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be assessed by a small committee which will have among its members "two experts external to the institution, one at least of whom would be from outside the State." This committee would submit one name only to the appointing authority. The government, through its Department of Education, has just inaugurated post-doctoral fellowships in science and engineering which will be tenable in Irish universities and research institutes; preference will be given to applicants proposing to work in institutions other than those from which they apply. These measures demonstrate the widespread desire to reverse our brain drain.

It cannot be denied that tremendous efforts must be made in Ireland in the near future if it is to avoid a state of scientific and economic colonialism. According to a recent OECD-sponsored report "international comparisons show that Ireland is among the nations with the lowest rate of research expenditure in Europe." However, there is a feeling of optimism abroad and it is earnestly hoped that the establishment of the proposed National Science Council will inaugurate a new era in scientific studies in Ireland.

COLM Ó HEOCHA

Department of Biochemistry,  
University College, Galway, Ireland

### Anthropologists Debate Ethics

Niehoff's objection (Letters, 3 Mar.) to the American Anthropological Association's Vietnam resolution and his fine distinction between condemning the barbaric behavior of the United States in Vietnam as an American, and condemning it as an anthropologist was a disturbing sophistic exercise.

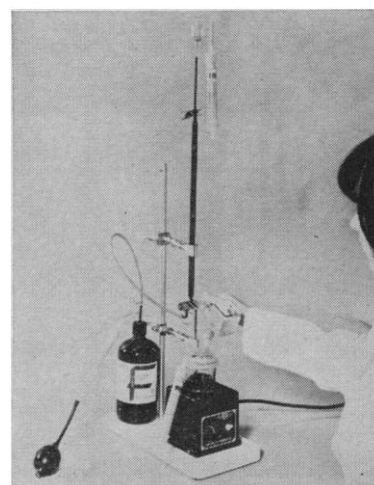
It is one thing for an anthropologist to observe ritual killing and torture in another culture without expressing ethnocentric moral judgments, and quite another to maintain Olympian detachment while his *own* culture brutally and systematically decimates another. He argues that the anthropologist cannot judge the customs of other cultures according to his own morality. Few would disagree. He then says that the anthropologist is supposed to be "culture free," and presumably, since he no longer belongs to his own culture, he cannot, as a good anthropologist, subject it to moral judgment. These intel-



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lectual gymnastics may serve for some as an escape from the responsibility of their active or passive participation in the uglier aspects of our own society. One is reminded of the astounding degree of objectivity displayed by the German doctor attached to a concentration camp, who rigidly maintained aseptic conditions when he performed a cesarean section with impeccable technique, and then placed mother and child on a stretcher and imperturbably sent them off to the gas chamber. Surely, this is the ultimate in cultural detachment, though few would aspire to it.

The fact that we are scientists, regardless of speciality, neither "legislates" us out of our culture, nor out of the human race. As scientists, we bear the same responsibilities as any other citizen. Precisely because scientific research is being used for military applications against our fellow human beings, we must face these moral dilemmas without assigning ourselves to a class of acultural, amoral scientific automatons.

VICTORA BORDAZ

*Calculus Center, University of  
Montreal, Montreal, Canada*

JACQUES BORDAZ

*Department of Anthropology,  
University of Montreal*

The recent action of the anthropologists is most discouraging. . . . Could it be that they hope for the best of both worlds; that is, they will share all of the advantages of a free world and will yet have gained some measure of respectability in that shadow world where it is considered to be a morally courageous act to be absent from those who are willing to stand up and be counted.

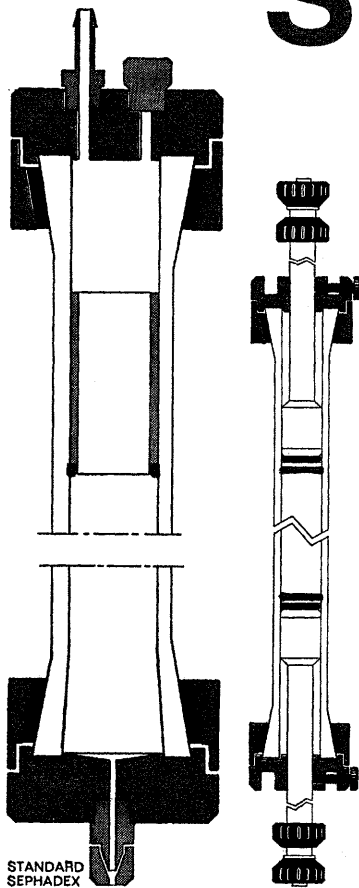
KENNETH R. COBURN

*100 Whitehorse Pike,  
Haddon Heights, New Jersey 08035*

We wish to record our concern with the professional and scientific implications of the article, "Anthropologists' debate: Concern over future of foreign research" (23 Dec., p. 1525) and "Anthropologists' Vietnam resolution." In our opinion the articles do not reveal the full implications of the debate. At the November American Anthropological Association annual meeting at Pittsburgh, Ralph L. Beals reported on his activities as chairman of a committee in research problems and ethics. The remarks were diffuse, personalized and subjec-

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tive, as was a politically oriented introduction of Beals by the newly appointed executive secretary of our association. Because of the lateness of the hour, and the fact that floor microphones were not working, subsequent discussion was brief. Controversial portions of the Beals report received front-page coverage in the *New York Times*.

When copies of the report were distributed, some Fellows sought to determine the intent and meaning of what they were being asked to approve, and others sought to revise the wording. Although the executive board's request for approval was cast as "approving the Beals report," the document to be voted upon, in the opinion of many Fellows, appeared to be a quasi-ethical manifesto, in which there were questionable statements of fact and of implication. Approval of the statement would, in effect, recommend separating American anthropologists from significant kinds of service to the government.

Beals admitted that allegations of "tainting" anthropology by CIA were based on hearsay. (Some of such hearsay has the ring of the apocryphal: Supposedly one anthropologist was asked "How would you go about poisoning the water supply of Guatemala City?") Questions that attempted to reach the facts seemed always to go back to Project Camelot, upon which Beals was not adequately informed. Project Camelot was not in any way related to the CIA, nor was it a classified project; distorted press discussions of Camelot have generated more heat than light. The Beals report was recommitted to the committee for revision by a vote of 155 to 104.

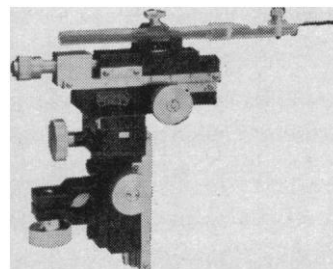
The so-called "Vietnam Resolution" offered by David Aberle for council action was markedly different from the one actually passed and published in *Science*. Initially the resolution was a relatively conventional indictment of U.S. policies in Vietnam. When first offered for discussion, it was refused by the presiding president-elect of the association, based upon an opinion that as a political document it was not appropriate to the scientific purpose of the association. The resolution was later revised from its original anti-U.S. government bias to a general condemnation of certain aspects of warfare by any participants.

More important were the implications of what was involved. If we understand correctly the clarifying state-

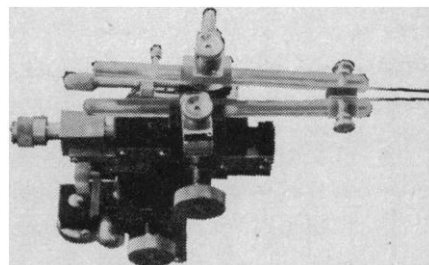


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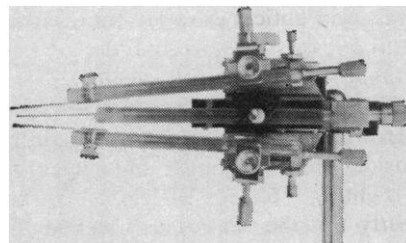
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ments and intent of those concerned with the Beals report in its initial form, they would: (i) eliminate all classified government work from the universities, except in time of declared war; (ii) make it undesirable for anthropologists to work for the government on realistic administrative terms; and (iii) cast doubts upon the wisdom of young anthropologists working for either commercial firms or nonacademic, nonprofit groups that accept government contract work. The effect of approving the proposed "report" would be to put the association on record as believing that the federal government should support independent anthropological research, but should have no right to expect responsible loyal support from the anthropologists they otherwise subsidize.

We are disturbed by the naivety displayed by students of human behavior who would stipulate that war must be formally declared before a scientist can offer aid to his country. Can any informed adult, conscious of the dangers of nuclear warfare be unaware that today, more than ever, a declaration of war signifies the final failure of diplomacy—when it is far too late for a country to profit by overdue patriotic motives!

DONALD S. MARSHALL  
ROBERT C. SUGGS

3414 Halcyon Drive,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22305

Received 18 January 1967

### Who Fights in Little Wars?

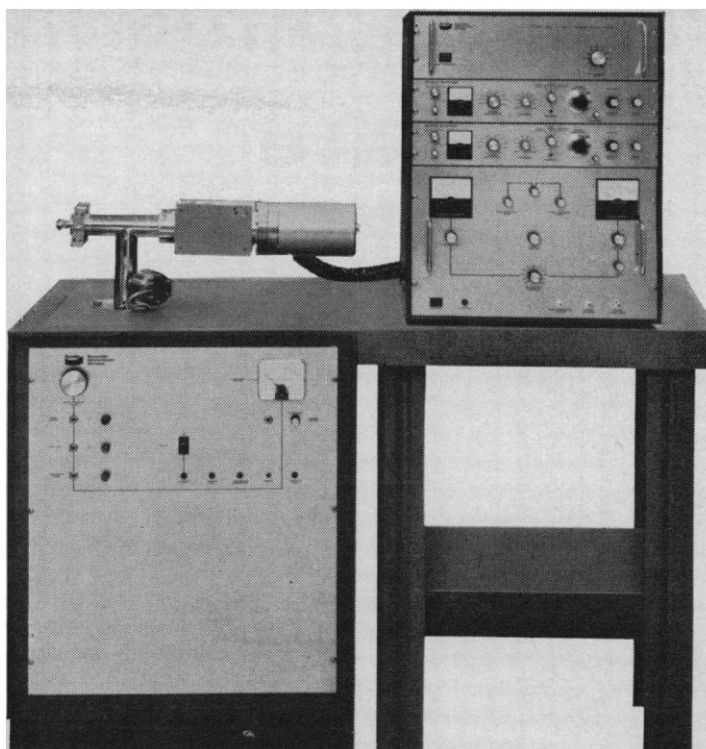
The discussion of selection of men for military service put forth by Dael Wolfe (Editorial, 24 Mar., p. 1499) seems most reasonable if the selection is made in anticipation of a major war. In that case, the optimal deployment of available manpower would appear to form a reasonable basis for selection.

However, there seem to be other considerations when it is a question of fighting "little wars" that do not greatly tax the nation as a whole. In these cases, it is perhaps less necessary to be "optimal" and more desirable to demand the direct exposure of a representative spectrum of citizens. Otherwise, it seems to be a case of our leaders being willing to give less than their best for a cause which they hold worth fighting for.

JOHN M. MYERS

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