

the past 15 years of military rule.

In a letter to President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo accompanying the report, CSFR chair Elena O. Nightingale asks, on behalf of the AAAS Committee, that the Guatemalan government form a human rights commission of national members and international observers to resolve the cases of human rights violations in Guatemala between 1980 and 1985.

The submission of *Guatemala: Case Reports 1980-1985* to the government of Guatemala follows a precedent set in 1984 when CSFR presented to the new civilian government of Argentina a report on 55 Argentine scientists who "disappeared" during the previous 7 years of military rule there. After receiving the documentation, the Argentine government requested that the AAAS provide forensic science assistance to the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons, the group charged with investigating the cases of the "disappeared" in Argentina.

Guatemala: Case Reports 1980-1985 notes that "President Cerezo's effort to restructure and reform the Guatemalan national police and security forces is a positive step towards the prevention of future abuses." The report also "urges that the government investigate, to the fullest extent possible, the cases (described in the report) and provide the families with a report on the findings."

For further information, con-

tact Kathie McCleskey of the CSFR. Copies of *Guatemala: Case Reports 1980-1985* are available for \$5 from the AAAS Sales Office at the AAAS address.

Election Ballots Are in the Mail

Ballots for the 1986 AAAS elections are in the mail. Members will vote for a new President-Elect, two seats on the Board of Directors, four positions on the Committee on Nominations, and for various Electorate officers.

Members also will have the opportunity to enroll in an Electorate (voting section). The Association is organized into 22 discipline-oriented sections corresponding to the fields of interest of its members. Sections promote the work of the Association in the various fields and arrange programs for presentation at AAAS meetings. Members may belong to several sections, but may vote in only one Electorate.

Two recent sectional changes should be noted: The name of Section X has been changed to "Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering" and the AAAS Council has authorized the establishment of a new Section Y, "General Interest in Science and Engineering." Members who wish to transfer from their present Electorate (voting section) to either X or Y should complete and return the blue enrollment

card enclosed with voting information.

All members are encouraged to actively participate in Association affairs by voting in the election and joining an Electorate. If the ballots you receive are defective in any way, please return them directly to the Executive Office at the AAAS address so that we can send you replacements. Please do not use the envelope enclosed with your ballot to return defective ballots.

AAAS Travelers

AAAS has been invited to send representatives to meetings of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) and the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).

The 42nd Annual Session of SLAAS will be held in Colombo, 8 to 12 December 1986. The theme of the session will be "Science and Creativity in Sri Lanka and the Third World." The AAAS delegate has been invited to deliver a lecture in his or her area of expertise and to the relevant SLAAS Section.

ISCA's 74th annual session will be held 3 to 7 January 1987 in Bangalore. The focal theme of this session is "Resources and Human Well-Being: Inputs from Science and Technology."

AAAS members who plan to be in the area in December or January and/or who know of colleagues on sabbatical in the region who might be able to

attend either meeting, should contact Sandra M. Burns, Office of International Science, at the AAAS address, *before 30 September 1986*. Please include a curriculum vitae. While no travel funds are available, AAAS will provide per diem for the Colombo meeting; ISCA will provide local hospitality in Bangalore.

Admiral Hopper Talks to AAAS Staff

Future possibilities in computer technology was the theme of a talk by Rear Admiral Grace M. Hopper, at a AAAS staff luncheon in late July.

Hopper, whose Naval career began in 1943, was the third programmer on the first large-scale digital computer in the United States and a major contributor to the programming language COBOL.

While delighting her audience with stories from her long career, Hopper also stressed the importance computers will continue to play in our future.

She urged that serious attention be paid to establishing criteria by which value can be put on information. Not all information, she declared, is equal. To illustrate, Hopper described a hypothetical chemical plant where all operations are computerized, from plant operations to packing, shipping, and administration. "Suppose," she said, "that at 10:00 a.m. two

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For more information about the activities and publications described in "AAAS News," write to the appropriate office, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, unless otherwise indicated.



Admiral Grace M. Hopper receives AAAS award from Board member Mary E. Clutter at Association headquarters.

messages come in to control—one says that a valve is malfunctioning and, if left alone, the whole plant will blow up; the other message says that Joe Blow worked 2 hours overtime last week.” If a way of valuing information is not established by its potential users, she warned, “a government committee will do it!”

To make “computer time” real, Hopper passed out pieces of wire 11.38 inches long—these, she said, are “nanoseconds.” The wires represent how far light can travel in 1 nanosecond—a billionth of a second. She compared these “nanoseconds” to a 948-foot coil of wire which represented a “microsecond.” Next, she said, we’ll be dealing with “picoseconds”—one trillionth of a second, and too small to pass out.

Hopper said she is sometimes asked if there is a reason to build computers that can calculate in increments faster than nanoseconds. Certainly, she asserts, two problems alone—atmospheric modeling on long-range global scale and managing and distributing the world’s finite supply of clean water—make more complex systems essential.

Hopper is very enthusiastic about the future and today’s young people who are, she claims, “the best we’ve ever had.” She called on people to challenge these young people to meet their full potential. When-

ever she has a particularly difficult problem, she said, she tells her young staff that “Everyone in the Pentagon says this is impossible—it works—they invariably have an answer within a few days.”

Before her talk, Hopper was presented a AAAS award recognizing her major contributions in the field of computer science, mathematics, and education. Representatives from the Mid-Atlantic Center for Sex Equity also presented her with an award.

Reminder for Members

If you receive a membership promotion mailing from the Association in the next few weeks, we apologize. The Membership Office does its best to screen current members’ names from the mailing lists we use during our promotion campaigns. However, if there is any variation in name or address, duplications will not be caught during the computer merge/purge.

Please return any mailing pieces you receive along with a recent label from *Science*. Also, we would appreciate it if you would include a listing of any other addresses, names, or spelling of your name by which you may be listed elsewhere. Send this information to: Gwen Huddle, Membership Office, at the

AAAS address. We will place your name on an additional suppression file so that you will not get future direct mail promotions. This information will be for internal use only.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Fall Meetings to Focus on Science Curriculum and International Security

The second National Forum for School Science and the first Colloquium on Science, Technology, Arms Control, and International Security will take place in Washington, D.C., this fall.

During a one and one-half day meeting, 14 and 15 November, Forum ’86: The Science Curriculum, will examine factors affecting the school science curriculum. The Forum will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington.

Educators, scientists, and managers from government and industry will discuss The School Science Curriculum: What We Know, What We’d Like to Know; The Future School Science Curriculum; and Forces That Shape the Curriculum: Teachers, Texts, Tests, and Technology. A report, *This Year in School Science 1986: The Science Curriculum*, will be published in mid-1987.

For registration information, see pages 1098 and 1099 *Science*, or write National Forum for School Science at the AAAS address or call 202-326-6620.

The first annual AAAS Colloquium on Science, Technology, Arms Control, and International Security will be held 4 and 5 December. The event will bring together some 300 leaders from science, government, and business and from citizen groups to look at the future of international security. The Colloquium, to be held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., will offer

a range of viewpoints on issues involving science, technology, and arms control.

The Colloquium will include plenary sessions on the role of science and technology in shaping national security policy, advances in weapons technologies and their impact on security, an evaluation of the strategic and technical merits of SDI (strategic defense initiative), the Five Continent Initiative, and the question of how science and technology can help us create a safer world. In addition, smaller group sessions will give participants an opportunity to talk with each other and with experts on a variety of timely issues.

For registration information on the Colloquium, contact the Committee on Science, Arms Control, and National Security at the AAAS address, or call 202-326-6494.

Call for Nominations, 1987 General Election

The Committee on Nominations will meet this fall to select candidates for the 1987 election. The Committee invites AAAS members to submit nominations, including self-nominations, for the positions of President-Elect and members of the Board of Directors.

Current Board members are listed on the contents page of *Science*. Candidates for terms to start on 20 February 1987 are listed in the 6 June 1986 issue.

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, AAAS, no later than 3 October 1986. Each nomination must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae of the proposed candidate.

A Painful Decision

Faced with a continuing collapse in advertising revenue, the Board of Directors voted on 25 June to cease publication of AAAS’s much-honored magazine, *Science 86*, and announced the purchase of its assets by Time Inc., publisher of *Discover*.