

friends whom he knew socially had little idea of his prominence as a scientist.

Smith resembled his predecessor, D. H. Campbell, in his love of travel. From the North Cape in 1920 to Indonesia in 1956, he and his wife covered most of the globe, with the exception of the interior of Asia, the eastern Mediterranean, and Antarctica. His reputation

and his wide correspondence made him a welcome visitor to botanical laboratories everywhere.

As his health deteriorated during the last two years, Smith's courage was an inspiration. For one accustomed to relying on himself, physical weakness must have been more difficult to bear than pain, yet he continued to come to his laboratory despite the great effort

involved, and during his last days, when he was able to speak only with difficulty, he continued to direct the activities of his assistant from his hospital bed. The passing of such a man leaves a void that can never be filled by a research team.

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Science in the News

Permanent Space Committee

Established by United Nations

The United Nations General Assembly approved on 12 December the establishment of a permanent Committee for International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The new committee was set up as the result of a resolution passed earlier in the day by the U.N. Political Committee. The vote was 74 to 0; the Dominican Republic abstained, and seven members of the committee were absent.

Functions Described

The Political Committee proposal to the General Assembly stated that the space committee's responsibilities would be to:

"(A) Revise, as appropriate, the area of international cooperation, and study practical and feasible means for giving effect to programs in the peaceful uses of outer space which could appropriately be undertaken under United Nations auspices, including *inter alia*: (i) assistance for continuation on a permanent basis of the outer space research carried on within the framework of the International Geophysical Year; (ii) organization of the mutual exchange and dissemination of information on outer space research; and (iii) encouragement of national research programs for the study of outer space, and the rendering of all possible assistance and help towards their realization.

"(B) Study the nature of legal prob-

lems which may arise from exploration of outer space."

The permanent body will not take up the regulation of the military uses of outer space. Neither the United States nor the Soviet Union is willing to have it do so.

Membership Balance Controversial

The East-West balance of membership on the committee has long been a controversial issue. A temporary space committee was established a year ago, but it could not be effective because it was boycotted by the Soviet Union. The temporary body had 12 Western members, three neutral (Sweden, India, and the United Arab Republic), and three members of the Soviet bloc (the U.S.S.R., Poland, and Czechoslovakia). Two of the neutral members, India and the United Arab Republic, refused to participate in committee activities last spring because of the Soviet boycott.

During the negotiations in recent weeks several of the Western delegates indicated that their governments would not agree to more than five seats for the Soviet bloc on the permanent committee. They held that even this number was too many, since it was disproportionate to the strength of the Soviet bloc in the United Nations. The Soviet bloc has nine members out of 82.

The new 24-member space committee is composed of 12 countries that are members of joint defense agreements against possible Soviet aggression, seven members of the Soviet bloc, and five

neutral countries. The members follow: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the U.S.S.R., the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Political Committee's space proposals to the General Assembly included a resolution calling for an international conference in 1960 or 1961 "for the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space." Participation is limited to members of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

The U.N. does not plan to establish any new permanent agency to administer the outer-space program, as it did for atoms-for-peace. Instead, the program will operate through COSPAR, a body that was set up in October 1958 within the framework of the International Council of Scientific Unions to continue the cooperation and exchange of data in space research that had developed during the International Geophysical Year. The national adherents to COSPAR are scientific academies, not governments.

Geological Survey Volcanologists Study New Series of Eruptions at Hawaii's Kilauea

New eruptions of the volcano Kilauea in Hawaii are being studied by the staff of the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, which is located in Hawaii National Park on the rim of Kilauea. Surface activity thus far has been limited to a portion of the crater called Kilauea Iki or "Little Kilauea." Between 14 November and 5 December Iki erupted five times, its lava fountain rising to a height of 1650 feet or more and dying abruptly after