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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.

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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.