

NEWS IN BRIEF

● STUDY SKEPTICAL OF SPACE

MIRROR: The scientific merit of a reflecting satellite is not worth its cost to the public and its nuisance to science, a special study group of the National Academy of Sciences' Space Science Board has concluded. The Academy was asked to conduct the study after criticism was raised over National Aeronautics and Space Administration consideration of such a satellite (*Science*, 20 January). Following receipt of the report, Donald F. Hornig, presidential science adviser, said that the government no longer has plans for the project. The report, prepared by the Board's Committee on Potential Contamination and Interference from Satellites, stated that there is no overwhelming evidence that scientific damage would result from a single reflector system. But the committee recommended that if the project is ever considered in the future, the ability to destroy the satellite by signal from the ground must be part of the design, and detailed studies of its effects on ecology, biology, and astronomy should be conducted first.

● BIOLOGISTS POSTPONE GREEK

MEETING: An international Advanced Study Institute in Molecular Biology, which had been scheduled to take place on the Greek island of Spetsai in July, has been postponed until next summer. The organizing committee, which includes members from the United States, France, and Great Britain, gave no formal reason for the postponement. However, a U.S. member said that many of the scientists felt that the military government established by the 21 April army coup represents "a considerable barrier to holding a meeting dealing with science in a tradition of free and open discussion." The U.S. biologist also said the general hope of the committee is that a constitutional government will be re-established in Greece before next summer. The Study Institute was to have been sponsored by NATO and the Greek government.

● PHS INCREASES FELLOWSHIP

STIPENDS: The stipend levels for postdoctoral fellows and stipend ceilings for postdoctoral trainees have been increased \$1000 by the Public Health Service, effective 1 July. The increase brings the stipends to a level of from

\$6000 to \$7000, depending upon the recipients' experience. The increase was recommended by a PHS Special Task Force on Training Stipend Policies and follows a general governmental change. In March, the National Science Foundation raised its stipends by \$1000 for most of its postdoctoral and NATO fellowships.

● EDUCATION RECEIVES MOST PRIVATE GIFTS:

Educational activities received grants of \$418 million from the nation's major foundations last year, leading all other categories, while support for the physical sciences declined sharply, according to a report of the Russell Sage Foundation. Aid to the physical sciences dropped from \$18 million in 1962 to less than \$5 million last year. The report suggests that this decline is due to "presently immense government programs" which are judged to almost "blanket" the science field. The report is contained in the new *Foundation Directory* which is compiled by the Foundation Library Center of New York City. More than 17,000 foundations with total 1966 grants of \$1.2 billion were surveyed for the report. The greatest increase in grants was in international activities which rose from \$33 million in 1960 to \$170 million in 1966. Grants in other categories are: welfare, \$196 million; health, \$167 million; sciences, \$120 million; religion, \$107 million; and humanities, \$67 million.

● TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: The problem of deriving more economically useful technology from federally sponsored R&D programs is examined in a recent report by the Science Policy Research Division of the Legislative Reference Service. In the report, which is titled *Policy Planning for Technology Transfer*, the term "technology transfer" is defined as the use of knowledge to serve a purpose other than the one for which the R&D was undertaken. The report recommends that dissemination of information be centralized so that an industrial user need contact only one agency for access to all technology in a given field. The report, prepared for the Subcommittee on Science and Technology of the Senate Small Business Committee, is available from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., for 50 cents.

One function of the aidmen in Vietnam is to care for members of their own detachment and of the units of Vietnamese irregulars they direct. It is not a matter of mere solicitude. "During combat," the manual states, "the guerillas are more likely to take . . . personal risks . . . knowing that if they are wounded they will be given proper medical treatment." In unconventional warfare, it continues, "the health of the guerilla assumes an ever greater significance. . . . A rigorous program of preventive medicine, to include personal hygiene and field sanitation, must be initiated. . . . The maintenance of a balanced diet may be a problem and have a direct effect on the health and stamina of guerilla personnel."

An additional function of the aidmen is even more political—supplying medical care to the local population as a means of winning their allegiance. This objective is no secret. Colonel Richard Coppedge, an Army physician who was one of the initiators of the program, testified that it was central to the concept of guerilla warfare. "Guerilla warfare is a social struggle," he told the court, "and it requires use of social instruments such as medicine." The field manual is equally frank, describing medical service as an operation "initiated primarily for its psychological effects." For Coppedge, however, it is not just a matter of the military using medicine; it is also, he testified, a "peculiarly American approach," a matter of "medicine using the military," attaching itself to military units in remote areas where services are poor or nonexistent, a kind of medical missionaryism. (Ironically, Coppedge told the court that Levy was precisely the kind of physician the Special Forces need, because "he is interested in society," and an Army psychiatrist said that Special Forces men have a great deal in common emotionally with civil-rights activists.)

Whether medicine thus practised is capable of influencing the "hearts and minds of the people" is an open question. It is medicine with strings, penicillin with bayonets; it is the paradox that bothered Howard Levy: in his words, "Kill, kill! Cure, cure!" Presumably the recipients are also aware of the paradox and ready to turn it to their own purposes: one theorist on guerilla warfare recently wrote that, in some areas of Vietnam, the Viet Cong are so secure that they encourage their followers to make use of the free med-