes from the black, moss-like strings of flesh that hang in a large patch on the bird's throat. The Bronx Zoo specimen was captured on 6 April in the mountains of northern Trinidad by William G. Conway, curator of birds.

In Canada, a \$600,000 contract for a design study of a new type of nuclear power reactor has been awarded to the Canadian General Electric Company, Limited. The reactor, known as OCDRE (Organic-cooled, Deuterium-moderated Reactor Experiment), is somewhat different from the type of nuclear reactor that Canada has developed to date; an organic liquid rather than heavy water is used to transfer heat from the uranium fuel to the steam generators. There has been a growing interest in the use of organic liquids as reactor coolants, for they cost about 40 cents a pound, compared to \$28 a pound for heavy water.

Twenty-six Southern California high-school juniors have been selected for an intensive 7-week summer course in science, mathematics, and satellite-tracking at the Thacher School near Ojai. The course—first of its kind in the West and extending from 23 June to 11 August—is being sponsored by California Institute of Technology, the Helms Foundation, the Hughes Aircraft Company, the Ralph B. Lloyd Foundation, and the Thacher School. Richard Sutton, director of relations with secondary schools at C.I.T., is chairman of the program's executive committee.

The Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists was founded last fall at a meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The new society grew out of a series of annual research conferences on plant physiology that had been held at various Canadian universities and research institutions over a period of 8 years. The president of the new society is Paul R. Gorham. Correspondence should be addressed to the secretary-treasurer, D. Siminovitch, Chemistry Division, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada.