learn of what was going on in areas of science other than my own. After attending . . . my trust in the utility and effectiveness of appropriate science and technology in solving the problems that confront us, particularly in the developing countries, became even stronger. Even more importantly, the Meeting helped in conveying to me the difficulties and the challenges that scientists and technologists encounter in real life situations (particularly in developing countries)—obstacles that often frustrate attempts to solve the problem."

The January Exhibit was the largest at a AAAS meeting. Attendees could watch films, look at a variety of displays, munch popcorn, and talk to a robot. Among the 157 exhibit booths were those of Exxon, Philips Petroleum, the U.S. Geological Survey, the popular science magazines—*Science 82*, *Discover*, *Omni*, *Technology*, *New Scientist*, and *Science Digest*—as well as several AAAS affiliate organizations.

Proving again that the AAAS Annual Meeting is a continuous affair—the 21 disciplinary sections of the Association met during the Washington Meeting to help make plans for Detroit. Each section met to discuss its own business agenda and an important part of this was the suggesting of symposia topics for the 1983 Annual Meeting in Detroit, 26 through 31 May. *Note*: Symposia ideas should be sent to the Meetings Office at the AAAS address by 1 August 1982.

As though attending symposia, lectures, and sectional meetings was not enough, the week also included committee meetings, receptions, luncheons, and forums, among them the AAAS Women's Caucus, exhibitors' receptions, and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. AAAS standing committees held meetings, and the Committees on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy and Science, Arms Control, and National Security held open forums.

A gala reception, open to all Meeting attendees, was held following Dr. Bromley's Public Lecture. Some 700 attended the event which featured the "Hot Mustard" jazz band.

As always, the Annual Meeting provided almost too much at one time. But its very diversity, confusion, and charged atmosphere helped the Meeting to convey to those who attended it and others who followed it through coverage in the mass media the excitement and challenge of science and technology.

JOAN WRATHER
Office of Communications

Note to Members

The 1982 AAAS membership recruitment campaign is under way.

Because a large, active membership is vital to maintain the diversity and credibility of the Association, the AAAS Office of Membership has sent out some 700,000 direct mail recruitment letters.

Unfortunately, if you are already a member of AAAS, you may also receive such a letter. Although we do try to ensure that our members do not receive these mailings, we are unable to computer-check all the mailing lists we use. Therefore, some duplicate mailings do occur.

Should you receive an invitation to join the Association, would you please pass it on to a colleague who might find membership in the Association, and a subscription to *Science*, useful?

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

CAROL L. ROGERS
Office of Communications and Membership

Conference to Examine Rising Carbon Dioxide and Plants

A major international conference on Rising Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide and Plant Productivity will be held at the R. B. Russell Agricultural Research Center in Athens, Georgia, 23 to 28 May 1982.

The meeting will bring together about 100 experts on carbon metabolism, environmental physiology, whole plant growth and development, freshwater aquatic plants, microbiological effects, and plant communities. Conference participants will come from a wide variety of disciplines, including agricultural economics and plant breeding, from university, government, and industry, and from the United States and other countries.

Conference participants will consider the responses of cultivated and noncultivated plants and ecosystems to carbon dioxide levels 100 to 500 parts per million higher than at present and the interaction of possible climatic change and direct biological effects. The conference will assess the information at hand, identify gaps in the knowledge of the subject, and indicate research needed to exploit a carbon dioxide buildup so as to increase the productivity of important crop and native species.

The conference has been organized by the AAAS Climate Project, with financial support from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Electric Power Research Institute. Sylvan Wittwer, director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Michigan State University, is chairman of the organizing committee. David Gates, director of the Biological Station, University of Michigan (and a member of the AAAS Committee on Climate), is conference chairman.

The conference *Proceedings* and Executive summary will be available in the fall of 1982.

Sri Lanka Scientists Meet in Colombo

The 37th annual session of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) met in Colombo, 11 to 16 December 1981. The AAAS was represented by William C. Burnett, an oceanographer from Florida State University.

The theme of the meeting, "Strategies for Development," was the focus of a day-long seminar attended by policymakers as well as scientists. Social, economic, and investment strategies for Sri Lanka were addressed as well as the scientific and technological aspects of development. These discussions were particularly appropriate in view of the present government's pro-development philosophy. Recent governmental actions, such as the establishment of a free-trade zone outside Colombo, has greatly stimulated outside investment in Sri Lanka. One consensus of these discussions concerned the difficulty that Sri Lanka has in providing its own scientific and technical support for the new technology created by development. Better salaries for trained personnel was one suggested solution to the continued

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"brain drain" to more developed countries.

After the development-related session, plenary sessions were held in all traditional areas of science. All foreign delegates were invited to present specialized lectures at the appropriate sessions. In addition, evening "Popular Science Lectures" were arranged in order to provide an opportunity for the general public to meet and learn about the work of both the foreign and Sri Lankan scientists.

Burnett presented both technical and popular lectures concerning his work on phosphate deposits on the ocean floor. While in Sri Lanka, he visited the Eppawala apatite deposit. This phosphate deposit of 40 million to 50 million tons promises to be an important source of phosphorus for agricultural use in the near future.

New Report Assesses Employment Prospects for Scientists and Engineers

Will the supply and demand of scientists and engineers be in fairly good balance in the coming years? The answer is especially important to young people trying to plan their educations toward particular careers; to scientists and engineers already at work in the labor force who need to know where changes in balance are likely to occur; to colleges, universities, and other training institutions; and to the employers of scientists and engineers.

Unfortunately, no perfect system for forecasting has been developed. But a new report, *Supply and Demand for Scientists and Engineers* from the Scientific Manpower Commission, provides an in-depth picture of the present and probable future supply of and demand for scientists and engineers. It finds bright prospects for engineers, computer scientists, and other technical professionals, but a significant oversupply of most life scientists and social scientists relative to the number of available jobs in those fields.

The report points out that our increasingly technological society will create new jobs for scientists and engineers over the coming decade, but the number of those jobs as well as the mix of specialists required to fill them depends in part on both the levels of funding and the direction of that funding in both industry and government.

Report findings include:

- As a percent of all degrees awarded by U.S. universities, those in science and engineering have been dropping since 1975, and are projected to continue to drop through 1989.
- A severe shortage of computer science graduates persists and is worsening, despite a 626 percent increase in first-level degrees since 1970.
- In the life sciences, degree production at all levels appears to exceed job openings and this oversupply is expected to grow larger over the decade of the 80's as degrees in both the biological and agricultural sciences hold steady despite the lack of growth in academic and government employment.
- Social and behavioral science degrees have been dropping since 1975. Even so, employment opportunities have not kept up with degree production, and even larger excesses of graduates over jobs are anticipated in these fields.
- In addition to new graduates from U.S. universities, a continuing infusion of scientists and engineers from other countries will add to the science and engineering manpower pool. Since 1966, almost 1.3 million scientists and engineers from abroad have enriched the U.S. labor force.

The report examines the needs of various populations for information about both the recent and future balances of supply with demand for scientists and engineers and provides a statistically based assessment, field by field, of the supply and demand for these specialists over the past decade, at present, and anticipated throught the eighties. Thirty tables and 21 figures illustrate the text.

Supply and Demand for Scientists and Engineers by Betty M. Vetter (January 1982, 52 pp.) is available from the Scientific Manpower Commission, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, for $25 per copy.

BETTY M. VETTER
Scientific Manpower Commission

For more information about the activities and publications described in "AAAS News," write to the appropriate office, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, unless otherwise indicated.