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# Miscellany

## International

The spirit of world cooperation in science that was to epitomize the International Geophysical Year sagged ominously last month in the wake of IGY's most spectacular achievement. The Soviet Union, amid a competitive flurry of H-bomb testing and ICBM rattling, announced early in October that it had launched a first (and remarkably heavy) artificial orbital satellite as one of its contributions to the IGY program—and thus secured an immense propaganda victory and an implied technological advantage over the West. The ("Vanguard") satellite project that is part of the US program for IGY was set up in the Naval Research Laboratory as a low-priority experimental effort divorced from the several massive programs to develop intermediate and long-range missiles for military purposes. The Russian satellite program, on the contrary, was a high-priority effort tied directly to military missiles development. The failure of the Vanguard group to be the first to launch a satellite has led to much agonized comment in the press, on the streets, and in Congress, where it is argued with perceptive hindsight that the 1955 decision to maintain the purity of Vanguard as a nonmilitary scientific project was a mistake of major proportions. The Vanguard satellite, designed as a neat package of instruments for measuring the upper atmosphere, is still scheduled to collect valuable data, however, and if placing second is to be lamented at least there is the promise of a more coordinated missiles program and of wider appreciation of the need for basic scientific research. Sputnik might even lead to improved standards of scientific education in the United States and to closer scientific collaboration among the nations of the free world.

The first meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency convened October 1 in Vienna, where Representative W. Sterling Cole of New York was chosen director general and Dr. Pavel Winkler of Czechoslovakia was elected chairman of the Agency's 23-man Board of Governors. In addition to the original thirteen nations named to the Board (see *Physics Today*, September 1957, p. 44) the following seven countries were elected on a regional basis: (to serve two years) Argentina, Pakistan, Rumania, South Korea, and (to serve one year) Egypt, Indonesia, Italy. Three additional nations, Turkey (two years) and Guatemala and Peru (one year), were elected as nonregional members of the Board of Governors.

Tentative arrangements call for a staff of 150, a budget of \$6-7 million, and an initial program devoted to the working out of methods for selecting and overseeing the atomic projects using materials provided through the accumulated pool of nuclear equipment and fissionable materials contributed by member nations for nonmilitary use. Pledges to contribute to the pool have been made by the United States (500 kg of enriched uranium), the USSR (50 kg), and Portugal (100 000 kg of uranium oxide).

## Grants and Awards

The Office of Naval Research is accepting requests for grants for the support of research in astronomy for the year June 1958-June 1959. Ten copies of each proposal are required and should include a full description of the project and a cost breakdown. Submission of letters of recommendation is encouraged. The National Research Council Committee on Astronomy Advisory to ONR will assist in evaluating the proposals. Members of the Committee are G. C. McVittie (chairman), J. W. Evans, F. B. Wood, H. F. Weaver, H. I. Ewen, D. L. Harris, and W. Baum. The program for the entire year will be planned in January and in order to receive consideration proposals must be submitted by December 15, 1957. Proposals and letters of recommendation should be sent to the Chief of Naval Research, Department of the Navy, Washington 25, D. C., Attention: Code 410.

The Department of Statistics of the University of Chicago is offering postdoctoral study awards in statistics to persons whose primary field is not statistics, but rather is one of the physical, biological, or social sciences to which statistics can be applied. The awards, established under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, range from \$3600 to \$5000 on the basis of an eleven-month residence. The closing date for applications for the 1958-59 academic year is February 15, 1958. Further information may be obtained from the Department of Statistics, Eckhart Hall, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Ill.

The Physics Department of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has established an award to recognize outstanding teaching by graduate student instructors. The award consists of a membership in the American Association of Physics Teachers and a subscription to the *American Journal of Physics*. Candidates must have had the equivalent of one year or more of teaching duties at RPI and must be in residence. Award winners selected for 1955-56 are Gilbert Elliott, Jr., Joseph H. Rosolowsky, and Thomas G. Williamson; the 1956-57 winners are Benjamin E. Chi, Paul Fredrickson, and Stanley A. Williams.

The National Science Foundation has announced that applications are now being accepted in four of the Foundation's 1958-59 fellowship programs for advanced study and research in the natural sciences. They include: (1) a predoctoral fellowship program for which

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