

Helsinki Accords Review Includes Science Contacts

The outcome of the U.S. elections could add a complication to the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) scheduled to open in Madrid on 11 November to follow up on the Helsinki accords. The CSCE has become an important international forum for discussing the relation between human rights and scientific cooperation, and the subject is likely to figure large in Madrid.

The political hitch could occur if President Carter's quest for reelection is unsuccessful. Leaders of the U.S. delegation to Madrid are former Attorney General Griffin Bell and Washington lawyer Max Kampelman. In the event of a Republican victory, the assumption is that Bell, at least, would be replaced because of his close association with Carter. A new Administration would be taking office about halfway through the expected term of the conference, and the impact on U.S. policy would be unpredictable.

There were rumors of a possible postponement of the conference because of the post-Afghanistan pall over East-West relations, but both sides apparently wished the meeting to take place and a scheduled preliminary session to set the agenda is on for September.

The Madrid CSCE session, like a Belgrade meeting in late 1977 and early 1978, will be devoted mainly to a review of the implementation of the so-called Helsinki final act. In Madrid, discussions of cooperation in science will be influenced by a Scientific Forum held at Hamburg early this year.

The purpose of the Hamburg "meeting of experts" was to apply the principles of the Helsinki accords to science. The meeting was held in the aftermath of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and immediately after Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov was stripped of his honors and sent from Moscow to live in Gorki. In the atmosphere produced by these events, U.S. and other Western scientists, who attended the meeting as individuals, not government representatives, emphasized human rights issues with a forcefulness and unanimity that observers say was probably unparalleled.

As in the past, scientists from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe took the view that issues of human rights should have no bearing on discussions of scientific cooperation. The final report of the forum, however, carried an acknowledgement that human rights were relevant to cooperation in science, which, however mild, was unprecedented in CSCE documents.

Is there a possibility for progress on scientific freedom issues by the time the meeting ends in early spring? A CSCE meeting inevitably serves as a weather vane for East-West relations and the outcome for science will depend in large part on which way the political March winds are blowing.

A Sentimental Trip Down Accelerator Lane

No commemorative stamp has been issued, but the first 50 years of the particle accelerator in America was marked recently by a modest celebration in Washington. The "atom smasher" semicentennial took the form of a party at the Smithsonian Mu-

ing Nobel Laureates Owen Chamberlain, Donald Glaser, and Edwin McMillan of the University of California at Berkeley, all of whom won the big prize for work with the big machines. Major accelerator centers were represented by head men such as Wolfgang Panofsky of SLAC, the Stanford Linear Accelerator, and John Adams of CERN, the European Center for Nuclear Research. After dinner, speeches, and awards, a short sentimental journey was made down the hall to the Smithsonian's atom-smasher exhibit where samples of original hardware and memorabilia are on display.

The celebration was instigated by Representative Mike McCormack (D-Wash.), an energy subcommittee chairman, who also presided over the hearings.

The hearings focused partly on the past, with a discussion by Livingston and others of accelerator history. But the focus inevitably shifted to the present funding predicament of high energy physics and nuclear physics (*Science*, 1 August). The most arresting comment of the day came from CERN Director Adams who noted that

Livingston, Hafstad, and cyclotron



Photo by Jane Walsh

seum of History and Technology on 22 July and a hearing the next day on Capitol Hill.

Honored as "original developers" were L. R. Hafstad and M. Stanley Livingston. Starting in 1930, Livingston was a graduate student and then collaborator of Ernest O. Lawrence at Berkeley during the development of the first cyclotrons. At the same time, Hafstad was a member of a team at the Carnegie Institution's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism which experimented with accelerator technologies and settled on the electrostatic generator invented by R. J. Van de Graaff.

On hand also at the party were a number of physics luminaries includ-

ing in 1966 the United States and CERN member nations had allocated about the same fractions of their gross national products to the support of physics, about .025 percent, "but whereas the CERN member states have maintained this same fraction through 1978, the last year for which we have official figures, the fraction allocated in the U.S.A. has fallen to about half the 1966 value."

This prompted a question from the congressmen to Department of Energy officials as to whether the present "balanced" American program will keep the United States competitive, a question which, at the end of the hearing, was left hanging.

John Walsh