

States, recognizing this fact, have deployed strategic nuclear weapons with great care, never upsetting the precarious status quo which insured that these weapons would not be used in the absence of some vital challenge. . . . [this] sudden, clandestine decision to station strategic weapons for the first time outside of Soviet soil . . . is a deliberately provocative and unjustified change in the status quo which cannot be accepted. . . ."

It has been argued that the United States is not playing the game according to Kennedy's prescriptions when it stations Polaris submarines off the Soviet coast, but fundamental to the issue here is the fact that the *Polaris*, secure under water, need not have a nervous finger on the button. If missiles must exist, the Polaris type is probably the safest variety for both East and West. On the other hand, the soft Cuban emplacements, like all soft emplacements, put a premium on getting off the first shot and therefore are more likely to be attended by nervous fingers. Furthermore, while the Soviets hopefully took Castro's disturbed state of mind into account when planning security measures for the emplacements, the presence of nuclear-tipped missiles within walking distance of the Cuban leader did not contribute to the administration's peace of mind.—D. S. GREENBERG

Tobacco: Public Health Service Names Group To Study Effects on Health

The Public Health Service this week announced the membership of the special committee that will conduct its inquiry into the relationship between smoking and health.

Since some half-dozen politically potent southern states have an annual \$7 billion stake in tobacco, the PHS, with the White House looking on carefully, has gone to exceptional lengths to avoid any contention that the committee members may have prejudged the issue. In line with this, it was announced at the outset that "scientists who have already taken a strong public position pro or con will not be chosen."

The committee, comprising ten members, was drawn from a list of 150 scientists submitted last July by federal agencies, voluntary health organizations, and the tobacco industry.

The final selection was made by Surgeon General Luther L. Terry after each organization had been given the opportunity to eliminate nominees "for whatever reason." According to a PHS announcement, the committee will hold its first meeting on 9 and 10 November. The first phase of the study, to be completed "by next summer," will consist of "a comprehensive review of all available data on smoking and other factors in the environment that may affect health." A subsequent phase "will concern recommendations for action."

The committee members and their specialties are as follows:

Stanhope Bayne-Jones, former dean of Yale Medical School (1935-40), who has since served on various medical advisory bodies—nature and causation of disease in human population. Bayne-Jones will also serve as special consultant to the committee staff.

Louis Fieser, professor of organic chemistry, Harvard—chemistry of tobacco smoke.

Emmanuel Farber, chairman, pathology department, University of Pittsburgh—experimental and clinical pathology.

Maurice H. SeEVERS, chairman, pharmacology department, University of Michigan—pharmacology of anesthesia and habit-forming drugs.

Leonard M. Schuman, professor of epidemiology, University of Minnesota School of Public Health—health and its relationship to the total environment.

Charles LeMaistre, medical director, Woodlawn Hospital, and professor of medicine, Southwestern Medical College, Dallas—internal medicine, infectious diseases, preventive medicine.

Jacob Furth, professor of pathology, Francis Delafield Hospital, New York—cancer biology.

Walter J. Burdette, head of surgery, University of Utah School of Medicine—clinical and experimental surgery, genetics.

John B. Hickman, chairman, department of internal medicine, University of Indiana—internal medicine, physiology of cardiopulmonary disease.

William G. Cochran, professor of statistics, Harvard—mathematical statistics, special application to biologic problems.

The committee is occupying quarters in the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md., and has a staff consisting of a medical coordinator, a statistician, and an information officer.

Announcements

The International Atomic Energy Agency has agreed to assist in the establishment of a **Middle East Regional Radioisotope Center for the Arab States** in Cairo, for training in the application of radionuclides in medicine, agriculture, and research. The agreement, to become effective upon the participation of four Arab countries, stipulates that the United Arab Republic convert its National Radioisotope Center in Dokki, Cairo, into a regional center; make available free of charge certain facilities and equipment; and contribute financially toward the costs of the center. Thus far, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, and Tunisia have pledged contributions; IAEA is arranging for additional financing under the United Nations expanded technical assistance program.

The U.S. Public Health Service plans to establish a **salt-water pollution research laboratory** in Kingston, R.I., to develop standards for marine-water uses. Studies at the \$1,715,000 facility will include measures of protection against toxic pollutants, effects of pollution on aquatic life, criteria for radioactive wastes and other pollutants, and effects of distribution by water currents in bays and harbors.

Manuscripts, letters, photographic material, or memories of the late **Albert A. Michelson** (1852-1931), physicist and first American Nobel laureate in science, are being solicited by his daughter for use in the preparation of his biography. (Dorothy M. Stevens, 209 E. 72 St., New York 21)

Meeting Notes

An international **arms control** symposium will be held from 17 to 20 December in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The symposium, co-sponsored by the University of Michigan and the Bendix Corporation, is intended to provide a current summary of the status of arms control and disarmament. Emphasis will be placed on basic and applied research necessary in the political, social, and physical sciences to provide an adequate system for the formulation, verification, and compliance with possible agreements for international arms control and disarmament.