manship of his department had gone against Hoyle and his partisans. A reporter for the *Sunday Times*, one of Britain's "quality" newspapers, wrote at some length on the situation and, in the spring of 1965, reported that Hoyle, who did not comment publicly, might be joining the "brain drain."

Negotiations for establishment of the institute continued, with government officials making strong efforts to find a solution. Last summer arrangements with the university were completed. They provided a great degree of autonomy for the institute and represented a considerable bending of precedents. Work was pushed on the institute's computer center, a separate building which was completed in time for installation of an IBM 360-44 computer in February. The second building, containing work space for researchers and students and a small library, is just about ready for occupancy. It is a long, single-story brick building with big windows looking out on pleasant views. The comfortable offices have good light and plenty of blackboard and pin-board space.

The institute is situated across a field from the Cambridge observatories in the same former-country-house grounds occupied by the department of geophysics; it is across Madingley Road from the site where the new Cavendish Laboratory will rise in the next few years. Since the plans were drawn essentially according to Hoyle, the building should provide all that a theoretical astronomer needs.

The institute now has seven or eight research fellows on hand or on the books. All are under 30 except for Cyril Hazard, visiting professor of astronomy at Cornell, who is joining the institute staff. Since Hazard is British, he may be regarded as a case of brain regain. At full strength the institute will have about 20 research fellows, up to 10 visiting researchers, and about 25 graduate students. Hoyle does not expect the staff to reach full strength for at least another year.

The agreement with the university, which had aspects of a peace treaty, provides that members of the institute will do no regular lecturing. It has been suggested that the institute may have difficulty in attracting good graduate students if it has no direct contacts with undergraduates. Hoyle himself continues to hold his chair as Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy in the university and plans to give a series of lectures

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **SOVIET-AMERICAN EXCHANGE**: The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is accepting applications from American scientists who wish to study or do research in the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, or Yugoslavia during the 1968–69 academic year. Agreements between NAS and the academies of these nations enable American scientists to make visits of not less than 1 month, to familiarize themselves with current scientific research. Visits of 3 to 12 months duration may be arranged for research. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and possess a doctoral degree or equivalent in the physical, biological, behavioral, or engineering sciences or mathematics. Participants will receive transportation to and from the capital of the country to which the visit is arranged and per diem allowance for expenses. Scientists who visit for three or more months will be reimbursed for salary. Those who remain 5 to 12 months may also receive support for their families. Applicants should apply for one country only. Applications should be sent to the Office of the Foreign Secretary, (USSR/EE), NAS, Washington, D.C. 20418, by 20 November.

● **MOHOLE COSTS**: Although settlement with the primary contractor and three major subcontractors of the ill-fated Project Mohole has yet to be made, the National Science Foundation (NSF) now estimates that total expenditures for the project will run between $27 million and $30.3 million. NSF is handling the mop-up operations for the project, which would have penetrated the floor of the ocean if Congress had not decided that $127 million for the 3-year project was more than it was worth. Total expenditures for the project through 29 April were a little more than $21 million. At that time, NSF reported to a Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations that settlement of outstanding contracts would cost an additional $7 million. NSF also stated the entire project would cost NSF about $1.8 million for the handling of contracts and other services. Daniel Hunt, Jr., special assistant to the director at NSF, told *Science* that a final settlement with the project's prime contractor, Brown & Root, will not be made for several months. In addition, three large subcontracts have yet to be settled, including one with National Steel and Shipbuilding, the firm which was slated to construct the $30-million drilling rig for the project.

● **QUATERNARY CENTER**: A Quaternary Research Center has been created at the University of Washington, Seattle, to encourage interdisciplinary study and research in the natural sciences. According to a statement issued by the university, "The purpose of the center is to provide a facility, transcending departmental boundaries, which will serve as a focal point for study and attract students interested in Quaternary research." "Quaternary" is a geologic term referring to the last 3 million years of the earth's development. Albert Lincoln Washburn, professor of geology, has been appointed director of the center, and Stephen C. Porter, associate professor of geology, has been appointed associate director.

● **BRITISH MEDICAL FOUNDATION**: The Royal Society of Medicine Foundation, Inc., has been established to promote closer relations between members of the medical profession in Great Britain and the United States. The foundation was organized under the auspices of the Royal Society of Medicine, a 13,000-member organization that is based in London. According to an announcement made by the new organization, the Royal Society of Medicine Foundation will provide "an opportunity for individuals, corporations, government agencies and charitable foundations in the U.S. to support medical research in Great Britain and to foster closer relationships between members of the medical profession in both countries." The organization has headquarters in New York City.

● **NAS GIFT**: The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has given the National Academy of Sciences an unrestricted gift of $1 million. Academy President Frederick Seitz states that the money will be used to enlarge the academy's "independent resources in dealing with problems affecting the scientific community and national welfare." In March of this year, the Ford and Rockefeller foundations gave the academy $5 million and $1 million, respectively.